Scientists Under Attack In The Americas

Participants at a conference of North American and Latin American scientists, engineers and medical professionals from 13 countries, meeting in conjunction with the AAAS Annual Meeting in Toronto, condemned human rights violations currently being carried out against their colleagues and others in several Latin American countries. Violations have ranged from harassment to disappearance, torture, detention without charge or trial, and even death. John T. Edsall, then chairperson of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, and Marcel Roche, editor of Intericiencia, cochaired the Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas, arranged by the CSFR.

Some 55 participants expressed concern about the decline in academic and scientific freedom in recent years, which they believe has led to a deterioration in the quality and availability of scientific general education at all levels and to a restricted research environment in the region. The conference noted that human rights and scientific freedom are closely linked, so that attacks on scientists and students imperil the long-range possibilities for national scientific and technological progress, and contribute to the "brain drain".

The condition of human rights and scientific freedom differs from one country to another. The situation ranges from widespread repression such as has been carried out by the military governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Uruguay, to isolated instances of detention and torture of physicians in Colombia, where the democratic government has not adopted a generally repressive policy.

The workshop participants were concerned that, in conditions of generalized violence which characterize the current situation in El Salvador and Guatemala, scientists—particularly medical personnel—are being killed by military and paramilitary groups. According to a report published in July 1980 by a commission of North American public health workers, "death squads and uniformed forces have repeatedly entered hospitals and clinics and shot down patients, doctors, nurses and medical students in cold blood." This represents a deterioration of the Geneva Convention which pledges nations to regard doctors and nurses as well as the sick and wounded as neutrals during military conflict.

The workshop condemned all attacks on basic human rights recognized under international law, whether from the right or the left, no matter whether they occur in repressive or in so-called "moderately repressive" regimes.

José Goldemberg, president of the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science, pointed out that workshop participants "didn't get together to cry about the violations of human rights in Latin America, but to find new ways of facing these problems." It was concluded that attacks on human rights and scientific freedom have become a chronic problem, requiring new initiatives.

During the meeting it became clear that there is an urgent need to establish scientific societies in the United States, Canada, and Latin America to promote cooperation specifically with responding promptly to violations of the human rights of their colleagues. While several scientific societies in the United States have established human rights committees or designated representatives to take action on behalf of persecuted foreign colleagues, the workshop participants felt that such initiatives should be undertaken by more scientific societies, especially in Latin America.

The workshop recommended that scientific communities in the Americas work in conjunction with public and private groups to establish a regional human rights documentation center in Latin America. It was suggested that the center could be established in Venezuela, Costa Rica or Ecuador. Such a center would strengthen the international network of scientists and scientific societies concerned with human rights, and would emphasize the responsibilities of scientists to respond to violations when they occur.

Participants emphasized that human rights violations have their roots in the larger social, economic, and political environment, and that they urged that social scientists in all countries make it an important research priority to study the sources of repression and to develop a greater understanding of the social conditions which promote respect for the life and dignity of every human being. This goal could be facilitated by establishing research fellowships in this area. The work of the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLASCO) was commended by the workshop participants. Founded in 1967, CLASCO coordinates the activities of numerous independent social science research centers throughout the region by offering moral and financial support.

The workshop recommended that scientific organizations encourage international lending institutions to include human rights considerations in their loan criteria and to establish beyond doubt that scientific and academic freedom will be preserved when loans are granted to educational and scientific institutions. In particular, it was suggested that scientific socie-
ties monitor, suggest policy, and where appropriate participate in the process by which decisions are made for such loans.

This recommendation was made particularly in response to a loan given to the Uruguayan government in September 1980 by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Uruguay received a $32.5 million loan aimed at revitalizing the University of Uruguay. The loan will be used to "hire teachers and researchers both in Uruguay and abroad" and "to improve internal efficiency and raise academic standards," primarily in the areas of basic sciences, agriculture and livestock sciences and engineering.

According to Mario Otero, former dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences of the University of Uruguay, the present de facto military government, which assumed power in 1973, is responsible for the "total destruction of scientific training, of research activity and independent thought" in the university by the dismissal and imprisonment of faculty members who disagree with official government policy. Otero states that "in the Agriculture faculty 80% of the staff lost their jobs through dismissal, not being reappointed, or arrested," and that "in the various branches of engineering not less than 60% of the staff have been replaced." (See Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, February 1981.)

