

Bukovsky Tells of Harsh Soviet Prison Conditions

ZURICH, Switzerland, Dec. 19 (AP)—Vladimir K. Bukovsky, the Soviet human rights activist freed in an international exchange of political prisoners, said today that prison life had become much more difficult after the Helsinki accord on East-West cooperation was signed.

Denouncing the Soviet system, the 33-year-old dissident attacked the 1975 Helsinki accord as a Soviet maneuver to disarm the West and curb the fight for human rights in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Bukovsky, pale and haggard, said at his first news conference in the West that he intended to dedicate all his energy to the cause of political prisoners in the Soviet Union and throughout the world.

Conditions at Vladimir prison, 120 miles east of Moscow, "worsened considerably as soon as the Helsinki accord was signed," he said. This included new restrictions on reading matter for prisoners, who were barred even from reading Western Communist publications and an official United Nations review, he declared.

"The Soviet Union still sees the West as an enemy with which it is in a state of belligerency," Mr. Bukovsky said.

Mr. Bukovsky, his mother, his sister

and an ill nephew were flown to Switzerland by the Soviet Union yesterday in exchange for the Chilean Communist party leader, Luis Corvalán Lepe, who had been in prison since the Chilean military overthrew President Salvador Allende Gossens in 1973.

"I regard this exchange as an extraordinary event," Mr. Bukovsky said, "as it is the first time that the Soviet Government officially recognized it has political prisoners."

"It is a victory for everybody," he added. "This exchange brings forward the problem of political prisoners as a universal problem."

Mr. Corvalán, who was freed Friday by the military regime in Santiago, flew on to Moscow with his wife last night in the unusual exchange, which was mediated by the United States.

Chile's President, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, said in Santiago today that his Government had taken the initiative in asking the United States to mediate. The Russians, he said, "responded in evasive and distant terms" to the early Chilean approaches but later came around.

A Swiss physician said that Mr. Bu-

kovsky was underfed and had an accelerated heartbeat but was otherwise in "surprisingly good health."

Mr. Bukovsky, a longtime member of the human rights movement in the Soviet Union, has spent a total of 10 of the last 15 years in Soviet prisons or under treatment in psychiatric clinics, under what he said was a standard Soviet method of silencing critics of the regime.

The treatment of political prisoners includes brainwashing and near-starvation diets "to change their attitude," he said.

He said that since 1974 he had been put on a "severe regime" diet three times for periods of six months. This meant reduced food rations, with hot meals and one pound of bread only every second day, he reported.

Freer Flow of Peoples Sought

Mr. Bukovsky asserted that the Helsinki agreement signed by President Ford, the Soviet Communist Party chief, Leonid I. Brezhnev, and representatives of 33 other countries had given the Soviet Union hope for "unilateral disarmament on the part of the West" while keeping Western human rights campaigners from what Moscow considered interference in its domestic affairs.

In return for tacit Western recognition of Europe's post-World War II borders, the Soviet bloc reluctantly accepted the accord's so-called "Basket Three." This aimed at increasing the free flow of peoples and ideas between East and West.

Mr. Bukovsky, wearing an oversize black suit given to him in Moscow and a shirt with no tie, faced more than 100 reporters and cameramen at the news conference, arranged by Amnesty International, the London-based agency that had fought most actively for his release.

He was tense and looked drawn under the glare of television lights at first, but he later broke into an occasional smile. He answered most questions in Russian through interpreters.



Associated Press

Vladimir K. Bukovsky, left, and Levitin Krasnov, a Russian exile, during emotional reunion in Zurich.