



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1982/3/Add.18
11 October 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First regular session of 1983

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)
by States parties to the Covenant, concerning rights covered by
articles 13 to 15

Addendum

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[21 May 1982]

ARTICLE 13: RIGHT TO EDUCATION

A. Principal laws

The right of the citizens of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to education is anchored primarily in article 24 of the Constitution (Constitutional law No. 100/1960, as amended by Constitutional law No. 62/1978). Other laws providing for the implementation of this right and on the basis of which the Czechoslovak educational system is built are, particularly, law No. 186/1960 on the system of education (educational law), law No. 63/1978 on the measures in the system of elementary and secondary schools, law No. 89/1958 on vocational education of apprentices (law on apprentices), law No. 77/1978 of the Czech National Council on state administration in education, and law No. 79/1978 of the Slovak National Council on state administration in education, and law No. 39/1978 on institutions of higher learning.

B. Measures taken

Studies at schools of all grades and specializations are free. Pupils of elementary and secondary schools get their textbooks and training materials free of charge. Elementary education is compulsory for all young people.

Only the law approved in 1948 brought a firm and democratic basis to the Czechoslovak educational system. This law provided for a standard school for all young people from 6 to 15 years of age and gymnasiums (grammar schools) with four years' tuition. All young people, during their compulsory attendance at school, were given exactly the same education, and the number of pupils enabled to attend a secondary school gradually rose. National minorities in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic also have access to free education in both elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher learning.

Primary attention is paid in Czechoslovak schools of all grades to the education of children in the spirit of understanding and friendship among nations. From early childhood young people, in a form commensurate to the achieved level of education and the development of personality, have instilled into their minds the idea that international peace is a pre-condition of a happy life for the individual and society as a whole. Not only in their lessons but also in children's plays, children's books, paintings etc. peace is for children a symbol of the good, of beauty and of happiness. In higher grades of education these simple, emotional ways of education to peace are replaced by the principled Marxist ideological education, in which a consistent promotion of peaceful coexistence and co-operation among States is one of the basic theses. Similarly, attention is paid to education on human rights. This education is and must be adapted to the achieved grade of education and to the mental abilities of the child. Education on human rights occupies an important place in the educational programme in secondary schools and in the institutions of higher learning. This is particularly valid for all institutions of higher learning of a humanitarian type. All young people acquire at least a basic knowledge of the United Nations Organization and its role, with emphasis on its peace mission.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Governments of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Slovak Socialist Republic, as well as the Czech National Council and the Slovak National Council and National Committees of all kinds, pay constant attention to the solution of the nationality question which is documented by many norm-setting measures aimed at providing for the equality of citizens of national minorities in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. In accordance with the relevant legal regulations and resolutions of the Governments, the two national departments of education (the Ministry of Education of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Socialist Republic) create all-round favourable conditions for an increase in the level of education of the citizens of national minorities, providing for human rights, fundamental freedoms and an all-round and harmonic development of the human personality. Schools which teach in the languages of national minorities form an organic part of the standard Czechoslovak educational system and provide for the same level of education as schools where the language of instruction is Czech or Slovak.

Objective conditions were created in the period of socialist construction for a speedy growth in the education of the broadest masses of the population of national minorities at the elementary, secondary and university or college levels. The right to education of the youth of national minorities can be seen both in the extent of equal access to all forms of education and in the goal-seeking,

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consistent concern of the state authorities for increasing the education and qualification level of all young people.

C. Right to primary education

The obligatory nine-year elementary education implemented according to law No. 186/1960 is given by the elementary nine-year school for young people aged 6 to 15. By law No. 63/1978, compulsory school attendance was prolonged from 9 to 10 years for pupils who started to attend school on 1 September 1976 and in the following years. The transition to a compulsory 10-year education will be completed in the school years 1987/88. The obligation of 10-year school attendance will be fulfilled by the youth by graduating from eight grades of elementary school and from two grades of one of the three types of secondary school. thus a secondary education will be acquired.

In the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic conditions for education have been created for decades - both in the families and in the educational system - so that the elementary school is attended by all young people with the exception of children who are not capable of being educated; the competent National Committee, after a thorough examination, exempts them from compulsory school attendance or, in more difficult cases, from the duty of education.

Elementary schools are generally accessible for all young people, regardless of sex, nationality, political affiliation or the religion of their parents, and not only for the children of Czechoslovak nationals but also of other nationals who, for various reasons, live in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and are interested in education.

The objective of providing compulsory elementary education and now compulsory secondary education also for children belonging to national minorities has been fully implemented in our socialist country. One of the characteristic features of institutional education is the effort to create throughout the whole country the same conditions for the education of every citizen in his or her mother tongue, regardless of nationality. The starting principle is that a citizen freely chooses the school according to the language of instruction. By consistent observance of this principle the citizens are fully provided with democratic rights in respect of education in their mother tongue. Another characteristic feature of the Czechoslovak educational system, as to the application of basic rights, is the subject and organizational arrangement of education, which makes possible a smooth transition of the pupils from the first to the second grade, or to a school with another language of instruction. Young people belonging to national minorities have ensured possibilities and conditions to attend pre-school educational establishments and elementary schools with instruction in their mother tongue.

The humane character of the Czechoslovak educational system is also shown by the care of children and young people who are mentally retarded or handicapped in different ways. Schools for young people requiring special care, organized according to the nature of the handicapped children and young people, also give compulsory elementary education, the duration of which is also to be prolonged.

