
State Security Information on "Charter 77" Activities in Prague, 27 June 1988

TOP SECRET

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

No. 524, copy no. 3
27.06.1988

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: *Failed attempt of "Charter 77" to carry out a provocative political action in Prague.*

The authorities of the Ministry of the Interior have obtained data concerning the attempt on June 17, which was spoiled by the Czechoslovak Republic's (ČSSR) Security Services, to organize an international "seminar" on human rights issues in order to "overcome the politico-military and ideological influence in divided Europe."

In accordance with the plan of "Charter 77" organizers, the "seminar" should have been carried out in three segments taking place in underground flats.

The following themes were envisaged for discussion: "Human Rights in Socialist Countries," "Military-Police Systems in the Socialist Countries and Chile," and "Compulsory and Enlisted Service in the Armed Forces of Socialist Countries." According to the plan, the meetings should have taken place on three days (June 17, 18 and 19.) The "seminar" should have concluded with the adoption of a mutual closing document. On June 19, at 19:00 a press conference, with the participation of all foreign journalists assigned to the ČSSR, should have taken place.

Representatives from some Western and Socialist countries had been invited to participate in the "seminar."

The Security Service received information in due time about the prepared action. After obtaining permission from the Presidium of the CC of the Czech[oslovak] Communist Party to prevent the holding of the "seminar", the necessary operative and public actions were carried out.

On June 17, those who came to the designated meeting places for participation in the "seminar" (Czech[oslovak] and foreign citizens) were warned by representatives of the Ministry not to carry out the planned action. Nevertheless, they went to the addresses designated at the section meetings, where they were arrested.

The Czech[oslovak] citizens were released twenty-four hours later. The visits in the ČSSR of foreign citizens (34 from capitalist and 3 from socialist countries—Yugoslavia, Hungary and Poland) have been immediately terminated.

Employees of the American, British and other embassies have asked for their departure to be postponed. This request has not been fulfilled.

The case has been reported on Czech[oslovak] TV and in Rudé Právo. There has been no popular reaction.

The failed political provocation leads to the conclusion that systematic actions taken by Western reactionary circles aim at destabilizing the country and reveal the persistent attempts by "Charter 77" to internationalize its activities. It has been estimated that the organized "seminar" is indicative of provocation planned for the 20th anniversary of the 1968 events in ČSSR. (21.08.1988)

MINISTER:

D. Stoyanov

[Source: Bulgarian State Security Archives, AMVR, Fond 1, Opis 11a, a.e. 506, pp. 34-36. Translation by Vania Petkova]