American Association for the Advancement of Science

1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, D. C., 20005
Phone: 467-4400 (Area Code 202) Cable Address: Advancesci, Washington, D. C.

NEWSLETTER

Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights
a project of the
AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

Volume I, No. 4 December 1979 Bruce Alan Kiernan, Editor

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

NOTES ON CLEARINGHOUSE ACTIVITIES

AAAS Annual Meeting, San Francisco, January 3-8, 1980:

A public business meeting has been organized by the AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights at the AAAS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, on Friday evening, January 4, 1980. The Clearinghouse meeting will be at the Cypress Room of the San Francisco Hilton Hotel from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., followed by a cocktail reception (which should give the audience a chance to talk informally with the speakers). This year's meeting will discuss the question of what scientists can do to help persecuted colleagues in foreign countries. A distinguished panel of scientists will participate and discuss this increasingly important issue on the international science agenda. The panel will include: Owen Chamberlain and Morris Pripstein, University of California, Berkeley, two of the organizers of Scientists for Orlov and Shcharansky; Mario Otero, University of Mexico, and former Dean, National University of Uruguay; John Ziman, University of Bristol, England, principal author of Scholarly Freedom and Human Rights: The Problem of Persecution and Repression of Science and Scientists (1977); and Bruce Kiernan, AAAS Human Rights Coordinator. AAAS President Kenneth Boulding will open the meeting, and Joel Primack, a member of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, will chair the discussion. Representatives of human rights organizations in the Bay Area have been invited to attend.

AAAS Board of Directors Endorses Ratification of the Genocide Convention:

The Board of Directors of the AAAS voted on December 7, 1979 to endorse U.S. ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and urges the Senate of the United States to give its advice and consent to ratification.
AAAS and NAS Issue Joint Statement on Argentina:

The AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility and the Committee on Human Rights of the National Academy of Sciences issued a joint statement on August 28, 1979, calling on the Argentine government to account for "disappeared" scientists. "The problem," according to the AAAS/NAS statement, "is not solved by the government's assertion that it knows nothing of the fate of these 'disappeared' citizens or that they are the victims of terrorists. We must conclude that the government of Argentina bears ultimate responsibility for permitting the disappearances, tortures, and deaths of many Argentine scientists and others who have not been charged with any crime." The joint statement points out that: "Argentina cannot have a respected place in the world of international science until the respect for human rights of all citizens permits honest inquiry and freedom of discussion without fear for personal safety....The systematic repression of scientists -- or systematic denial of fundamental human rights -- in any society ultimately threatens scientists and scientific freedom everywhere."

The full text of the joint statement is available from the Clearinghouse office.

AAAS Requests to the Organization of American States Inter-American Human Rights Commission:

In early March 1979, the President of AAAS, Kenneth Boulding, wrote to the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission requesting that the Commission give priority attention to the disappearances of Argentine scientists and students during the Commission's on-site visit to Argentina (this visit took place in early September, 1979).

In mid-August 1979, the AAAS provided the OAS Human Rights Commission the names of ten Argentine scientists who have disappeared or been imprisoned without charge. Previous lists of persons whose human rights have allegedly been violated in Argentina were submitted to the OAS by the AAAS on February 7, 1977 and on May 5, 1978.

Other AAAS Activities Regarding Argentina:

- The AAAS Clearinghouse joined with the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights in an appeal (August 1, 1979) to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to use his good offices to influence the Government of Argentina to take appropriate actions to restore observance of internationally recognized human rights.

- The AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility issued a statement in October 1979, vehemently condemning the law promulgated by the military government of Argentina on September 6, 1979 (#20068). Under this law, the many thousands of Argentine citizens who have "disappeared" -- many allegedly
tortured and murdered by government troops -- can be declared legally dead without official explanation or accountability. The statement concludes: "The Argentine government's new law amounts to a mass death certificate for thousands of disappeared persons. It cannot be accepted as a satisfactory response to this continuing human tragedy."

