

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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8 MAY 1979

DOCUMENT 168/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GLINNE  
on behalf of the Socialist Group

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

on the / trial of Mr SABATA

The European Parliament,

- whereas

- (a) the trial of Mr J. SABATA will begin on 10 May 1979,
- (b) Mr SABATA, a member of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party for many years and a member of the Central Committee in 1968, was one of the prime movers of the 'Prague Spring' of 1968 and was expelled from the party in 1970 for having expressed his disapproval of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Soviet troops and of the development of the political situation,
- (c) he was arrested in 1971 and sentenced to 6½ years' imprisonment because his views did not correspond to the official line of the 'policy of normalization',
- (d) after being released on probation in December 1976, he became one of the organizers of the Charter '77 and from April 1978 one of its three spokesmen,
- (e) he was again arrested in October 1978 and sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment,
- (f) a new trial is scheduled, it is understood, for 10 May 1979, at which Mr SABATA is likely to be sentenced to 18 additional months' imprisonment, i.e. to serve the rest of the 1971 sentence during which he was released on probation,
- (g) Mr SABATA is seriously ill and further imprisonment could put his life at risk,

requests the Czechoslovakian authorities, in the interests of respect for human rights and freedom of expression, to refrain from all further proceedings and to release Mr SABATA immediately.

REASONS SUPPORTING THE REQUEST FOR URGENT DEBATE

The request for an urgent debate is justified by the fact that the trial of Mr SABATA is imminent.