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D. Right to secondary education

Since 1 September 1976, after preliminary research and experiment, a new project of the Czechoslovak educational system has been implemented. The newly conceived first and second cycle of the elementary school no longer represents a closed cycle of education but an open subsystem with which the secondary schools are organically linked. The two cycles are of four years each and after graduating from the two cycles the pupils go on to a minimum of two years in secondary schools - secondary vocational training institutions, gymnasiums, vocational and secondary vocational schools.

A part of the Czechoslovak educational system are also people's art schools, people's language schools and language schools.

Pupils who finish the nine-year elementary school may continue their studies in gymnasiums, secondary vocational or vocational schools. Every pupil may apply for studies regardless of the social position of the family. The gymnasiums give young people a complete secondary general and polytechnical education and the bases of vocational education for work in some of the branches of the national economy. One of the basic tasks of this school is to prepare young people for studies in the institutions of higher learning. Secondary vocational schools (attended for four or five years) are designed to prepare qualified experts for the individual branches of the national economy. The schools are of different types - industrial, economic, medical and agricultural schools, schools for foresters, librarians and pedagogues, and conservatoires.

For graduates from gymnasiums who after their final examination decide on specialization at one of the vocational secondary schools, there are studies which last two years and are also completed by a final examination.

Free education, together with a whole complex of social measures, makes it possible for every citizen, regardless of his nationality, profession or religion, to provide for secondary education for his children. Further democratization of the Czechoslovak educational system appears most distinctly in the broad possibilities for acquiring secondary education and complete secondary education with a final examination.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as well as the Governments of the two national Republics, proceeding from the democratic principle of creating equal conditions for the education of all young people, have adopted numerous decisions, such as Nos. 230/1973, 276/1976 and 91/1980, which are directed towards increasing the level of education at national schools.

E. Right to higher education

In the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic candidates with complete secondary education are admitted to institutions of higher learning on the basis of a successfully passed admission test. The numbers of students admitted are directed by the state Plan of the needs for experts in the various professions. Studies at

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the institutions of higher learning are fully financed by the State and are free for the students. Studies at the institutions of higher learning have been made possible to all citizens who have proved abilities and prerequisites for such studies. Admission to institutions of higher learning is governed by law No. 39/1980 on the institutions of higher learning and on legal regulations ensuing therefrom.

F. Right to fundamental education

See section C above.

G. Development of a system of schools

Table 1

Gymnasiums, secondary vocational and vocational schools

	1950/51	1960/61	1970/71	1975/76	1980/81
Gymnasiums	251	440	343	340	341
Total pupils	50,471	73,778	110,038	124,521	147,738
Including:					
Day classes	50,471	67,947	101,730	121,283	145,395
Evening classes	-	5,831	8,308	3,238	2,343
Secondary vocational and vocational schools	604	725	706	599	578
Total pupils	94,054	238,201	286,407	293,718	331,334
Including:					
Day classes	90,160	145,493	218,900	199,248	243,166
Evening classes	3,894	92,708	67,507	94,470	88,168

The Czechoslovak educational system gives the possibility of education not only to children and young people but also enables working people to attain a higher qualification without interrupting their employment. As early as 1952 a system of evening, extension and extra-mural studies for working people was established. The studies are organized at gymnasiums, secondary schools for

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working people and secondary vocational schools. The highest attendance at such courses at present is at secondary schools for working people.

Table 2
Secondary schools for working people

	1970/71	1975/76	1980/81
Schools	98	52	333
Students	5,069	4,024	34,754

The institutions of higher learning are the highest level in the educational system and constitute significant scientific, cultural and political institutions. They educate students to master, and to apply in a creative way, scientific knowledge for the benefit of society. Studies at such institutions are implemented in two equal forms - daily studies and studies in the course of employment. The duration of the studies varies in accordance with the contents, with the development of the individual branches of science and with the requirements of social practice, amounting to 4 to 6 years. Students from abroad also attend day classes at the institutions of higher learning.

Table 3
Institutions of higher learning

	1950/51	1960/61	1970/71	1975/76	1980/81
Schools	28	50	37	37	36
Faculties	56	108	105	103	110
Total students, including day students	45,241	94,040	131,099	154,645	196,052
Czechoslovak nationals	37,452	65,451	102,015	119,264	147,272
Foreigners	1,432	1,849	3,619	3,363	3,642
In the course of employment	6,357	26,740	25,465	32,018	45,138

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B. Establishment of an adequate fellowship system

The granting of scholarships and other securities has been provided for by decree No. 94/1979 of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education of the Czech Socialist Republic and decree No. 96/1979 of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Socialist Republic, on the granting of scholarships and material securities to the pupils of gymnasiums, vocational schools, secondary vocational schools, conservatoires and secondary schools for working people; decree No. 93/1979 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education of the Czech Socialist Republic and decree No. 95/1979 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Socialist Republic, on remuneration and material securities for pupils and apprentices who prepare themselves in the individual branches of apprenticeship to be employed as workers, as amended by later decrees; and decree No. 113/1980 of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Socialist Republic and decree No. 116/1980 of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Socialist Republic, on the granting of scholarships and contributions to students in the institutions of higher learning.

Pupils attending day classes in gymnasiums, secondary vocational schools and conservatoires are granted scholarships from state budget resources according to their social condition and the results of their studies. In addition, day pupils in secondary vocational schools may be granted scholarships and material securities by state economic, co-operative and social organizations on the basis of an undertaking, in writing, to enter into an engagement, after the termination of the studies, with the organization concerned for a period of three to five years.

I. Improvement of the material conditions of teaching staff

The position of teachers is codified in educational laws and their rights and duties are anchored in labour codes and other generally binding decrees. The Ministries of Education work out social programmes for the care of working people. In both ministries departments were established dealing with all-round care of teachers, including social and economic questions.

