

Communications

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

This letter is part of the ongoing discussion of what to do about, and with, unemployed/underemployed political scientists. I am writing because of an article (two paragraphs) in the Winter 1977 *PS* on this subject.

The *PS* issue states that the APSA will write letters to chairpersons and librarians to help unemployed political scientists gain library privileges and participate in departmental activities. I greatly approve of such efforts. I also suggest the APSA taking this one step further and proposing that colleges and universities extend what I would call professorial affiliation to political scientists and, I suppose, people in other academic fields as well. What I have in mind is that a person would be given the run of the college and would be considered a member of the faculty in all but two respects: he would not get paid and he would not teach any courses. The political scientist would at least have the satisfaction of having an academic contact. Perhaps the privileges mentioned in the article would amount to the same thing, but my proposal would institutionalize it somewhat and, for what it's worth, allow someone to say "I'm affiliated with XYZ University." It could be that that is just what XYZ University would like to avoid, but it couldn't hurt to try. Perhaps there is little for the colleges to gain by this other than promoting learning which is what they are supposed to be doing in the first place.

Naturally, I have a personal stake in this. I have a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina, have held two college teaching positions, but have had no college position since 1976. I am now teaching in a private school and it has slowly dawned on me that I might indefinitely be denied that experience to which I refer in this letter.

I would be interested in the reaction to this suggestion. Perhaps it could lead to some debate within the profession as to its desirability.

Kent Gardner
1911 Queens Road West
Charlotte, North Carolina 28207

To the Editor:

Currently, I am serving on a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Special Commission to Investigate Corruption in State and County Buildings. I am interested in corresponding and receiving information from researchers and others who might be able to provide reports, citations, and other

research information on special commissions, whether executive or legislative. Although I am interested in state commissions, I would appreciate any bibliographic references to commissions at other levels of government. Many thanks for your assistance.

Dr. Fran Burke
Suffolk University
Department of Public Management
and Administration
Beacon Hill
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

To the Editor:

I understand, from a number of my colleagues in political science, that the International Political Science Association has scheduled a meeting in Moscow for this summer. I believe that your readers will find the recent actions of many physical scientists and engineers—and the reaction to these actions—relevant as the invitees decide whether or not to attend that conference.

Our group, Scientists for Orlov and Shcharansky (SOS), was created by a group of physicists at the University of California in Berkeley during the period of the Orlov and Shcharansky trials last summer. Since then it has grown rapidly into a nationwide organization that draws support from all fields of science and engineering.

SOS circulated first a Statement of Conscience which pledges the signer to "withhold all personal cooperation with the Soviet Union until Yuri Orlov and Anatoly Shcharansky are released." Within a period of a week or so some 500 American scientists committed themselves to this quite unprecedented statement—unprecedented because withholding scientific cooperation runs against one of the oldest and most sacred traditions of the scientific ethic.

Spurred on by the harsh sentence meted out to Anatoly Shcharansky, SOS went further: it widely circulated its Statement of Conscience and it also circulated a Statement of Principle. Signers of this second statement, while not discontinuing participation in presently existing programs, pledge to refrain from attending international conferences in the Soviet Union, to campaign against the transfer of sophisticated technology to the Soviet Union, and to oppose the creation of new scientific and technical exchange programs.

Over 2400 U.S. scientists, including 13 Nobel Laureates, have signed these pledges. This group includes 113 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 18 past or present directors of major scientific laboratories, and past or current presidents of 20 major scientific organizations. Signers include 40 percent of the physics

and mathematics faculties at the University of California, Berkeley, and one-quarter of all full professors at the California Institute of Technology. No step of this magnitude and character had ever been taken by American scientists.

These actions—self-imposed restrictions on scientific cooperation with the Soviet Union—must be viewed in the context of long-established traditions of international scientific life. The gradual development of communication between the Soviet and American scientific communities grew out of considerable—often frustrating—effort on the part of our scientists. While the U.S.-Soviet exchange programs have been beneficial to both countries, I believe it is accurate to state that the nature of the exchanges has often not been symmetrical. For example, the quality of American scientists visiting the Soviet Union is uniformly high, whereas Soviet delegations usually include members who are being rewarded for their political loyalty, rather than their scientific contributions. Further, a sizeable portion of the very best Russian scientists are never allowed abroad, even when invited to give major presentations to important international conferences. While most U.S. scientists could and did accept these relatively benign perversions of the scientific spirit, they have not been able to overlook the undeserved persecutions of their Soviet colleagues. But most American scientists have come to realize that declarations of protest carry little if any weight with the Soviet government. After the trials of Orlov and Shcharansky, the feeling that something effective must be done was intensified, and SOS was formed.

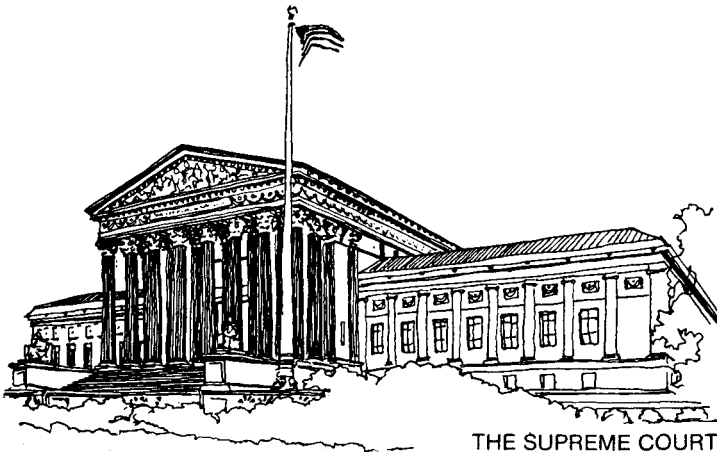
SOS's policy is that scientists should take actions that deprive the USSR of some of the benefits of American science and technology. This is a policy that can be effective because, in many important areas of science and technology, the U.S. enjoys a considerable lead. This is especially true of computing—Shcharansky's field—which plays a central role in all research and development. The position adopted by SOS, and many American scientists acting as

individuals, has already had a serious impact on U.S.-Soviet scientific relations. For example, international conferences that were held in the Soviet Union have had greatly reduced U.S. participation, and a number of delegations of U.S. scientists have cancelled scheduled visits to the Soviet Union.

The SOS petitions have elicited a startling degree of notice and response. News articles appeared on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *The London Daily Telegraph* and, prominently, in *The International Herald Tribune* and *The New York Times*, as well as in the major scientific publications *Nature* and *Science*. Furthermore, editorials applauding SOS action were published by *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. Most importantly, we have received a letter of encouragement for both our goals and our methods from 15 distinguished scientists in Israel—former “refusniks.” Finally, we have received supportive telephone calls from “refusniks” presently in the Soviet Union.

I wish to emphasize that our opposition to Soviet oppression of scientists is expressed in terms of U.S. scientists' interactions with Soviet scientists, and not in broader terms of U.S.-Soviet policy. Despite our commitment to human rights, we view any linkage between human rights and the effort to achieve arms control as irresponsible. Recognizing that survival is the paramount human right, we fully support our government's efforts to negotiate a second SALT agreement. Nevertheless, SOS has made its voice heard and has, I believe, had an important effect. Similar statements and actions by members of the American Political Science Association could enhance this effect.

Andrew M. Sessler
Director
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
University of California, Berkeley
and Sponsor
Scientists for Orlov and Shcharansky
P.O. Box 6123
Berkeley, California 94706



THE SUPREME COURT