

pressure systems will be designed to thwart airborne microorganisms that might otherwise gain entry to the animal rooms.

To all of these precautions has been added one other, to everyone's apparent relief. Visitors will no longer have to go near the research laboratories in order to get into the library or meeting rooms, thereby further reducing the chances that the mouse colony will be exposed to any infectious disease. The library will hold 20,000 volumes, the new auditorium, 124 people. A conference room will have 30 seats. It gives one a sense of the scale of things at the Jackson Laboratory. Its small size is, of course, a predominant feature of the place, essential to maintain-

ing the family atmosphere that devotees of the laboratory find so appealing. It is also, some family members think, a disadvantage. A number of scientists intimately familiar with the laboratory have called it "parochial in many ways." But a family it is, and you have to be a special sort of person to fit comfortably into the laboratory and the landscape. People who fit, who like the intimacy of the laboratory and don't mind being isolated most of the year, usually stay a long time.

"The setting tends to bring out feelings of devotion in the people who work here," observes Green, who is repeatedly described as being a cool, smooth, efficient director, somewhat aloof, a person of formal dignity. He

calls his staffers self-sufficient types, people who can generate their own entertainment and thrive on the companionship of only a few close friends. Those who are frustrated by the island's conspicuous lack of theaters, nightclubs, and posh eating places, who enjoy frequent parties and the like, usually depart after a year or two. Although he withdraws the word after using it, for fear of its pejorative connotations, Green thinks there is a bit of the "recluse" in each of the members of his "laboratory family." "Yes," he says reflectively, "that applies to everyone, everyone except Tibby."

Tibby Russell, 59 years old and the mother of four grown children, is generally regarded by her admiring col-

New Levich Statement Deplores Campaign against Him

Scientists from many countries attended the Fourth International Biophysics Conference in Moscow from 7 to 14 August, but some of the activity during the meeting centered around someone who was not there: Veniamin G. Levich. An electrochemist, Levich has had his application for an exit visa to Israel denied. He has lost one of his jobs and been demoted in the other; his books and scientific papers have been removed from circulation in Russia; even citations of his work in the scientific literature have been deleted. Levich is a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the most prominent Russian scientist to suffer the harassment which appears to characterize treatment of some Russians attempting to go to Israel. *Science* has obtained a copy of a hand-written statement in which Levich protests his being barred from the Biophysics Conference and appeals to the world scientific community for help. Of the debarment Levich says:

... The reason is quite obvious. The scientists who apply to the authorities for the permission to leave for Israel are magically transformed into outcasts who are deprived of any right of continuing a scientific activity: publications forbidden, lecturing forbidden, making scientific reports forbidden, even being cited forbidden.

A person is immediately expelled from any kind of scientific councils, editorial boards, demoted, and often fully discharged.

A person is constantly living under the conditions of permanent pressure and

anguish for the fate of his family and himself. As is known, the Soviet government gives a permission for repatriation to many Jews, but [to] no scientists.

The violation of the civil rights of scientists as compared to other people and the transformation of scientists into the property of the Government is a dangerous precedent.

Today it is the fate of perhaps a small group of scientists at a certain place of the world. Tomorrow it may happen to anybody and anywhere.

The brains as well as the hands of any human being are his personal property.

I believe as well that the persecution of scientists and the prohibition of their scientific activity as a punishment for their moral and conscience convictions is inhuman, immoral, and disgraceful.

... The international scientific community, I believe, should not consider such problems as a personal affair of each of us, but as a problem of the professional honour, dignity, and humanism of all the scientists all over the world.

So far, the National Academy of Sciences has taken no public, official action on the Levich case, although it has been discussed in NAS Council meetings. At the moment, consideration is being given to a joint statement signed by several heads of national academies of sciences and addressed to the president of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., M. V. Keldysh.

However, British scientists have been active: Sir Maurice Wilkins, Nobel biophysicist and president of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, has circulated a petition strongly protesting Levich's treatment

and other "recent attempts to harass Soviet scientists who disagree with officially accepted views." Also, D. B. Spalding, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, is circulating a petition calling on Soviet scientists "to abstain, if they can, from any further harassment of Professor Levich and his family." Sir Frederick Dainton has offered Levich a 1-year post at the Physical Chemistry Laboratory at Oxford.

A number of those attending the Moscow Biophysics meeting were able to visit with Levich and his family. One who did, Harold Scheraga of Cornell, had his luggage searched and his plane detained by 15 minutes at Kiev. Two National Institutes of Health researchers who saw Levich are Robert Adelstein and Jack Cohen. When Adelstein and Cohen visited with Levich, Levich drew them a graph which he said illustrated his present situation. The x-axis was labeled "time" and the y-axis was labeled "noise." Levich drew two curves on the graph; one rose above a certain "noise" level and was labeled "Israel." The other peaked below and was labeled "jail or death." Both Adelstein and Cohen, as well as others who have been in contact with Levich, agree that more public forms of "noise" could help Levich. It could also prevent the Soviet authorities from turning the Levich case into a symbol in order to discourage other Russian scientists from trying to emigrate.—D.S.