

CN 109

C/S - Y/9 - P - SOVIET - POLISH SPEEDWAY BAN

GOTEBORG, SWEDEN AUG 23 (UPI)- THE ORGANIZERS OF THE WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIPS HERE NEXT SEPTEMBER 6 WILL ATTEMPT TO GET RUSSIAN AND POLISH DRIVERS EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPETITION AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS AND AS A SECURITY MEASURE.

THIS WEEK-END A EUROPEAN QUALIFYING FINAL FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL TAKE PART IN WROCLOW, POLAND. SIX OF THE 16 DRIVERS ARE FROM GREAT BRITAIN, TWO FROM NORWAY AND THE REST FROM SOVIET UNION AND POLAND.

"SOME THREE POLISH DRIVERS AND ABOUT 5 RUSSIANS ARE PREDICTED TO QUALIFY FOR THE WORLD FINAL BUT WE WILL ASK THE INTERNATIONAL MOTOR FEDERATION (FIMA) TO GET THEM EXCLUDED," A SPOKESMAN OF THE ORGANIZERS HERE SAID.

"WE FEAR WILD DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST RUSSIAN AND POLISH DRIVERS IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO START HERE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE WILL ASK TO REPLACE THEM WITH BRITONS, NORWEGIANS AND DANISH DRIVERS WHO HAVE FAILED TO QUALIFY EARLIER," HE ADDED.

DJG/A *HR* 1054/68 *NF*