New York Academy of Sciences to Sponsor Medical Team to Uruguay

Under the sponsorship of the New York Academy of Sciences, the AAAS and the American Medical Association (a Clearinghouse member) are co-sponsoring an on-site visit to Uruguay planned by Dr. Richard Goldstein, Dr. Henry Aranow and Dr. Alfred Gelhorn. The purpose of the visit is to observe the situation of imprisoned Uruguayan doctors and to study the medical facilities available in Uruguayan penal institutions. The group is hoping to make the trip to Uruguay in early 1980.

Brookings Luncheon, May 10, 1979

The Clearinghouse sponsored a luncheon and discussion on May 10 at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. The discussion was entitled "Roles Professional Societies Can Play in the Area of Human Rights," and included representatives from the AAAS affiliates, private human rights groups, individual scientists, and U.S. government officials responsible for implementation of the government's human rights policy. Through this meeting, the Clearinghouse was able to introduce and link members of the scientific community to the broader human rights community. An important goal of the Clearinghouse is to extend this kind of interaction to the international level, particularly with respect to the developing nations of the world.

A summary of the discussion is available from the Clearinghouse office.

Human Rights Policy for the National Science Foundation and the Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (ISTC):

- The House Committee on Science and Technology has requested the National Science Foundation (NSF) to report before January 1, 1980, on "those procedures and actions which might be appropriate for the Foundation to ensure that its activities will enhance the civil, political, and cultural rights of scientists."

- The Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (ISTC) solicited views from the scientific community on an appropriate human rights policy for the proposed Institute.

Hamburg Scientific Forum:

A Scientific Forum organized under the aegis of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe will take place in Hamburg, the Federal Republic of Germany, for two weeks beginning
February 18, 1980. The U.S. delegation will be headed by NAS President Philip Handler.

In preparing the Forum, diplomats and scientists from all the participating states spent six weeks in Bonn, Germany (June and July 1979) debating problems of agenda and organization. The United States delegation sought to achieve an organizational framework for the Forum that reflected the mandate outlined in the Final Act, which provides for:

"...a meeting of leading personalities in science from the participating states to discuss interrelated problems of common interest concerning current and future developments in science, and to promote the expansion of contacts, communications, and the exchange of information between scientific institutions and among scientists...."

The United States position in preparing the agenda was that the Scientific Forum be a meeting where individual scientists meet to discuss meaningful scientific problems in the context of East-West scientific cooperation -- contacts, communication, and the exchange of information. The U.S. approach to the Forum also required that the final Bonn agenda provide the possibility for scientists to raise existing problems and obstacles to East-West scientific cooperation if they saw the need to do so.

The U.S. Delegation to the Scientific Forum will be announced soon. Suggestions for discussion items relating to the overall mandate of "promoting the expansion of contacts, communications, and the exchange of information between scientific institutions and among scientists" should be sent to the chairperson of the U.S. delegation, Dr. Philip Handler. Further information on this matter can be obtained from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Susan Pederson, staff member: (202) 225-4235.

Censorship of SCIENCE Magazine:

Following the deletion of material describing scientific progress in the Peoples Republic of China (including a cover photograph), AAAS Executive Officer William D. Carey complained of censorship of the version of SCIENCE Magazine which is distributed in the Soviet Union. In a letter to Academician Aleksandrov, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences (October 17, 1979), Mr. Carey states that "...we are deeply troubled by the excessive censorship of material which appears in SCIENCE....Your own scientists cannot fail to observe the extent of censorship of SCIENCE. Scientists in more than 130 countries outside the U.S.S.R. are reminded sharply and repeatedly that Soviet authorities do not trust the judgement and reliability of their own scientists, even to the extent of controlling what they may read. For our part, we object deeply to Soviet mutilation of SCIENCE."
Clearinghouse Development:

In order to enhance the informational, educational, and advocacy functions of the Clearinghouse, additional funding is being sought by the AAAS Development Office. The Clearinghouse has attracted the attention of a wide and diverse audience within the U.S. and international scientific community, and cannot, with present resources, meet the requests for information and assistance which are received on a daily basis.