Improvement of the material conditions of teachers and educators is provided permanently in close co-operation with trade union authorities. Fundamental salary arrangements are mainly for five-year periods. Every year a so-called wage increase is allotted from the state budget to the branch of education. It makes possible a regular increase of the movable parts of wages. All teachers are granted a legal leave of eight weeks. The trade union authorities organize, under suitable financial arrangements, recreation and free medical care for teachers.

Retired teachers may teach 900 hours annually and receive, apart from the salary, a full pension.

Teachers who work in places where living conditions are more difficult (places remote from larger cultural, social or health centres) receive special allowances.

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J. Right to choice of school

The right to the choice of school refers to the possibility for the parents or legal representatives of the child to choose for their children attendance at another school than that established by the authorities. The right to the choice of school in that respect does not come into consideration in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic because all Czechoslovak schools and educational establishments are state institutions providing for the democratic and standard education of all young people.

Optional schools in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic could perhaps be mentioned in so far as there are some schools where young people and, especially, adults can choose to acquire or improve their knowledge, for example of foreign languages, cultivate their artistic hobbies, etc. Attendance at such schools is entirely a matter for the individual, by contract concluded with the school.

Religion is in our State the private affair of every individual, and freedom of religion is guaranteed by the Constitution. Religion is not taught at elementary and secondary schools; people can devote themselves to religion in their free time. There are six faculties of theology in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, with 392 students of Czechoslovak nationality and 7 foreigners. Faculties of theology have the character of an institution of higher learning.

K. Liberty to establish and direct educational institutions

The question of establishing and directing educational institutions by the individual does not come into consideration, for the reasons given above.

The Czechoslovak educational system is built upon the principle of a state standard school, open to all young people. In order to apply the individual interests and abilities of the pupils, elementary schools are established having extensive tuition either in foreign languages, mathematics and natural sciences or in sports. The system of secondary schools is also largely differentiated, not only with regard to the professional preparation of the pupils but also with regard to their specific abilities and prerequisites. Thus, for instance, gymnasium classes are established with special orientation to mathematics, programming, sports, etc.

Special interests and talents of the pupils of elementary and secondary schools are developed in people's schools of art in the fields of music, the creative arts, literature, drama and dance; there are also language schools which pupils attend, after their compulsory tuition, according to their wishes or the wishes of their parents.

ARTICLE 14: PRINCIPLE OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION, FREE OF CHARGE FOR ALL

Education is provided free of charge by the system of elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher learning. School attendance is obligatory from

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ages 6 to 15 for all young people who entered the elementary school before 1976 and from ages 6 to 16 for children who entered school on 1 September 1976 and later. For more details, see under article 13, section C, above.

ARTICLE 15: RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN CULTURAL LIFE AND TO ENJOY THE
BENEFITS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS AND THE PROTECTION
OF THE INTERESTS OF AUTHORS

A. Right to take part in cultural life

1. Principal laws

As provided for by article 15 of the Czechoslovak Constitution of 11 July 1960, law No. 100, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic "carries out an economic, health, social and cultural policy enabling the physical and mental capabilities of all the people to develop continuously, together with the growth of production, the rise in the living standard, and the gradual reduction of working hours". Article 16, paragraph 2, of the Constitution states further that the State, together with the people's organizations, shall give all possible support to creative activity in science and art, shall endeavour to achieve an increasingly high educational level of the working people and their active participation in scientific and artistic work, and shall see to it that the result of this work serves all the people.

The provisions of the Constitution concerning the rights and obligations of the citizens stress that these rights, freedoms and obligations of citizens shall serve both the free and complete expression of the personality of the individual and the strengthening and growth of socialist society (chap. II, art. 19, para. 1). Equal rights and duties are guaranteed to all citizens regardless of nationality and race by creating equal possibilities and equal opportunities in all fields of public life, thus also in the field of culture (art. 20, paras. 1-4).

Article 24 of the Constitution guarantees to all citizens the right to education not only in schools but also within other educational systems. One of the forms of development of education is a system of studies for working people in the course of their employment, free vocational training in factories and rural enterprises and an ever-widening system of cultural and public education by the State and people's organizations. The Czechoslovak Constitution provides that citizens will make use of their freedoms in order to develop their personalities and their creative efforts and to take an active part in the administration of the State and in the economic and cultural development of the country. One of the forms allowing for the implementation of these wide citizens' democratic rights is the practice, set down by the Constitution, which entrusts the National Committees, as organs of the State power, even at the lowest level of their constituencies, to direct, organize and ensure in a planned manner the development of their area not only in the economic field but also in the field of culture. To this end they draw up, in close co-operation with the people's and amateurs' organizations, joint plans of cultural education, create cultural institutions and direct the work of the latter with the contribution of volunteer individual or collective collaborators.

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The right of citizens to take part in cultural life, as well as measures intended to ensure, develop and disseminate culture are furthermore laid down as follows:

In the field of cultural education by law No. 52/1959 on educational activities, and law No. 53/1959 on the unified library system.

In the field of the arts by law No. 35/1965 on literary, scientific and artistic works, law No. 33/1978 on theatres, law No. 81/1957 on concert performances, law No. 82/1957 on shows, variety theatres and popular entertainments, law No. 56/1957 on artistic handicrafts and folk artistic production, decree No. 149/1961 on the purchase and sale of works of art and a number of other regulations in the field of figurative arts.

In literature by law No. 94/1949 on the publication and spreading of books, pieces of music and other non-periodical publications.

In the field of monuments by law No. 22/1958 on cultural monuments.