In conclusion, the Toronto workshop participants affirmed that the advancement of science is fundamentally linked to the advancement of human rights. Scientists therefore have a responsibility not only to promote scientific freedom but also to promote the basic rights guaranteed to all people under international law. Furthermore, scientists have a duty to refuse to participate in actions which violate the human rights of others.

Chile: Military Decrees New University Law

Chile's military government has decreed a new university law which has drawn widespread protests from Chilean academics in and outside of the country. (See Science, 27 March 1981) The new law provides for a financial and academic reorganization of the country's eight state-funded universities that reduces emphasis in the humanities, social sciences, and basic sciences research in favor of degree programs in the applied sciences and engineering. The decree provides for a 50% reduction in government support for public universities.

Degree programs at public universities will now be offered in only a dozen fields: law, architecture, biochemistry, dentistry, agronomy, civil engineering, business and economic sciences, forestry, medicine, veterinary medicine, psychology, and pharmacy.

Under the new law, 21 disciplines previously taught in the public universities will be left to the initiative of private institutions. Such disciplines include journalism, philosophy, sociology, marine biology, geology, and gynecology. The survival of those degree programs eliminated by the government will depend on whether a demand exists to create private institutions for their continuation and whether or not they can support themselves under the fluctuations of Chile's "free market" economy.

One of the most controversial provisions virtually bans all political activity. The law states that higher institutions may not "shelter or foment actions or conduct incompatible with juridical order" or "propagate, directly or indirectly, any party-political tendency." Article 6 continues: "All political indoctrination is to be excluded from universities, understanding by this the teaching or spreading of ideas which exceed what is generally understood as objective information and reasoned discussion, through which the best-known arguments in favor of or against systems, doctrines or points of view are presented."

The government argues that the intent of the new law is to restore the "normal functioning" of the universities, which it claims had become heavily politicized until 1973 under the governments of Eduardo Frei and Salvador Allende. Science reported: "Critics of the new law argue that its underlying purpose is to end the university role as a source of social criticism and political opposition. They say that the law fits into a broader government policy of refashioning Chilean institutions according to political, economic, and moral criteria approved by the regime."

Luis Izquierdo, professor of biology at the University of Chile and executive secretary of the Asociación Andrés Bello, an independent association recently formed by distinguished Chilean academics concerned with the situation in the universities, criticized the government (Hoy, 3 February 1981) for having drafted the law without the broad-based participation of representatives from educational and cultural institutions. Several Chilean academics have also charged that the expected increases in tuition and fees will limit higher education to an economic elite, and that those who will suffer most are the children of the middle and lower classes.

Since the military took power in 1973, the government has maintained direct control of the universities by the appointment of "rectores delegados," many of whom are active or retired military officers. □

Argentina: Physicist Persecuted For Human Rights Activities

Physicist José Westerkamp told reporters in Toronto last January that "the human rights situation has improved in Argentina but I fear that abuses could occur again." Less than two months later Westerkamp's observation rang true, as he and several other human rights advocates were arrested and held in incommunicado detention by the federal police in Buenos Aires. A week later, they were released by a federal judge pending investigation into charges brought against them under Article 224 of the penal code, which carries a two to eight year sentence.

Arrested with Westerkamp on 28 February were Emilio Fermín Mignone, lawyer and former undersecretary of educa-
tion, Augusto Conte MacDonell, lawyer and president of the Argentine Permanent Assembly of Human Rights, Carmen Aguiar de Lapaco, physical education instructor and member of the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, Boris Pasik, lawyer and former Buenos Aires town councillor, Marcelo Parrilli, lawyer, as well as three others who were released the following day.

With the exception of Parrilli and Westerkamp, all of those arrested have children who have disappeared since the military assumed power in March 1976. One of Westerkamp's sons, Gustavo, has been held without charge since 1975. The arrests of Westerkamp and the others are connected to their activities with the unofficial human rights group called the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales—CELS (Center for Legal and Social Studies). Founded in 1979 by lawyers, scientists and other professionals, CELS provides legal and technical assistance to individuals and organizations affected by human rights violations, especially the families of political prisoners and the disappeared. Prior to the arrests, CELS had documented over 6,000 disappearances attributed to military and paramilitary groups in the past 6 years.

The six human rights advocates have been charged with possession of plans and diagrams of military establishments. However, the maps shown in court were simple sketches of military installations drawn by former detainees who claim to have been detained in such places. The sketches have been given in testimony to international human rights groups. Federal Judge Martin Anzoátegui, who ordered the arrest of Westerkamp and the others, also had the police seize the files of other human rights organizations in July and August 1979 on the pretext that these groups had "abetted false testimony."

