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EAST -- POLISH WRITERS CRITICIZED HAVEL SENTENCE

(ATTENTION P-BD -- NOTE RFE REFERENCE)

WARSAW, MARCH 4 (UPI) -- POLISH UNION OF WRITERS PROTESTED THE DEATH DECREE PASSED BY IRAN'S LEADER AGAINST THE BRITISH AUTHOR SALMAN RUSHDIE AND IMPRISONMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK PLAYWRIGHT VACLAV HAVEL FOLLOWING A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE, A COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER TRYBUNA LUDU SAID SATURDAY.

IRAN'S LEADER AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI PASSED A DEATH DECREE ON RUSHDIE FOR PUBLISHING "THE SATANIC VERSES" WHICH HE SAID OFFENDED THE RELIGIOUS FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MOSLEM FAITH.

HAVEL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA RECEIVED A NINE-MONTH PRISON TERM ON FEB. 22 FOR HIS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITY.

THE UNION WHICH REPRESENTS PRO-GOVERNMENT WRITERS ALSO SAID THAT THE DEATH VERDICT PASSED BY THE POLISH COURT ON ZDZISLAW NAJDER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH SECTION OF MUNICH-BASED RADIO FREE EUROPE, SHOULD BE REVISED.

NAJDER, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE UNION, WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA BY THE MILITARY COURT FOLLOWING THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IN 1981.

THE WRITERS ALSO SAID THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD RETURN TO POLAND VARIOUS MANUSCRIPTS AND A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF POLISH NEWSPAPERS FROM THE LIBRARY OF THE OSSOLINSKICH PUBLISHERS IN THE FORMER POLISH CITY OF LVOV WHICH WAS INCORPORATED BY MOSCOW IN 1939.

LVOV, IN THE SOVIET REPUBLIC OF THE UKRAINE, WAS THE POLISH CITY FOR SIX CENTURIES AND A CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE ALONG WITH THE CITY OF VILNIUS, NOW THE CAPITAL OF THE SOVIET REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

"IN VIEW OF GOOD CONTACTS WITH THE UKRAINIAN WRITERS, A HOPE WAS EXPRESSED FOR A POSITIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION," THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

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