

CN 58

X/13 CS - FOOTBALL UNION TO MEET ON EAST EUROPE PROTESTS

GENEVA, SEPT 5 (RFE SPECIAL/MAHONEY) - THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL (SOCCER) UNION ANNOUNCED IN BERN TODAY THAT IT WILL HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING NEXT MONDAY IN ZURICH TO DEAL WITH THE PROTESTS MADE BY MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE AGAINST THE CHANGES IN THE DRAW FOR EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITIONS.

THREE EAST EUROPEAN NATIONS HAVE PROTESTED AGAINST THE UNION'S DECISION TO RE-DRAW THE FIRST ROUND MATCHES TO INSURE THAT EAST AND WEST EUROPEAN TEAMS DO NOT MEET HEAD-ON.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN, ACCORDING TO THE UNION, BECAUSE OF THREATENED BOYCOTTS BY WESTERN TEAMS FOLLOWING THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT FORCES.

BULGARIAN, HUNGARIAN AND POLISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS HAVE PROTESTED, CHARGING THAT THE DECISION WAS ILLEGAL UNDER EUROPEAN UNION REGULATIONS.

THE UNION SPOKESMAN IN BERN COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT THE ACTION WAS COMPLETELY CORRECT UNDER THE BY-LAWS GOVERNING THE EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITION.

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