

Solzhenitsyn's Ex-Wife Refutes Her

MOSCOW, March 27 (AP) — Saying she was mistaken, the former wife of Alexander Solzhenitsyn has retracted a statement attacking the Nobel Prize novelist for his behavior toward her.

Natalya Reshetovskaya said she approved the statement while she was "in an extremely depressed condition" and that the Soviet press agency Novosti, which passed it on to The New York Times, had "distorted the gist" of it.

"Thus after a thorough ac-

quaintance with the statement, along with the changes made by employees of Novosti, I have concluded that it doesn't correspond either to the relations I had with A. Solzhenitsyn or with my high estimation of his creative abilities as a whole," she wrote to the director of Novosti. A copy of the letter was made available by Reshetovskaya's friends.

"I categorically object to your passing on for publication in the Soviet press the

text of the statement which was amended and added to by workers of Novosti despite the fact that it was signed by me," she said in the letter.

In the version given by Novosti and published in The Times March 9, Reshetovskaya mocks her former husband for complaining of financial difficulties. She also accuses him of immorality.

Part of official Soviet propaganda abroad against the novelist is that he lives like a millionaire. Soviet publicists sug-

gest that the fact he can't publish in his own country and that he has been branded an "internal emigre" are but minor irritations.

This was the thrust of an article by Novosti writer Semyon Vladimirov earlier this year. Then, Soviet scientist Zhores Medvedev, a friend of Solzhenitsyn's now living abroad, wrote a reply to Vladimirov.

Reshetovskaya said in her letter today that she heard reports of the debate on the

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Voice of America and decided to speak out on the basis of them. She called Novosti and said she had a prepared statement. Two men arrived at her Ryazan home March 2 with a tape recorder. They left with her typewritten declaration and several hours of conversation on tape.

They came back three days later. "In the course of the second meeting," she said in her letter to the Novosti director, "the text prepared by me was not discussed. I was offered another text which was significantly different from the original and even contained phrases and expressions I wouldn't use."

"Being in an extremely depressed condition in connection with my soul's trauma — our divorce hearing was to be held and was held on March 15 — I unfortunately mistakenly agreed with the text. I was offered and inserted in it just a few corrections" her letter said.