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AM-CUBA-CHESS

— Reuter

1988

CUBA CRITICIZES U.S. DENIAL OF PRIZE MONEY TO CHESS WINNER

HAVANA, APRIL 9, REUTER - THE OFFICIAL CUBAN NEWSPAPER ON SATURDAY STRONGLY CRITICIZED WHAT IT SAID WAS A U.S. DECISION TO REFUSE A CUBAN CHESS GRAND MASTER ₱10,000 IN PRIZE MONEY HE WON AT A TOURNAMENT IN NEW YORK.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER GRANMA SAID THE CHECK WAS WITHHELD +THANKS TO THE ARBITRARY IMPOSITION OF THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT WHICH CITED AS A REASON THE U.S. ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA.+

THE CHESS PLAYER, GUILLERMO GARCIA, WON SECOND PLACE IN A NEW YORK OPEN CONTEST WHICH ENDED ON MARCH 30.

HAVANA IS TAKING LEGAL MEASURES IN THE UNITED STATES TO PUT THE PRIZE MONEY IN A FROZEN BANK ACCOUNT, THE PAPER SAID.

IT QUOTED GARCIA AS SAYING: +THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED IN THE HISTORY OF CHESS.+ HE ADDED THAT HE WAS TOLD ABOUT THE U.S. DECISION ONLY MINUTES BEFORE THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT.

HE AND HIS COMPATRIOT, AMADOR RODRIGUEZ, WERE THE FIRST CUBANS TO PLAY IN A U.S. CHESS TOURNAMENT SINCE THE 1959 CUBAN REVOLUTION, ACCORDING TO VINCENT MCCAMBRIDGE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE U.S. CHESS FEDERATION IN NEW WINDSOR, N.Y.

HE SAID HE KNEW OF NO PREVIOUS INCIDENT OF DENYING CHESS PRIZE MONEY IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT HE BELIEVED A TRUST FUND WAS BEING SET UP IN GARCIA'S NAME.

REUTER 1650

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died 1990 in automobile accident