

meeting (on 13 May in northern Greece and on 15 June in Egion, which were the two largest in Greece for over a decade) are carefully related to the corresponding VAN predictions (those received by myself, for example—along with other interested scientists—on 2 May and on 20 May 1995). It is noteworthy that the distinguished seismologist, Professor H. Kanamori, was influenced partly by these events, as well as by the proceedings of the review meeting . . . to give the view . . . that for the largest earthquakes in Greece the VAN group appears to have usefully identified SES precursors.”¹⁶ This conclusion alone invalidates most of GSA’s claims.

As we have demonstrated above, Geller *et al.* and the two other letter writers are biased to such an extent that they could reject even an ideal earthquake prediction method. Nor does their questioning of the physics of our methodology stand up to stringent examination. In fact, our experimental results encourage us to intensify our efforts, which include our becoming involved in a newly established university research institute (supported by the Greek government), that will enable us to try to better understand the physics of the phenomenon.

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US Groups Used the Rights Stuff to Support Fired Cubans

In a letter opposing scientific exchanges with Cuba (PHYSICS TODAY, October 1997, page 140), Carlos Delgado wonders “whether any American scientists condemned [the] injustice” of the Cuban government’s summary firing in 1992 of himself and 17 other professionals for having demanded official respect for human rights in Cuba.

Your readers have a right to know that immediately after learning of that injustice, many major American scientific groups wrote strong letters to President Fidel Castro, Minister of Higher Education Fernando Vecino

and other Cuban authorities to protest the dismissals and ask that the 18 individuals be reinstated.

The letters were from groups including the Human Rights of Scientists Committee of the New York Academy of Sciences (I’m the committee chair), the Committee on International Freedom of Scientists of the American Physical Society, the Committee of Concerned Scientists and the Science & Human Rights Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Their letters were never answered. However, it is to be hoped that the letters did restrain the Cuban authorities from taking even more severe reprisals against the 18 professionals.

The New York Academy of Sciences, APS, CCS and AAAS, together with other major scientific organizations, are committed to the United Nations doctrine called the Free Circulation of Scientists. Promulgated by the International Council of Scientific Unions, this doctrine is intended to enable all scientists, and humanity everywhere, to benefit from scientific advances made anywhere. Thus, we strongly support the exchange of scientists, including Cuban scientists coming to the US. We equally strongly oppose and protest violations of human rights of scientists in Cuba and elsewhere.

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Corrections

April, page 52—The last footnote in the table summarizing the funding for the National Science Foundation’s physics-related programs is incorrect in stating that the US contributes 20% of the total cost of the Gemini telescopes. The US contribution is 50%.

March, page 75—To clarify several points in the brief about Ghassam Asrar, the current name for the Mission to Planet Earth is the Earth Science Enterprise, and Asrar now heads NASA’s Office of Earth Science, the principal component of which is the Earth Observing System.

March, page 81—The brief about the on-line survey of dual-career couples should have mentioned that the survey is being sponsored by the American Physical Society. ■