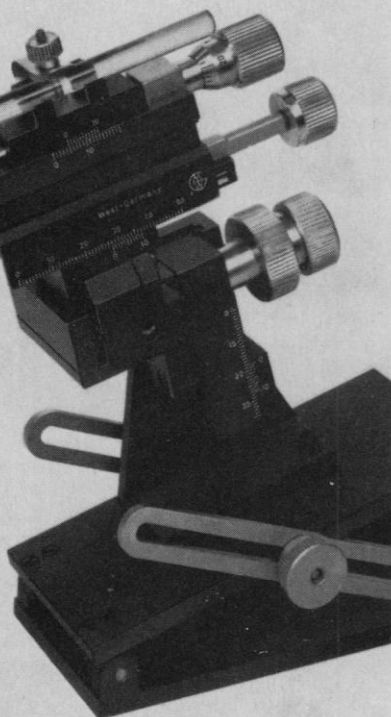


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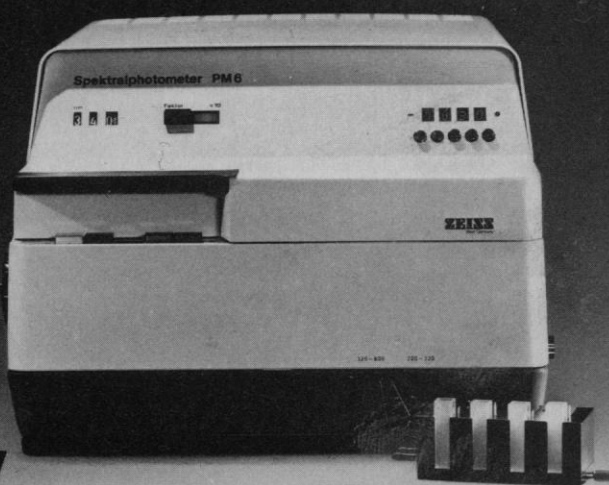
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LETTERS

Astronomers' Petition

At the 147th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Chicago, 191 astronomers signed the following petition to President Podgorny of the Soviet Union.

We, the undersigned members of the astronomical community, have been greatly concerned that the Soviet astronomer Kronid Lyubarsky, who is serving a five year term in Vladimir Prison, is in poor health and may not survive the remaining one year of his term. We therefore respectfully request that the remainder of his sentence and the subsequent exile period be waived so that he may resume his scientific work for the benefit of his country as well as the worldwide community of science.

Lyubarsky is a noted planetary scientist who was imprisoned for distributing the underground publication *Chronicle of Current Events*. His health was poor when he entered prison (three-quarters of his small intestine had been removed), and it has declined further.

Lyubarsky is the author of the books *Essays on Astrobiology*, *Cosmic Biology and Medicine* (1968) and *The Planets of the Earth Group—Mars* (1969), as well as numerous articles on meteors, planets, and space biology. In a letter published in *Science* on 5 April 1974, Valery Chalidze made an appeal for scientists to send reprints and preprints regarding Mars to Lyubarsky in prison. Andrei Sakharov specifically mentioned Lyubarsky in his book *On My Country and the World* and also in a telephone interview with a Paris newspaper in October 1975.

DAVID N. SCHRAMM, EDWARD ANDERS
S. CHANDRASEKHAR, PATRICK PALMER
EUGENE PARKER, J. A. SIMPSON
University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

The Ozone Controversy

The letter from Robert H. Cannon, Jr., concerning clean engines for stratospheric aircraft (6 Feb., p. 424) is misleading on two points.

First, his statement regarding the need for "strict engine-cleanliness standards in order to avoid significant worldwide reduction of the ozone layer" implies that no such standards exist. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued emission standards for all turbojet and turbofan engines which would be used in subsonic flight in the stratosphere, and it has issued a proposed standard for supersonic engines. These standards, and the proposed standard, are being used by those developing engines for use in the stratosphere.

Second, he states that the results of the

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