

# CZECHOSLOVAK NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL OF FREE CZECHOSLOVAKIA

420 East 71st Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

Vol. VII, No. 11/12 (74/75)

November/December 1982

## CONTENTS

Free Trade Union Movement . . . . .	p. 1
Letter on the Madrid Conference . . . . .	p. 3
Charter 77 Replies to Its Critics . . . . .	p. 5
Religious Affairs . . . . .	p. 5
Conference at the State Department . . . . .	p. 7
Celebration at the American Embassy . . . . .	p. 8
Charter 77 Honored . . . . .	p. 8
Husák in Vienna . . . . .	p. 9
News from Normalized Czechoslovakia . . . . .	p. 11

## FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

The "Preparatory Committee of Free Trade Unions" in Czechoslovakia has issued additional statements. Under the dateline of Prague-Plzeň, November 7, it sent a letter addressed to Solidarity, Warsaw, in which it noted that freedom-loving Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks must join together in their struggle for liberation. Two other documents were released on November 9 and November 14, abridged versions of which are reproduced below.

### Letter to the Polish Embassy and the World Federation of Trade Unions in Prague

On November 10, 1980, the Polish trade union movement Solidarity was legalized. The entire progressive world now remembers the second anniversary of that important event. Solidarity came into existence as the expression of a popular movement to defend the interests of the Polish working people, not as a protest against the Polish communist party or socialism in Poland. Seeking social renewal, the new, legal, independent, and self-governing labor organization quickly won respect as witnessed by its 10 million members. Its impact reached beyond the Polish border, and as a new and important peace initiative it was received with hope by labor movements of all political persuasions, even including some communist parties. Solidarity's abolition deferred once again the hope that reasonable and generally accepted socio-political conditions would be established not only in Poland but also elsewhere

in Europe. The annulment of Solidarity's legal status did not help to bring about a constructive dialogue at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe presently convening again in Madrid.

Charter 77 is concerned about a situation where the military, not the people, is the final decision-maker. This opens the gates to a repressive machine preventing a political solution and gives preference to violence over prudent negotiation. The specter of the 1950s is back in the 1980s in Central Europe. Charter 77 regards it as its duty to draw the attention of all people of goodwill to this threat.

Prague, November 9, 1982

Dr. Radim Palouš, Anna Marvanová,  
Ladislav Lis, Charter 77 spokespersons;  
Jiří Dienstbier, Charter 77 collective  
member

#### Declaration on the "Anonymity and Program" of the Preparatory Committee

More than a year ago, the Preparatory Committee of Free Trade Unions in Czechoslovakia went public (Czechoslovak Newsletter, Vol. VI, No. 7/8, July/August 1981). Its existence was questioned at home and abroad. Issues were raised regarding its work and program, and particularly about who represents the Committee and why the names of its membership were not made public.

For the time being and probably for a while longer, we shall not publish names or details about the Committee's endeavors for two reasons:

1. We consider now as most important unobtrusive social and promotional work. We do not seek publicity. We do not wish to be a sensation in our country but rather seek to explore ways on how to make it wholesome again. We value Charter 77 highly, but the fate of its signatories and their persecution are a warning to us. We wish to avoid a situation such as that involving the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted which has pondered the possibility of discontinuing its courageous efforts altogether. Our program was outlined in the declaration we made last year.
2. As long as our country's present political leadership will continue to regard, to its own detriment, any critical voice as hostile, we shall not publish the names of our Committee members. Our work would suffer and would probably be made impossible. In our published program we stated that we shall seek legal means to restore the health of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement (ROH). We want the unions to become a genuine movement of the working people in Czechoslovakia, one that would defend their interests.

A number of informal, spontaneously originating groups already exist in some factories and organizations. They follow critically the work of the [official] trade union officials. They watch the stagnating wages, the uneven scales, problems of work safety, and serious technological shortcomings. Such activities, such groups, can now exist and function only informally as cells linked by common interests. We wish to assist directly and indirectly all these informal groups and individuals who spontaneously try to revive and revitalize the trade union movement in Czechoslovakia.