In the field of the environment by law No. 40/1956 on the protection of the environment by the State.

In the field of museums and galleries by law No. 54/1959 on museums and galleries, and a number of specific decisions by the Czechoslovak Government or documents drawn up jointly by state authorities and people's organizations.

2. Practical measures for realization of this right

(a) Availability of funds for cultural development and popular participation in cultural life

The cultural educational function of the socialist State and of the people's organizations, as laid down by the aforementioned provisions of the Constitution, is being carried out by means of an interrelated system encompassing schooling institutions, cultural domains where state cultural institutions closely co-operate with people's organizations, economic institutions, institutions of the army where cultural activities represent an important element of free-time occupations, and finally the family.

In the carrying out of these functions, two important stages of development may be noted, starting in 1945:

The stage of widespread democratization of culture, of cultural, artistic and, in general, spiritual values. This democratization has been the very essence of all political and legal acts since 1945 or, in some cases, since 1948 - nationalization of the cinema, taking over by the State of theatres, galleries, museums, cultural monuments, libraries, publishing houses, cinemas and other means of disseminating cultural values. This taking over, by the State and people's organizations, of all cultural educational activities, gradually implemented since 1948, has its legal base in law No. 52/1958.

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The stage of the increasing participation of the people in the creation of cultural values. The characteristic feature of this stage is the fact that the citizen increasingly becomes not only the object of cultural educational activities developed by the State and people's organizations, but the subject of his own education. At the same time, the core of the citizen's participation in cultural activities shifts more and more into cultivating his own creative capabilities.

Cultural educational activities become thus a dual process: on the one hand, there is the activity of institutions aimed at disseminating cultural, artistic and spiritual values, on the other the trend towards cultural initiatives by the people themselves in the most varied forms. In substance, cultural educational activities have crystallized today into an open system of youth's and workers' activities, sponsored by the State and people's organizations, in the following fields: artistic creative and other cultural creative activities; instruction; artistic receptive activities; activities of a cultural and social character; cultural activities of a recreative nature.

The planned development and promotion of all these activities is being managed by local, district, regional and central organs of the state administration, in close co-operation with people's organizations, namely, trade unions, youth organizations, women's organizations, co-operative organizations and so on. They are closely related to other educational systems such as schools and mass media.

The rising level of the quality of the present stage of cultural development and of the cultural participation of citizens calls for a new law regulating cultural activities. It will not only guarantee the level which has been attained but provide for a further increase.

This implements article 18 of the Czechoslovak Constitution concerning citizens' participation in the cultural development of society. The citizens carry out this participation with the support of the State and the people's organizations, on a voluntary basis, according to their own interests, by active participation and creativeness, individually and collectively.

(b) Infrastructure and measures

The institutional network comprises a system of cultural educational institutions:

Club-like institutions - houses of culture, clubs, clubs in factories and co-operatives etc.

Institutions owned by specialized organizations - observatories and planetaria.

Methodical establishments - district cultural centres established in all districts, regional cultural centres, the Institute of Cultural Educational Activities in Prague.

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System of artistic institutions - theatres, cinemas, professional symphonic and chamber orchestras, instrument chamber orchestras, galleries, publishing houses owned by state organs and people's organizations.

Cultural monuments - museums, monuments, immovable cultural monuments.

Public libraries owned by National Committees - people's libraries, added to a rich network of specialized libraries etc.

Research institutes and specialized institutes, organization of the upkeep and preservation of cultural monuments etc.

Implementation of cultural rights by individuals, social, national and ethnic groups of the population

The cultural rights of individuals are guaranteed by the provisions of the Czechoslovak Constitution, namely by chapter II, articles 19 to 22, 24, 28, 32 etc. Their effective implementation is given by the existence of numerous educational, communicational and cultural recreative activities, based on the principle of voluntary participation and amateurism.

The cultural rights and needs of members of various social groups of varying ages are preserved by a differentiated cultural policy, for example, by a co-ordinated system caring for the cultural development of children and young people, by taking into account the specific needs of the rural population, pensioners and so on.

The cultural rights and needs of the various ethnic groups living in Czechoslovakia are guaranteed from the legal point of view by a special law on the position of nationalities and ethnic groups of 27 October 1968. This law guarantees in article 3 to citizens of Hungarian, German, Polish and Ukrainian ethnic nationality the right to education in their own language, the right to overall cultural development, the right to use their own language in all official dealings in the region populated by such ethnic groups, the right to assemble in cultural organizations, the right to press and information in their own language. Article 4 of the same law prohibits any form of pressure intended at suppressing the national ethnical character.

(c) Management of cultural educational activities

The main features are the following:

State management through organs of state power and administration, from local National Committees up to the Ministries. This state management provides for the participation of citizens through the intermediary of National Committees' cultural commissions, voluntary groups of specialists with state methodological institutions at all levels, people's organizations and so on.

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A specific cultural educational mission of the major social organizations belonging to the National Front, such as trade unions, youth and women's organizations, co-operative farmers, organizations, etc.

Participation of citizens in the creation and implementation of cultural policy through amateur organizations, such as the union of theatre amateurs.

State co-ordinating activities by the National Committees for the working out of unified plans of cultural educational activities by all organs, organizations, institutions, enterprises and co-operatives involved, as follows from the law on National Committees and the law on public education.

Professional assistance by the State to the organizers of cultural educational activities through a network of methodological institutions.

Other forms of active participation by citizens in amateur cultural activities through clubs, circles and other groupings existing with cultural institutions, National Committees, social organizations and so on.

