

Sakharov Honored

Andrei Sakharov received a hero's welcome and standing ovations during his visit to Washington, D.C., in November. A high point of his visit was a dinner in his honor at the National Academy of Sciences, to which he was elected a foreign associate in 1973. Sakharov expressed his gratitude that the U.S. Academy had stood behind him during the dark days when he was under attack in his own country.

Later in the week, he was awarded the \$50,000 Albert Einstein Foundation Peace Prize, established in 1979 by members of the Pugwash Conference, and took the occasion to explain his theory of "convergence" which he called "the gradual coming together of the socialist system and other systems into the world system." He said measures must be taken to ensure that perestroika becomes "irreversible." These include the right for Soviet citizens to emigrate and freedom for remaining "prisoners of conscience."

Sakharov emphasized the need for "trust" among nations and said the Soviets could take a major step by "unilateral reduction of military forces" through "curtailment of the term of military service." He said the Soviet army (of more than 5 million) is "greater than any three Western forces" and that reduction "would in no way jeopardize the security" of the Soviet Union.

Sakharov, a firm opponent of the Strategic Defense Initiative, met Edward Teller, "the father of SDI," for the first time. The occasion was a banquet attended by 750 Reagan supporters to honor Teller, hosted by the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a conservative Washington think tank. In separate speeches, Sakharov and Teller commented on their parallel careers in the development of nuclear weapons, noted they agreed that nuclear power should be developed, and praised each other for their integrity and firm adherence to principles.

Sakharov, however, said he had to disagree on SDI, which he considers "a great error" that would "destabilize the world situation." He said the "temptation to destroy" the system "in itself will trigger a nuclear war."

Teller called Sakharov a "great man." But he argued that work on SDI offers many opportunities for international cooperation, and suggested that Sakharov failed to perceive its benefits because he has been out of touch with Soviet weapons work for the past 20 years. "He has not had the opportunity to work in the Soviet Union in the development of defensive systems where we have some reason to believe that their accomplishments are years ahead of ours." ■ C.H.



Sakharov meets Teller. *Parallel careers, divergent views.*

Genome Project

With the total budget for the genome project reaching \$50 million for fiscal year 1989, both the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Energy are adding staff and securing outside advice.

At NIH, Elke Jordan has been named director of the new Office of Human Genome Research. She and geneticist Mark Guyer will essentially serve as staff to James Watson, the new associate director for human genome research at NIH. Watson, who will continue as director of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, expects to be in Bethesda 2 days a week. Both Jordan and Guyer come from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, where Jordan was the associate director for program activities. Norton Zinder of Rockefeller University will chair the program advisory committee for NIH's genome office. NIH has not yet announced the names of the 11 other scientists on the committee.

DOE has appointed a steering committee to guide its genome effort, budgeted at \$18 million for 1989. Charles Cantor, the new director of the Human Genome Center at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, chairs the committee, which includes Leroy Hood of Caltech, Anthony Carrano of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, George Bell of Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Thomas Caskey of Baylor College of Medicine. ■ LESLIE ROBERTS

"Alternative" Nobels

Environmental activists, a physician, and a housing expert will share this year's awards from the Right Livelihood Awards Foundation. They will be presented in Stockholm on 9 December, the day before the Nobel Prize ceremonies.

The Right Livelihood awards were founded in 1980 by Jakob von Uexkull, member of the European Parliament, as "alternative" prizes to the Nobel. They honor "those working on practicable and replicable solutions to the real problems facing us today."

The \$100,000 prize this year will be shared among Friends of the Earth (Sahabat Alam) in Malaysia for work on rainforest preservation; José Lutzenberger, a prominent Brazilian agronomist and environmentalist; and John F. C. Turner of Britain for studies on the cultural and social dimensions of housing. An honorary award will go to Inge Kemp Genefke of Denmark, founder of a rehabilitation and research center for torture victims. ■ CONSTANCE HOLDEN