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DODD AND MCCAIN TO CO-LEAD DELEGATION TO CZECHOSLOVAK ELECTIONS

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, June 1, 1990 -- A 65-member international delegation will observe the June 8-9 parliamentary elections in the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (Czechoslovakia). Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel has been invited to open a symposium at which delegation members joined by prominent Czech and Slovak citizens, will explore the promotion and development of democratic governments.

The international observer delegation is sponsored jointly by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the National Republican Institute for International Affairs (NRIIA). Delegation leaders include: Senators Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT) and John McCain (R-AZ), former Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald and Norma Gaborit de Callejas, the first lady of Honduras. The delegation includes legislators, political party leaders, artists and writers from 10 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Western Hemisphere.

The purpose of the mission is to demonstrate international support for democratic electoral processes and for the restoration of democracy in Czechoslovakia.

The delegation will be in Czechoslovakia from Wednesday, June 6 through Monday, June 11. Following a series of briefings with candidates, political party leaders, election officials, journalists and nonpartisan civic groups, the delegation will divide into teams to observe the voting and counting process in eight regions throughout the country. A press delegation statement will be released at a conference in Prague on the Sunday morning following the elections.

On Sunday, June 10, President Havel has been invited to open the Symposium on Democracy at the Magic Lantern Theatre in Prague. The symposium will bring together prominent artists, intellectuals and political practitioners to discuss the role and responsibilities of government and the citizenry in the promotion and development of democratic systems. These individuals have

been asked to describe the role they play in their respective societies and to explore the unique challenges modern democracies face. The format is designed to encourage exchange on key issues that confront every democratic society. A panel of distinguished participants will respond to President Havel's opening remarks.

NDI and NRIIA, the democratic development institutes affiliated with the U.S. Democratic and Republican parties respectively, have organized international observer missions for elections in Chile, East Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Namibia, Paraguay, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Romania, South Korea, Taiwan and Yugoslavia.

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