(d) The cultural heritage

According to the political programme of the socialist State, the protection and use of the cultural heritage are an integral part of cultural policy. This principle was implemented at the first stage of democratization of the culture when the main objective was to make all cultural monuments, town and rural preserves, castles and manors, galleries and their artistic riches, and all the treasury of Czech and world literature accessible to the broad masses of the public.

(e) Role of mass media in promoting participation in cultural life

A considerable number of periodicals, in editions totalling a high number of copies, are published in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

According to partial investigations, at least 85 to 91 per cent of the Czechoslovak population read dailies, weeklies, periodicals or various other specialized papers.

In the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as a whole, the total number of published titles amounts to 1,063,758 of them in the Czech Socialist Republic and 305 in the Slovak Socialist Republic.

Radio

The radio plays an important role in the cultural life of Czechoslovakia. The number of registered radio receivers in Czechoslovakia is 8.8 million, that is, one receiver per citizen over 15 years of age or nine receivers for every 10 citizens, including small children. More than 35 per cent of families have more than two receivers.

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Television

At 31 December 1981, the number of television licensees was 4,291,633 (3,130,856 in the Czech Socialist Republic and 1,160,777 in the Slovak Socialist Republic). This represents one television set for 1.2 families. The programme of Czechoslovak Television is watched by 93 per cent of Czechoslovak citizens.

With regard to the cultural involvement of Czechoslovak citizens, the following facts should be noted:

According to article 28, paragraph 2, of the Czechoslovak Constitution, publishing houses and printing presses, public buildings, halls and assembly grounds, as well as broadcasting, television and other facilities, are made available to working people and their organizations, which means that papers and periodicals are published by political, social and various amateur organizations. Their views are reflected in their own press.

Working people participate to an important extent in the shaping of radio and television programmes, namely by various investigations and research.

Working people express their views in the papers, on the radio and on television screens, this method being one of the basic forms of work of Czechoslovak mass media.

All institutions and organs are bound, by law, to reply to letters written by citizens, to their communications to the press or to broadcasts or television transmissions.

(f) Overall policy and specific measures aimed at the preservation and presentation of mankind's cultural heritage

The cultural heritage of mankind plays an important role in the life of Czechoslovak citizens; it raises their educational and aesthetic level, fulfils a progressive humanistic function fully corresponding to the ideological requirements of the new society and becomes thus an important component shaping the new way of life.

Traditionally, the Czechoslovak citizen is a passionate reader of national and world literature. The world's cultural heritage has been made known to our public since the beginning of the nineteenth century. Efforts aiming at the development of the nation and its cultural values have gone hand in hand with its close association with the world's cultural heritage.

In the process of building socialism, the State pursues this tradition, extends it and ensures for it, in its cultural policy, a new, solid, institutionalized material basis. The most efficient measures taken to this end include the building of a wide network of public libraries and bookshops. The services of public libraries are free, since they belong to a wide system of free facilities aimed at increasing the educational and aesthetic level of the population with the help of public funds and expenses.

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At the same time, citizens have great possibilities for building their own private libraries and furnishing them with the best works of world literature.

Publishing of the classical literary heritage will increase in the future.

World classics in theatre and music

In the course of the last five years, world classics have held an important place in the dramatic repertory of our theatres. Altogether 137 plays by 63 authors have been staged in 258 performances. The most numerous were English classics (42), followed by French classics (29) and Italian (19).

The cultural heritage of our museums

Czechoslovak museums shelter and offer to domestic and foreign visitors a relatively high number of works of particular cultural, artistic, scientific or technical value, representing a top level in human achievements.

On the basis of a special law on the preservation of cultural monuments, Czechoslovakia has built a system of museums, galleries and cultural monuments, comprising first of all castles and manors, which, thanks to a far-reaching system of preservation and thorough restoration, have been saved for future generations.

The spreading of aesthetic and scientific knowledge by means of works which belong to the world's cultural heritage and are gathered in our museums is an organic part of a widely conceived cultural education by the socialist State and social organizations.

Exhibitions

The effort developed by the Czechoslovak State to make the world's cultural heritage accessible to all includes various exhibitions which make it possible for wide strata of the population to view cultural treasures of other countries. Czechoslovak authorities have thus, on the one hand, consistently made known to the Czechoslovak population cultural monuments of other socialist countries; on the other they have, in co-operation with various foreign cultural institutions, organized exhibitions of works of art from all over the world: there have been important exhibitions of French mediaeval art, works of art from Nepal, paintings and drawings from India, works of art of the Thrakis, paintings and sculptures from Cyprus, Australian paintings on bark etc. Moreover, the city of Prague owns a permanent museum (Náprstkovo) which sets up exhibitions of extinguished and present cultures of the most ancient nations and civilizations of the world and thus spreads knowledge of the cultural heritage of humanity among our citizens.

(g) Legislation protecting the freedom of artistic creation, including the freedom to disseminate the results of such activities

The matter of freedom of artistic creation, including that of the dissemination of the results of such activities, is solved in a global way, namely:

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With respect to legal regulations, this freedom is given by article 28, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, which says that "freedom of expression in all fields of public life, consistent with the interests of the working people, shall be guaranteed to all citizens". This freedom is guaranteed, according to that article, in order to enable citizens to further the development of their personalities and their creative efforts, and to take an active part in the cultural development of the country.

With respect to the material coverage of free artistic creation on the basis of law No. 35/1965, on literary, scientific and artistic works, by which the State provides for and guarantees legal protection of copyright, the inviolability of artistic works, the rights of their authors to decide on their publication and to grant authorization to use their works, including the right to remuneration for creative work. Organizations in charge of protecting authors, unions of creative artists and cultural funds play a special role with respect to establishing favourable objective conditions for free artistic creation.