The February arrests sparked international protests from several scientific groups. In Canada and the United States, telegrams were sent by the National Academy of Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Physical Society, Federation of American Scientists, and the Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars. Fourteen members of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology also expressed strong protests. In Brazil, the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science communicated its concern to the Argentine Foreign Minister.

Of the activists arrested, Westerkamp and Mignone are perhaps the best known outside Argentina. A respected physicist, Westerkamp worked in the 1950's at Columbia University with Charles Townes, who subsequently won the Nobel Prize for his research on lasers. In May 1980 Westerkamp was dismissed without explanation from his post as professor of physics and director of microwave and laser research at the University of Buenos Aires, where he had taught since the early 1960's. Last January Westerkamp attended the AAAS Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas, held in Toronto, Canada.

Emilio Mignone, a distinguished Argentine lawyer, has been active in the Argentine human rights movement since the disappearance of his daughter following her arrest by heavily-armed men in May 1976. According to family members, the men identified themselves as army personnel. In January 1981 Mignone filed two separate recursos de habeas corpus preventivo because of menacing actions by members of the federal police directed at him and his family. Prior to the police harassment and his arrest in late February, Mignone had testified before the Organization of American States in Washington on the human rights situation in his country. Following his visit to Washington, Mignone travelled to Geneva to present a list compiled by the CELS staff of over 6,000 disappearances attributed to military and police forces to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance.

Argentine Biochemist Dismissed

In March of this year, the Argentine government dismissed biochemist Dr. Nicolás Guillermo Bazán from his post at the National University of the South only days after he had been acclaimed for his research into epilepsy at the annual meeting of the American Society of Neurochemistry in Richmond, Virginia, according to an editorial on 22 March, 1981, in the Argentine newspaper Clarín.

In a resolution dated 20 December 1980 and not made public until mid-March, Argentine Minister of Education Dr. Juan Llerena Amadeo declared Dr. Bazán "dispensable" and ordered that he leave his post as chairman of the Department of Biology at the university. Clarín reports that no explanation was given for his dismissal. Under a decree-law enacted shortly after the military took power in March 1976, the Minister of Education may dismiss immediately "any state employee for unspecified reasons" and ban him from holding any other government post for 5 years. Since 1976, hundreds of scientists have been dismissed under this decree.

Dr. Bazán received his medical degree in 1965 and was awarded a doctorate of medicine from Harvard University in 1970. While studying in the United States, Dr. Bazán served as a research associate at the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard and also at the University of Toronto. According to Clarín, Dr. Bazán founded both the Department of Biology and the Institute of Biochemical Research at the National University of the South, located in the Bahía Blanca region south of Buenos Aires. Dr. Bazán is best known for his research in the biochemistry of lipids and membranes and epilepsy. He is a member of the International Brain Research Organization, International Society of Neurochemistry and the American Society of Neurochemistry.

The Clarín editorial criticized Bazán's dismissal by the government, stating that in 1976, Bazán had been chosen one of 10 outstanding young persons in Argentina and on that occasion had received personal congratulations from President Jorge Videla. The editorial concluded: "It is well known that there are numerous Argentine scientists who are working outside of our country because of economic reasons and because they are unable to carry out credible professional work here—among them are many who, like Dr. Bazán, have been declared 'dispensable.' Does the Minister of Education believe that his action against Dr. Bazán will encourage young people... to enroll in the university and pursue a career? Does the Minister believe that with this act he has projected a good image of the country to the international scientific community?"
Central America: Repression Continues

On 10 February 1981, uniformed army troops burst into a meeting of the University Council of the National University of El Salvador and arrested 20 Salvadoran academicians and students, according to reports from the Associated Press and Amnesty International. Junta President Napoleon Duarte told reporters later that the security forces made the raid on the meeting, which was held in a private high school in San Salvador, because they believed there was a meeting in progress of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, which is the main political opposition to the present junta.

By early April all of the academics and students arrested had been released. Among those detained were: Miguel Parada, Acting Rector of the National University; Jorge Gómez Arias, Bursar of the National University; Carlos Henriquez, Dean of the Faculty of Economics; Manuel Mejía, Secretary of the Law Faculty; as well as Eduardo Campos and Eduardo Ferrel, both representatives of the Faculty of Medicine.

