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Obituaries

Jan Prochazka, 42, Dubcek Backer, Writer

PRAGUE, Feb. 22 (Reuters).— Jan Prochazka, 42, a Czechoslovak writer who was one of the most militant supporters of the 1968 reform movement, died of cancer on Saturday, press reports said today.

Mr. Prochazka wrote several prize-winning film scenarios and was the author of an outspokenly liberal question-and-answer column in the youth paper, Mlada Fronta, during the reform period.

He was expelled from the Com-

munist party for "anti-party ideology" in October, 1969, and was subsequently denounced as a counter-revolutionary.

Last year, the Czechoslovak radio and the Communist party newspaper Rude Pravo accused Mr. Prochazka and other prominent radicals of regarding former party leader Alexander Dubcek as a "front man" who would be shunted aside once he had paved the way for a bourgeois-liberal take-over.

The radio played tape recordings in which Mr. Prochazka's voice could be heard describing Mr. Dubcek as a "stuffed puppy."

Liberal sources said the tape was made by the secret police in April, 1968. Czechoslovak radio said the tapes had been provided by French sources, but gave no further details. The tapes were also used in a television program aimed at discrediting liberals.

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