

CN 78

X/13 C/S -- AUSTRIANS GIVE REFUGEE AND TOURIST FIGURES.

VIENNA, SEP 3 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA)-- THE AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY SAID TODAY ABOUT 68,000 CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE ENTERED AUSTRIA FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES SINCE THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND 578 OF THEM HAD APPLIED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 43,808 CZECHOSLOVAKS WENT BACK TO THEIR HOMELAND FROM AUSTRIA.

ABOUT 22,000 ARE STILL IN THE COUNTRY.

CATEGORIES FOR THOSE ENTERING AUSTRIA WERE GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

13,512 HAVE ARRIVED LEGALLY FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 43,500 ENTERED FROM YUGOSLAVIA, 4,141 ENTERED FROM ITALY AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, 1,205 CAME IN CHARTERED PLANES AND 5,524 BY SPECIAL TRAINS.

YO LEGALIZE THE STAY OF CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS WHO STILL HESITATE ABOUT RETURNING TO THEIR HOMECOUNTRY, THE AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY ADVISED SECURITY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE RESIDENCE PERMITS VALID UNTIL SEP 30 TO ALL CZECHOSLOVAKS WHO ARE AT PRESENT IN AUSTRIA.

THE SWISS EMBASSY IN VIENNA CONTINUES TO ISSUE THREE-MONTH VISAS FOR ALL CZECHOSLOVAK APPLICANTS WITHIN 24 HOURS AND CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS HAVE BEEN QUEUING IN FRONT OF THE SWISS REPRESENTATION FOR DAYS FROM THE EARLY MORNING HOURS.

BG/U /*HP*

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