

Dear colleague,

after long consideration I have decided to tell you in this form of my proposal for a possible action by the students. In the present situation it is clear that isolated acts by the students, whether it be strikes or demonstrations, is ineffective. It is therefore clear that without the help of the "mass communications media", no effective action on a national level (for example a general strike) can be called.

I propose an action that at first glance may appear foolish (maybe it is foolish); instead of some demonstration it seems to me more useful and effective to occupy the radio and broadcast an appeal to strike for the elimination of censorship and on behalf of Smrkovský (for example). I believe there is a favorable atmosphere today for such action (Colotka as a candidate for Smrkovský, statement by the Executive Committee).<sup>\*</sup> There might not be another such favorable situation. This action could be carried out by a relatively small group, and only afterward by order from the radio a mass of students would gather in front of the radio (the School of Economics building with 3000 students is nearby). If this proposal seems crazy to you, then I ask you to throw it away and not mention it to anyone. In the opposite case do what you consider best. Since I hate anonymity, and to prevent suspicion that this is a provocation, instead of a concluding sentence I will write my address.

Jan Palach

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P.S. January 68 began from above, January 69 can start from below.

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<sup>\*</sup> The Slovak representative Peter Colotka was proposed by Gustáv Husák for the post of the Federal Assembly Chairman instead of Josef Smrkovský, hated by the Soviets.