

Institution periodically review government economic policy. A similar independent institute should be established to serve as a "watchdog" of the government's projects and programs affecting the national scientific and health research effort.

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### Concerning Y. Orlov and A. Sharansky

The following letter to A. P. Alexandrov, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, was signed by us and 145 of our colleagues. It concerns physicist Yuri Orlov and mathematician Anatoly Sharansky. Both are being held in Lefortovo Prison in Moscow. Orlov is charged with making anti-Soviet statements regarding the implementation of the Helsinki agreement. Sharansky has been held incommunicado without charge for more than 7 months following his application to emigrate. It is thought that he is to be charged with treason.

The undersigned, writing as individual scientists and engineers, wish to express our concern about the situations of physicist Yuri Orlov and mathematician Anatoly Sharansky. We assign great importance to the benefits of scientific and technological cooperation between the citizens of our two countries. We share with our colleagues in the Soviet Union the hope that our growing international fraternity will serve as a powerful force for peace and friendship in the world. However, the present situation of Orlov and Sharansky suggests a regression to the conditions of twenty-five years ago, which will inevitably create major new barriers to the cooperation which we have achieved since those times. The implementation of the Helsinki agreement will be hindered severely by the legal accusations being made against two Soviet scientists who question the effectiveness of that implementation. In particular, the charge of treason against Sharansky will have a chilling effect on future international cooperation between scientists and engineers. We respectfully request that you use your good offices with the judicial authorities to obtain the dismissal of charges against Orlov and Sharansky.

For identification, the undersigned are scientists and engineers at Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois.

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### Cancer Congress in Argentina

A group of scientists and physicians, deeply concerned about reports of political repression, torture, and executions in Argentina and about the implications of participating in the 12th International Cancer Congress in Buenos Aires, have drafted the following statement:

The undersigned physicians and scientists engaged in cancer research and patient care are deeply concerned by the flagrant abrogation of human rights in Argentina, the country in which the 12th International Cancer Congress is scheduled to be held on October 5-12, 1978 at Buenos Aires. Recent reports [Nicholas Wade, *Science* **194**, 1397 (1976): "Repression in Argentina: Scientists caught up in tide of terror"] leave little doubt that scientists, physicians, professors, journalists, intellectuals, and other citizens have been arrested, imprisoned without benefit of habeas corpus, often tortured, and sometimes executed without trial. We cannot in good conscience condone such actions, nor can we participate in an International Cancer Congress however worthy its cause, if it is held in Argentina. To prevent the adverse impact which such a boycott might well have on the international effort against cancer, we call upon the officers of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) to convene in emergency session for the purpose of considering an alternate venue for the 12th International Cancer Congress in 1978.

We invite U.S. scientists and physicians who share these views to join us in signing this petition. Copies will be made available on request to Dr. Henry Rappaport, City of Hope National Medical Center, 1500 East Duarte Road, Duarte, California 91010.

We understand that similar actions are now under way in Canada and France. We hope that colleagues in all the countries which are signatories of the Helsinki declaration of human rights will join in this protest.

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