

Sakharov Taken to Task in *Pravda*

IN July Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet nuclear physicist, gave a widely publicized interview to Swedish television. He vigorously attacked a system perpetuating criminality and privilege and pointed to favoured treatment that was afforded to Communist Party members in medical care. The Academician also denounced lack of freedom both in ideas and travel. The literature, he said, is "grey, official, solemn and boring"; travel is restricted both within the Soviet Union and beyond so that Soviet society is divided by visa constraints and Soviets are not afforded sufficient opportunities to leave the country and return.

Since then Dr Sakharov has been warned by the Deputy General Procurator about his civil rights activities,

and in particular this interview. He says that he was told the Procuracy could no longer stand aside, as these activities were providing information of interest to foreign intelligence services.

In the past few days several letters have been published in *Pravda* concerning Sakharov's activities—from, amongst others, members of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences and a lathe operator in Leningrad. We reprint translations of two of the most interesting letters, from members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and from a group of distinguished Soviet composers.

We feel it necessary to bring to the attention of a wide public our attitude to the behaviour of Academician A. D. Sakharov.

In recent years, Academician Sakharov has turned away from active scientific work and has come out with a number of statements discrediting the state system and the external and internal policies of the Soviet Union. Recently, in an interview to foreign correspondents in Moscow which was published in the Western press, he reached the stage where he came out against the policy of the Soviet Union of relieving international tension and of consolidating those positive changes which have taken place recently throughout the world.

These statements, which are completely alien to the interests of all progressive peoples, Sakharov tries to justify by crude distortions of Soviet activity and imaginary reproaches regarding the socialist system. In his dicta he in effect takes up a position of solidarity with the most reactionary imperialist circles, coming out actively against the course of the peaceful coexistence of countries with different social systems, against our party and state attitudes to the development of scientific and cultural cooperation and to the strengthening of peace between nations. Thus Sakharov has become a weapon of hostile propaganda against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

The activity of Sakharov is at its roots alien to Soviet science. It looks especially unattractive against the background of the concentration of the efforts of our whole people on the solution of the weighty problems of economic and cultural construction of the USSR, on the strengthening of peace and on the protection of the health of the international situation.

We wish to express our indignation at the statements of Academician A. D. Sakharov and resolutely condemn his activity, which is a discredit to the honour and dignity of a Soviet scientist. We hope that Academician Sakharov will think over his activities.

Signed by Academicians:

N. G. Basov	M. A. Markov	D. V. Skobel'tsyn
N. V. Bolov	A. N. Nesmeyanov	S. L. Sobolev
N. N. Bogolyubov	A. M. Obukhov	V. I. Spitsyn
A. E. Braunshtein	Yu. A. Ovchinnikov	V. D. Timakov
A. P. Vinogradov	A. I. Oparin	A. N. Tikhonov
S. V. Vonsovskii	V. E. Paton	V. M. Tuchkevich
B. M. Bul	B. N. Petrov	P. N. Fedoshev
N. P. Dubinin	P. N. Pospelov	I. M. Frank
N. M. Zhavoronkov	A. M. Prokhorov	A. N. Frumkin
B. M. Kedrov	O. A. Reutov	Yu. B. Khariton
M. V. Keldysh	A. M. Rumantsev	M. V. Khrapchenko
V. A. Kotel'nikov	L. I. Sedov	P. A. Cherenkov
G. V. Kurdyumov	N. N. Semenov	V. A. Engel'gardt
A. A. Logunov		

(From *Pravda*, August 29, 1973)

HAVING familiarized ourselves with the letter of the members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, published in *Pravda* on August 29, we, Soviet composers and musicians, entirely agree with their estimate of the activities of A. D. Sakharov, directed against the policy of the Soviet Union on relieving international tension, and his libellous statements regarding socialist reality. It is no coincidence that the reactionary Western press rapturously seizes on these anti-Soviet "revelations".

We feel profound indignation at the actions of A. D. Sakharov, which are incompatible with the lofty title of Soviet citizen and public figure in Soviet science. His publications in the Western press are a disgrace to the honour and dignity of the Soviet intelligentsia (all the thoughts and aspirations of which are always continuously connected with the building of a new society) and the fight of the Soviet people for peace and for the extension of scientific and cultural cooperation with all countries.

Among us, representatives of Soviet art who are ever faithful to the high humanist ideals of rapprochement and mutual cooperation between nations and who unanimously support the policy of our Communist Party, the behaviour of A. D. Sakharov evokes a feeling of indignation and angry condemnation.

Signed by:

D. Kabalevskii	A. Kholminov
K. Karaev	T. Khrennikov
P. Savintsev	D. Shostakovich
G. Sviridov	R. Shchedrin
S. Tulikov	A. Eshpai
A. Khachaturyan	B. Yarutovskii.

(From *Pravda*, September 3, 1973)

As *Nature* was going to press, news came of the first public defence of Sakharov by anyone associated with the Soviet Academy. Mr Igor Shafarevich, an algebraist and a corresponding member of the Academy, issued an open letter in which he praised the conscience of a man who could speak out against the "vices and sores" of Soviet society.