

since November, Soviet authorities permitted approximately 51 to leave prison in accordance with the February decrees promulgated, but not yet published, by the Supreme Soviet, the legislative body of the Soviet Union.

Soviet authorities sent most of the scientists arrested to a KGB Investigation Prison near their hometown where they were then required to sign a document disavowing future crimes against the Soviet government. Since political prisoners do not believe they are guilty of crimes, many refuse to sign the required statement. In some cases, when a standoff ensues, authorities continue to hold the prisoner in the KGB prison or send them back to their original camp. In other cases, authorities have allowed the prisoners to sign compromise statements or, in a few instances, permitted them to leave without signing any document. The Committee has requested in its report that Soviet authorities expedite the releases of these prisoners.

Of the approximately 19 scientists confined to psychiatric facilities for political reasons, only Lithuanian Algirdas Stratevicius, a psychiatrist himself, has been released. Yet the possibility of reform in the area of state-sponsored psychiatric abuse of dissenters is suggested by many, including Soviet psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin, who was incarcerated from June 1981 to mid-February 1987 for

publicizing this issue. Before Koryagin emigrated to Switzerland in April, he said that the Soviet leadership may want to amend its public image with regard to psychiatric abuse and he proposed a special commission to review the cases of people confined to psychiatric institutions under questionable circumstances.

The principal source of information for the Committee's document is Cronid Lubarsky, editor of the Munich-based *USSR News Briefs*, with corroboration from more than a dozen human rights and news agencies. Lubarsky, a physicist and former Soviet political prisoner, told the Committee on 22 May that although one person was briefly detained in a psychiatric hospital for political reasons, the Soviet government has not ar-

rested anyone in 4½ months for political or religious reasons. But he is discouraged that since the first large wave of 150 releases following the February decrees, the number of releases has dwindled to an average of ten a month. He believes that the rate of releases will depend on the strength of pressure by the West. Lubarsky documents the names of approximately 550 political and religious prisoners in the Soviet Union and speculates that the actual number is three times that amount.

The Committee submitted *Scientists Imprisoned in the Soviet Union* to U.S. Ambassador Warren Zimmermann and U.S.S.R. Ambassador Yuri Kashlev, who head their respective delegations to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki review meeting), cur-

rently convening in Vienna. The Committee requested that the scientists named in its report be released on the basis of international agreements signed by the Soviet Union, such as the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the final document of the 1980 Hamburg Scientific Forum which states that "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all States represents one of the foundations for a significant improvement in their mutual relations and in international scientific cooperation at all levels."

Copies of the report, *Scientists Imprisoned in the Soviet Union in Violation of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975*, are available, free, from the CSFR at the AAAS address.

CAROL O'HALLARON
*Committee on Scientific
Freedom and Responsibility*

Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award— Call for Nominations

Submission of entries in the 1988 selection of the AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is invited.

The AAAS Award recognizes scientists and engineers who have:

- Acted to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare; or
- Focused public attention on important potential impacts of science and technology on society by their responsible participation in public policy debates; or
- Established important new precedents in carrying out the social responsibilities or in defending the professional freedoms of scientists and engineers.

The Award consists of a plaque and \$1000 which are presented to the recipient at the AAAS Annual Meeting. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office of Scientific Freedom and Responsibility at the AAAS address. *The deadline for nominations is 31 August 1987.*