Prague, November 14, 1982

Preparatory Committee of Free Trade Unions

### Report on the Persecution of SRA Members

The Council of Free Czechoslovakia received a report from Prague, dated July 4, 1982, on the detention and interrogation of SRA (Skupina revoluční akce-- Revolutionary Action Group) members.

The report named 17 individuals, their occupations and addresses, who were arrested for interrogation in January and February 1982 and held incommunicado in the Ruzyně prison in Prague since that time. House searches were conducted in the homes of these persons. "A large number of security agents and counter-intelligence agents were involved in the roundup, which evidences the attempt by the police to show SRA links to other groups, especially opposition groups, in other socialist countries," the report noted.

Authorities have kept the affair secret. Among those arrested were Jan Wünsch, Václav Soukup, Jitka Tůmová, and Josef Wünsch. They were indicted for sedition (Article 100 of the Penal Code), a charge later changed to subversion (Article 98). They were accused of distributing leaflets addressed to "Workers, Students, Citizens of Czechoslovakia," calling for the support of Poland's Solidarity. Interrogators were also trying to determine whether the group had participated in the samizdat activities of EDICE 84, an "independent association for printing and publication" (NSTI).

Only three of those under investigation--Jan Wünsch, Jiří Wolf, and František Hrabal--are Charter 77 signatories. The investigations covered Prague and the Bohemian towns of Jindřichův Hradec, Beroun, and Pardubice. About 100 persons are expected to be summoned as witnesses. Authorities are particularly interested in the SRA's contacts with Polish activists, the Catholic Church, and the Polish KOR (Committee for the Defense of Workers).

### LETTER ON THE MADRID CONFERENCE

Charter 77 issued a statement on the eve of the resumption of negotiations in Madrid addressed to the government of Czechoslovakia (Charter 77 Document No. 29/82). The following is an abridged version:

We appeal to you on behalf of citizens who wish that our Czechoslovak government respect its signature of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (FA CSCE) and observe the obligations, principles, and norms of duly ratified international human rights pacts. Charter 77 was a response to the CSCE in Helsinki. Its wish is that the principles of the FA CSCE become part of our country's reality. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on October 7, 1982, the Czechoslovak minister of foreign affairs said that it is in the interest of our government that the forthcoming follow-up meeting in Madrid be conducted in the spirit of constructive dialogue, that it confirm the process of détente, and conclude as soon as possible by adopting a substantive and balanced final document. One cannot but agree. Charter 77 spokespersons expressed the same opinion in letters addressed to you on the eve of the Madrid conference on September 17, 1980, and before the resumption of the conference on February 22, 1981.

As citizens of a country which paid dearly for "peace at any price," we know that the word "peace" is not unequivocal. It may serve for the propaganda and cover-up of great power expansionism, arrogant rule, and spiritual enslavement. It can be a label under which the powerful conspire against the powerless. It may also become

an expression of resignation, surrender of human dignity, and sellout of human values in the name of self-preservation. When representatives of the Czechoslovak government speak of a balanced final document, it should contain principles of peaceful cooperation as defined in the FA CSCE. This means that the participating governments should respect basic rights and freedoms of all their citizens as promulgated in the General Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights pacts. Past negotiations in Belgrade and Madrid evidenced disagreements among the participants. The word "peace" can become unequivocal not only when it signifies truce among nations but especially when it comes to mean freedom, human dignity, responsibility, and respect for truth within states.

The position of the Czechoslovak delegation in Madrid and the credibility of the peace policy of our government would be greatly enhanced if

a. Citizens were released from jail and the sentences quashed of those who called for the fulfillment of obligations contained in the FA CSCE since their alleged violations would not be found to be valid. Among others these citizens include the following:

J. Adámek, J. Bárta, R. Battěk, V. Benda, O. Bednářová, Z. Ceřovský, J. Duka, M. Fryč, J. Gruntorád, V. Havel, R. Hložánka, J. Hrabina, M. Hýbek, Š. Javorský, I. Jirous, J. Krumpholtz, J. Litomiský, Fr. Lízna, D. Němcová, P. Pospíchal, G. P o v a l a, G. R o m p f, R. Směhel, Fr. Stárek, Dr. Trojan, P. Uhl, A. Zlatohlavý, etc.

