

X/9/13 E/W -- MOCZAR WAS REFUSED VISA BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

BRUSSELS, AUG. 30 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO GRANT A VISA TO POLISH GENERAL MIECYSLAW MOCZAR

IN GHENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BELGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE SAID TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID VISA REQUESTS FROM MOCZAR AND "CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS" HAD BEEN REFUSED BY BELGIAN AUTHORITIES. THE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL WOULD NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON THE REASONS FOR THE REFUSALS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE VISA REQUESTS HAD BEEN REFUSED ON "AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS AND THERE HAD BEEN NO REFUSAL ON AN 'EN-BLOC' BASIS."

THE OFFICIAL WOULD NOT RPT NOT DIVULGE THE REASON GIVEN BY MOCZAR FOR HIS REQUEST FOR A VISA. HOWEVER IT WAS ASSUMED HE HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD WAR TWO LIBERATION OF GHENT, BELGIUM.

MOCZAR HAD BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVITIES BY THE SO-CALLED GHENT LIBERATION COMMITTEE, A PRIVATE GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN LOCATED ALONG ZWIJNAARDE STEENWEEG (A SUBURBAN GHENT STREET WHICH WAS THE FIRST TO BE LIBERATED IN THE CITY).

ALSO INVITED WAS A DELEGATION OF THE POLISH EX-SERVICEMENS ASSOCIATION AND A POLISH MILITARY BAND. IT WAS ASSUMED THAT THE "CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS" REFERRED TO BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN WERE THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE FORMED THE EX-SERVICEMENS ASSOCIATION DELEGATION.

THE MILITARY BAND HAD ALSO BEEN SCHEDULED TO PERFORM AT CONCERTS IN BRUSSELS, CHARLEROI AND LIEGE. THE ENTIRE BAND TOUR HAS BEEN CANCELLED, ACCORDING TO BELGIAN AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF THE TOURISM OFFICE.

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