Across the border in Guatemala, 4 law professors at the University of San Carlos have been killed by paramilitary groups since late February according to the Council on Hemisphere Affairs, Washington, D.C., and Amnesty International. Amnesty International has recently charged that a long-established government program of torture and extra-judicial killings, numbering in the thousands in 1980 alone, has been run from secret offices in an annex to the National Palace in Guatemala City. (See Clearinghouse Report, December 1980.)

USSR Rights Abuses Increase During Helsinki Review

Over the past several months, increased reports have been received of arrests and sentences of human rights activists and dissidents inside the Soviet Union. During this same period, American and Western European representatives to the Madrid Review Meeting of the Helsinki Accords were criticizing Soviets for not complying with the Helsinki human rights agreements.

The Helsinki Accords, formally known as the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, are not a treaty in the sense of specifying ways in which sovereign states must behave, but rather a good-faith agreement. The 35 participating states, which include the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union and 32 European countries, have pledged their intent to facilitate improvements in military matters, science/technology exchanges, and human rights. The signatories further agree to meet periodically to review their performance in these three areas—known as “baskets”—and to set forth proposals for improvements. Under Principle VII of the Helsinki Accords, the signatories affirm their commitment “to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.”

During the six week opening session of the Madrid meeting, which began on 11 November 1980, the U.S. Helsinki Watch Committee, a private U.S. citizens’ group, recorded more than 30 examples of human rights abuses in the Soviet Union. In addition, the committee said that during the five and a half week Christmas recess 9 individuals went on trial in the U.S.S.R. for exercising freedoms protected by the Helsinki agreements. In January of this year, Amnesty International reported that 200 Soviet dissidents had been arrested over a 15 month period, many of whom had received sentences of up to 15 years of combined imprisonment and internal exile imposed for “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.”

At the onset of the Madrid meeting, several imprisoned Soviet dissidents, including physicist Yuri Orlov, began hunger strikes to dramatize their concerns about Soviet disregard for the Helsinki agreements. Orlov, who is in poor health, is serving a 7-year prison camp sentence for activities related to his role as chairman of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring group.

Following the signing of the Helsinki Final Act on 1 August 1975, a number of citizens in the U.S.S.R. formed groups to monitor their government’s adherence to the principles of the Helsinki agreements. Over 40 members of such groups have since been imprisoned for their human rights activities. Tatyana Osipova, a 31-year-old computer scientist, is the latest member of the Moscow group to be put on trial. On 2 April 1981, Osipova was convicted of anti-Soviet agitation and sentenced to five years imprisonment to be followed by five years of internal exile.

The arrest of Viktor Brelivsky, a Soviet cyberneticist, in Moscow only days after the first session of the Madrid review had begun was denounced by many countries at the conference. It is believed that charges will be made against Brelivsky, who was arrested on 30 November in connection with his sponsorship of the Moscow Sunday Seminars for refusenik scientists.
and his affiliation with an underground magazine, "Jews in the U.S.S. R.", which ceased publication in 1979. Since Brailovsky's arrest his wife Irina and other scientists have been warned that they would face criminal charges if they continued the weekly gatherings.

The November arrest is the most recent in a series of clashes that the Brailovskys have had with the Soviet authorities. In 1972 the couple applied for visas to emigrate to Israel, but were refused permits to leave the country and were later dismissed from their jobs. Viktor had been working at the Institute of Electronic Control, and Irina was a mathematician at Moscow State University. The Soviet government reportedly denied the Brailovskys exit permits because Irina had access to "secret information" at her post in the university.

Since his visa application was revoked in 1972, Brailovsky has been detained and interrogated at least four times. In April 1980 he was arrested and released six hours later prior to the start of the 4th International Conference on Collective Phenomenon, a version of the Sunday Seminars attended by scientists visiting Moscow as well as local scientists. Among papers presented at the conference was one by imprisoned physicist Yuri Orlov and one by Andrei Sakharov.

Along with protests lodged at the Madrid meeting, individual scientists and scientific groups have been lobbying for Brailovskiy's release. Scientists in Europe, Canada, and the United States have been sponsoring a series of "Sunday Seminars in Exile," where emigre Soviet scholars are invited to talk about the situation of their colleagues at home. At the 44th Statistical Mechanics Meeting and the 19th Theoretical Physical Conference, both held shortly after Brailovsky's arrest, 150 participants signed protest petitions addressed to the Soviet Academy of Sciences. In a letter dated 29 December 1980 to Soviet Academician A.P. Alexandrov, Frederick Mosteller, then AAAS President, said any official sanctions brought against Brailovsky would "deepen and extend the gap that has opened between Soviet and American scientists."

