

NEWS

✍ A group of eleven historians from six countries, led by Professor Thorolf Rafto of Norway, issued a joint press statement on August 14, 1980, at the 15th International Congress of the Historical Sciences in Bucharest, Rumania, calling attention to a book published that month in the Federal Republic of Germany under the editorship of Vilém Prečan entitled, *Acta Creationis: Independent Historiography in Czechoslovakia, 1969–1980*. This statement read, “We believe, as do all responsible historians, that freedom to think, to write, to publish, and to travel are essential for all historical work. We should therefore like to call your attention to a volume which contains a collection of essays by Czechoslovak historians supplemented by a bibliography of works completed but not published in Czechoslovakia since 1969.”

Dr. Prečan, who was responsible for publication and distribution of the pamphlet *Acta Persecutionis* at the 14th International Congress of the Historical Sciences in San Francisco in 1975, was forced to choose between prison in Czechoslovakia and exile for that action, which described the way in which the Czechoslovak government had dismissed many professional historians from their positions and forced them to undertake menial tasks after 1968. He now resides at Ferd.-Wallbrecht-Strasse 49, D-3000 Hannover 1, in the Federal Republic of Germany. The splendid volume he has edited includes a bibliography of unpublished works which Czechoslovak historians have written “for the drawer” in the last twelve years, as well as six articles completed in Czechoslovakia which deal with various aspects of Czechoslovak history from the fifteenth century until the 1970s and which Dr. Prečan has obtained for publication.

The scholars who signed the declaration included Professor Rafto, Professors William Chaloner and Ralph Henry Charles Davis of the United Kingdom, René N. Girault of France, Wolfgang J. Mommsen and Gotthold Rhode of the Federal Republic of Germany, Marina Thorborg of Sweden, and Robert F. Byrnes, Gordon Craig, and Albright G. Zimmerman of the United States.—ROBERT F. BYRNES, *Indiana University, Bloomington*.

✍ The annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association is a regional conclave bringing together historians of the most diverse interests. An appreciable number of sessions each year is devoted to the history of Europe (including Russia) and its colonies. The 1982 annual meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, during the second week of November. Proposals for

sessions and papers are now being requested. While all proposals are welcome, fully developed sessions have the best chance for favorable consideration. Proposals with brief abstracts and *vitae* should be sent by October 1, 1981, to Professor Michael Kennedy, Vice-Chairman, SHA Program Committee for 1982, Department of History, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29733.

✚ The United States Army Military History Institute sponsors an advanced research program in military history. Individuals selected to work as "advanced research project associates" receive a \$500 grant to cover expenses while conducting research and writing at the Institute. Deadline for submission of applications is January 1. Request a form from Benjamin Franklin Cooling, Assistant Director for Historical Services, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013.

✚ The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians will award its annual prizes for the best book and the best article in any field of history written by a woman and published during 1981. Submissions for the book award should be sent to Jean Christie, 34 Bellingham Lane, Great Neck, New York 11023, and for the article award to Asunción Lavrin, Department of History, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059. Two copies of the book or article are required. Deadline for submission is February 1, 1982.

✚ The editors of a proposed seven-volume Biographical Dictionary of Modern European Radicals and Socialists, to be published by Harvester Press, are seeking contributors with specific knowledge of European radicals and socialists. The dictionary will cover from 1780 to the present, and the first volume, from 1780 to 1815. Write Dr. P. Nicholls and Dr. P. Marsh, Institute of Advanced Studies, Manchester Polytechnic, All Saints Manchester M15 6BH, England, for further information or to indicate an individual on whom you could contribute an entry.

✚ The Roger M. Blough Learning Center at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, has received a complete set of copies of the personal papers of Vidkun Quisling, minister president of Norway under German occupation, executed for treason in October 1945. This is the only institutionally held set of papers outside of Scandinavia. Maria Quisling, Vidkun's widow, bequeathed the papers in recognition of an article by the late Lyder L. Unstad published in the *Susquehanna University Studies* in 1959. Unstad raised the question of the contradiction between Quisling's patriotic attitudes and his treasonous collaboration, citing evidence contrary to the popular opinion that he had aided the German invasion.