

Orlov jailing

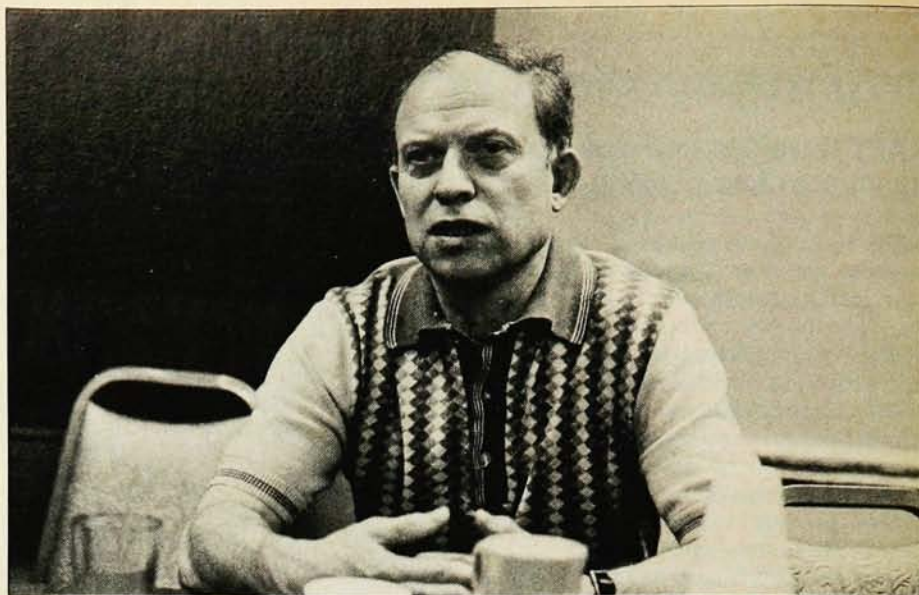
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fusnik scientific meetings while in Russia with the Working Group (see Guest Comment, page 9, this issue).

The US-USSR Condensed-Matter Theory Research Group, which, in the wake of the Orlov trial last year, cancelled a symposium that was to have taken place in the Soviet Union (PHYSICS TODAY, July 1978, page 61), is now planning to participate in a three- to four-week workshop in Soviet Armenia this fall. As Elihu Abrahams (Rutgers University), one of the US coordinators of the group, explained to us, "It was not [the group's] intention to end all relations with the Soviets for an indefinite period of time... they were responding to a very dramatic moment." Or, as Leo Kadanoff (University of Chicago), a member of the group, put it, "At that time we felt that we had no choice but to express our dismay at what was then a fresh wound." Kadanoff added that, while he was still displeased with "many policies of the Soviet government, the value of scientific collaboration suggests that we should have normal scientific relations with our Soviet colleagues. We have to balance off the value of scientific contact with what is to be gained from scientific protest." Abrahams said that he did not expect everything to return to "pre-Orlov and Shcharansky conditions." He believes that the widespread protests of the past year "will influence Soviet-exchange participants' activities in the program and their expectations from it."

Emigré advice. Many physicists are turning to those who have experienced the Soviet system themselves for direction. While those who have emigrated generally hesitate to tell others what they must do, some have made their feelings known.

In 1976 Sergei Polikanov, a Soviet nuclear physicist working at Dubna, was planning to do an experiment at CERN and had requested permission to bring his family with him. His request was denied. In 1977 he disclosed his situation to Western correspondents and, although Polikanov did not lose his job, he felt isolated from scientific work. Last year he and V. M. Strutinsky were awarded the APS Tom W. Bonner Prize in Nuclear Physics for their discovery of isomeric fission, but Polikanov was not allowed to leave the USSR to attend the awards ceremony at the April 1978 APS meeting in Washington (Strutinsky did not attend either). Last summer, after the Orlov trial, Polikanov addressed a "not very polite" letter to Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev saying that he could no longer continue to live in a totalitarian system. In August his request was approved and he was granted a one-way exit visa in September. This April he was finally able to accept his award at the APS meeting in Washington. Polikanov is



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now seeking a position in the US. He told us that it is extremely important that we restrict cooperation with the Soviet Union on a large scale, but as to the precise nature of that restriction, "I leave that to American scientists."

In addition to restricting scientific ex-

change, some emigrants feel that other forms of pressure should be put on the Soviet scientific community to come to the aid of their oppressed colleagues. Edward Lozansky, who emigrated in 1977 and is now at the University of Rochester department of physics and astronomy, explains in a letter to be published in a forthcoming issue of PHYSICS TODAY that those Soviet scientists who come to this country have been hand-picked by the Soviet government and as such carry more weight than many of their American hosts might suppose. Or, as one anonymous Soviet physicist said, "One must not underestimate the influence of the scientific oligarchy on the Soviet government."

—MEJ

US-USSR cooperation

At the present time, the Working Group on Physics of the US-USSR Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation is planning events in the following fields with the US coordinators given in parentheses: condensed-matter theory (William Brinkman, Bell Labs and Elihu Abrahams, Rutgers University); relativistic astrophysics (Douglas Eardley, Yale University and Donald Lamb, University of Illinois); laser interactions with matter (Richard Morse, University of Arizona); particle physics (Peter Carruthers, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory); mathematical physics (Martin Kruskal, Princeton University), and biomolecular physics (Hans Frauenfelder, University of Illinois and John J. Hopfield, Princeton University).

Among the events planned for the near future include a joint research group meeting in condensed-matter theory (see story on page 78); a joint research group meeting on dynamics of non-Abelian gauge fields, to be held in Aspen, Colorado for eight weeks during July and August with approximately 12 participants from each country; a joint workshop on absorption and transport phenomena in laser-produced plasmas, which will be held in the US for two weeks in September, with approximately 15 participants from each country; and a joint symposium on mathematical physics, to be held for three weeks this summer in the USSR, with approximately 10-15 participants from each country.

Interested physicists are urged to contact the Working Group's Secretariat at the Section on USSR and Eastern Europe, Commission on International Relations, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20418.

in brief

A report by the National Science Foundation on its Science Development Program, a grant-making activity that was begun in 1964 and ended in 1972, is now available. The report, a two-volume set, provides a synopsis of funding programs operated under the SDP and also includes an evaluation made by SDP grant recipients. Copies can be obtained by writing: National Science Foundation Publications Office, Washington, D.C. 20550.

Gerald O. Barney has been appointed assistant director of the Office of Technology Assessment, to head its science, information and transportation division. Barney's most recent position was with the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

The Federal Republic of Germany has donated \$700 000 to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, for a senior research professorship and two five-year fellowships for work in fields in which Albert Einstein had been active. □