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CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

SPORTS: (3100)

A COUPLE OF DAYS ... IN THE LIVES OF A COUPLE OF ATHLETES ... ABROAD.

SOURCE STOCKHOLM: Own reporting.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 14 - 16 July 1954.

CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: There is a lot of "water" in the following report, a lot of insignificant and banal observation. Nevertheless we had good chance of observing these athletes during their stay in STOCKHOLM and have reported everything we picked up, big and small, important and unimportant. Another such "log" will follow, covering 17 and 18 July.

EVALUATION COMMENT. All cited names are correct, and the appearance of Czechoslovak athletes in STOCKHOLM is confirmed.

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Eight Czech athletes arrived at STOCKHOLM's BROMMA airport at 20:15 on Wednesday evening, 14 July, via Czech airliner from PRAGUE. Accompanying the eight were four other men: Stanislav HAVLICEK, apparently the leader of the group; Milos MYNAR, who is the trainer in place of Vojtech HAVLIK, who was announced as coming but who did not; Karel MAREK, a journalist; and Vladimir HUDIK, whose position is not known.

They were met in a very heavy rainstorm by Jan CIBULKA, first secretary of the CSR Legation in STOCKHOLM, and one or two others from the legation. CIBULKA ran out onto the ramp to greet the party of 12, but the others remained up on the airport balcony. CIBULKA presented the two women athletes, Dana ZAPOTKOVA and Olga MODRACHOVA, with small bouquets of red flowers.

The twelve went through the currency control quickly and then came into the customs shed. They were there for about 15 to 20 minutes, entirely alone, i.e., no one from the Legation accompanied them, as was the case with the 18 Polish seamen who had come through BROMMA about an hour earlier and had been swamped with cordiality by members of the Polish Legation. There were only a few Swedish newsmen on hand, the interest of the Swedish press having paled considerably when it was heard that Emil ZATOPEK was not coming. Pictures were taken of ZATOPKOVA, ZAPOTKOVA and JUNGWIRTH. Mrs. ZAPOTKOVA was

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interviewed and talked about the condition of her husband (see RFE Item No 6211/54); the rest of the athletes talked about nothing but the weather. "Just like it is at home" was the consensus of opinion. When asked about the upcoming competition in Sweden and Norway, Mrs. ZATOPKOVA said that she did not know what the schedule was - they had not been told the exact details. She "thought" they were going to compete in STOCKHOLM Friday afternoon (actually Friday evening) and were then going to OSLO. "But I am not sure what it is with OSLO, we just heard something about it," she said.

The two women, ZATOPKOVA and MODRACHOVA, were well, but simply dressed, the former wearing a blouse and skirt, the latter a blue dress. The men wore suits or sports coats and slacks, some with neckties, some without. Their luggage consisted of one leather (or imitation) suitcase apiece, plus a canvas bag or suitcase. Mrs. ZATOPKOVA carried her javelin with her.

While talking to newsmen, MAREK occasionally supplied a correct spelling of a name or gave some information about the best time or distance recorded by the Czech athletes. The whole group appeared relaxed and friendly. Mrs. ZATOPKOVA and MAREK did most of the talking, both of them speaking good German.

SKOBLA was carrying a red box which contained a glass trophy. It was a gift from the PRAGUE sportswriters (or sport organization) and was to be given as a gift to the Swedish sports clubs. The red paint on the box ran in the rain and got SKOBLA's hands all red.

Once through customs, the group went into the waiting room, where CIBULKA took over. He escorted them out to a waiting Scandinavian airline's bus, and counted them carefully as they got on. One of our sources tried to get on too, but he was stopped by CIBULKA. "This is reserved," he said in German. When our man said it was raining very hard, he was wet and just wanted to get into town, CIBULKA still refused to let him on. Once the twelve were aboard, the bus took off. CIBULKA then went into town in his own car, accompanied by the other from the Legation.

The bus arrived at the Hotel Domus at 21:15. CIBULKA, alone, did not get there until about 20 minutes later. The group checked with the hotel desk, received registration slips and then went to their rooms. They all carried their own suitcases. HAVLICEK asked the desk whether all of the rooms were in a row and connected, but was told they were not. He was satisfied, however, that they were all on the same floor. (The Hotel Domus, incidentally, is a student dormitory in the winter and is turned into a hotel, with student working there for the summer season when hotel space is short in STOCKHOLM).