b. Criminal acts, police chicaneries, and job discrimination against citizens and their families are halted. This concerns the following, among others:

J. Belíková, J. Dolista, J. Hájek, I. Havel, O. Havlova, engineer Holomek, J. Hořec, Z. Jiřinský, E. Kantůrková, M. Kusý, K. Kyncl, L. Lis, V. Malý, J. Mlynárik, J. Müller, J. Němec, Jan Ruml, Jiří Ruml, J. Savrda, J. Siklová, M. Simečka, etc.

c. The principal state organs meet their constitutional obligations according to Article 29 of our Constitution concerning the observation of the above principles and their violations.

d. The federal assembly, the government, and the prosecutor general conduct a re-examination of the applicable laws in the spirit of the FA CSCE and international human rights pacts, especially of the Penal Code and laws and regulations concerning the police, as well as of court and police practices. It would be useful if the prosecutor general and other competent authorities were to apply Chapter 6 of the Constitution dealing with the constitutional court that has never been activated.

As was pointed out in earlier documents, e.g., Documents No. 15 (1978) and Nos. 12 and 22 (1982), Charter 77 is ready to cooperate in a constructive manner with the competent authorities in an effort to prove that Czechoslovakia is genuinely ready to contribute to the cause of peace and security in Europe and the world.

Prague, October 22, 1982

Dr. Radim Palouš, Anna Marvanová,  
Ladislav Lis, Charter 77 spokespersons;  
Prof. Dr. Jiří Hájek, Charter 77 member  
(Dr. V. Benda and R. Battěk, Charter 77  
spokespersons, are in jail)

## CHARTER 77 REPLIES TO ITS CRITICS

An "open letter" was addressed in September 1982 by the "signatories of Charter 77," "not only to those who recently expressed well-meaning remarks on the activities of Charter 77 but also to all who are not indifferent to the cause of civic responsibility." Below is its abridged text:

Some well-intentioned criticism has been heard lately about past activities of Charter 77. Opinions were expressed that during its six years of existence Charter 77 has lived under the illusion that a dialogue with the power holders is possible and that it is foolish to believe that authorities would respond to the Charter's emphasis on respecting the laws. Charter 77 has not conducted a dialogue with an anonymous power apparatus even when addressing its numerous documents to competent state authorities. It has aimed its dialogue at all citizens of our country. It is true that Charter 77 has placed its emphasis on legality regardless of how frivolously our authorities handle the laws. The original document of the Charter is a declaration in which its signatories pledged to stand for the cause of human and civil rights; and human rights are part and parcel of human rights pacts, of our Constitution, and other legally binding obligations. Charter 77 claims allegiance to legality in a generally moral sense. Within the framework of the historically given legal system it advocates especially those provisions which our authorities prefer to overlook or try to interpret in a slanted way. It is therefore evident that Charter 77 does not harbor any illusion as to the actual state of affairs.

It was also stated that Charter 77 is not "enlightening" enough. Charter 77 is a community of individuals who raised their voices in the name of civic responsibility calling for legality, human values, decency, genuinely open criticism, the truthful reporting of news, and for justice of the unjustly prosecuted.

To summarize, our critics maintain that Charter 77 is not enlightening enough. Others say it is too legalistic, while still others hold that it foolishly strives to engage those who wield power in a dialogue. We answer that the present situation does not offer opportunities for "stimulating" the masses even though we dare mention that the proper ethos is not lacking. Illegality cannot be opposed by violence in the spirit of the original Charter 77 document. Charter 77 defends legality, especially those parts of the legal system which are partly or entirely neglected by our executive power, that is, the parts which concern human and civic rights. And last but not least, Charter 77 does not maintain a dialogue with the centers of power exclusively. Rather, it is directed in the first place to the conscience of every citizen.

## RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

### A Document on the So-Called Obstruction of the Supervision of Churches

An approximately 3,000-word-long document was prepared in Slovakia on the "so-called obstruction of the supervision of churches" according to Article 178 of the Czechoslovak Penal Code. Persons who "with the intent to obstruct and make difficult state supervision of churches and religious societies violate their economic security" may be sentenced up to two years in jail. Without specifying further details the article refers to Law No. 218/1949 as the basis of its implementation and to executive orders.

