

CS - CZECHOSLOVAKS LEAVING AUSTRIA

VIENNA, SEPT 7 (UPI)--THE NUMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAKS REMAINING IN AUSTRIA SINCE THE INVASION OF THEIR HOMELAND HAS DWINDLED FROM THE ORIGINAL 15,000 TO SOME 3,000.

ONLY 913 HAVE FORMALLY APPLIED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, AN INTERIOR MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID 3,316 CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE COUNTED IN AUSTRIAN TRANSIT CAMPS THIS MORNING. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS, THEIR NUMBER WAS AROUND 15,000.

FROM THOSE REMAINING IN AUSTRIA, 913 HAVE SO FAR SOUGHT AND FOUND POLITICAL ASYLUM, HE SAID. ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK TRANSIT GUESTS IN AUSTRIA SAID THEY INTENDED TO EMIGRATE TO OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, MAINLY SWITZERLAND. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE PLANNING TO GO OVERSEAS WANT TO EMIGRATE TO CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.

MOST OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS SEEKING TEMPORARY HOMES IN AUSTRIA CAME FROM YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY, WHERE THEY WERE VACATIONING WHEN THE INVASION CAME.

THEY WERE HOUSED IN VARIOUS IMPROVISED TENT CAMPS, TRAILER STATIONS AND EMPTY SCHOOL BUILDINGS. THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS HAD TO BE HANDED BACK TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES WHEN THE NEW TERM STARTED EARLIER THIS WEEK.

A PRIVATELY ORGANIZED ACTION COMMITTEE FOR HELP TO CZECHOSLOVAKS, COOPERATING WITH VARIOUS CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE RED CROSS, HAS TAKEN CARE OF THE TRANSIT GUESTS IN THE PAST WEEKS. FIFTY THOUSAND LITERS OF GASOLINE WERE GIVEN TO THE TRAVELLERS, WHO MOSTLY CAME IN THEIR OWN CARS. THEY ALSO GOT FREE MEALS ON PRESENTATION OF THEIR CZECHOSLOVAK PASSPORTS.

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