NEWS FROM CLEARINGHOUSE MEMBERS

American Psychiatric Association

The American Psychiatric Association continues its efforts to stop the misuse of psychiatry and the abuse of psychiatrists.

The Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association approved the formation of a Committee on International Abuse and Misuse of Psychiatry at a meeting on September 19, 1979. With this action, a formal liaison will be created with the World Psychiatric Association's Committee to Review the Abuse of Psychiatry for Political Purposes. The APA Committee will review cases of alleged misuse of psychiatry and abuse of psychiatrists forwarded to it by international organizations or by APA members. The findings and recommendations will be presented to the APA's Council on International Affairs. Further information can be obtained from Jane Edgerton, APA, 1700 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20009. The activities of the APA's Committee will be coordinated with the AAAS Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights when appropriate.

The October 19 issue of Psychiatric News includes an article by Paul Chodoff, M.D., which is a detailed account of what has taken place in the two years since the VI World Congress of Psychiatry in 1977 in Honolulu, Hawaii (copies are available from Jane Edgerton, address above). At the VI World Congress, the Declaration of Hawaii was adopted and a resolution condemning the Soviet Union for its misuse of psychiatry was passed by a narrow vote. To implement these resolutions and to show its concern for charges of abuse, a Committee to Review the Abuse of Psychiatry for Political Purposes and a Committee on Ethics have been formed by the World Psychiatric Association.

American Statistical Association

The ASA has formed an Ad Hoc Committee to deal with issues relating to human rights and scientific freedom. Cases involving alleged violations of human rights and/or scientific freedom of statisticians
may be addressed to:

American Statistical Association  
Ad Hoc Committee on Scientific Freedom  
and Human Rights  
Professor Edward Barankin, Chair  
Department of Statistics  
University of California  
Berkeley, California 94720

American Political Science Association

The APSA's Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom is increasingly interested in the area of human rights for scholars and especially political scientists around the world. In the past, the Committee had issued statements, such as one calling for the protection of academic freedom in Chile, and recommended policies for the APSA Council, which were adopted, requiring free access of scholars to international political science congresses where the Association officially participates. The Chairperson-Elect of the APSA Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom is Dr. Richard F. Schier of the Department of Government, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

American Psychological Association

The Board of Directors of the APA voted at their June 1979 meeting to send a delegation to Argentina in order to report on the state of the profession in the wake of actions directed against individual psychologists by the Argentine government.

Fred Spaner, Ph.D., Chairperson of the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology, has requested psychologists to intercede with the Czechoslovak government on behalf of their colleagues, Jarmila Belikova, Dana Nemcova and Jiri Nemec.

American Society of Civil Engineers (National Capital Section)

The Civic Affairs Committee of the National Capital Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers has adopted a Policy Statement on Human Rights, which is available from the Chairperson of the Committee, Milton Mortman, 2900 St. Clair Drive, Marlow Heights, Maryland, 20031. The Committee takes up cases of civil engineers whose human rights have been violated.

American Physical Society

Edward Gerjuoy of the University of Pittsburgh, Chairperson of the APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists, presented a talk at the American Bar Association's 1979 Annual Meeting in Dallas,
Texas, entitled "Human Rights Concerns of the Scientific and Legal Fraternities."

At the request of Professor Barry Cooper, a member of the APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists, the Clearinghouse provided a complimentary subscription of SCIENCE Magazine to Dr. Abram Kagan, a leader of the Leningrad Refusenik Seminar.

A REPORT ON SELECTED INDIVIDUAL CASES

Nohim Naum Meiman - U.S.S.R.

AAAS President Kenneth Boulding wrote to Akademician Anatole Aleksandrov in July 1979 asking that he use his good offices as President of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences to assist Professor Meiman to emigrate to Israel. No word has been received from Aleksandrov, and the status of Professor Meiman is unchanged. Professor Meiman, a theoretical physicist and mathematician, first applied for an exit visa in 1974 and has been refused many times since. The reason given was that he was in possession of state secrets in connection with his work in the Moscow Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics from 1955 to 1975. The latest refusal in July 1979 was again issued on grounds of "secrecy" despite a letter he submitted from the Institute Director, I.V. Chuvilo, stating that his work there had not involved secret material.