The document provides specific examples of cases from the Czech and Slovak regions illustrating how the regime violates its own laws, including provisions of the Constitution, as well as international human rights pacts to persecute clergy and laymen.

### Billy Graham in Czechoslovakia

The Vice Premier of the Federal Government, Matej Lúčan, received in Prague American evangelist Billy Graham, who was on a speaking tour in Czechoslovakia at the beginning of November. According to Lidová demokracie of November 4, Mr. Lúčan "reminded [Billy Graham] of the rich democratic and cultural heritage of Czechoslovakia [and] said that religious freedom is guaranteed by the Constitution and that 18 denominations have 8,000 houses of worship at their disposal and whose maintenance costs the state 200 million crowns annually."

Rudé právo of November 5 quoted Billy Graham as saying that "there is freedom for people to worship and to have services in their churches as guaranteed by the Constitution." The daily printed this quote in English. Perhaps Mr. Graham should explain.

### A Samizdat Report

According to the Catholic samizdat magazine Informace o církvi, No. 10, 1982, the struggle against the Church in Czechoslovakia is increasing. Homes are being searched (as happened in Bratislava, Zilina, and Vrútky recently), activists are interrogated and shadowed, the privacy of homes violated when their owners are away, and so on. New arrests have been reported. On August 13, the police held Helena Gondová in Bratislava. Her apartment was searched and she was accused of "dealing in precious metals and pornography." But instead of precious metals and pornography the search party led by Lt. Jakeš confiscated religious literature, probably the reason for Gondová's arrest. A Catholic lay activist, 26-year-old construction worker František Novajevský, was arrested on August 30. He had planned to study theology but was rejected because he did not meet state police (StB) requirements, necessary for admission to the seminary. Because he made repeated attempts to join the seminary in subsequent years, he was questioned again and again and finally informed that he would be admitted if he "became a good patriot, alert against antisocialist elements among students." When Novajevský declined the offer, the police began threatening him and they warned him not to study theology secretly. On August 30 he was arrested at the construction site where he worked. During a search of his home, 300 books and other personal belongings were confiscated. His place of detention is unknown.

### Police Interrogates Children

The Council of Free Czechoslovakia received a report dated October 11, 1982, from Dolní Plachtice in Slovakia that fourth-grade children at the grammar school in Velký Krtíš were interrogated by state police (StB officer Hošala) on October 6 because they had attended a Catholic mass and their parents had signed them up for religious instruction in the church. Three children—Katarína Tothová, Milota Notová, and Anicka Sulková—were shown photographs of a first communion celebration in 1981 and asked to identify their parents. They were then questioned about the priest, prayer books, and other matters. They were finally asked to sign a statement whose content they did not know. Milota Notová refused and declared that she would go

to church anyway. Officer Hořala also questioned Maria Šiminová, a high school student from Dolní Plachice, and warned her she would not be admitted to university if she refused to sign a prepared statement.

### Constructive Cooperation with Pacem in Terris

The regime-sponsored association of the Catholic "peace priests," Pacem in Terris, met in Brno on October 12 under the slogan—as Rudé právo put it—"Struggle for Peace and Against Nuclear Catastrophe in the Light of the Second Vatican Council." (The Vatican characterized the association as "political"—Czechoslovak Newsletter, Vol. VII, No. 9/10, September/October 1982.) The main speaker at the meeting was M. Klusák, minister of culture of the Czech Socialist Republic, who attacked the Vatican and the United States. He defended the association as "non-political" in a highly political speech (Katolické noviny, October 31, 1982). He attacked "imperialism" which under the guidance of the Reagan administration he charged with using "methods of pressure, violence, aggression, barbarism, and genocide wherever circumstances warrant." He accused the Vatican of forbidding Czechoslovak Catholic dignitaries from attending a religious world congress in Moscow last May and praised Pacem in Terris for sending its delegation to the Soviet capital.

### CONFERENCE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT

More than 75 scholars, publicists, and political activists, including Soviet and East European dissidents, met at the State Department in Washington on October 18 and 19 to consider how peaceful democratic change can be encouraged in communist countries. The conference was called by Secretary of State George Shultz to further a political initiative that had been announced by President Ronald Reagan in the British parliament last June.

