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Nobel literature prize may go to a woman in '89

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 1 (Reuter): Two Czechoslovak dissidents are tipped as likely winners of the 1989 Nobel peace prize which the literature award could go to a woman for the first time in 23 years.

Nobel watchers say former Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek, veteran of the 1968 "Prague Spring" movement, and playwright Vaclav Havel could emerge as winners when the peace prize is announced in Oslo on Thursday.

Also in the running are former US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, nominated for their 1987 intermediate nuclear forces (INF) agreement to scrap medium-range nuclear missiles.

Experienced observers, noting that no woman has won the prize since German-Swedish writer Nelly Sachs in 1966, say longstanding candidates Nadine Gordimer of South Africa, US author Joyce Carol Oates or East Germany's Christa Wolf might be in the running.