



## 94-09-12: Statement of Czech Republic, H.E.Dr. Igor Nemeč

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AS WRITTEN

Statement by H.E.Dr. Igor Nemeč,  
Minister - Head of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic  
and the Head of the Czech Delegation  
at the International Conference on Population and Development  
in Cairo on September 12th, 1994

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

allow me to express sincere gratitude to the Government and the people  
of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the hospitality extended to our  
delegation as well as to the other participants in the Conference.

The Czech Republic was newly constituted by January 1st, 1993, by  
unprecedented constitutional and peaceful dissolution of former  
Czechoslovakia. It passed through the period of transformation from the  
society with the central-planned economy to the society with the liberal

market economy.

We are living in the period of creation of the new conceptions.

Formulating its programme, the Government of the Czech Republic assumes that it is an individual citizen, first of all, who has the responsibility for his own social status, and that both the family and the community create a basic social space within which a social background of the individual should be created. The family is understood as the irreplaceable unit for mutual support and as a source of the social safety. It means that our Government has been trying by its measures to intensify the support to the basic social, economic and other functions of the family during all phases of its life cycle.

The Czech Republic had slightly over ten millions of inhabitants by December 31st, 1993.

Although the prognosis of the future development anticipates in case of the Czech Republic as well as in case of a majority of the European countries, a decrease in the number of the population after the year 2005, caused by the reduction of the birth-rate, our Government has not prepared any significant measures neither in favor nor against the population growth. By the way, our country has very negative experience with such kind of planning and so-called support. The consequences of those steps, made in the quite recent past, will be transferred to the future generations. I would like to direct your attention in this question to our National Report.

Breaking the universally-accepted ethical norms, particularly in such a sensitive area like the human nature, represents a continuation of the

late mistakes which culminated by the recently dismantled marxist-socialist experiment.

At present the Czech Government focuses on the creation and implementation of the family policy which is to respect two requirements: the increased responsibility of the individuals and the families for the living conditions of their members, and certain support of the society to the families with children and to the people who are not able to ensure the least minimal living standard by their own.

These pre-conditions contain? first of all, the assumption of the entirely free decisionmaking of the individuals, both men and women, in such particular questions as the family creation and the number of the children in the family. The Czech Government, at the same time, does not consider the induced abortions as a mean of the family planning. I would like to say a little bit more about this question.

Some mass-media as well as several official statements of some institutions has described this Conference as if trying to introduce the abortions as a particular institute of the system of the fertility regulation. I have not found any such intention in the Programme of Action of this Conference That is why, I suppose that some exaggerated reaction to this question is based on the incorrect understanding and interpretation of the Programme or as a smokescreen to cover the lack of the willingness to accept some other points of the Programme, for example the problem of the migration.

Let me go back to the question of unwanted pregnancy. In our opinion, unwanted pregnancies should be prevented, first of all, by the education aimed to the planned and responsible parenthood within the family, at schools and health institutions and, last but not least, by the

educational efforts in the social and cultural spheres. The Government of the Czech Republic, thus, supports the initiatives included in the said Programme and aiming to ensure the universal accessibility to the family planning services and compassionate counseling and to ensure the education in this area - particularly for girls and women. Our experience has proved, according to the statistic data, that the democratization of the society which brought, among others, the improved conditions for the education and better information and a wider access to the means of contraception, has led to the considerable decrease of the number of abortions.

On the other hand, I would like to reiterate that the Czech Republic refuses the attempts to introduce so called social engineering as well as such forms of assistance which would be excessively conditioned in a way interfering with the internal sovereign affairs of states and nations concerned.

One of the Chapters of the Programme of Action deals with the international migration. I would expect that this particular chapter should be discussed far more than the abortion issue. The Czech Republic has not had any imminent experience with the migration as interpreted in the Programme. Therefore, our view might be more clear, uninfluenced by any particular negative experience.

The Czech Republic prefers the solution of this problem directly in the countries - sources of the migration to the proposed sanctions for, I quote, "the exploitation of the illegal immigrants. We, thus, support the formulation, I quote, the reassessment of commercial and tariff relations and increased access to world markets". The Czech Republic has the concrete experience in the field of the transformation and,

therefore, we do not hesitate to state that the best way to the solution in this area is to create the conditions for the exertion of ones own economic and human resources

There is one more part of the Programme of Action to which I would like to contribute my opinion. In the Programme there is a definition of the three main kinds of institutions that should implement our conclusions, namely they are: the government, the non-profit organizations and the private sector. The position and the responsibilities of the governments and the private sector are clearly defined concerning their rights, duties and - I emphasize - the responsibility for their activities as well.

The non-profit institutions are characterized in the conclusions of this Conference as one of the main subjects responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action. Our experience shows that the association of the governmental funding with the non-governmental organizations might cause the degradation of the role of the governments to providing the funds without carrying the responsibility for its spending. On the other hand, the non-governmental activities play the irreplaceable role in many particular programmes. I recommend, therefore, for the smooth realization of the Programme of Action to define, in an uncompromising way, the sources of funding, the ways of the use of the provided funds and, particularly, the degree of responsibility for the implementation of the tasks previewed by the Programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

the Czech Republic considers this Conference, as well as the proposed Programme of Action a step forward despite our hesitations concerning

formulation of certain provisions of the documents The discussion about those points might be understood as the initial contribution of this Conference and are enriching for all the participants. I stress - for all the participants there are no donors or recipients - all are enriched by the experience and opinions of the others. In this respects I would like to close my statement with my personal recommendation to all the participants:

What I recommend is - to be more humble in our behavior and more respectful to the natural evolution of the society. The success of all the well-meant attempts to reach the ideally balanced development of the whole world depends on our readiness to humbly accept the existing facts of the human lives. Let us put our experience and results of our development on the table and let the participants decide whether or not to pick them up. This is, in my opinion, the only way to reach the reasonable consensus.

May I wish for the success of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.

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For further information, please contact: [popin@undp.org](mailto:popin@undp.org)  
POPIN Gopher site: <gopher://gopher.undp.org/11/ungophers/popin>  
POPIN WWW site: <http://www.undp.org/popin>