Opening the conference on democratization in communist countries, Undersecretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger said that so long as communist leaders oppose change there would be instability. "As long as they depend on force to deny their people's legitimate freedom, there will be unrest . . . . Our hope is that peaceful democratic change can emerge from this tension. Our intent is to help it happen." Secretary of State Shultz told the participants he was looking to them "for guidance and creative ideas . . . . We need new tools, new energies, and a new focus to invigorate our efforts." He said that "only the people of [the communist] countries can muster sufficient pressure for reform to determine their own destinies. We do not seek to foment violent unrest or to undermine communist regimes. Yet, we will not ignore the individuals and groups in communist countries who seek peaceful change. It is our responsibility, both moral and strategic, to meet their calls for help. We must aid their struggle for freedom. The U.S. government is active on this front. Our radio broadcasts serve as the communist world's surrogate free press. The U.S. government will spend \$44 million this fiscal year for the first installment in a planned \$1 billion modernization program to improve the geographic and political impact of these radio broadcasts. We are encouraging private sector groups to aid the peaceful struggle for freedom in communist countries. More organizations must follow the example of the AFL-CIO which offered strong support for Polish Solidarity . . . . We will continue to press the issue of human rights in public, international forums, and we will insist that communist states be held to

international standards of behavior and will hold them to the Helsinki Final Act as we do in forum after forum and in individual discussion after discussion. We will insist that a single standard be applied to all countries. These efforts are important but we must do more to support the emergence of democracy in communist states. We need new tools, new energies, and a new focus to invigorate our efforts."

### Reaction in Prague

Under the headline, "A Black Crusade," the Prague daily Rudé právo reported on October 21:

"A two-day secret conference took place at the State Department in Washington where concrete plans for a 'crusade' were worked out against communism as previously announced by President Reagan in his June address to the British parliament. At the conference representatives of the State Department met with experts in psychological warfare and ideological diversion from Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty and their stooges from various emigré groups.

"The U.S. Secretary of State, George Shultz, and other government representatives at the conference declared that the U.S.A. would already this year increase substantially its outlays for conducting psychological warfare against the U.S.S.R. and other socialist countries. According to Shultz, for improving efforts and strengthening the political impact of programs alone \$50 million are available. The total outlay for the operation of these propaganda stations is roughly \$1 billion a year."

### CELEBRATION AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

Ambassador Jack Matlock paid homage to the founders of the Czechoslovak Republic in the American embassy building in Prague, where he laid a wreath at the plaques commemorating the first president of Czechoslovakia, Thomas G. Masaryk, a Czech; the first minister of war, General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, a Slovak; and President Woodrow Wilson of the United States. The celebration took place on October 28, Czechoslovak Independence Day. In his remarks Ambassador Matlock noted the close cooperation of the three statesmen in establishing the independent Czechoslovak state in 1918. He said that American personnel working at the embassy in Prague were especially proud that the United States president had contributed so much to the realization of the dream of Czech and Slovak patriots—the creation of a free and independent Czechoslovakia.

### CHARTER 77 HONORED

At its annual banquet, the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies in New York, together with the Riverside Church, celebrated on October 28 the 20th anniversary of the publication of the RCDA (Religion in Communist-Dominated Areas), edited by Reverend Blahoslav Hrubý and his wife Olga.

The occasion was also intended to honor organizations and individuals who take an active part in the struggle for human rights and against the totalitarian system in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Among them was the Czechoslovak Charter 77.

The main speakers were Bayard Rustin, one of the leading American human rights advocates; Ambassador Richard T. Davies; and the wife of Aleksander I. Solzhenitsyn.

