

letters

Unconventional conference

Each December, Stockholm brims with distinguished figures from the world over attending the Nobel award ceremonies. This year, many renowned scientists from the free world converged on Stockholm for another purpose: to participate in a distinctly unconventional scientific meeting designed to help counteract the state of siege that severely restricts the professional activities of Soviet refusenik scientists.

Along with Nobel laureate chemist Paul Flory, we were privileged to form the American contingent, which joined with distinguished colleagues from eight countries to participate in an International Conference on Collective Phenomena. Acting on a moral imperative to defend scientific freedom, participants from diverse fields presented their own work at sessions dedicated to particular refusenik colleagues. In addition, they read papers prepared by isolated Soviet colleagues under conditions of virtual ostracism from mainstream science.

While this conference was an effective demonstration of support for scientists refused their right to emigrate, their own attempts in the past to hold international scientific conferences in Moscow intended to maintain their scientific vitality met with considerable interference. Of the five previously scheduled conferences in Moscow, two were aborted by Soviet authorities and three were held under obvious surveillance and with limited Western attendance, owing to the denial of entry visas to many would-be participants. Most recently, police threats and house arrests accompanied by wholesale refusal of visas to foreign scientists forced cancellation of the Fifth International Conference on Collective Phenomena, scheduled for September 1981.

Witnessing fresh arrests, trials and imprisonments, and battered by ongoing threats of retaliation, leaders of the Moscow refusenik scientific community, though thirsting for interaction with foreign colleagues, have eschewed convening another conference in the foreseeable future. They have nonetheless enthusiastically applauded our

initiative and expressed their gratitude to us for providing them with an international forum for presenting their work. In response, we are firm in our resolve to convene the conferences they are not free to hold.

In the spirit of free scientific exchange, plans have been laid for the next conference at Tel Aviv University on 31 May and 1 June. We can all speak for the voiceless by lending our support to these conferences, pending the restoration of scientific freedom to our repressed colleagues. For further details, contact the Committee of Concerned Scientists, 330 Seventh Avenue, Suite 608, New York, New York 10001 (telephone: (212) 695-2560). Your participation would be warmly welcomed.

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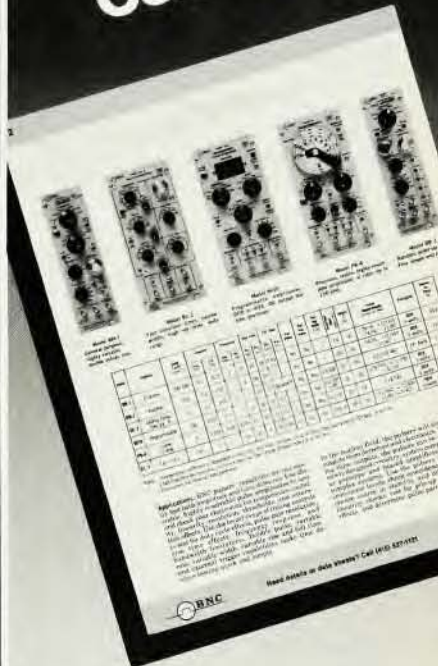
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Contributions to MX debate

In February 1982 (page 55) there appears a news report, "Physicists contribute to the MX debate," that omits several serious contributions by numerous physicists. For example, Sidney Drell and Richard Garwin proposed the SUM system and worked tirelessly with members of Congress to elucidate the difficult technical issues that surround the MX basing mode. In March 1978, before any other public mention of the MX missile, four physicists (M. Callahan, Bernard T. Feld and Kosta Tsipis of MIT and Evangelos Hadjimichael of Fairfield University) published a technical report on "The MX missile: An arms control impact statement," which was the product of a study performed by physicists in the Program in Science and Technology for International Security of the physics department at MIT. In May 1978, I published an article in *Technology Review* on the MX: "The MX missile: A look beyond the obvious," and in November 1979, Feld and I published an article, "Land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles," in *Scientific American* that detailed the various MX bas-

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