

CN 335

C/S - RAILMEN HALT SOVIET TRAIN

(CLEAR ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

VIENNA, AUG 23, (UPI)--A HEAVILY-LADEN SOVIET FREIGHT TRAIN RUMBLED SLOWLY WESTWARD ACROSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY. SURROUNDING ITS PASSAGE WAS A STORY OF CZECHOSLOVAK DEFIANCE.

THE STORY EMERGED PIECEMEAL THROUGHOUT THE DAY IN BRIEF BROADCASTS FROM CLANDESTINE CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO STATIONS.

"WE HAVE A REPORT WHICH WILL CONCERN MAINLY RAILWAYMEN," A RADIO BEGAN LACONICALLY THIS MORNING.

REPORTS FROM THE NORTH-CENTRAL CITY OF OLOMOUC, IT SAID, INDICATED A SOVIET FREIGHT TRAIN LOADED DOWN WITH RADAR AND RADIO TRACKING EQUIPMENT WAS MOVING WESTWARD TOWARD PRAGUE.

ITS ENGINE BORE THE NUMBER 5599. THE EQUIPMENT COULD BE INTENDED FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE--TO FIND THE TRANSMITTERS OF THE SCATTERED CZECHOSLOVAK SECRET RADIOS NOW OPERATING AND SNUFF THEM OUT; THE RADIO DECLARED.

"IT STANDS TO REASON," THE RADIO SAID. "THE LONGER THE TRAIN TAKES THE BETTER."

THROUGHOUT THE DAY THE MESSAGES BECAME MORE INSISTENT.

RAILWAYMEN AT CESKA TREBOVA REPORTED THEY HAD SUCCEEDED --NO ONE KNEW HOW-- AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, IN HALTING THE TRAIN.

BUT THAT COULD NOT LAST FOREVER.

"IT IS NECESSARY TO STOP THAT TRAIN AT ALL COSTS" A CLANDESTINE RADIO PLEADED. "RAILWAYMEN, AND ALL OF YOU WHO ARE LISTENING--STOP THAT TRAIN."

(CLEAR ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED) MA/O 2333/68

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