Professor Drahoslav Lim - Czechoslovakia

Professor Lim, an organic chemist and formerly a full member of the Czech Academy of Sciences, has been seeking to emigrate to the United States for some years, and has repeatedly been denied permission by the Czechoslovakian government. Appeals have been made on his behalf by Professor Paul Flory, Stanford University, and other prominent U.S. scientists. Dr. Lim's case was referred by the Clearinghouse to the American Chemical Society. Recent information supplied to the Clearinghouse suggests that Professor Lim and his family will soon be granted exit visas.

Dr. Werner Schalicke - German Democratic Republic

Dr. Schalicke, a 51 year-old surgeon, is currently serving a 6 year prison sentence in Brandenburg Prison for "incitement hostile to the state" under Article 106 of the GDR Penal Code. He has been in prison since June 1974. According to information supplied by Amnesty International, and an article from the Times of London (November 9, 1978), Dr. Schalicke was imprisoned for activities on behalf of freedom of travel and communication within the GDR, and in its relation to other countries.
John T. Edsall, Chairperson of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, has written to the Ambassador of the GDR to Washington, Horst Grunert, expressing urgent concern about Dr. Schalikoe's health, and appealing, on grounds of "common humanity," for the release of Dr. Schalikoe from prison.

Word has just reached us as the NEWSLETTER was about to go to press that Dr. Schalikoe has been freed. He has rejoined his wife in Leipzig, and hopes soon to travel to the German Federal Republic. This good news was transmitted to us in a letter from Dr. Carl Hachmeister, a retired judge in West Germany, to John Edsall.

Sergey Kovalev - U.S.S.R.

Dr. Kovalev, a biologist charged with illegally circulating the Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church, was convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation" and sentenced on December 12, 1975, to seven years of hard labor and three years of exile and has been imprisoned since. His case has been taken up by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

In June of this year, information reached the Clearinghouse that Dr. Kovalev had begun a hunger strike in the labor camp where he is imprisoned (this information was provided by the International League for Human Rights, New York, N.Y.). In response to this information, AAAS President Kenneth Boulding sent a telegram to Academician Aleksandrov urgently requesting "...that you consider again the AAAS Council Resolution of 1978 asking that the sentence of Dr. Kovalev be commuted to time served."

BRIEF MENTION

Angel Mario Garmendia, Alfredo Antonio Giorgi, Jorge Claudio Lewi -- Argentina

The President of the American Chemical Society, Gardner Stacy, has written the government of Argentina requesting information on these three "disappeared" Argentine chemists.

Alfredo Smith and wife released in Argentina

Psychologists Alfredo Smith and Silvia Criado de Smith were released from prison in late May, 1979. Both had been abducted in August of 1978 and then surfaced under PEN status (imprisoned under Presidential order) in November. Announcement of the release came from the Buenos Aires Association of Psychologists, of which Alfredo Smith is an ex-secretary (from La Prensa, May 31, 1979)
Immigration

At the request of the Clearinghouse, the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law is representing an Argentine scientist in his efforts to secure a waiver of his foreign residence requirement as an exchange visitor on the grounds of fear of political persecution if he returns to Argentina.

NOTICES

Amnesty International Forms Medical Group

Amnesty International USA has announced the formation of a Medical Capacity Committee as a standing committee of the Board of Directors of AIUSA. According to Phyllis B. Taylor, staff person for the Committee, the medical group will be concerned with "treating torture victims, documenting torture and doing general human rights education within the medical community." Additionally, the Medical Capacity Committee will be "coordinating joint efforts with the International Medical Advisory Board of Amnesty International." For further information, write to:

Phyllis B. Taylor, R.N.
Amnesty International
Medical Capacity Committee
307 W. Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119

*******

The CLEARINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER welcomes items of interest for inclusion in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER. Of particular interest are items which describe the work of AAAS affiliate members in the area of science and human rights. Please send any information to the Clearinghouse office no later than March 15, 1980.