There is for instance the wide material assistance provided by cultural funds, managed by committees consisting of high-ranking artists, scientists and art critics, which allow creative artists to produce their works according to their intentions and ideas, without being hampered by outside difficulties. By passing creative orders, granting creative scholarships and remuneration for finished works, these funds establish particularly favourable conditions for artistic creation on a high aesthetic level, proclaiming by its contents the most noble humanistic ideals. Together with the artists' unions, these cultural funds provide our creative artists with material and moral conditions which will enable them to seek and try out new artistic procedures and means of expression.

With respect to the dissemination of the results of artistic creation legal provisions have set up a wide and well equipped network of theatres, concert halls, exhibition halls, galleries and houses of culture (clubs) in practically every municipality.

One of the components of this general policy of dissemination of artistic works is the aesthetic education of the population, in all social strata and age groups. This education is very carefully taken care of in our country: a number of partial systems (people's schools of art, special educational courses, artistic activities in amateur groups etc.), according to the decision taken in April 1981 by the XVIth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, are beginning to set up a global national system of aesthetic education of the population, covering all fields of work and public life.

This global solution of the freedom of artistic creation, including the dissemination of the results of such activities, permits art and artists to enjoy high prestige and support by society. The motto of the policy pursued by the Party and the State is that the best of art should belong to the people. This is why such stress is being laid on its values, aesthetic and philosophical.

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The rich creative activity in the fields of music, poetry, the novel, the creative arts, theatre and film in recent years shows that Czechoslovak artists make broad use of the above-mentioned favourable political, social, material and financial means for their artistic activities, whatever the style or genre, for a free implementation of their individual creative intentions.

As in every organized society, there are of course certain criteria in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic governing the freedom of creation and dissemination. These criteria are based on the Czechoslovak Constitution and, in particular, on article 28 which requires that free creation and its dissemination should be in keeping with the interests of the working people, with the development of the personality and with the artistic aspirations of man. What the interests of the working people are from this viewpoint known to every artist living in this society: above all, it is the achievement of a high intellectual, aesthetic and artistic level of any kind of art, genre or style. Inadmissible are works of art that violate the Czechoslovak Legal Code and that may propagate war, racial, nationalistic or religious hatred and thus come in conflict with law No. 165/1950 on the protection of peace, as amended by law No. 56/1965; no works of art are desirable which offend the moral or impair the mental or physical health of the people, for example works which are more or less pornographic or the creations of drug addicts and have nothing in common with the art.

Therefore, as in every organized society, the Czechoslovak authorities have the duty, on the basis of the relevant legal provisions, to take into account, during the procedure of admission, first of all whether the ideological and artistic level meets the requirement of a permanent increase in the level of production.

(h) Information on professional education in the field of culture and art

The training of cadres in the field of culture and art is a part of the overall educational system based on the document on further development of the Czechoslovak educational system.

It is divided into school education and out-of-school education.

School establishments for regular study include universities of arts and secondary schools of arts.

After-job-study is organized in philosophical faculties, conservatoires and in some secondary vocational schools. Furthermore, there is an extensive network of folk art schools in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

As to out-of-school education, institutions under the two Ministries of Culture play an important part, especially in providing additional training in this sphere. These include the Institute for Further Training of Cultural Personnel, the Institute for Cultural and Educational Activities, and regional and district cultural centres, which provide training for the personnel of state administration and social organizations engaged in culture, as well as the chiefs of amateur artistic ensembles and other voluntary artistic personnel.

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(i) Other measures taken for the conservation, development and diffusion of culture

It is a specific feature of Czechoslovak cultural policy in the fields of conservation, development and diffusion of culture that the socialist State and its bodies of state power and administration (National Committees) pursue these activities in broadest collaboration with the prominent social organizations such as the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, the Socialist Youth Union, the Union of Co-operative Farmers, the Union of Women, the Union for Wild Life protection etc. The importance of such collaboration lies in the fact that all the measures taken jointly become a common matter for the broadest strata of population.

3. Factors involved and difficulties encountered

The humanistic programme of the cultural policy of the Czechoslovak State is being implemented under conditions imposed by the building of a society of advanced socialism, where the role of culture and art in the whole community is ever increasing.

These conditions include a systematic struggle for a higher level of art and culture, the cultivation of life in general, and the strengthening of international co-operation in the spirit of the Final Act of Helsinki. External conditions have a divergent impact on this process.

On the one hand, we welcome and support efforts aimed at the strengthening of such co-operation on the basis of mutuality and respect for the established social system (see sect. F below); on the other hand, we have to meet the challenges of influences that have nothing in common with the noble, humanistic aims of art and that use artistic or cultural contacts rather as a means of spreading ideas strange to our society and the moral feelings of our people, such as ideas of war and pessimism, fascism, racism, anticommunism and so on.

Without any doubt, it would considerably foster the implementation of the Final Act if the State-run and public institutions in non-socialist countries, for their part, facilitated the dissemination of the best works of our art much more than they have done in the past; invented obstacles have often been put in the way of such noble exchange.

This involves certain difficulties which are countered by the Czechoslovak State-controlled cultural policy, above all by means of a positive, humanistic programme with the participation of the artists themselves and with the massive support of the Czechoslovak people.

B. Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

In the field of scientific progress the socialist society in Czechoslovakia has provided for the accumulation of central resources for the development of science and technology in the interest of the economy and society as a whole. The organizational basis for the development of science and technology was laid in 1949

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by the law on research and technical development. On 17 November 1952 the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was established.

