

Translated from German

The amnesty in Hungary and the Hungarian PEN Club

Vienna, 2 April, ag (APA). The General Secretary of the Austrian PEN Club, Prof. Carry Hauser, comments as follows on the pardon granted to the Hungarian writers Tibor Dery and Gyula Hay two days before the meeting of the executive committee of the International PEN Club in London at which a further suspension of the Hungarian PEN centre is to be discussed:

"The release of the two Hungarian poets was ordered under a general amnesty, granted by the Department of Justice, which also covered officers of the communist secret police "Avo" who had participated in the torture of Kadar. The Hungarian PEN Club has made no effort to secure the release of the two imprisoned poets; in fact, despite repeated requests by foreign colleagues, it has refused to institute any organized move to assist Dery and Hay. There is no evidence that the Hungarian PEN Club is now in a position to fulfil the PEN Charter, of which the most essential principle is belief in personal freedom."

For this reason, Prof. Hauser takes the view that the adoption of a decision entailing a further suspension of the Hungarian centre cannot be influenced in any way by the amnesty declared by the Department of Justice in Budapest.