

CN 88

X/4/9 C/S -- POLISH PROTEST AT NEW SOCCER DRAW

(SEE ALSO CN 162 OF LAST NIGHT)

WARSAW, SEP 3 (CMD)-- THE POLISH FOOTBALL UNION (PFU) HAS PROTESTED TO THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL UNION (UEFA) AGAINST ITS DECISION TO RE-DRAW THE FIRST ROUND MATCHES FOR THE EUROPEAN CUP TO ENSURE THAT EAST AND WEST EUROPEAN TEAMS DO NOT MEET EACH OTHER, SAID PAP.

THE POLISH PROTEST, DECIDED YESTERDAY AT A MEETING OF THE POLISH FOOTBALL UNION'S PRESIDUM, FOLLOWS OTHERS BY THE BULGARIAN AND HUNGARIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATIONS.

THE EUROPEAN UNION, WHICH HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN BERN, SWITZERLAND, DECIDED TO RE-DRAW THE FIRST ROUND FOLLOWING BOYCOTT THREATS BY CELTIC OF GLASGOW, THE ZURICH FOOTBALL CLUB AND MILANO AS A RESULT OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE POLISH PROTEST, AS QUOTED BY PAP, SAID:

"THE PFU WAS INDIGNANT TO LEARN FROM PRESS REPORTS, LATER CONFIRMED BY RUCH CHORZOW, THE POLISH CHAMPION AND GORNIK ZABRZE, THE POLISH CUP WINNER, THAT ON AUG 30 THE UEFA COMMITTEE FOR EMERGENCY AFFAIRS TOOK A SURPRISING AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE DECISION INVALIDATING THE RESULTS OF SEEDING FOR THE CLUB EUROPEAN CUP AND THE CUP WINNERS CUP.

"THE PFU FIRMLY PROTESTS AGAINST THIS ARBITRARY DECISION, UNPRECEDENTED IN THE SPORTS MOVEMENT. WE DECLARE THIS DECISION ILLEGAL AND CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT AND REGULATIONS OF THE UEFA STATUTE. IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE REGULATIONS BINDING FOR BOTH CUPS AND AN ACT OF DISCRIMINATION TO MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION.

"THE POLISH FOOTBALL UNION DEMANDS THAT THIS DECISION BE CANCELLED AND THE RESULTS OF THE SEEDING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN GENEVA ON JULY 10 KEPT IN FORCE." (PAP, SEP 3)

RE/RF/U 1455/68

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