

grated. This has brought about the tragic separation of our family with an almost complete lack of communication adding to our sorrow. After the departure first of our children and then of Liza Alexeyeva two years ago, my wife... became the sole hostage for my public activity. The whole responsibility for my statements has been shifted onto her. But that is only a part of the problem as I see it. The KGB appraises Elena's role in my life and public activity very highly and seeks to eliminate her moral influence and, I have reason to fear, her physical presence as well. A unique and unbearable situation has been created. In thinking and speaking about the Sakharov case, you should keep this major complication in mind.

"A campaign of slander has been mounted to discredit my wife. Soviet propaganda depicts her as the instigator of all my statements and as a Zionist agent of the CIA. That assertion spiced with scandalous and sophisticated slander about my wife's moral qualities and mythical past behavior was repeated in 1983 by three publications so that millions of people have read that sensational lie: N. N. Yakovlev's book *The CIA Against the USSR* (200 000 copies) and Yakovlev's articles in the magazines *Smena* (1 170 000 circulation) and *Chelovek i zakon* (8 700 000 circulation). The appearance of Yakovlev's articles coincided with publication in the newspaper *Izvestia* of a letter... which deliberately and outrageously misrepresented my views on nuclear war, peace and disarmament. In violation of common sense, my wife was saddled with that burden as well. It has been used to incite popular hatred and denunciation.

"... I fear—and I believe the fear is justified—that if Elena were to be hospitalized, some means may be found to bring about her death. The risk would be greater if she were alone, but it would not be completely eliminated by my presence. (The danger, of course, is there at home as well.) Even if I am exaggerating the danger, the public harassment and constant KGB interference preclude any possibility for serious medical treatment. When my wife was a patient in the Moscow Eye Hospital in 1974, she was advised in confidence to sign herself out immediately for the sake of her life and health. The situation has grown many times worse since then! Now the only acceptable solution is for my wife to go abroad. That is the only way to save her. Elena applied for an exit visa in September 1982 when an eye operation became an urgent necessity. Elena's eyes still require treatment. But since her infarct, treatment for her heart disease has taken priority and cannot

be postponed. Her application has not been answered despite the regulation in force. I sent a letter on November 10 to the Soviet head of state, Yuri Andropov, requesting permission for my wife's trip.

"I appeal to my colleagues abroad and in the USSR, to public figures and government officials in all countries, to our friends everywhere. Save my wife, Elena Bonner!"

Since that letter, Sakharov has sent a plea for help to Western delegations at the meeting of the 35-member Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament, in Stockholm last January. The Soviet response to this was another denunciation of him in a journal called *Man and Law*, which is reported to have a circulation of nearly 9 000 000. The article characterizes Sakharov as pathetic and mentally unbalanced. He is being used, say the authors, as a conduit for CIA and Zionist propaganda against the USSR by his wife and her "evil brood" (Sakharov's stepchildren) who influence his actions, "which contradict the image of Sakharov the scholar."

In February, after the change in Soviet leadership, at least two groups—Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov and Shcharansky and the Committee of Concerned Scientists—sent cables to Chernenko and Alexandrov, urging them to allow Bonner to go abroad for medical care. "We look forward to your humanitarian action, which would contribute to an easing of tension between our scientific communities," wrote the Committee. —IG

Mattox is new Vacuum Society president-elect

The American Vacuum Society has elected Donald M. Mattox to be 1984 president-elect. He will succeed the new president for 1984, Edward N. Sickafus (Ford Motor Company).

Mattox received a BS from Eastern Kentucky State University in 1953, studied at MIT 1953–54, and received an MS in physics from the University of Kentucky in 1960. Since 1961 he has worked at Sandia National Labs (Albuquerque). In 1966 he became supervisor of the surface metallurgy division. He has worked on solar coatings, wear- and erosion-resistant coatings, thin film metallization, and the influence of low-energy ion bombardment on the properties of surfaces and films. His most recent efforts have been on the development of coatings for fusion reactor applications.

Other results are the election of N. Rey Whetten (General Electric) as treasurer and the re-elections of Jack H.



MATTOX

Singleton (Westinghouse) as secretary and of Robert S. Bauer (Xerox) to the Board of Directors. New directors are J. E. Green (University of Illinois) and John W. Coburn (IBM). New trustees are Gary E. McGuire (Tektronix) and Cedric J. Powell (National Bureau of Standards).

Crystallographers elect Newnham vice-president

The American Crystallographic Association has elected Robert E. Newnham to be 1984 vice-president. A professor and head of the solid-state-science program at Pennsylvania State University, Newnham will succeed the 1984 president, David H. Templeton, professor of chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. In turn, David Sayre has become past president.

Newnham received a BS degree in 1950 from Hartwick College, an MS in 1952 from Colorado State University, a PhD in physics from Pennsylvania State University in 1956 and a PhD in crystallography in 1960 from Cambridge University. He was an associate professor of electrical engineering at MIT from 1959 to 1966, when he became an associate professor of solid-state science at Penn State. He rose to his present rank, professor, in 1971 and became head of the program in 1974. His research has concerned dielectric, piezoelectric and pyroelectric properties of crystals, ceramics and composite materials.

In the same election, new members of standing committees were selected: Arthur J. Schultz (Argonne National Lab) to the Continuing Education Committee, Miriam Rossi (Vassar College) to the Publications Committee, and Camden R. Hubbard (National Bureau of Standards) to the Apparatus and Standards Committee. □