

## The Federal Assembly of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

In the resolution of the Federal Assembly on the policy statement of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, of 14 December 1976, the attention of many [Czechoslovak] citizens was held by words about support for efforts, among other things, “to maintain Socialist legality, to respect human rights, and to fulfill civil obligations.” These citizens believe that such efforts should be aimed also, indeed mainly, at the consistent observance and pursuance of the International Human Rights Covenants, which the Federal Assembly ratified in November 1975, and which entered into force in this country on 23 March 1976. They point out that the relevance of these covenants was, moreover, solemnly confirmed by the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki, which declares respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms to be “an essential factor for peace, justice and well-being.”

In accordance with Article 29 of the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic we present the Federal Assembly with these citizens’ statement on this topic. We also confirm both the authenticity of their signatures on this statement, which is called “The Charter 77 Declaration,” and their willingness not only to continue to bring attention to serious problems in this area, but also to contribute constructively, insofar as they are able, to the search for solutions. We ourselves then – on behalf of these citizens – are prepared to talk with the competent authorities, so that we can further clarify this position and put forth other suggestions and proposals.

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