a lack of direction on the part of the NCCDE after its executive director left for a job in the White House. The number of dissidents, he thought, was no more than 25 percent of the conferees.

The former executive director, Peter Hammond, is now the press officer of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. Hammond, who had the original idea for the conference, was introduced to Chorus by Robert Schumacher, a public relations agent who used to do work for the NCCDE. The three of them expected the conference to draw 700 persons and agreed to split the profit three ways among Chorus, Schumacher, and the NCCDE. Schumacher later dropped out and Hammond took no further part in arrangements after he had left the council. Asked what he thought had gone wrong, Hammond said he guessed it was "incompetence at that end, lack of adequate supervision at this end, and the bad luck of devaluation of the dollar, which hit a lot of conferences at that time." (International conferences generally require a reasonable number of American delegates in order to make ends meet.)

Several conferees described the conference as a "rip-off," citing the suspicion that they had been overcharged for their hotel rooms or air fare. This does not in fact seem to have been the case—the higher air fare included a legitimate charge for ground transportation—and the complaints of being ripped off seem to reflect more a general sense of not getting one's money's worth than any specific cases of overcharging. The NCCDE is sufficiently concerned, however, to have written Chorus asking for an audit. Chorus says there will be no problem in supplying one.

Told of the conferees' complaints, Hammond commented: "I don't think a single person attended the meeting with a more noble idea than to get a week's European vacation. So the notion of being ripped off is an interesting accusation to make." Budget cuts—such as the decision to dispense with the interpreters—were simply an inevitable attempt to make ends meet when fewer people turned up than expected. Says Hammond: "I don't know Claudius that well, but I don't think there was any deliberate scheme on his part. He just started losing his shirt and getting desperate." Chorus says that most

# Briefing

## Sakharov Wants to Leave

On 21 November, Andrei D. Sakharov, the celebrated Soviet physicist and civil liberties advocate, took his first steps toward applying for a visa to leave the Soviet Union and come temporarily to the United States. Sakharov has now told several American newsmen in Moscow that he wants to come to New York to receive an award from the International League for the Rights of Man (ILRM). He also says that he wants to spend several months at Princeton University.

Sakharov's statements to newsmen represent a turnaround from his previous insistence on staying in the Soviet Union despite a government campaign of harassment directed against him and his family; in recent weeks the campaign has intensified.

At present, there is no indication of how Soviet officialdom will respond to Sakharov's latest moves. Princeton's physics department has invited Sakharov to be a visiting professor for one academic year and has included his family in the invitation. The ILRM, for its part, plans to award Sakharov its fourth human rights award in New York on 5 December. Although Sakharov told ILRM representative John Carey by telephone that he hoped to be in New York to accept it, this seemed unlikely. In addition, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has arranged academic enrollment and employment for members of the Sakharov family.

A previous campaign of anti-Sakharov activity in the Soviet Union died down in October, after an international wave of protest that included a stern telegram from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Recently, however, Sakharov's wife, who openly acknowledges her activities in the underground dissidents' movement, has been repeatedly interrogated by the Soviet secret police. Sakharov has written that the interrogations are cruel, because she is partially blind, and are a "form of pressure upon myself." On 28 November, when he revealed his steps toward applying for an exit visa, Sakharov said he would not permit her to respond to any more police summonses.

If Sakharov does come to Princeton, as now seems more likely, he may find a mixed reception. Some American scholars and scientists who have criticized Soviet policies regularly discover that the Russians do not always grant them permission to visit the Soviet Union. Those who do go are sometimes subjected to baggage searches, unexplained travel delays, and even warnings about which activities would be viewed as undesirable by the authorities.

Some Princeton scholars say that they may find their dealings with the Soviets more difficult once Sakharov arrives on the faculty. Knowledgeable experts on Soviet-American relations confirm that this is a real possibility.

But not everybody at Princeton shares this fear, and several state bluntly that this should not inhibit them from speaking out. Robert C. Tucker, of the politics department, and a well-known biographer of Stalin, for example, said, "If we take the view that we'd better keep silent and not speak out, we might as well give up being a free country and forget about détente."

Marvin L. Goldberger, chairman of the physics department, who issued the invitation to Sakharov in the first place, wonders whether he will be *persona non grata* to the Soviets as a result. But, he concludes: "If they chose to misinterpret our invitation as having been critical of the government and don't want me there as a result, then that's too damn bad."

So far, however, the Administration is not admitting that the Sakharov matter is hurting scientific cooperation between the two countries. In Moscow on 30 November, science adviser H. Guyford Stever signed an accord widening U.S.-U.S.S.R. exchanges and said that Sakharov "is not an issue in this exchange agreement." The exchanges, he said, have "excellent support from American scientists and engineers."—D.S.