The cohesion of science and research with production was underlined by the Government in 1956 in its decision on the assistance of science to the development of industry, and it entrusted the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences with the management and co-ordination of a uniform state plan of research. In order to improve the financing of the tasks and requirements of scientific and technological development, the Fund for Science and Technology was established in 1962, together with a superior body which, apart from the Czechoslovak Academy of Science, has a say in state policy in the field of science and technology.

The expenses for the promotion of scientific and technological research increased from 3.7 billion koruny in 1960 to 18.3 billion koruny in 1980, that is, 4 per cent of the applied national income.

International co-operation represents a considerable contribution to making scientific and technological development in Czechoslovakia more efficient.

Information on scientific progress in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is provided to international organizations and, conversely, any achievements and scientific progress in all parts of the world are closely followed in Czechoslovakia. Foreign professional publications are available in shops and libraries to all and the public is acquainted with the results of scientific progress in the world through cinema, radio and television.

C. Protection of moral and material interests of authors

The main law providing for the protection of moral and material interests involved in all scientific, literary or artistic activities of authors is law No. 35/1965 on works of literature, science and the arts (law on copyright). In addition, there is decree No. 25/1967 on rules governing the remuneration of authors for their published written works, which is valid as amended by decree No. 142/1979 (Czech Socialist Republic) or decree No. 156/1979 (Slovak Socialist Republic).

The law provides for all rights of copyright in full conformity with the Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, as revised (Paris 1971) and with the Universal Copyright Convention, as revised (Paris 1971), to which the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is a party as at 11 and 18 April 1980, respectively.

The decree provides for minimum and maximum fees to the authors of literary works for each edition in the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The full exercise of the right of authors to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests involved in their scientific, literary or artistic production, and conditions for scientific, literary and artistic activities are provided for (a) organizationally - by law No. 68/1951 on voluntary organizations

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and associations, on the basis of which independent organizations of creative artists exist in Czechoslovakia that have, in mutual co-operation, established federal bodies for considering questions relating to both national and foreign relations; and (b) materially - through the income of independent organizations, that is, cultural funds established under law No. 115/1953 on copyright and maintained after its abrogation under law No. 35/1965, or socialist organizations which represent authors and active artists in the exercise of their rights under the law on copyright.

It is also important that publishing houses are socialist organizations freed from voluntarism in their editing activities, provided with sufficient material means to guarantee both the moral and material rights of authors in parallel with the fulfilment of their own tasks aimed at meeting the requirements of a socialist society.

As for cultural funds, they cover the individual spheres of art and science in the framework of the following organizational structure:

	Czech Socialist Republic	Slovak Socialist Republic
Literature	Czech Literary Fund	Slovak Literary Fund
Journalism	Departments of scientific and professional literature of the Funds	
Creative activities in the fields of theatre and film	Departments of creative activities in the field of film and television of the Funds	
Music and concert	Czech Musical Fund (departments of active artists)	Slovak Musical Fund
Creative arts and architecture	Czech Fund for Creative Arts (departments of architecture)	Slovak Fund for Creative Arts

The Funds fulfil their mission especially by creating appropriate all-round conditions for literary, scientific and artistic works and performances. To this end they establish and run enterprises and corresponding facilities, for example, publishing houses, shops of creative arts, studios, and instrument services. In order to promote creative activities they grant scholarships and loans, cover transport or, where appropriate, provide various services. The Funds arrange shelters and clubs for creative work and, in emergencies, provide additional social benefits (subsidies for creative workers and, if necessary, for their dependants).

The cultural funds are managed by collective bodies composed of artists. They have available adequate resources of permanent income independent of the federal budget or of the national budgets which include, in substance, the following items: compulsory contributions from the users of works protected under copyright; compulsory contributions from the users of works which are free with regard to

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copyright (domaine public payant); compulsory contributions from the recipients of copyright fees for authors and active artists; earnings of their own enterprises.

All the above benefits are legally provided for in general binding regulations, namely, in the Czech Government's enactment No. 159/1969, as amended by No. 20/1973, and in the Slovak Government's Enactment No. 180/1969, as amended by No. 170/1973.

As regards the organizations for the protection of copyright, the general task of these organizations to guarantee the individual interests resulting from copyright and social interests is fulfilled by a provision that they are exclusively authorized, according to the branch they cover, to grant permission for the use of works of art, in particular to conclude contracts on the dissemination of works and to collect copyright fees for such use. Another function of the organizations for the protection of copyright is to collect fees allocated to the cultural funds and to provide assistance to authors and active artists in the exercise of their rights through legal counsel and by any other means deemed appropriate. In respect of foreign relations, they function as information centres in matters of copyright.

D. Steps taken for the conservation, development and diffusion of culture

The preservation of cultural monuments and the protection of wild life and cultural monuments is organized under the Ministries of Culture.

The fundamental principle contained in article 15 of the Constitution is provided for by law No. 40/1956 on wild life protection by the State (in the Czech Socialist Republic) and law No. 1/1955 of the Slovak National Council on wild life protection by the State. Care of the cultural heritage of the past is regulated by law No. 22/1958 on cultural monuments in the Czech Socialist Republic and law No. 7/1958 of the Slovak National Council on cultural monuments in the Slovak Socialist Republic.

These legal dispositions are closely connected with law No. 54/1959 on museums and galleries and law No. 53/1959 on a uniform system of libraries (law on libraries).

As regards organization, the development and diffusion of culture are provided for, principally, by law No. 52/1959 on enlightenment (enlightenment law) on the basis of which the state authorities set up the so-called enlightenment establishments of the club type (universal cultural and social centres) throughout the country, specialized establishments responsible for a specific sector of cultural and educational work, and educational and counselling centres (district and regional cultural centres and the central Institute for Cultural and Educational Work).

