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elnea elaine are you there???? ~~~~~

WR 298

exlional martin (havana) - re: Cuban view olympics

apr 24 -- exclusivie interview with manuel gonzalez guerra, president of cuban olympic committee. guerra says that he is of the opinion that the russians will go to the olympics since sports is one thing and politics another. in the end it is to the benefit of the united states and vital to the success of the olympics that the soviet union and other socialist bloc nations attend. +i think that the basic demands of the soviet olympic committee will be met,+ he said.

asked if cuba would drop out if the soviet union did gonzales guerra said: +let's not cross that bridge until we get to it. certainly, if things go that far, we will have a serene discussion before making any decision. but we don't want to give definite answers to a conjecture like that because the question is fraught with pessimism and defeatism.+

gonzales guerra said cuba itself has put forward certain demands and has not yet received satisfactory answers from the u.s. olympic committee or from the u.s. government. the first demand is that cuban planes be permitted to transport cuban athletes, judges and other personnel to and from los angeles. he said this was customary - cuba used it own planes to take its teams to mexico and montreal but that it request for do so has not yet been rpt but that it has not received an answer to the present request. he said the use of commercial airlines is more costly, presents many logistic problems for the cuban. another official said that security is also a major factor in wanting to use own planes so the big cuban contingent wont have to spend time in airports in mexico or canada (he said cuba would never think of sending its team via miami because of the big counterrevolutionary population there)

the other demand made by the cubans, gonzales guerra said was that of providing protection for the non-athletes from cuba -- the trainers, judges and cuban newspaperpersons (sportswriters). he said in view of the vicious anti-cuban and anti-soviet campaign by some groups in the united states, these non athletes will also need protection. he said this was raised publicly in los angeles in early april by the cuban olympic committee but no reply has been forthcoming,

meanwhile the cubans have stepped up their training for the olympics and later this week an international track and field meet, the +barrientos in memorium+ will take place with the presence here in havana of u.s. athletes among others.

elene/hope that satisfies everybody. love, lionel

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