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time a Western scientist has been physically harmed while visiting Soviet colleagues," according to Kurt Gottfried, chairman of the APS Committee on the International Freedom of Scientists.

According to reports from Kiev, where some of the Olympic events took place, Kislik was arrested in July for "hooliganism," during a purge to prepare the city to receive Olympic visitors. Kislik was sentenced to 15 days in prison, but on the day before he was to be released, he suffered a heart attack. The details of what followed are sketchy. Kislik was apparently taken to the Pavlov Psychoneurological Hospital for treatment of his heart condition as well as a psychological problem. Several men who had been sharing Kislik's prison cell alleged that he was suffering from some psychological disorder. According to Kislik's friends in Kiev, he was placed in a ward of the hospital reserved for extremely dangerous psychotics, where he suffered a second heart attack later that week.

In response to Kislik's involuntary commitment, cables were sent on behalf of the American Physical Society and the New York Academy of Sciences to A. P. Alexandrov, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Boris Petrovsky, Soviet minister of health, B. Paton, president of the Ukranian Academy of Sciences, and Anatoly Dobrynin, Soviet ambassador to the US. The New York Academy wrote that it is "opposed to the use of mental hospitals as jails," and asked the addressees to facilitate Kislik's emigration. The APS cable noted that Kislik "has recently been seen by several Western scientists who report that his mental health is normal." A resolution introduced in the House of Representatives in July condemned the Soviet Union for its actions against Kislik and urged the Soviet authorities to allow him to emigrate.

Perhaps as a result of these and other outcries from Western governments and individuals, or perhaps because the Olympic activities in Kiev were ending, Kislik was released from the hospital in August. —MEJ

Shirley is new director of Lawrence Berkeley Lab

David A. Shirley has replaced Andrew M. Sessler as director of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. Since 1975 Shirley has been associate director of the Laboratory and head of its Materials and Molecular Research Division. Sessler intends to return to physics research.

Shirley, a chemical physicist, earned

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his PhD in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley in 1959. Since his doctoral work, Shirley has remained associated with Berkeley, starting as a lecturer in chemistry and rising to a full professor of chemistry in 1967. His research has dealt mainly with electron spectroscopy of atoms, molecules and solids with emphasis on surfaces and many-electron effects.

Seven are named to National Science Board

President Carter has nominated seven scientists to serve on the National Science Foundation's policymaking body, the National Science Board, which recently elected Lewis M. Branscomb and Herbert D. Doan as its chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

Nominated for six-year terms on the Board are: Peter Flawn, president of the University of Texas; Mary Good, Boyd Professor of Materials Science at Louisiana State University; Peter Lax, director of the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University; Homer Neal, professor of physics at Indiana University; Mary Jane Osborn, professor of microbiology at the University of Connecticut Health Center; Stuart Rice, Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor of Chemistry at the University of Chicago's James Franck Institute, and Donald Rice Jr, president of the Rand Corporation, who has been nominated for a second term.

Branscomb and Doan will serve in their positions and as members of the NSB executive committee until May 1982. Branscomb, an atomic physicist, has been vice-president and chief scientist of IBM since 1972. Prior to that time he worked at the National Bureau of Standards, serving as its director from 1969 to 1972. Branscomb received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and his graduate degrees from Harvard University. President Carter appointed him to a six-year term as a Board member last year.

Doan, a chemical engineer, is chairman of Doan Resources Corp, and cofounder and partner of Doan Associates. He is a former president of Dow Chemical Co and currently serves on its Board of Directors.

Foundation to award 50 no-strings grants

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is scouting the country for up to 50 "exceptionally talented people" in any area of the arts, sciences or humanities to be the first recipients of unique "no-strings" grants. The 50 will become MacArthur Prize Fellows under an experimental program of the relatively new MacArthur Foundation, which has an endowment of about $650 million.

Unlike typical foundation grants, the MacArthur awards will be long-term (five years), will not fund any specific proposal (indeed, the selection process is being designed to eliminate, as much as possible, the question of how the recipient intends to spend the money) and will not be made on the basis of the Fellow's affiliations or fields of endeavor. Rather, the grants will be based on the belief that truly creative people (the term "genius" has been used on more than one occasion by Foundation spokesmen) are often hampered by the burdens of existing funding mechanisms and that financial freedom "will enhance their contributions to society and increase the chances of important discoveries."

Another unique aspect of the grant program is its formula for funding levels. According to John Corbally, a former president of the University of Illinois who is now president of the Foundation, individuals selected will receive roughly $1000 times their age each year, up to $55 000, plus an expense account of about $10 000. If the Fellow remains associated with an institution during his grant period, the institution will receive $15 000 per year for serving as host. The Foundation has allocated $25 million for the first five years of the program.

Selection of Fellows will be made by a committee system; self-nominations will not be considered. The Foundation is appointing between 50 and 100 nominators around the country who have demonstrated in their careers "an ability to spot talent" to act as talent scouts, according to Corbally. The nominees will then be interviewed by a selection committee that includes Corbally, Caltech physicist Murray Gell-Mann and former MIT president Jerome Wiesner. Corbally expects the first Fellows to be chosen by October.—MEJ □