The athletes went to their rooms and returned downstairs in about 20 minutes. ZATOPKOVA, during this time, talked to



a journalist for about half an hour, and thus did not hand her registration slip until the next morning. The information on the slip was as follows:

ZATOPKOVA, Dana, secretaire, born 9/9/1922 in FRYSTAT, CSR  
home address PRAGUE III, PUJCOVNIC, 8.(?)

MAREK Karel, Journalist, born 25/3/1911 in ROSICE u BRNO, CSR,  
home address VEVERKA (?) 7, PRAGUE, 7.

REHAK Martin, konstrukter, born 20/8/1933 in HRUBA, VRHKA (?),  
home address PRAGUE, PRAGUE.

MODRACHOVA Olga, aranzierka (decorator), born 9/5/1930 in PRAGUE,  
home address PRAGUE.

HUDIK Vladimir, urednik, born 26/4/1924 in K. HORA, home town  
PRAGUE.

HAVLICEK Stanislav, urednik, born 18/9/1918,  
home address LEGEROVA 42, PRAGUE, 12 (?).

SKOBL Jiri, urednik, born 16/4/1930 in PRAGUE, home address  
PRAGUE.

TOSNAR Milan, employe, born 27/11/1925 in BRNO, home address  
u SANTOSKY 9, PRAGUE, 16.

MACA Milos, employe, born 23/1/1927 in BOSKOVICE, home  
address PRAGUE.

MYNAR Milos, employe, born 26/9/1907, home address RADHOSTSKA 5,  
PRAGUE, 12.

JUNGWIRTH Stanislav, employe, born 15/8/1930 in PRACHATICE,  
home town ROZTOKY u PRAGUE, home address ROZTOKY u PRAGUE, 101(?)

MARTINEK Vaclav, employe, born 3/3/1931 in ROZDALOVICE, home  
town PRAGUE, home address / HOTEL SAVOY.

(Many of these spellings were impossible to read - I have  
put question marks where we weren't sure.)

Each of the twelve Czechs had a single room, as follows:-

- 126 - MAREK
- 127 - TOSNAR
- 128 - HAVLICEK
- 129 - MODRACHOVA
- 131 - MARTINEK
- 132 - MYNAR
- 134 - YUNGWIRTH
- 135 - REHAK
- 136 - MACA
- 138 - HUDIK
- 139 - SKOBLA
- 142 - ZATOPKOVA.

The group had a simple supper in the hotel cafeteria several of them drinking a bottle of light beer. MODRACHOVA was seen to smoke a good deal. The athletes impressed the hotel staff as being much more natural and human than the leaders. They joked with the desk porter about the difficulty of spelling and pronouncing their names. MYNAR was late getting to supper; he was busy running around and "organizing". After supper the athletes all went up to bed, leaving the lobby singly or in pairs. HUDIK, MAREK, and MYNAR remained in one corner of the lobby talking for about half an hour. ZATOPKOVA left her flowers on a table in the lobby. The night clerk later said that he "thought" one of the athletes came in later and had the impression that he may have had a few drinks; but he was not sure of this fact.. Nor did he know which one it was.

#### THURSDAY - July 15.

The group breakfasted at 09:00 a milk or coffee, rolls, marmalade and butter. Some of them may have had an egg. They then went for a stroll in the city, accompanied by CIBULKA, and one other man from the legation (nu). They had lunch at the Domus Hotel, eating again in the cafeteria and not in one of the private dining rooms that is available. They had cutlets and vegetables - nothing special. After a rest in their rooms, they went to the Stadion (where the meet was to be held) for a workout. There were six athletes there and six other persons, presumably the four non-athletes in the party and two from the Legation. A contact of ours walked into the Stadion with his girl, but one of the Czechs immediately came toward him. Our man chatted in Swedish with his girl and the Czech seemed satisfied. At one point, MYNAR told MARTINEK to try jumping in a different pit, but MARTINEK seemed to pay no attention to him and went on jumping where he was. Back at the hotel later, MAREK told a hotel porter that the training session had been "very satisfactory".

Again the group had a plain supper and then went to the movies at 19:00. The CSR Legation had reserved 15 seats at the Rigoletto theater, where a 3-D movie was playing "Charge at Feather River", with Guy Madison and Frank Lovejoy. It was an American western film. One of the athletes had told the hotel porter earlier that they might be going to the Park Theater but "Night People", a story of the Russians in BERLIN, was playing there. They saw the western instead.

They thought the 3-D film "interesting and technically novel - we do not have it yet in the CSR." But one of them did not care for the theme and thought the American whitemen mistreated the American Indians.

The group then returned to their hotel and went to bed.

