



CZECH MEDICAL CHAMBER

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Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

This morning, I have been talking with the Chairman of the Doctors' Trade Union Association (LOZ), Dr. Marián Kollár, who informed me about the critical situation of doctors in the Slovak hospitals. The negotiations with the government that tried to break the unity of the Slovak doctors by giving a corrupt offer of higher salaries to those who did not participate in the protests, or would be willing to withdraw their notices, collapsed.

The government of the Prime Minister Mrs. Radičová approved yesterday at an extraordinary meeting the state of emergency in hospitals. This happened for the first time in the modern history of the Slovak Republic. The state of emergency may last up to 90 days and within it the basic civil rights, incl. freedom of assembly are restricted. Despite this unprecedented brutal pressure 2000 from the total 7500 Slovak doctors working as hospital employees remain in their action. The Slovak government is trying to organize the recruitment of doctors – strike breakers in the neighbouring countries. The Czech Medical Chamber had already warned its members, that accepting such an offer would be unethical and not collegial. I hope that a similar attitude will be taken by medical organizations in other EU countries as well.

Our Slovak colleagues are not those who are responsible for the potential danger to the health and safety of patients. The responsibility lies on the Slovak government which wasted several months to solve the crisis. The Slovak doctors announced their intention to terminate the employment to 1.12.2011 well ahead.

Dear colleagues, Dear friends,

In this context, allow me to draw your attention to yet another danger – the recruitment organized by the Government of the Slovak Republic of physicians in Ukraine, Belarus and other countries of the former Soviet Union. The recognition of medical qualification of these doctors in Slovakia would give them an opportunity to work in all countries of EU. There is a danger that in this situation, the Slovak

authorities would not properly check the qualifications of foreign physicians replacing the protesting Slovak colleagues.

Due to the utmost critical situation of the Slovak doctors, I send you enclosed the contact on the Chairman of the Slovak Doctors' Trade Union Association (LOZ), Dr. Marián Kollár. At the same time I would like to point out that nearly for sure his phone and e-mail are under the check of the Security Services.

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Thank you most sincerely for your kind support.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Milan Kubek
President of the
Czech Medical Chamber