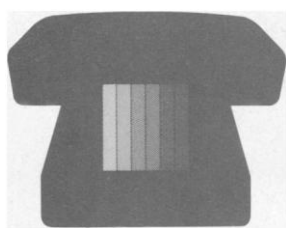


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International Cancer Congress: AAAS Clearinghouse

The AAAS Clearinghouse on Persecuted Foreign Scientists serves as a conduit for information about and advocacy on behalf of members of the scientific community in foreign countries whose human rights and/or scientific freedoms have been violated. The Clearinghouse is a project of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, established in 1976 by the AAAS, and is chartered to maintain an awareness of actions of foreign governments which circumvent scientific freedom.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has requested the Clearinghouse to assist participants in the International Cancer Congress, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 5 to 11 October 1978, who wish to express their human rights concerns while in Argentina. The human rights problem in Argentina has been a concern of both NAS and the AAAS for some time. Christian Anfinson and Robert Perry visited Argentina in mid-March of 1978 as representatives of the NAS to report on the state of science and human rights. In their report, issued 24 April 1978, they conclude that "the situation for science is adversely affected by the state of human rights in Argentina. Concern for personal safety, the continued practice of arbitrary dismissal from scientific posts, the substantial number of scientists who have disappeared and about whom the governmental authorities profess no knowledge, are clear violations of human rights." Further, Emilio Q. Daddario visited Argentina in December 1977, as president of AAAS, and in his report stated that "the preemptive actions of the state security forces have, with a few

exceptions, made a shambles of scientific freedom in Argentina."

In view of the existence of a pattern of human rights violations affecting scientists in Argentina, an international boycott of the Congress has been initiated, and a counter-congress in Paris is planned to coincide with the Congress in Argentina. It is the position of the AAAS and NAS that participation in the International Cancer Congress should be a matter of individual choice. While we respect the concerns of our fellow scientists who are planning to boycott the Congress, we feel an alternative to the boycott is the act of participating in the Congress and using the opportunity to make representations to Argentine authorities on behalf of scientists whose human rights have been abridged. Some may choose a boycott, others may wish to go and express their human rights concerns, while still others will choose to participate and not be involved in the issue of human rights. Naturally, it is for you to determine what course to pursue.

It is not our purpose to provoke a confrontation with the Argentine authorities or to censure their actions. Rather, our purpose is to express the depth of U.S. scientists' concern for the loss of human rights and scientific freedom in Argentina and to explore new openings for moderating and restoring conditions under which scientists and scholars could return to work without fear of arbitrary arrest or dismissal. Furthermore, we seek to petition for identification of those individuals who are still imprisoned without charge and of those who have disappeared, and for the reinstatement of constitutional rights of due process.

Should you desire to express your human rights concerns while in Argentina, our Clearinghouse office is available to assist you in several ways. First, we can supply background information on the situation in Argentina, including the on-site visit reports issued by NAS and the AAAS. Further, we are in the process of arranging for groups of Congress attendees to visit with Argentine officials and private human rights groups in order that their concerns might be expressed during the meeting in Buenos Aires.

We welcome any comments or suggestions. Please do not hesitate to write, or phone the Clearinghouse office at 202-467-5237.

BRUCE ALAN KIERNAN
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