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At 22:00 MAREK got a long-distance phone call from PRAGUE and talked for 37 minutes. PRAGUE booked the call, and as it turned out, there were three calls in one. As soon as he was through with one party, he got switched over to a second, and then a third. He remained on the phone the whole time. The three persons he talked to were all men, but we have no idea who they were or what the conversation was about.

After his call was finished, MAREK talked to one of the hotel porters for some minutes. He was most interested in the results of another track meet that had been held in GOTHENBURG that evening, a Swedish meet at which Frenchmen and Belgians had participated. He was particularly interested in their times for the running events and impressed the porter as being very well informed on sports matters.

#### FRIDAY - July 16.

The athletes told the hotel people that they had all slept well the night before. They went for another walk and then returned to the hotel to rest, CIBULKA being with them again. They stayed together most of the time and seemed in good humor and spirits.

One of our Sources reported that MAREK and HAVLICEK talked in a "Communist way" during their walks in the street, remarking from time to time on the things they saw in store windows. They <sup>once</sup> supposed to have said... "These things are only for the rich in Sweden." It was this Source's opinion that JUNGWIRTH, SKOBLA, MODRACHOVA and ZATOPKOVA were the "best" of the group and not Communist.

The Czech team ate a very large lunch at 14:00, "more than I thought athletes ate," as one hotel porter put it. They had smorgasbord, beef steak, vegetables and cake with whipped cream. They ordered fruit for desert, but this was forgotten by the waiters and the athletes as well and they never got it. They then rested in their rooms. When they went to the Stadion around 17:30, they took sandwiches with them.

In the first half of the track meet, ZATOPKOVA and MODRACHOVA sat together in the lower part of the stands, already dressed in their track clothes. Several kids came for their autographs, which they readily signed.

Out on the field the Czech athletes behaved quietly and did not display any grand-standism. SKOBLA was especially business-like in throwing the shot-put; he did so with a minimum of warming-up exercises and jumping around. He merely stepped into the circle, jerked his leg back once and then threw the thing about a meter further than anyone else. He would then get right back into his track suit and wait for his next turn. The Czech trainers were conspicuously inconspicuous out on the field; it was difficult to find them. ZATOPKOVA and SKOBLA got the biggest ovations from the Swedish crowd and the announcer once said in German to ZATOPKOVA that they were glad to have her here and hoped she would do the

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Swedes the honor of coming again soon. Later he reported that Emil might be back in STOCKHOLM in September.

Following the meet, while waiting for a bus to take them to a banquet, several of the Czechs were talking about the track and field events. One of them said: "It is really too bad about JUNGWIRTH. He was boxed in at the start - and those Swedes call themselves sportsmen! Still, he is a fighter and usually fights his way out of such a situation. I do not know what happened to him tonight."

Another said, while signing autographs: "Who knows, I might be signing a bill for 500 crowns." (Laughter).

MAREK later told a hotel porter that he was not satisfied with the results of the competition - especially not with JUNGWIRTH. Only SKOBLA had performed as he had hoped.

All of the athletes in the meet went to STOCKHOLM's Skarsen Restaurant at 21:15, direct from the Stadion, by bus. MAREK, accompanied by a Swede acting as guide, returned to the Domus Hotel at 21:30 to receive another PRAGUE phone call. This time he talked for one hour and 20 minutes, speaking to two different parties, first a man and then a woman. To the woman he appeared to be giving the results of the track meet; several times he was heard to say "centimeter" or "meters".

The Swedish guide told our Contact that there was apparently a lot of trouble because PRAGUE wanted the athletes back in CSR by 22 July, but that is the same day as the track meet in OSLO and they can't, of course, make it by 22nd. The Swede reported that the STOCKHOLM CSR Legation had given the athletes the order to be back on the 22nd, apparently on orders from PRAGUE. He said that the Legation was giving all the orders to the 12-man group of Czechs, who apparently had no say whatsoever as to what and where and why they would do things.

We have no way of knowing how the 22nd-conflict was resolved, except that the team is still supposed to leave for OSLO on the 18th by plane.

After MAREK was finished with his phone call PRAGUE wanted to talk to both HAVLICEK and MACA. They were not available, however, both of them being at the Skansen banquet. MAREK was asked to take the message for them, but refused, saying that he was too tired to talk any more on the phone. The PRAGUE operator was then told HAVLICEK and MACA could perhaps be reached at Skansen and the matter was left at that. We do not know whether or not the phone call was transferred there.

MAREK then returned to the banquet. He is expecting a call from BRATISLAVA at 12:30 on Saturday, the 17th.

The athletes returned from the banquet at 01:30 and went immediately to bed.

End.