

claim that my departure would threaten the safety of the USSR. To claim that my sick wife's departure would be risky is simply dangerous madness. My wife worked only as an English teacher and we married in 1981, a full 26 years after I ceased all contact with classified work. It arouses a dangerous psychological climate of mutual distrust, preventing achievement of vitally important compromises."

► Khachaturyan writes:

I have no alternative other than addressing you [in] an open letter. That decision was caused by the bitterness over improper actions of the Soviet Academy after my family applied for emigration to Israel.

After application for emigration in 1981 I learned that my position in the Academy, where I worked since 1973 as a full Doctor of Physics, immediately changed. I was expelled from three scientific councils: in the Institute of Crystallography, where I work, in the Academy of Sciences and in the Moscow Steel and Alloys Institute, where I was a member for many years. Then I found myself in complete professional isolation. The general atmosphere created around me is such that my colleagues are afraid to work with me. Even to speak with me became a matter of personal courage. My wife is in the same position. So my wife and I have to work together. My director, however, canceled my wife's permit to visit my institute and did not allow her to use the laboratory computer for our work.

My wife and I can no longer attend scientific meetings in the Soviet Union since we applied for emigration. Vice presidents Academicians E. P. Velikhov and Ju. A. Ovchinnikov forbade us to attend any scientific meetings abroad as well, even though all travel expenses were covered by organizers. Velikhov, the Soviet Academy's main "peace advocate," cut me off from scientific cooperation with my American colleagues. Velikhov killed my joint research project with Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and the department of materials science of the University of California, Berkeley (one of the most successful Soviet-American projects), where I was a visiting professor in the 1976-77 and 1978-79 academic years, when he refused to let me accept invitations to Berkeley for work.

The Presidium of the Soviet Academy took on itself unprecedented functions of unsealing, checking

and confiscating the letters sent to my office by my Western colleagues. For example, the ballots for election of officers of The American Physical Society, in which I participate as a member of the Society, I received from the Presidium of the Soviet Academy four months after the ballots arrived in the USSR and three months after the election. All this time the letter with ballots was kept in the Soviet Academy. Even a telegram from my publisher [at] Pergamon Press, Professor J. W. Christian, FRS, I received enclosed in the letter from the Presidium of the Soviet Academy three weeks later. My protests about it did not produce any effect.

After the hunger strike of my family, which took place in spite of the threats, vice president E. P. Velikhov ordered my dismissal. Only the flow of protests of my colleagues from France, England and USA made him change his intentions. By the way, I can't compel myself to feel gratitude to the leadership of the Academy of Sciences that unlike other scientists-refuseniks I was not fired after I applied for emigration. I am fully aware that the absurd situation when they don't let me work but at the same time pay the salary of the full Doctor of Science during 4½ years is not due to the special attitude to me, but is due to the simple fact that the vice presidents of the Soviet Academy, often traveling in the West, don't want to do anything that might spoil their pleasure from these trips.

Both of these letters speak for themselves. I hope that the readers of this magazine will respond to the appeals of these and other oppressed scientists. You can do this by letting your views be known to Soviet officials, scientific and nonscientific, and in particular by visiting refusenik scientists whenever you travel to the Soviet Union. There will presumably be more opportunities for this as various exchange agreements go into effect. For further information please contact me or the Committee of Concerned Scientists, Suite 608, 330 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10001, telephone 212-695-2560.

JOEL L. LEBOWITZ
Rutgers University

12/85

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Correction

November, page 61—The photograph of Werner Heisenberg was from the AIP Niels Bohr Library. □

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