

CN 42

X/13 E/W--PEN CABLE TO PRAGUE ON WRITERS

LONDON, AUGUST 31--(RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--DAVID CARVER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL PEN, THE POETS, ESSAYISTS AND NOVELISTS SOCIETY, YESTERDAY CABLED THE CZECHOSLOVAK INTERIOR MINISTRY ABOUT THE REPORTED ARREST AND BRUTAL TREATMENT OF 11 CZECHOSLOVAK WRITERS BY SOVIET SECRET POLICE.

CARVER SAID HE CABLED THE MINISTRY TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE REPORTS AFTER RECEIVING A MESSAGE FROM FRANKFURT FROM AN OFFICIAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEN CENTER AND PROMINENT CZECHOSLOVAK WRITER JIRI MUCHA.

CARVER SAID THE FRANKFURT MESSAGE REPORTED THE ARRESTS AND ASKED THAT THEY BE GIVEN MAXIMUM PUBLICITY IN THE WEST AND REQUESTED INTERNATIONAL PEN AND THE AMERICAN PEN CENTER TO CONTACT THE PRAGUE INTERIOR MINISTRY.

CARVER SAID THE ARRESTS WERE REPORTEDLY MADE BY SOVIET SECRET POLICEMEN DISGUISED AS AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS, WHO BEAT SOME OF THE WRITERS UNCONSCIOUS BEFORE TAKING THEM AWAY IN AMBULANCES."

BMCG/HI

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