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were presented was the idea that any type of neutral beam gun may be rendered inoperable in a reactor environment because there may be no way to stop thermonuclear neutrons from escaping through the neutral beam ports and disabling the guns.

—WILLIAM D. METZ

References

1. J. R. McNally, *Nucl. Fusion* 17, 6 (1977).

Helping Soviet Scientists

I should like to make some suggestions with regard to the letters and commentary published on the Russian situation (11 Aug., p. 482). I think I am qualified to advise in this area, as I spent 45 years in Russia (five of which were spent waiting for an exit visa to Israel) and was interrogated, arrested, and imprisoned there for my activities as a refusenik scientist. Additionally, the current group of refusenik and imprisoned scientists is comprised largely of my friends. Following are some suggestions which I would make to Western scientists visiting the U.S.S.R.

1) Do not ask Soviet scientists for advice. Some of those who are less careful in what they say (such as the colleagues of Dale P. Cruikshank) may be in trouble in the long run—in this case after the publication of a letter in *Science*. Those who are more guarded—as were the colleagues of Charles DeLisi—are probably not telling the full story.

2) Anyone who does not already possess a fairly profound knowledge of Russian life probably should not try to decide what to do by himself, bearing in mind the maxim that a disease cannot be cured except by a physician. In this instance, the "physicians" are, for instance, those who belong to the Committee of Concerned Scientists (the director is Mark Mellman, 9 East 40 Street, New York 10016). My own ideas on this point are presented in (1).

3) It should be borne in mind that dissident scientists are still scientists. They write papers, but they write them in a Russian style and with flawed English; they cannot prepare the papers properly, and their correspondence with scientific journals is cut off. It would be helpful if someone could assist in the preparation of their manuscripts. I have papers right now from, for example, Y. Orlov, V. Brailovsky, and I. Brailovsky. Volunteers from various fields of science (physics, mathematics, cybernetics) are badly needed, since each published paper of a dissident scientist is the result of

someone's good will and devotion. Interested persons should contact Mark Mellman at the address above.

4) "Excluded scientists" will be organizing an International Conference on Collective Phenomena in Moscow on 27–29 December. The participation of Western scientists will be extremely important and effective so far as support is concerned, because those in the Soviet Union have been deprived of scientific communication. Information about the conference is available from Minko Balkanski, co-chairman, Université de Paris VI, 4 Place Jussieu, 75230 Paris Cedex 05, France.

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1. M. Azbel, *Phys. Today* 31, 9 (May 1978).

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The Brains of Geniuses

It is both easy and appropriate to deride the naively mechanistic notion that science might trace the cause of mental or moral excellence to the gross physical structure of a preserved brain (1). Thus, Einstein's genius remains elusive—and his brain remains in a cedar box because no one has identified anything unusual about it worth publishing. As historical precedent for a negative result, Nicholas Wade (*News and Comment*, 25 Aug., p. 696) cites Rudolph Wagner's comparison of a laborer's brain with that of the great mathematician Friedrich Gauss. Wagner found no difference.

Yet Gauss's brain did not rest in a beer keg, and Wagner's results were dismissed by all the great craniometricians who made racism a respectable science in the 19th century. The dissection of brains from "eminent men" became a cottage industry among anatomists and anthropologists: they pledged themselves to each other and practically solicited subscriptions. "To me the thought of an autopsy is certainly less repugnant than I imagine the process of cadaveric decomposition in the grave to be," cajoled one famous enthusiast (2). Gauss's brain, at the Columbian value of 1492 grams, was only modestly overaverage, but he was too magnificent a genius to lose for the cause. So Paul Broca, the world's leading craniometrician, mentioned Gauss's advanced age (78) and small stature and jacked the figure up (3). The American E. A. Spitzka summa-