

BRITISH NEWSMEN CONGRATULATE CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEAGUES

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 3--(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)--

BRITISH NEWSMEN TODAY SENT A MESSAGE TO THEIR COLLEAGUES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONGRATULATING THEM ON THEIR EFFORTS TO FOSTER FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND BROADCASTING.

A MESSAGE FROM KENNETH HOLMES, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS, SENT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK JOURNALISTS SAID:

"WE HAVE FOLLOWED WITH CONCERN RECENT EVENTS AND WE CONGRATULATE OUR CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEAGUES ON THEIR EFFORTS, BOTH IN PRINT AND BY RADIO, TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF THOSE MEDIA," THE MESSAGE SAID.

"DEEPLY CONSCIOUS AS WE ARE OF YOUR PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT A FREE PRESS WILL EMERGE AND WE SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE FIGHT WHICH LIES AHEAD OF YOU."

A UNION SPOKESMAN SAID THE MESSAGE WAS SENT THROUGH THE PRESS ATTACHE AT THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN LONDON BECAUSE OF REPORTS THAT THE ASSOCIATIONS OFFICES IN PRAGUE ARE OCCUPIED BY RUSSIANS.

CZECHOSLOVAK WATER SKI TEAM CHEERED

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WHEN THE EARL OF SNOWDON, BROTHER-IN-LAW OF QUEEN ELIZABETH, PRESENTED THE PRIZES MONDAY AT THE CLOSE OF THE EUROPEAN WATER SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS, HE WELCOMED THE TWO-MAN CZECHOSLOVAK TEAM, ALTHOUGH THEY FAILED TO WIN ANY PLACINGS.

THERE WAS A CHEER FROM THE SPECTATORS AT PRINCES CLUB, BEDFONT, MIDDLESEX, WHEN HE SAID:

"I HOPE THEY WILL BE WITH US AGAIN VERY SOON."

THEY WERE ZDENEK HOROVKA AND FRANK STEHNO, WHO ARRIVED BARELY IN TIME FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER A HARROWING JOURNEY FROM PRAGUE.

HOROVKA ARRIVED LOOKING "LIKE A GHOST" AFTER A SIX-DAY JOURNEY FROM PRAGUE, INCLUDING 17 HOURS BY RAIL TO VIENNA, WHERE HE WAS STRANDED FOR TWO DAYS WITHOUT FOOD, BED OR MONEY.

STEHNO WAS ALSO STRANDED IN THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL, BUT THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, WHICH SPONSORED THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, BROUGHT THEM ON TO BRITAIN.

BG/HI/np

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