

OLD WORLD

Medvedev still Determined to be a Soviet Citizen

DR ZHORES MEDVEDEV, in spite of the fact that he has been deprived of his Soviet citizenship, is still determined to return to live in the Soviet Union. Earlier this week he said that he would appeal against the decision of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet made on July 16 which was based on Dr Medvedev's apparent violation of a decree passed in 1937 which allows Soviet citizens to be deprived of their citizenship if they break certain rules which apply to Soviets living abroad.

In a statement issued at the end of last week, Dr Medvedev points out that it is usual for Soviet citizens who travel abroad to sign a declaration undertaking not to violate these rules and regulations. But Dr Medvedev was neither shown the regulations before leaving the Soviet Union nor was he asked to sign any declaration. He therefore argues that he cannot be responsible for regulations he has neither seen nor signed.

Dr Medvedev's continued hope that his citizenship will be restored and his passport returned is based on a discussion he had last week with the secretary to the consular department at the Soviet embassy. This gentleman told Dr Medvedev that the decision was not irreversible and that an appeal could be made through official channels. But in the same conversation Dr Medvedev was informed how to obtain documents from the British Foreign Office to enable him to travel outside Britain.

Dr Zhores Medvedev's difficulties with the Soviet Authorities first became evident after he attended a meeting in Paris in 1957. Soon after this, his first meeting outside the Soviet Union, he was inundated with requests to participate in meetings and research projects, and to deliver lectures abroad, but all his applications for foreign travel were turned down until late last year. During these long years Dr Medvedev continued with his research work and wrote several books, the best known of which is *The Medvedev Papers*, published in 1971.

Since then Dr Medvedev has had an even more difficult time with the Soviet Authorities. In July 1972 he was ignominiously sent home from Obinsk by the Soviet police and refused permission to attend an International Congress of Gerontology which was being held in that city. And during 1972, after receiving an official invitation from the National Institute for Medical Research to spend a year in London working at the institute's Mill Hill laboratories, his application for permission to take up this appointment was at first turned down.

But in December of last year, Dr Medvedev was granted a passport and he arrived in London early this year.

During the past seven months Dr Medvedev has deliberately kept out of the limelight and he has rejected advances from the press for interviews and he also refused to take part in any political activity. The one action which might have been the reason for the Soviet Praesidium depriving him of his citizenship was his signing of an agreement to publish in Britain his book, *Ten Years After Ivan Denisovich*, which was written before he came to Britain. But Dr Medvedev is adamant that the book can never be used against him in the Soviet courts for it "is not political and criticizes neither the Soviet system nor the Soviet government". The book, says Dr Medvedev, "gives only a factual account of events that actually took place and cannot be considered in any way as

slandrous, defamatory or anti-Soviet". This book, in fact, gives an account of how Alexander Solzhenitsyn has been treated by the authorities since he published his first novel, *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

Dr Medvedev's twin brother Roy has issued a statement in Moscow deploring the treatment accorded his brother and he describes the deprivation of citizenship as an "absurd act". According to other reports from Moscow Dr Medvedev has lost his citizenship as a result of "actions discrediting the high title of citizen of the USSR". According to Tass, the Soviet news agency, the action by the Praesidium was taken under an article of the Soviet Legal code which deals with anti-social acts or defamation of the Soviet state. Tass also added that Dr Medvedev had fabricated slanderous materials discrediting the Soviet state and social system.

NORTH SEA RESEARCH

Caught up in the Flow

ON September 10 some ninety current meters, twenty bottom mounted offshore tide gauges and three automatic buoys will be busily recording currents and tides in the southern North Sea, while more than fifty research institutes and laboratories in Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain will be waiting for the results.

The operation, entitled JONSDAP 73, is intended to provide a whole host of basic data about the North Sea which can be used to produce numerical models for predicting the behaviour of one of the busiest stretches of sea in the world.

JONSDAP 73 (Joint North Sea Data Acquisition Programme) is the brainchild of a body calling itself JONSIS (Joint North Sea Information Systems) which got under way in 1970 when the West German oceanographers approached the Natural Environment Research Council to suggest an exchange of information about their research in the North Sea. Since then, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden have joined the club, and JONSDAP is the first specific project to emerge. It consists chiefly of rephased programmes of the various bodies involved which have been brought together to provide one mass of data in an exercise which is planned to last at least 40 days and which will involve twenty-two research vessels.

British institutions involved include the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences,

the Fishery Laboratories at Lowestoft, the Universities of Bath, East Anglia and Liverpool, the Port of London Authority and the Hydraulics Research Station. Research projects on tides, storm surges, current vectors, circulation and mixing and pollution problems should all benefit from the studies.

Whereas the chief object is to provide a wealth of basic data, each country and institute has its own particular interest. The Belgians and the Dutch are particularly interested in the pollution aspect of the studies—measurements of turbidity, salinity, temperature, trace metals, the release of drifters and diffusion of rhodamine dye experiments are all part of the programme—while the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences is aiming to find out more information about storm surges, particularly with a view to the development of a Thames barrier to save London from flooding.

One of the more interesting parts of the study will be an attempt to monitor flow through the Straits of Dover using a cross-Channel telephone cable. The technique involves sensing and interpreting the electrical signal induced by the movement of seawater through the Earth's magnetic field, and once the cable is calibrated it should be possible to continue to use it as a flow meter.

If the operation is a success a large bank of data should be available by the end of 1974. And further work is planned. West Germany and Sweden are not involved in this particular operation, but a similar exercise is planned for the northern North Sea in 1975.