Another case which brought strong criticism from Western delegates in Madrid involved the recent arrest and admission to a psychiatric hospital of Alexei Nikitin, a 41-year-old mining engineer from Donetsk in the Eastern Ukraine. Nikitin was arrested at his sister's home on 12 December 1980, three days after talking with journalists from the Financial Times and Washington Post about unsafe conditions in the Donetsk mines.

Nikitin was fired from his job in 1970 after allegedly leading miners in a protest of working conditions. According to David Satter of the Financial Times, over the past 10 years Nikitin had been arrested and interned in psychiatric hospitals on several occasions. During a four year confinement at the Dniepropetrovsk Special Psychiatric Hospital, Nikitin was reportedly diagnosed as "psychopathological—simple form."

After his forced return to the psychiatric institution in January 1981, Nikitin was examined by Anatoly Koryagin, a psychiatric consultant to the unofficial Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes, who claimed the engineer suffered no mental illness and should be released. On 13 February, Koryagin was arrested and subsequently became the last member of the Working Commission to be taken into custody. It is generally believed that Koryagin was detained as a direct result of his diagnosis of Nikitin.

The Working Commission was founded in January 1977 and has been closely affiliated with the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group. Despite continued harassment and imprisonment of its members by the Soviet authorities, the commission published until April 1980 more than 20 information bulletins on its investigations into the Soviet practice of internment dissidents declared insane in psychiatric hospitals. The commission has campaigned for the release of such dissidents, visited them in psychiatric hospitals, and provided moral and material support to their families. According to a recent report from Agence France Presse, the arrest and sentencing over the past year of the working commission's members has brought its activities to a virtual halt.

Soviet delegates to the Madrid conference also presented testimony regarding violations of the Helsinki Accords. In particular, they claimed that the testimony of the British representatives was an exercise in hypocrisy, as the British government had sanctioned psychological experiments on people in mental institutions. Soviet delegates further charged the U.S. with systematically cancelling science and technology related conferences since 1976, which they claimed was a policy aimed at limiting their country's potential for technical growth. The U.S. delegation responded that since 1976 the Soviet Union had violated detente agreements.

Izvestiya, a Soviet newspaper daily, reported on 23 December that the NATO countries "came to Madrid with by no means constructive aims," while the Eastern bloc was "business-like and diplomatic." Western campaigning for human rights, the paper said, tried to shift discussion from peace, security and detente to "demagogic digression and confrontation."

During the first session, Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences, testified before a hearing on the Basket II agreements, which deal with science and trade. The Academy has twice voted to suspend all scientific exchanges with the Soviet Union for a six-month period in protest of the internal exile of Nobel Prize winner Andrei Sakharov. Handler told the delegates to the Madrid conference that the NAS vote to suspend bilateral exchanges "was the only step open to us, a measured step, a painful, hateful, self-denying ordinance concerning this small but precious part of our exchange program." Referring to the move last October by some 8,000 scientists from 44 countries to sever ties with the Soviet Union in an international protest on behalf of dissident scientists Anatoly Shcharansky, Yuri Orlov and Andrei Sakharov (Scientists for Orlov and Shcharansky, SOS), Handler said it was "living proof of the validity of the Hamburg Communiqué, viz. respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms does represent a foundation for international scientific cooperation." According to some estimates, the NAS and SOS bans, along with the actions by other science groups, led in the first half of 1980 to a 76% reduction from 1979 levels in the number of science-related trips made between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In an editorial on 29 January 1981, Nature magazine said the hard-line "declarations" taken by Handler and others in Madrid "serve very little purpose." The editorial states: "What is needed, and what Western governments should be proposing in the
weeks ahead, is a much more imaginative programme of scientific exchanges than those previously arranged.” In the 24 October 1980 issue of Science, William Carey, AAAS executive officer, called for a resumption of U.S.-Soviet scientific exchanges. Carey argued that as the “superpowers drift towards impasse” and the threat of nuclear exchange escalates, scientific exchanges play a central role in the maintenance of a dialogue towards peace. “The conscience of science, however justified its outrage at Soviet behavior, nevertheless has the greater burden of striving to prevent the ultimate outrage, the dimensions of which are better known to scientists on both sides than to distracted and unprotected pubic.”

