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Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to have an occasion to address you on behalf of the Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovakia. Allow me to brief you on our Constitutional Court.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovakia did not begin its activities until eight months ago, on March 17, 1993. You certainly know that the Slovak Republic is a new independent and democratic state and does not yet have--in terms of constitutional jurisdiction--either tradition or experience. If in 1968 the Constitutional Court found its place in the constitutional law of the Czechoslovak Federation, it was not really institutionalized until 1991, and it occurred under new conditions and on the new constitutional base. The Constitutional Court has exercised its activities for only eleven months. We find ourselves in the situation where we establish theoretical points of departure for the jurisdiction for the Constitutional Court.

The activities of the Constitutional Court can be divided into three essential domains. The first can be characterized as general appeal activity, related to the work of the bodies involved in the process of legislation and of elaboration of legal norms. The Constitutional Court provides conformity with the legal order, interprets the constitutional laws, and also deals with the conflicts of competence.

The second domain concerns concrete activity on the basis of constitutional status to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms violated by the executive decisions issued by the central state administrative bodies, as well as by the local and territorial self-government administrative bodies in cases when it does not intervene with the competence of any other jurisdiction. It also deals with alleged violations of other physical and moral human rights, following requests.

The problems of the political system represent a specific domain. This involves judgments on the constitutionality and legitimacy of the elections of the national Council of the Republic as well as of the territorial self-government bodies. The Court also determines the constitutionality of a referendum and the suspension of activities and dissolution of a political party or group.

The Constitutional Court also has other competences which are reflected principally in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and are concretized by the Laws On the Constitutional Court, On the Procedure of the Constitutional Court and On the Status of the Judges of the Constitutional Court (Law #38/1993 of the Compendium of Laws).

Ladies and gentlemen, the following is some brief information on the concrete activities of our Constitutional Court.

Upon approval, we put into effect the Order on Administration and Deliberation as well as the Order on Chancellery and on Organization of Internal Norms. We have published a monograph on the Constitutional Court and its procedure; we have also provided the functional needs for personnel including the local courts. Furthermore, we have seen that the judges and staff are provided with good working conditions.

