

CZECHOSLOVAKIA EXPECTED AT LEIPZIG FAIR

EAST BERLIN, AUG. 31, REUTER -- CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS EXPECTED TO BE AMONG 55 COUNTRIES EXHIBITING GOODS AT THE LEIPZIG AUTUMN TRADE FAIR OPENING TO THE PUBLIC TOMORROW.

AN OFFICIAL SAID TODAY ALL 6,000 SCHEDULED EXHIBITORS WOULD ATTEND THE FAIR, A FOCAL POINT OF EAST-WEST TRADE, WITH CONSUMER GOODS FROM EAST AND WEST EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, ASIA AND AUSTRALIA ON OFFER.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EAST GERMANY, WHICH IS THE HOST COUNTRY, WILL BE AMONG 13 COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH PAVILIONS.

OTHERS BELONG TO 27 NON-COMMUNIST INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES, WITH BRITAIN, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST, AND 15 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LED BY INDIA.

BRITISH ATHLETES SIGN PETITION

LONDON, AUG 31 REUTER- BRITISH ATHLETES AT A TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MEETING THAT BEGAN HERE TODAY SIGNED A PETITION AGAINST RUSSIA'S INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEFORE TAKING PART IN EVENTS AGAINST POLISH ATHLETES.

THE POLISH TEAM WERE ASKED IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO SIGN THE PROTEST BUT SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN ADVISED NOT TO COMMENT ON POLITICAL ISSUES.

A BRITISH FORMER OLYMPIC RUNNER GORDON PIRIE, ORGANISED THE PETITION WHICH SAID: "WE PARTICULARLY WISH TO EXPRESS OUR GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF THE FORMER OLYMPIC CHAMPION AND WORLD RECORD HOLDER EMIL ZATOPEK AND HIS WIFE, DANA, WHO WE BELIEVE ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THE SECRET POLICE OF THE INVADING FORCES AND ARE THUS IN GREAT DANGER."

THE PETITION WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON ON MONDAY.

POPE OFFERS FINANCIAL AID

VATICAN CITY, AUG. 31, REUTER -- POPE PAUL HAS MADE A PERSONAL GIFT OF "AN ENORMOUS SUM" OF MONEY TO HELP CZECHOSLOVAKS STRANDED IN THE WEST, THE VATICAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIEF AGENCY CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS TO AID THE CZECHOSLOVAKS--MOSTLY TOURISTS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RETURN HOME FOLLOWING THE SOVIET INVASION, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID.

WD/L

2038/68 *ASB/AS*