The second phase of the Madrid conference opened on 27 January and may not close until sometime in May; delegates are discussing more than 80 new proposals made by the various countries. In the area of human rights, proposals have ranged from the rights of private citizens to hold their governments accountable for their human rights commitments, to the lifting of visa restrictions on emigration.

Since the meetings began in Madrid on 11 November 1980, the Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights has received reports on the cases of 23 Soviet scientists who have been arrested or tried for their peacefully held beliefs. Some of these cases are given below.

- **Iosif Dyadkin**, 52, a research scientist in oil geophysics, was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment on 18 September 1980 for a scientific study which he prepared in 1976, An Evaluation of Unnatural Deaths in the Population of the U.S.S.R. 1927-1938, and for other articles he has written in recent years. The study, which is based on official Soviet census data and demographic studies, concluded that some 50 million people died during the period studied as a result of collectivization, famine, mass repression and World War II. Dyadkin claims in the study that the research techniques used to arrive at the official figures were designed to mask the massive loss of life caused by government repression. In an attempt to draw public attention to Dyadkin’s case, Alexander Solzhentizyn released a copy of the study to the Wall Street Journal, which published an article on Dyadkin on 23 July 1980, three months after his arrest in his home city of Kalinin on the Volga River.

- **Juri Kukk**, a 40-year-old chemistry professor and human rights activist from Estonia, died in March 1981 while being transferred from Murmansk prison camp, according to relatives in the Soviet Union. The Estonian-American Council, based in New York, said the director at the hospital where Kukk was examined after his death left his wife with the impression that he may have died as a result of forced feeding. At the time of his transfer, Kukk had been on a four-month hunger strike. He was arrested in February 1980 and sentenced on 8 January 1981 to 2 years in a labor camp for “distributing anti-Soviet propaganda” under Article 194-1 of the Estonian Criminal Code. Kukk was accused of writing a letter on Soviet intervention in Afghanistan which he reportedly gave to Christian Science Monitor correspondent David Willis. Kukk was on his 41st day of hunger strike when his trial began. During his initial detention, Kukk was sent to the Serbsky Institute in Moscow for psychiatric tests.

- **Alexander Lavut**, a mathematician and geophysicist, was arrested on 29 April 1980, and sentenced last December to 3 years in a labor camp. Until the arrest, he was the only member of the 15-member Action Group in Defense of Human Rights who had not been arrested or emigrated. He was charged with “dissemination of knowingly false fabrications discrediting the Soviet social and political system.” Lavut was also a member of the psychiatric working commission.

- **Mart Niklus**, 46, a biologist specializing in ornithology, was sentenced on 8 January 1981 to 10 years in special regime labor camp and 5 years internal exile under charges of writing and circulating “anti-Soviet declarations and articles.” He is also charged with listening to the Voice of America with students and of “anti-Soviet” telephone conversations with an Estonian émigré living in Sweden.

- **Vytautas Skuodis**, also known as Benedict Scott, a geologist, was sentenced in December 1980 to 7 years of strict regimen labor camp and 5 years internal exile for “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.” Skuodis, a member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, who was born in Chicago on 21 March 1929, is charged with producing the samizdat journals Perspektivy (Perspectives), of authoring a 300-page manuscript entitled Spiritual Genocide in Lithuania (a statistical study of atheist propaganda), and of writing appeals to the signatories of the Helsinki Final Act.

**RELEASES**

The Clearinghouse has received confirmed reports that the following persons have been released: **Samuel Greene**, a Liberian statistician and former Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs, was released on 12 April 1981 with 19 other political prisoners under an amnesty granted by the President. **German Bolaños Mejía**, a Colombian physician, was released on 14 January 1981 after charges of violating the country’s security statutes were dropped by the courts. He had been detained since 5 March 1979. **Claudio Benech**, an Uruguayan biophysicist, fled to Brazil while on “provisional liberty” last December. He and members of his family were provided refugee status by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Two East German physicians, **Bettina Mohr** and her husband **Las Mohr**, were recently permitted to emigrate to West Germany. The Mohrs were joined by their three children.
ASSOCIATION NEWS

American Physical Society

A seminar of "Scientists, Human Rights, and the Legislative Process" was sponsored by the APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists and the APS Forum on Physics and Society during the society's January 1981 Annual Meeting held in New York City. Speaking at the seminar were George Brown, Congressman from California, Robert J. Cox, former editor of the Buenos Aires Herald, Yuri Yarym-Agaev, member of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, Kurt Gottfried, professor of physics at Cornell University and chairperson the APS Committee on International Freedom of Scientists. Also present was the mother of an Argentine physicist who disappeared in 1976 after his detention by military personnel. Congressman Brown's address was subsequently published in the March 1981 issue of Physics Today.