Ambassador Davies devoted the bulk of his remarks to the foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic 64 years ago (October 28 is Czechoslovak Independence Day) and to its first president Thomas G. Masaryk. He said among other things that "in his Nobel Prize address Czeslaw Milosz dwelt upon 'the meaning of the afflictions which befell the nations of the other Europe'—that half of Europe which lies east of the River Elbe. He raised the possibility that 'two genocidal dictators,' Hitler and Stalin, might have succeeded, despite their apparent failures, in establishing the practice of dealing with nations as 'objects of trade, if not chips in games of cards or dice.' But Hitler and Stalin have not yet won that posthumous victory. One of the important reasons why they have not is Charter 77, the broadly based coalition of Czechoslovak democrats, social democrats, and socialists, which, despite every effort of the Husák regime, continues to raise its voice in the Czech and Slovak lands in defense of freedom. Here in America we hear little these days about the activities of Charter 77 . . . . All the more reason, then, why we should remember the brave men and women who keep alive the splendid tradition established in so short a time by these modern Chartists. In a country occupied by Soviet troops, where so many have been cowed by brutal repression, it takes extraordinary courage to break the placid surface of passivity and speak the truth. Faithful to the national motto, Pravda vítězí (truth prevails), the Chartists of 1977 continue to do so.

"It is therefore a particular honor for me to be able to hand this certificate of recognition of the heroism and self-sacrifice of the members of Charter 77 to Dr. Jiří Horák, foreign affairs secretary of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia. (Dr. Horák thanked the RCDA and Ambassador Davies and assured them that the certificate would be deposited for safe-keeping by the Council until the time comes when it can be handed over to those to whom it belongs in Czechoslovakia.)

#### Text of the Certificate

The Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies is proud to honor Charter 77 with the RCDA Human Rights Award: In recognition and deep appreciation of the courageous defense of human rights by Charter 77 and its valiant stand against communist persecution in Soviet-occupied Czechoslovakia. An inspiration to all oppressed people. (RSC)

#### HUSÁK IN VIENNA

The Czechoslovak president and party secretary, Dr. Gustav Husák, paid an official visit to Vienna in the middle of November. Originally scheduled for last year, the visit was postponed because of a new low in Austrian-Czechoslovak relations following the persecution of dissidents and the affair of Josef Hodio, a spy planted in Vienna.

Dr. Husák's reception was anything but cordial despite diplomatically phrased declarations by the Austrian president, Rudolf Kirschlager, and the Austrian chancellor, Bruno Kreisky. They mentioned the Helsinki Final Act and the possibility of expanding trade, which Prague needs in a bad way.

But the Slovak daily Pravda of November 22 complained that "anti-Czechoslovak provocations appeared on Austrian television and in rightist papers. Anticommunist forces in Austria and their control centers farther west made an attempt to disrupt the constructive nature of the visit by dispatching Pavel to Prague." Indeed, the Czech dissident playwright Pavel Kohout, now an Austrian citizen, landed at the Prague airport on a Frankfurt-Budapest flight on the day Husák arrived in Vienna, but left after a few hours for Zurich, Switzerland. The Czechoslovak media reported that "he had hoped to be arrested" to spoil Dr. Husák's visit, but "we did not oblige."

Charter 77 and the wife of a jailed Czech writer, Dr. Jaromír Savrda from Ostrava, sent letters to Chancellor Kreisky pleading for help, and hundreds of emigrés signed a letter to Gustav Husák. He was also handed a letter signed by Dr. Josef Höchtel, member of the Austrian parliament for the Peoples' (Christian Democratic) Party and a human rights spokesman.

#### Charter 77 Letter to Chancellor Kreisky

Dear Mr. Chancellor,

We turn to you because we know of your interest in the plight of the defenders of human rights in Czechoslovakia, which you have proved by your actions.

You will soon be meeting with the president of our republic, Dr. Gustav Husák. We hope it will not be difficult for you to find a suitable opportunity to intervene on behalf of all those who are persecuted in Czechoslovakia for their defense of human rights and first of all on behalf of those who are in jail, such as Battěk, Benda, Gruntorád, Havel, Hložánka, Jirous, Litomiský, Lízna, Pospíchal, Stárek, Uhl, and others. We fear that the persecution may become more severe and, after the end of the visit, target others who, although under indictment, are still free. They could be detained once more and a new political trial might be staged. We have in mind individuals like Bartošek, Kyncl, Mlynárik, and others. Our plea to you to intervene on behalf of these and other citizens persecuted for their defense of human rights guaranteed by Czechoslovak laws and international agreements is therefore urgent.

