

Russia gives the boot to teacher at UC



VICTOR SOKOLOV

... 'Strive to merit ...'

SANTA CRUZ — A teacher at University of California here has joined the ranks of such famous writers as Alexander Solzhenitsyn by being deprived of his Russian citizenship because of his writings.

Victor Sokolov, 29, who teaches Russian parttime at the university, said he doesn't think he deserves to be in the same category as Solzhenitsyn and other Russian writers who have been stripped of Soviet citizenship.

But he said he will "strive to merit the high honor."

Sokolov has been in this country since November of last year. His writings have appeared in numer-

ous Soviet magazines and newspapers published outside the USSR.

His writings have been critical of the Soviet Union.

Sokolov said he learned about losing his citizenship only Wednesday, though it had been removed by the Supreme Soviet in September.

He said he contacted the Soviet Embassy in San Francisco to make arrangements to have his parents visit America.

He received word that he should return his passport because he was no longer a Soviet citizen.

Sokolov is married to an Ameri-

can citizen he met in Russia, Barbara Wratz.

His wife has a degree in Russian literature from the university here. She moved to Moscow for a year and took a job at the U.S. Embassy, where she met Sokolov at a party.

They were married after "an incredible amount of red tape," and he eventually was allowed to follow his wife to America.

Even in Russia, Sokolov was

"heavily involved" in the dissident movement, he said. He wrote articles criticizing the government in the underground press. In Moscow, he was a member of Amnesty International.

Sokolov and his wife are "house parents" at a residence hall on campus. Mrs. Sokolov is a student teacher at Santa Cruz High School. Her husband is a student at that same school, learning English.