

CN 179

CS - CS PETITION AT SPORTS MEET

LONDON, AUG 31 (UPI)- ATHLETES COMPETING AT LONDON'S WHITE CITY STADIUM TODAY WHERE A BRITAIN VS POLAND MATCH BEGAN, WERE ASKED TO SIGN A PETITION PROTESTING AT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE PETITION WAS PUT UP BY FORMER 5,000 METERS WORLD RECORD HOLDER GORDON PIRIE.

IT EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE CITIZENS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THAT COUNTRY.

IT WENT ON: "WE PARTICULARLY WISH TO EXPRESS OUR GRAVE CONCERN FOR THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF FORMER MIDDLE AND LONG DISTANCE RUNNING 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."

WOMEN'S WORLD MILE RECORD HOLDER ANNE SMITH, WHO WAS WITH PIRIE AND HIS FAMILY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE INVASION, SAID EVERY PERSON APPROACHED HAD SIGNED THE PETITION.

IT WAS NOT KNOWN IF THE POLES HAD BEEN ASKED TO SIGN.

BG/L 2212/68

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