We are grateful to you for your past and effective understanding of our situation and we thank you for your assistance to those whose strength against the power centers consists merely of their moral position.

Prague, November 10, 1982

Dr. Radim Palouš, Anna Marvanová,  
Ladislav Lis, Charter 77 spokespersons

#### Letter to Dr. Husák by Dr. Höchtel

Dr. Josef Höchtel, member of the Austrian parliament for the People's (Christian Democratic) Party and its human rights spokesman, sent a letter to Czechoslovak President Gustav Husák dated November 5, 1982, in which he made three points on how to improve the "frigid relations" between Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Höchtel proposed to the Czechoslovak president to do the following:

1. Pardon jailed human rights activists Václav Havel, Rudolf Battěk, Václav Benda, Petr Uhl, Jan Litomiský, Ivan Jirous, and "many others."

2. Release from detention the following priests and believers: Anton Zlatohlavý, Stefan Javorský, Gabriel Povala, Josef Labuda, Emilie Kesegová, Josef Duks, Radim Hložánka, Josef Bárta, Helena Gondová, František Lízna, Rudolf Smahel, Jan Krumpholz, Josef Adámek, Josef Vlček, Josef Dolista, and František Novajevský.
3. Make an official apology for the espionage affair involving Dr. Josef Hodic.

- - - - -

According to a report from late November, a new trial is planned for the jailed Jesuit František Lízna.—Father Radim Hložánka was transferred from prison to a hospital because he suffered a stroke.—A request by Jan Litomiský for his release after serving half his sentence was denied by a court in Plzeň.—Václav Havel was denied an operation of his joint. He was informed that it would be allowed only if he requests a pardon, which he rejected.

#### NEWS FROM NORMALIZED CZECHOSLOVAKIA

##### A Voice from Slovakia

A letter was received from a Slovak visitor written before his return to his homeland: ". . . You would not recognize Slovakia as it is today. Young people are not spoiled the way they are in the West, but they are terribly demoralized. Our worst concern is the high cost of living and scarcity of goods, especially foodstuffs. Flour is lacking and often salt, matches, and detergents are not available. The price of gasoline has gone up sharply. It costs young people a third of their monthly wages to fill up a tank with gasoline. You should read the graffiti about Husák in toilets and at railroad stations . . . ."

##### Western Films as Ideological Diversion

"How is it possible," a young communist from the West studying in Czechoslovakia asked, "that so many worthless Western movies are shown?" according to a report in Nové slovo, No. 35, September 2, 1982. Such films, the student noted, "are shown in my country in second-rate theaters only." Nové slovo commented: "And we buy these films. Our young people are easily caught in their ideological net because their world view [weltanschauung] has not yet been sufficiently crystallized and they are unprepared to cope with such an influence. We also know that anticommunism pays great attention to ideological diversion filtered into the socialist states in the form of films."

It is true that Czechoslovakia buys "second-rate" Western films, but the reason is that they are cheaper and the Czechoslovak film industry needs the profit they yield in sold-out theaters to offset the losses resulting from the projection of Soviet films.

##### A New Nuclear Power Plant

Preparations have started for the construction of a nuclear power plant near the village of Temelín in southern Bohemia. According to Radio Prague, November 2, it will have the largest output in Czechoslovakia with two 1,000-megawatt reactors in the first stage and the possibility of doubling its output in subsequent years. The trial run of the first reactor is scheduled to begin in 1991.

Foreign Trade Difficulties

"The adaptability of our products to meet world standards has been chronically poor," complained the daily Rudé právo, September 2. "Our foreign trade is unable to get [from our plants] what it needs for export. Yet, manufactured goods are easy to produce and equipment is available though, admittedly, it is often obsolete . . . ."

In his speech to communist officials in western Slovakia Gustav Husák, according to Radio Prague, October 20, charged that the Western embargo policy was designed to undermine the economies of the socialist states, but "it will fail," he noted. To counter the effect of what Husák called the "Western economic crisis and imperialist policy of discrimination," it will be necessary to expand cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Husák added that "enemy propaganda was spreading fabrications and misinformation magnifying some of our problems so as to create skepticism and mistrust."