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Message from Yelena Bonner, Andrei Sakharov, Larisa Bogoraz and Lev Timofeyev to the heads of state attending the Conference on Security and Co- operation in Europe

We have learnt from the Western media and private sources that a campaign has recently been unleashed in Czechoslovakia against activists of the movement for democratisation of that country. Peaceful demonstrations have been broken up and their participants beaten up and arrested. Many of those arrested face possible trial and imprisonment. In the same period, official spokesmen have been speaking cynically about the inadequacy of the measures taken and the government is threatening a further escalation of violence. One would think that such a blatant violation of the human rights agreements just

reached in Vienna would arouse protests from official figures in all the countries involved in the talks on European security and co-operation. So far, however, not only does the government-controlled media in the Soviet Union fail to condemn the actions of the Czechoslovak authorities, but its reporting of them supports the violence and slanders that society's democratic movement.

In this connection, we feel it necessary to voice our concern about such a blatant violation of the Vienna accords. We believe the events in Czechoslovakia and the manner in which they are reported in the Soviet press merit specific attention at the Paris meeting in May on the human dimension of the CSCE.

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