

Agenda for the Meeting of 3 January 1977 on the Work of Charter 77,
prepared by Václav Havel

Topics for discussion

A. Miscellaneous

1. How the petition campaign has been proceeding – an overview of the various opinions that the collectors of signatures have met with.
2. Information on how the publication, its being sent to the authorities, and so forth, has been ensured.
3. Arrangements about what to say if interrogated and how to react to possible counter-attacks. I suggest not reacting to journalistic attacks, unless it is to refute matter-of-fact lies; if they begin to throw [signatories] out of work, then of course it will be necessary to react (with a press conference).
4. Arrangements about what to say if someone is asked for interviews and the question is raised about the Charter. I recommend talking about it only in general terms, in the spirit of the Declaration, not to go further, so as not to provide a signatory with an opportunity to distance himself [from the Charter], to say that he was tricked [into signing].
5. To appoint a substitute team of spokesmen (Černý – Vaculík – Kadlec?).
6. How to deal with other signatures.
7. Staying in touch with signatories, out of principle and in the interest of the cause, and also avoiding giving the impression that a narrow self-appointed group is shielding itself behind their names; strategy meetings (once a month), to which some signatories (always different ones) would be invited; and maintaining contacts through the original collectors [of signatures].
8. Correspondence – a letterbox?

B. Future work

At the centre of our work, documents should be drawn up (though not the only task), which would be dealt with depending on the circumstances. Number the documents, have them signed by the spokesmen. I propose four [written in Václav Havel's hand, instead of the original "three"] areas of work:

1. General analyses of the conditions in certain fields, the elaboration of certain general topics, and the preparation of proposed solutions. For example, getting

accepted to institutions of higher learning, conditions at the Academy of Sciences, conditions in prisons, the problem of conscientious objectors (Karásek is prepared to work on this), the death penalty, and so forth.

2. The elaboration of documentation of a variety of specific cases. So far, the following, among other things, have emerged: (a) [*sic*] the Zlín case (Hanzelka); the UMPRUM case (Machonin, Rychetský, Büchner); the preparation of a book on the underground; Kubišová (Pithart?) and so forth. Many cases can be elaborated, in order to have a supply of documentation; whether, when, and how to publish a certain document is another matter. A three-member team – a person facing prosecution, a lawyer, and a journalist – would prepare these sorts of documents; the Charter would accept them as their own after being approved at a strategy meeting. (In specific cases, help will of course not only be a matter of their documentation – [there were also be] legal aid, negotiating with the authorities, and so forth.)

2. Familiarizing the public with various laws, rules and regulations, which the public does not yet know, but which the authorities, police and the courts draw upon, in other words mainly things that concern the rights of people.

4. A data bank: to register briefly a range of cases of extrajudicial sanctions, the infringement of covenants, and so forth. Rather than publishing [information], only to save it up for use at the right moment (Belgrade?).