Miloš Jakeš

General Secretary of the Central Committe CPCz and High Commander of the P[eople's] M[ilitia] in the ČSSR

Prague, January 24, 1989

Esteemed Comrades and members of the People's Militia of the City of Prague and the Region of Central Bohemia

In the last few days anti-socialist forces and organized groups of provocateurs have attempted to stage anti-state demonstrations and disrupt public order, especially in the center of Prague. These events were prepared with the help of foreign anti-communist centers, especially the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. Serving as a pretext was the 20th anniversary of the senseless, tragic death of student Jan Palach.

Full responsibility for these provocative events, which are in direct conflict with our legal order, falls on the so-called Charter 77 and other anti-socialist structures.

The events on Wenceslas Square have produced justified outrage among the absolute majority of our population. Decisions that have been taken by the organs of the party and state for the use of Public Security and the members of the People's Militia for the maintenance of security and order in the center of the capital city and in Všetaty have been accepted with full understanding.

The Presidium of the CC CPCz appreciates the dedication and efforts undertaken by the People's Militia, which above and beyond its regular work responsibilities has contributed to the restoration of normal life. Again they demonstrated the high political consciousness and professional readiness for the protection of Socialist society.

We would like to express to you, esteemed comrade militiamen, our thanks for your principled, uncompromising Communist stance, courage, and determination. We are convinced that you will continue to stand firmly on guard against all subversives and enemies.

We will allow no one to disrupt the process of restructuring and democratization, and misuse it for their own anti-socialist ends. We will not let the Republic be destroyed!

Miloš Jakeš