

should appreciate the burden upon him to have attempted, before publication, to verify his story by a direct approach to the subject thereof. He did not."

What happened was that Stone had called Howard J. Lewis, the NAS director of information, to say he had picked up complaints about Handler and the academy in Moscow. But Lewis, who had not been with Handler in Moscow, did not want to hear or to respond to them, and suggested that Stone call Handler directly. Stone countered with the suggestion that Handler, whom Lewis soon told of this conversation, could call him if he wished. This is where the matter was left—neither principal called the other. Most reporters would probably agree that Stone fell short of a good faith effort to elicit Handler's reaction to the complaints made about him and that the academy made no real effort to provide Stone with Handler's reaction.

In his letter, Handler sets forth what the academy had done to try to help Levich prior to the NAS delegation's 1973 trip to Moscow and what it was attempting to do at the time of that trip. "Levich was the only individual Soviet scientist whose personal circumstances were protested by the Council of the National Academy of Sciences when, at my invitation, [M. V.] Keldysh [then president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences] and his party visited the NAS in the fall of 1972," Handler wrote. "When knowledge of the nature of that discussion appeared next day in the Washington Post, the episode very nearly terminated all relationships between the NAS and the [Soviet] Academy of Sciences."

In Handler's view, the circumstances of his 1973 trip to Moscow were such that for him to pay a personal call on any of the Soviet dissidents or refuseniks was out of the question. The U.S. ambassador had returned to Washington to be there for the then ongoing visit of Secretary Brezhnev to the United States, and Keldysh, Handler's host, was introducing him to President Podgorny and others as the highest ranking American official then in Moscow. Also, he was to be addressing a special session of the Soviet Academy, engaging in extensive discussions with the academy's Presidium, and attending several formal receptions as the guest of honor.

Yet it was in these circumstances that, shortly after his arrival in Moscow, he received, much to his surprise, the call from Levich. Assuming that his telephone was being monitored, Handler was concerned lest the mere fact that he was talking with Levich lead to the loss of whatever leverage he might have to help him. And this was essentially what Handler and his wife conveyed to the Leviches.

According to his letter, Handler, while

in Moscow, discussed "the tragedy of Levich" with the Presidium of the Soviet Academy and got in a brief word about the "the plight of Soviet scientists generally" with Podgorny. Moreover, he tried, albeit without success, to deliver to Keldysh personally a letter from the Electrochemical Society inviting Levich to attend the society's fall meeting and receive its Palladium Medal.

"I would have been pleased to share all of these details, and more, with Mr. Stone, had he but phoned," Handler said. "Instead, he chose to use your [newsletter] for the promulgation of extraordinarily damaging calumnies."

Handler's sense of outrage was heightened by the fact that Stone sent a copy of the newsletter to each member of the NAS and included along with it a letter calling attention to the refuseniks' criticisms of the academy. This letter urged the academicians to let the FAS know whether it could rely from time to time on "your voice and your signature" in defense of Soviet scientists. (Stone says that, one week after the first deliveries of this mailing, 58 academicians had responded, all sympathetically. Judging from this early indication and the past pattern of response to FAS mailings, Stone now expects to hear from about a fourth of the entire NAS membership.)

It was this appeal to NAS members that Handler has termed an "ugly" and "unforgivable" act on Stone's part. Handler observed that: "... the freedom of American society permits simultaneous employment of alternative strategies by diverse organizations according to their own natures, styles, and opportunities, e.g., the State Department, NAS, FAS, Amnesty International, church groups, business organizations, etc. Each such organization should be free to work in its own style and thereby complement the work of the others. To demand that other organizations work in the style of the FAS would surely be to diminish the total effect of these efforts." Handler said that a half dozen or so of the Soviet scientists whom Stone had visited in Moscow had, at various times, been the subject of special representations by the NAS.

As FAS chairman, Philip Morrison, who is an Institute professor of astrophysics at MIT and a member of the NAS, replied to Handler on behalf of himself and at least six of the other seven members of the federation's executive committee. He said that there were no grounds for apology, either with respect to the criticism of the nuclear war report or the article reporting the complaints about the NAS heard in Moscow.

Morrison told Handler that it was "un-

fortunate" that Stone's "effort to reach you" in regard to the complaints was unsuccessful. And he called it "doubly unfortunate that you saw the publication of this anecdote as a personal attack." He proposed that the situation be redressed by publishing in the FAS newsletter that part of Handler's letter describing his efforts to help Levich and the dilemma in which Levich's call placed him.

The FAS chairman informed Handler that, from time to time, the federation may criticize the academy further but that this would represent no more than the results of that "pluralism to which you referred" and would represent "only our traditional policy of independent analysis and commentary." "Finally," he said, "... we cannot accept certain complaints made about our director, to whom we are indebted for the rejuvenation of our organization and in whose integrity we have full and tested confidence."

Morrison's letter reached Handler shortly before *Science* was going to press, and, when this reporter asked him for his comment, he said that he had not had much time to think about it. It was clear, however, that his anger had cooled and that he, too, was now of a mind to restore peace between the NAS and the FAS. "I've never wanted this thing blown out of all proportion," he said. "Offhand, I would say that Phil Morrison has made a reasonable effort to be conciliatory."

—LUTHER J. CARTER

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## APPOINTMENTS

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**William Schumer**, professor of surgery, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine, to chairman, surgery department, University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School. . . **Shaun J. Ruddy**, associate professor of medicine, Harvard University, to chairman, immunology and connective tissue diseases department, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. . . **Mitchell D. Ferrill**, chairman, natural resources department, University of Connecticut, to chairman, forestry department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. . . **Paul G. Shewman**, director, materials research division, National Science Foundation, to chairman, metallurgical engineering department, Ohio State University.

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*Erratum:* In "Locus of short-term visual storage" by B. Sakitt (26 Dec., p. 1318), the sentence on lines 10-13 of paragraph 1 should have read "In the partial report condition, an auditory tone was presented with some delay after the letter presentation."