

C/S - PIANIST THREATENED IN CONCERT FOR CS

LONDON, SEPT. 2 (UPI)--PLAINCLOTHES POLICE MINGLED WITH AN AUDIENCE AT THE ALBERT HALL HERE TODAY AFTER A THREAT TO SHOOT ISRAELI PIANIST DANIEL BARENBOIM IF HE CONDUCTED A CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AN ANONYMOUS CALLER, TELEPHONING BARENBOIM AT HIS LONDON HOME EARLY THIS MORNING, TOLD HIM: "IF YOU GO ON TO THE PLATFORM THIS AFTERNOON YOU WILL BE SHOT. THIS CONCERT IS BEING REGARDED AS A PROVOCATION TO VIOLENCE."

THE CONCERT, WHICH WAS BARENBOIM'S IDEA, WENT AHEAD AS PLANNED AND THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS.

POLICE WERE ALERTED BY BARENBOIM'S FRIENDS AFTER HE AND HIS ENGLISH-BORN CELLIST WIFE JACQUELINE DU PRE REFUSED TO TAKE THE TELEPHONE THREAT SERIOUSLY.

SCOTLAND YARD PLACED A GUARD ON THE COUPLE'S HOME AND SENT MEN TO THE CONCERT.

BARENBOIM, 25, TOLD THE AUDIENCE THE CONCERT WAS NOT A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ANYONE BUT SOLELY IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM. PROCEEDS WERE TO BE SHARED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, WHICH IS GIVING FINANCIAL AID TO CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEE STUDENTS, AND THE FOUNDATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK IMMIGRANTS.

DURING THE CONCERT, BARENBOIM CONDUCTED THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN BRITAIN, WITH HIS WIFE AS SOLOIST IN DVORAK'S CELLO CONCERTO IN B MINOR. DVORAK WAS A CZECH.

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(PRW)