

LONDON, AUGUST 27 (RFE SPECIAL/WELLS) INTERNATIONAL PEN, THE SOCIETY OF POETS, ESSAYISTS AND NOVELISTS, YESTERDAY SENT A CABLE TO ITS CZECHOSLOVAK CENTER EXPRESSING "FIRM SOLIDARITY" WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK WRITERS IN "THEIR TIME OF PERIL," GENERAL SECRETARY DAVID CARVER SAID TODAY.

CARVER SAID HE SENT THE CABLE IN HIS OWN NAME BUT WAS CERTAIN THAT PEN PRESIDENT ARTHUR MILLER, THE AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT WOULD SUPPORT IT FULLY. MILLER IS ATTENDING THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION IN CHICAGO AND CARVER WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT HIM.

CARVER ALSO SAID THAT PEN HAD DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO SEND AN INVITATION TO THE SOVIET WRITERS UNION TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE PEN CONFERENCE IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH BECAUSE OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

CARVER NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO PEN CENTER IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT SAID PEN HAD EARLIER DECIDED "DESPITE THE WRITERS UNIONS ATTITUDE OVER THE TRIAL OF ANDREI SINYAVSKY AND ULI DANIEL" AND "MORE OR LESS UNDER EAST EUROPEAN PRESSURE" TO INVITE OBSERVERS FROM THE UNION TO GENEVA.

"MY LETTER OF INVITATION WAS DRAFTED ON AUGUST 20 AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN SENT ON THE 21ST--THE DAY OF THE INVASION," CARVER S SAID. "THE ACTUAL SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION IN GENEVA WAS " "LITERATURE IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN. I CANT HELP FEELING A CERTAIN BITTERNESS AND IRONY."

THE TELEGRAM TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEN CENTER CONVEYS "THE GRAVE CONCERN OF THE ASSOCIATION AT THE CONSEQUENCES TO CZECHOSLOVAK WRITERS FOLLOWING THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY FOREIGN TROOPS."

IT SAYS "THIS NOT ONLY CONSTITUTES A MENACE TO FREEDOM, BOTH NATIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL, BUT ALSO A THREAT TO PERSONAL SAFETY. CZECHOSLOVAK WRITERS WERE, AS WE KNOW, IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST CENSORSHIP AND FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT IN THEIR COUNTRY. NOW THAT THESE AIMS ARE IN JEOPARDY, INTERNATIONAL PEN EXPRESSES FIRM SOLIDARITY WITH ALL CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEAGUES IN THEIR TIME OF PERIL AND THE GENERAL SECRETARY URGES THE CZECHOSLOVAK CENTER TO SEND HIM THE FULLEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE SITUATION OF WRITERS IN THEIR COUNTRY SO THAT THE APPROPRIATE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN."

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