

HOSTS: Rex LORING - George RICH

LORING

.....that a Rumanian Olympic athlete has asked for political asylum. The official refused to identify the athlete. However a group of Montreal Ukrainians say he's 21 year old Evan HOLLENDE (ph) a Rumanian canoeist. Earlier this week a member of the Rumanian rowing team defected and yesterday it was learned that a diver from the Soviet Union had left his team. Most of the top Communist athletes who have completed their events have already been sent home and as Mike DUFFY reports, special precautions are now being taken for those who remain.

DUFFY

Security is always tight around athletes from Communist countries. They aren't usually allowed to leave the Olympic village without an escort and the establishment of friendships with outsiders is made difficult by the frequent presence of team officials. Before the defections the one place the athletes from Communist nations could roam about fairly freely was inside the Olympic village itself. There, behind high wire fences and guarded by Canadian soldiers, they were allowed to mingle fairly freely with athletes from other nations and with the young girls who have been hired to act as Olympic hostesses. Sources inside the village say the hostesses were all ordered not to get involved in politics. But some, with families from

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Eastern European backgrounds apparently chose to ignore this rule and it now appears that some of them may have even helped the athletes defect. The result has been an increase in security inside the Olympic village. Sources say athletes from Communist countries are now forbidden to go anywhere without an escort and friendships with hostesses are now actively discouraged. Whether these new measures will be enough to prevent further defections remains to be seen.

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