

members of ICSU unions, and Chinese scientists are likely to be more numerous at international meetings.—**Colin Norman**

## Soviets Clamp Down on Dissident Groups

These are dark days for dissidents in the Soviet Union. On 8 September, a prominent Soviet human rights group, whose members include Andrei Sakharov, announced it was disbanding in the face of continuing pressure from Soviet authorities. A fledgling unofficial peace group, composed of several scientists, has also been the target of harassment. The group's leader, Yuri Batovrin, was detained for almost 2 months at a Moscow psychiatric hospital where he was reportedly forcibly drugged and threatened with electric shock treatments.

In the late 1970's, the human rights group, known as the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, led the Soviet human rights movement, monitoring violations of the Helsinki accords. But one by one, members were deported. Sixteen are now serving terms in labor camps and internal exile.

Only Sakharov, his wife Yelena Bonner, lawyer Sofiya V. Kallistratova, 75, and physicist Naum Meiman, 70, remained active. The termination of the group was apparently precipitated when authorities said they were planning to charge Kallistratova with slander against the state. Dorothy Hirsch, spokeswoman for the Committee of Concerned Scientists, said that the others probably feared for the elderly lawyer's health. The disbanding "puts an official seal on the fact that the group is now impotent," Hirsch said.

Soviet authorities are also clamping down on the 17-member disarmament committee that calls itself the Group for the Establishment of Mutual Trust Between the United States and the U.S.S.R. Batovrin, a 25-year-old artist, announced in early June the establishment of the group, which includes two engineers, three physicists, four mathematicians, a biologist, a psychiatrist, and two postdoctoral geographers. Most of the members are in their late 20's to mid-30's.

State harassment has been virtually continuous since June, according to the latest edition of *Freedom at Issue*, a journal that monitors human rights. For example, the committee announced that to coincide with the massive peace rally in New York City on 11 and 12 June, it would monitor its phones to receive suggestions from other Soviet citizens. The group's phones were cut off that weekend. When Scandinavian peace activists were scheduled to march in Moscow in July, authorities stepped up the pressure. Yuri Khronopulo, a physicist, was told he would be dismissed from his institute if he did not quit the committee. He and another member were arrested on 16 July for "petty hooliganism" and sentenced to 15 days in jail. When the Scandinavians arrived, other members were kept under police surveillance or ordered to leave town. Two group members have been permitted to emigrate, however. Mikhail Ostrovsky, a dental technician, and his wife, Ludmilla, a linguist, are now in the United States.

The most serious action against the group so far came on 6 August when Batovrin was sent to Moscow Hospital No. 14, on the very day American disarmament activists were to visit him. Batovrin's detention provoked an outcry from 20 prominent American advocates of arms control. In a letter to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, they called for Batovrin's release. They also criticized the Soviet double standard of "applauding widespread public debate in the West, while crushing the most benign form of free expression at home." Among the co-signers were Helen Caldicott, president of the Physicians for Social Responsibility; Hans Bethe, physicist and Nobel laureate; Henry Kendall, chairman of the Union of Concerned Scientists; Frank von Hippel, chairman of the Federation of American Scientists; and Herbert Scoville, Jr., president of the Arms Control Association. The protests may have helped. According to a recent unconfirmed press report, Batovrin was released from the hospital last month and is now an out-patient.

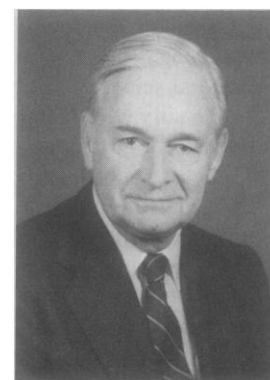
Joel Lebowitz, a co-chairman of the Committee of Concerned Scientists, remarked in an interview that Soviet intolerance of dissidents is much harsher than it has been for several years.—**Marjorie Sun**

## Shultz Names Kennedy Nonproliferation Chief

Secretary of State George P. Shultz has asked Richard T. Kennedy to concentrate full-time on nuclear nonproliferation and energy matters at the State Department. Kennedy has been wearing two hats as Under Secretary for Management and U.S. representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Critics within the department have complained that Kennedy's dual role caused him to slight his management and personnel duties. Kennedy, a former Nuclear Regulatory Commission member, will have the title of ambassador for nonproliferation.

Shultz's action goes beyond changes sought by former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig. In March, Haig acted to move Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Interna-



**Richard T. Kennedy**

tional Environment and Scientific Affairs (OES) James L. Malone, who was at least nominally in charge of nonproliferation issues, to ambassador of the Law of the Sea Conference (*Science*, 26 March, p. 1594). The nomination was withdrawn after it encountered opposition on conflict-of-interest grounds from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. They felt that Malone had breached a commitment to the committee by involving himself in negotiations for a loan by the Export-Import Bank to the Taiwan Power Company which Malone had represented when he was a Washington lawyer. Malone remained at OES, but Kennedy assumed the role of spokesman on nonproliferation matters at State. Kennedy's new post requires Senate confirmation.

—**John Walsh**