

X/13 CS -- CS TOURISTS TURNED BACK AT BORDER

MUNICH, SEPT 5 (GND/MACDONALD) -- NO CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO CROSS INTO WEST GERMANY AT THE BORDER POINT OF FURTH-IM-WALD SINCE 2100 HOURS LAST NIGHT, THE BAVARIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY SAID TODAY.

A MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAKS WHO WANTED TO CROSS AS TOURISTS INTO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WERE TURNED BACK BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER OFFICIALS.

THE BAVARIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY SAID LATER THAT SO FAR THE BAN ON CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS LEAVING FOR WEST GERMANY APPEARED TO APPLY ONLY TO FURTH-IM-WALD. TOURISTS WERE STILL COMING THROUGH TODAY AT WAIDHAUS, HE SAID, WHILE THE RAIL SITUATION AT SCHIRNDING WOULD NOT BE CLEAR UNTIL THE LATE AFTERNOON.

TWO TRAINS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA CROSS TO WEST GERMANY EACH AFTERNOON. MOST CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS AND VISITORS TO THE WEST TRAVEL WITH THESE TRAINS.

CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS WITH EXIT PERMITS ARE STILL BEING ALLOWED TO CROSS AT FURTH-IM-WALD BUT THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THESE ARE BEING GRANTED ONLY IN RARE CASES FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL.

UNTIL LAST NIGHT CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS WITH VALID VISAS FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE ABLE TO LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT ALL THREE CROSSING-POINTS TO WEST GERMANY. SEVERAL HUNDRED HAVE ENTERED THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC DAILY.

JON/RT/HI/HP

1550/68 M