

sory board of the school's Lincoln Laboratories. In addition, MIT has long enjoyed Raytheon's participation in the university's "industrial liaison" program. Members pay a fee averaging \$40,000 to take part in joint research efforts and receive prepublication copies of journal articles by faculty. "Companies want a quid pro quo," says William Culbert, the school's liaison with Raytheon. "They want to get something for their dollars."

Culbert says MIT recently even offered to change the name of Postol's workplace to the Raytheon Building. The name change, he explains, was contingent on Raytheon donating money to rehabilitate the build-

ing. Raytheon declined, and MIT picked up the \$1.5 million tab. Yet Culbert, echoing statements by Vest and other administrators, says that, while Postol's work was a "burr in the saddle," Raytheon officials never asked MIT to muzzle him.

Vest says Raytheon's corporate ties to MIT played no part in the controversy, and that Picard "never once—nor did any Raytheon employee—mention this issue to me." Vest regards it as "primarily a dispute between two faculty members," adding that "I think that what Ted Postol did was extremely important." And Bacow says MIT's ties to Raytheon were irrelevant, and that he stands by the facts in his report. "The

time has come for everybody to get on with their own work," he says.

But those who know Postol well, like his MIT program chief, Harvey Sapolsky—who thinks the technical facts are on Postol's side—don't expect the matter to die soon. Sapolsky says: "Ted's not going to say this ends any time." Pondering what would satisfy Postol, he adds: "I don't know. Maybe a meeting of Saddam [Hussein] and George Bush and Dennis Picard" followed by a letter "saying they're all sorry."

—Jock Friedly

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RUSSIA

Funding Crisis Provokes Street Protests

MOSCOW—Researchers took to the streets here last week to draw attention to a funding crisis that has halted most research at institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) in the past 2 months. On Wednesday, 14 February, about 1500 demonstrators gathered at the gates of Moscow's Gorky Park and, harking back to Soviet days, waved red flags and listened to speakers blame President Boris Yeltsin and former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar for "ruining glorious Russian science."

payment last year. The government had told RAS it would get an increase of 80% in 1995 over the previous year, but Kalinushkin said the finance ministry had transferred only 72% of the funding promised for the whole year. To make matters worse, prices had tripled during the same period, and the cost of electricity and heating had increased four times. As a result, the accumulated debts of RAS institutes for the past year for electricity and heating now equal 2 to 3 months' worth of funding. Since December, with no salary payments in sight, many RAS employees have left on open-ended vacations. Only those institutes with other sources of finance, such as industrial contracts or overseas grants, have been able to pay minimal salaries and continue research.

The union announced its intention to take action on 5 February when Valery Sobolev, the trade union's chair, sent a telegram to the head of the science de-

strikes, and even hunger strikes.

The government was already in crisis talks with the RAS presidium and agreed to allot \$55 million to all four of the RAS's regional divisions. The finance ministry transferred \$10.5 million a few days after the union sent its telegram, and the government promised the rest between 19 and 25 February. But the trade union was not impressed, and the protests began on 14 February as planned.

Neither the science ministry nor the RAS presidium has expressed any official reaction to the union's campaign. Science Minister Boris Saltykov told *Science* he understood and agreed with the protesters, but he pointed out that some areas of science outside RAS are in even worse shape. The ministry itself has not received any funding at all since January, and its competitive grant program, the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, state scientific centers, and other programs have all been left high and dry.

The Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, was due to debate the issue as *Science* went to press. Mikhail Glubokovsky, deputy chair of the new Duma Committee on Science and Education, says that while the government should take most of the blame for the current crisis because it spent billions of dollars demolishing and then rebuilding Chechnya, parliament should have demanded a larger budget for science last year in the light of Russia's rampant inflation.

Glubokovsky believes that certain political parties, which he did not name, are using the crisis and the very just demands of the protesters for their own political ends. He totally rejected the idea expressed by some protesters that the West wants to ruin Russian science. The Westerners understand, he says, that if this happens science would be losing an important part of itself and would be hobbling around like a man with a wooden leg.

—Andrey Allakhverdiv

Andrey Allakhverdiv is a writer in Moscow.



Out in the cold. Researchers from the Russian Academy of Sciences protest nonpayment of promised government funds.

The demonstration was the first of a promised wave of protests announced 2 days earlier by the Trade Union of RAS Employees, which is dominated by Gennady Zyuganov's Communist Party of the Russian Federation. Physicist Viktor Kalinushkin, chair of the coordinating committee of RAS research collectives, said at a press conference that the union launched the campaign to protest the worst financial crisis for Russian science since the breakup of the Soviet Union. Last December, he said, RAS institutes received no funding whatsoever, while in January they were allotted just \$6.7 million, half the amount they received 2 months earlier in November 1995.

This crisis comes on top of chronic under-

partment at the finance ministry demanding payment of the \$21 million in outstanding 1995 funding for RAS's European division, which includes the powerhouses of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and another \$31 million from this year's budget to pay salaries and make advance payments for electricity and heating. In addition, the union demanded that the ministry increase RAS's funding for the first 3 months of 1996 from \$68.7 million to \$105 million and to amend the 1996 budget to raise the whole of science funding from \$2.4 billion up to \$4.2 billion. If the government does not react by 14 February, Sobolev warned, the trade union would start a campaign that may include picketing government buildings, blocking main highways,