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

In recent months letters of concern have been sent to government authorities on behalf of José Luis Massera (Uruguay), Alexander Lerner (USSR), Anatoly Shcharansky (USSR) and Aba Taruttta (USSR), by the SIAM Council and Human Rights Committee.

Established in October, 1978, the Human Rights Committee is mandated by the Council to work with the AAAS Clearinghouse and other scientific groups in its activities on behalf of persecuted foreign scientists. "The Committee may collect information regarding violations of human rights of scientists in any country relevant to all aspects of scientific activity, including educational opportunities, access to library and research facilities, ability to carry on their professional work, opportunity to publish their work and general working conditions."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Human Rights Teaching Institute

The second annual International Human Rights Teaching Institute, coordinated by the Subcommittee on Human Rights Education of the American Bar Association, Center for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, and Center for National Policy Review at Catholic University Law School is scheduled to take place from June 1-5, 1981 in Washington, D.C.

The Institute was established:
1. To increase the number of teachers who are trained to understand and use human rights concepts in their regular work.
2. To promote the use of human rights teaching materials in a broad variety of academic subject areas, including political science, economics, and law.
3. To encourage an interchange of views and mutual assistance between U.S. and their world teachers concerned with human rights.

For further information, including a list of topics and speakers, and scholarship information contact: Linda Sokolski, 704 International Affairs, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. (212) 280-2479

AAAS Council

On January 7, 1981, the AAAS Council unanimously adopted the following resolution proposed by the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Whereas human rights and scientific freedom are closely linked, and both of them remain under attack and continue to deteriorate in many countries throughout the world, and

Whereas the AAAS Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas, meeting at the same time as the AAAS 1981 Annual Meeting in Toronto, with the participation of numerous scientists from Latin America and North America, has expressed deep concern about the deterioration of human rights and scientific freedom in a number of countries in Latin America, and in particular the continued detention of scientists, engineers, and medical professionals as well as many other political prisoners, in many cases without charge or trial and in conditions of great physical hardship and torture; the deterioration of the quality and availability of scientific education at all levels; and the dismissal of a large number of scientists from teaching and research posts, accompanied by a general decline of academic and scientific freedom, and

Whereas the lack of scientific freedom and the attack on human rights has become a chronic as well as a currently urgent problem, requiring the exploration of new initiatives as well as continued response to attacks on individuals as they occur,

Therefore be it resolved that AAAS, as a matter of high priority, extend and intensify its efforts to defend and advance both scientific freedom and basic human rights and to condemn attacks on them, and that it urge its affiliated societies and other organizations and individual scientists to become more actively involved in these matters.

Tributes to Andrei Sakharov

• On May 1981, the Sakharov International Committee Incc. is sponsoring a "Musical Tribute to Andrei Sakharov" at the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. in connection with the Russian physicist's 60th birthday. The program is as follows:
  6:30 p.m. Art Exhibit of Ernst Neizvestny
  (Kennedy Center Atrium)
  8:30 p.m. Soviet Emigre Orchestra, Lazar Gozman conducting Mozart, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky
  (Kennedy Center Concert Hall)

For ticket information and contributions, contact Edward Lozansky, Sakharov International Committee, Inc., 305 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington D.C. 20002. Tel. (202) 547-6602

• An international conference in honor of Andrei Sakharov will take place on 1-2 May 1981 at the Caspary Auditorium of Rockefeller University in New York City. Sponsored by the American Physical Society, American Institute of Physics and the New York Academy of Sciences, the conference is bringing together scholars from the sciences and the humanities to honor peace. On 21 May 1981, the Russian physicist and human rights advocate will be 60 years old.
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The Clearinghouse is a project of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility. The Committee is authorized by the AAAS Board and Council to monitor the actions of the governments of the United States and other nations which circumscribe the freedom of scientists or restrict the ability of scientists to exercise their professional responsibilities, and to report on developments affecting scientific freedom and responsibility.

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