

Carter and Mondale See Bukovsky, a Soviet Dissident

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WASHINGTON, March 1—President Carter met with the outspoken Soviet dissident Vladimir K. Bukovsky at the White House today and told him that his Administration's commitment to human rights was "permanent" and that "I don't intend to be timid in my public statements and positions."

But Mr. Carter refused to allow news photographers to take pictures of him with the 34-year-old former prisoner. This suggested that Mr. Carter may have

been trying to reduce the expected Soviet unhappiness over the honoring of a person who is regarded by the leadership in Moscow as a criminal and potential terrorist.

The reception given Mr. Bukovsky was nevertheless the first occasion of its kind and was meant by the Carter Administration to symbolize anew Mr. Carter's dedication to human rights concerns.

It was also meant to contrast with the occasion when former President Gerald

R. Ford, on the advice of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other aides, refused to receive Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, the exiled novelist, when he was in Washington in the summer of 1975. It became a campaign issue that was often cited by Mr. Carter against Mr. Ford.

Mr. Bukovsky, freed from a Soviet prison camp last December in a trade

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for the imprisoned Chilean Communist leader, Luis Corvalán, was officially invited to the White House by Vice President Mondale, who met with Mr. Bukovsky for a half hour this afternoon in the Roosevelt Room in the West Wing. Photographers were allowed to film the opening minutes.

With about 20 minutes gone in the session, Mr. Carter walked into the meeting, and according to a spokesman who was present, said: "Hi! I'm Jimmy Carter. Welcome, Mr. Bukovsky, to this country."

According to Albert Eisele, Mr. Mondale's spokesman, "the principal focus" of the discussion was on human rights, an area that has tended to play an increasingly important part in Mr. Carter's foreign policy.

Moscow Has Expressed Criticism

The Russians, angered by the Administration's comments on human rights violations in the Soviet Union, have already attacked the high-level attention given Mr. Bukovsky in this country.

"Our commitment to the concept of human rights is permanent," Mr. Carter was reported to have said, "and I don't intend to be timid in my public statements and positions."

"I want them to be productive and not counterproductive," he said. "And also to assure that our nation and countries other than the Soviet Union are constantly aware that we want to pursue the freedom of individuals and their right to express themselves."

This was in keeping with Mr. Carter's stated effort to underscore that his human rights concern was universal and not directed primarily at the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, Soviet experts in the Administration have already been sending warnings to high officials that the Soviet Union is becoming increasingly agitated by the Administration's human rights comments and the fact that Mr. Bukovsky, an opponent of the Soviet Union, has been the official guest of the A.F.L.-

C.I.O. in this country, that he has testified on Capitol Hill and been interviewed on the Voice of America, besides being received by the White House.

Mr. Bukovsky, who was dressed in a blue turtleneck sweater under a gray suit, told the President, through an interpreter: "I am extremely grateful. I understand the high honor being shown me by my being received in the White House."

"And I understand that in doing so, your Administration shows its respect for the movement I represent and the ideas which we stand for," Mr. Bukovsky said in a low voice.

Mr. Bukovsky was accompanied to the meeting by Melvyn Levitsky, a State Department official on the Soviet desk, and William D. Krimer, the department's top Russian interpreter, who has served at the strategic arms talks in Geneva for years.

According to Mr. Eisele, most of the talking was done by Mr. Bukovsky, who reiterated the tough statements he made on Capitol Hill last week. He urged the Carter Administration to remain firm on human rights in the Soviet Union and to use all the levers at its disposal to force compliance on these human rights questions.

At one point, Mr. Mondale asked Mr. Bukovsky, "How do you sustain yourselves?" and how do "you keep up hope?"

"If I were to answer what sustains us in this struggle, first and foremost is trust, faith in people, faith in the future, and faith in the human values for which we stand," Mr. Bukovsky answered.

Last week, the Carter Administration announced that it was cutting foreign aid to Argentina, Uruguay and Ethiopia because of human rights violations. Today, the State Department said Argentina and Uruguay had protested the interference in their affairs.

And in another development, Edward Bennett Williams, a prominent Washington lawyer, said that he had been hired by Mr. Solzhenitsyn to represent the Soviet dissident Aleksandr Ginzburg, who was recently arrested in the Soviet Union.

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Vice President Mondale meeting yesterday with Vladimir K. Bukovsky in the Roosevelt Room of the White House

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