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X/13 CURT -- SKIING BOYCOTT DISCUSSED

STOCKHOLM, SEPT 3 -- (RFE SPECIAL/THRANE) -- THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA "MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM ALL INTERNATIONAL SKIING EVENTS", THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKIING FEDERATION, SIGGE BERGMAN, SAID TODAY.

THE QUESTION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN STOCKHOLM ON SEPTEMBER 17-18. ONE OF THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IS A RUSSIAN.

A LETTER FROM WHAT BERGMAN TERMED "A BELOVED SPORTS LEADER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA" WAS RECEIVED BY THE SWEDISH UNION MONDAY, VIA PARIS. THE LETTER ASKED SWEDISH SPORTS UNIONS TO BOYCOTT WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES IN ALL SPORTS EVENTS UNTIL THEIR TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"SWEDISH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO DO SO AS FAR AS BILATERAL COMPETITIONS ARE CONCERNED. IT IS NOW A QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS WHERE THOSE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE," BERGMAN SAID.

THE SEPTEMBER DISCUSSIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKIING FEDERATION WILL BE THE BASIS FOR A LATER DECISION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION.

BERGMAN SAID THAT THERE ARE THREE SKIING EVENTS ON WHICH THE DECISION WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT. ONE IS SWEDISH COMPETITIONS IN FALUN AT THE END OF JANUARY, WHERE THE SOVIET UNION, EAST GERMANY, POLAND, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA ALL WERE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE. THE SAME COUNTRIES ARE ALSO EXPECTED AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR JUNIORS IN BOLLNAES AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT WILL BE TRIAL RUNS FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN FEBRUARY AND WHERE ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE FEDERATION ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE, SAID BERGMAN.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS "UNCERTAIN" WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY COMPETITION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - IF THE FOREIGN TROOPS WERE NOT WITHDRAWN FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

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