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9 February 1998

letter of recommendation

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In the course of the extensive Dutch - Czech collaboration in the area of mental health (restructuring the psychiatric hospitals, development of new outpatient services and community support systems) we greatly benefited from the qualities of Ms. Jana Sevcikova as an interpreter. As chairman of the Dutch -Czech conference on mental health in May 1997 I was particularly impressed by her ability to do all the translations simultaneously and both ways, practically without any preparatory documentation available, just standing next to the speaker in front of an audience of about 80 Dutch and Czech mental health professionals (psychiatrists, researchers, policy makers). She was an invaluable help in making this conference a real success.

Ms. Sevcikova command of the Dutch language - in its formal use as well in its more colloquial and informal forms - is outstanding and her pronunciation is excellent. Her phrasing is concise and demonstrates her understanding of the content of the message her client would like to transmit. Her voice is unobtrusive yet clear and she manages to maintain a natural style of speech that makes her easy to follow.

It is with much pleasure that I recommend Ms. Jana Sevcikova as an interpreter.

Paul Schnabel, Ph.D.
Professor of Mental Health and Public Health

Member National Council on Social Development
Member Health Council of the Netherlands