

CN 204

CS- SOVIETS ATTACK CRITICAL SPORTSMEN (W/CN 182)

MOSCOW, AUG 29, REUTER - WESTERN SPORTSMEN WHO REACTED TO THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY CALLING FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE OLYMPICS CAME UNDER FIRE HERE TODAY.

THE OFFICIAL SPORTS NEWSPAPER, SOVIET SPORT, SAID "ILL-STARRED POLITICIANS" WERE TRYING TO USE THE CRISIS TO "SOW THE SEEDS OF MISTRUST IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS,"

PICKED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS BRITAIN'S GORDON PIRIE, WHO, THE NEWSPAPER SAID, "HAD BEEN DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL SLANDER FOR A LONG TIME."

READERS WERE NOT TOLD EXACTLY WHAT PIRIE A FORMER OLYMPIC RUNNER, HAD SAID. BUT HE WAS CHARGED WITH BEING "NOT FAR BEHIND" MR SVEN LAFTMAN, SWEDISH VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, WHO CALLED FOR CANCELLATION OF THE OLYMPICS.

PIRIE RETURNED TO LONDON FROM PRAGUE LAST FRIDAY. HE SAID WORLD OPINION SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN SPORT.

"NOBODY SHOULD COMPETE AGAINST RUSSIANS ANYWHERE," HE SAID, "AND THEY SHOULD BE BANNED FROM THE OLYMPIC GAMES."

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