

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

18 JULY 1979

DOCUMENT 1-234/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Lord Bethell
on behalf of the European Democratic Group

with request for urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 14 of the
Rules of Procedure

on the arrests of dissidents in Czechoslovakia

The European Parliament,

- deeply disturbed by the arrest in Prague on 29 May of ten members of a Czech human rights group, all of them signatories of Charter '77,
 - having noted that these people have been charged with spreading anti-State propaganda, a crime carrying a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment, and that their trial is imminent,
1. Makes clear its conviction that these arrests and proposed trials constitute a clear violation of those provisions of the Helsinki Final Act that guarantee freedom of expression;
 2. Calls on the Czechoslovak Government, which is a signatory to the Helsinki Final Act, to release the ten detainees in accordance with its international obligations;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers of the nine Member States meeting in political cooperation.

REASONS SUPPORTING THE REQUEST FOR URGENT DEBATE

This matter is urgent, in view of the fact that the trial will take place in the next few days.