With regard to economy and organization, the state authorities in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic are responsible for all sectors of cultural activities on the basis of the relevant laws and operational regulations, especially in the field of drama, law No. 33/1978 of the Czech National Council and

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law No. 36/1978 of the Slovak National Council; in the field of concerts and other musical activities, law No. 81/1957; in the field of shows, performing and folk entertainment, law No. 82/1957. The operation of a permanent network of professional theatres and symphonic orchestras is constantly covered by the state budget (see also sect. A above).

An important institution for maintaining, developing and spreading culture is the Institute for Popular Out-of-School Education. It is, in fact, a homogenous network of cultural and educational establishments of the National Committees, social co-operative and other organizations. Out-of-school education is designed for all citizens from childhood to productive age.

Out-of-school education includes such components of the extra-mural system as the building of world outlook, topical political and civil education, the acquisition of practical skills in amateur activities and instruction for self-education and leisure-time activities.

In the field of creative artistic activities the State supports the all-round development of amateur cultural and artistic activities of the working people.

E. Right to the freedom of scientific research and creative activity

The fundamental provisions guaranteeing the rights of each worker to develop his creative activity are contained in the Labour Code, law No. 65/1965. This law makes it an obligation for managers consistently to create conditions for a higher participation of the workers in the development, management and control of the operations of enterprises and, in particular, for the development of socialist emulation, for the movement of inventors, rationalizers and improvers, for promoting other forms of creative initiative and making use of the experience, recommendations and suggestions of the workers and specialized institutions (Labour Code, para. 192).

The promotion of the creative efforts of workers is sometimes also stipulated in collective contracts concluded under paragraph 20 of the Code. In such contracts enterprises commit themselves especially to set tasks consisting in finding new solutions, to put into practice such solutions and to remunerate the people concerned etc. The promotion of creative efforts is also served by so-called improver cabinets, furnished with the essential technical equipment and accessible, free of charge, to all interested persons.

The State provides all-round assistance to such workers and appreciates the results of their research and creative activities.

Law No. 84/1972 on discoveries, inventions, suggestions for rationalization and industrial samples entitles the originators of creative solutions, principally to enjoy the right of authorship, the right to benefit from the recognized results of their work in a manner provided for by the law and to participate in the elaboration, testing and introduction of the discoveries, inventions or suggestions for rationalization.

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The same law, in paragraph 6, lays down the obligation of maximum possible utilization of such inventions, discoveries and suggestions. Upon the submission of an application of invention the economic organization concerned is obliged to take measures needed for the utilization of such invention and for the protection of the author's rights. The inventors are eligible for remuneration. The protection of this right is in the competence of the courts of justice. Authors of suggestions for rationalization are also eligible for remuneration. In case of a dispute such authors may ask the organization involved to initiate arbitration proceedings.

The State also provides all-round information on technical progress. Of basic relevance in this sphere is a specialized institution, the Centre for Scientific and Technical Information.

The State sponsors a voluntary scientific organization of primarily technical personnel and pre-eminent workers, the Czechoslovak Society for Science and Technology, which, in broad collaboration with trade unions and government bodies, gives wide-ranging support to creative efforts in the field of scientific and technological development.

The top scientific institution in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, established under law No. 52/1952. The Academy develops its research activities in all spheres and associates the most prominent scientists. Members of the Academy are selected. Among the basic duties of the members of the Academy is participation in the implementation of the results of their creative work in the interest of scientific progress.

The legal norms defining the status of the universities (law No. 39/80) entrust also the universities with research and instructing teachers to contribute to social and scientific progress through their pedagogical and research work.

F. Encouragement and development of international contacts and co-operation in the cultural field

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, in accordance with its Constitution, regards as an important aspect of an all-round development of man the broadest possible access to the real cultural values of mankind. Therefore, it advocates the broadest possible mutual inspiration through cultural property, the exchange of ideas and information, which serves peaceful understanding and the all-round development of man.

The development of international relations and co-operation in the field of culture is contractualized in a complex system of cultural agreements and plans for the implementation of such agreements and in other bilateral documents.

As at 1 January 1981, exactly 70 cultural agreements, 2 programmes of cultural exchanges and 55 implementation plans had been concluded between the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and other countries.

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Being incorporated in international conventions, agreements and other instruments in this field, Czechoslovak culture has been constantly enriched by the progressive and humanistic values of the world and has itself actively participated in this development.

Czechoslovak cultural policy is, at the same time, focused on the exchange of values which strengthen the ideas of peaceful coexistence, mutual confidence and fruitful co-operation among nations. This irreplaceable mission of culture and cultural policy, which constantly contributes to the establishment of friendly relations among nations, is also reflected in the planned activities of Czechoslovak cultural co-operation in coming years.

Thousands of artists and cultural workers are sent abroad from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic each year to participate in cultural events, international conferences seminars, symposia etc. The Czechoslovak state authorities render full support and assistance to all-round international relations and co-operation in the field of culture, in close co-operation with artists' organizations, which make recommendations regarding persons suitable for such activities.

The main factor influencing the development of international co-operation in the field of culture is the question of safeguarding peace and disarmament, which is of central importance in the present world. A successful solution of these global issues is the most important condition for the preservation and development of human culture because war would destroy not only the vast cultural values of mankind but also man himself - the creator and bearer of each cultural development.

Peace is the indispensable basis for the development of culture and cultural creation. Feverish armament and a deterioration of the international situation have harmful effects on the development of international co-operation in the field of culture.
