

CN 97

X/13 C/S - SITUATION ON THE AUSTRO-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER

VIENNA, SEPT 10 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -- AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF TWO INCIDENTS ON THE AUSTRO-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER, THE AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED TUESDAY.

ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN BORDER POLICE REPORTS, SHOOTING FROM SUBMACHINE GUNS WAS HEARD FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE OF THE BORDER ON SUNDAY NIGHT NEAR THE AUSTRIAN BORDER CONTROL POST IN WULLOWITZ (DISTRICT FREISTADT).

THE SHOOTING LASTED FOR SOME TEN MINUTES AND ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN BORDER POLICE OBSERVATION, A GROUP OF WOULD-BE-REFUGEES WAS CAUGHT SOME 120 METERS INSIDE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BORDER SECURITY ORGANS.

ANOTHER INCIDENT WAS REPORTED BY AUSTRIAN BORDER POLICE FROM GOELLITZHOF NEAR GMUEND WHERE CZECHOSLOVAK SOLDIERS IN PURSUIT OF REFUGEES CROSSED INTO AUSTRIAN TERRITORY ON FRIDAY NIGHT.

THE AUSTRIAN MINISTRY IS INVESTIGATING BOTH CASES AND AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE LATER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY SAID.

IN GENERAL, SECURITY MEASURES ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE OF THE BORDER WERE SEVERELY TIGHTENED DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS, AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED.

EVERY NIGHT SHOOTING IS HEARD FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE AND AUSTRIAN BORDER POLICE ORGANS HAVE OBSERVED FREQUENTLY THAT CZECHOSLOVAK SIGNAL INSTALLATIONS IN THE NO-MANS-LAND HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED OFF BY ATTEMPTS OF WOULD-BE-REFUGEES TO CROSS THE FRONTIER TO AUSTRIA ILLEGALLY.

(MORE)

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