

MUNICH, 5 June 1970 (Communist Area Analysis Department:  
USSR - G.v.D.).

Summary: Dr. Zhores Medvedev, arrested earlier this week, is now being subjected to psychiatric observation, a process which has thus far proved worse than criminal prosecution. His twin brother, Roy Medvedev, has sent a courageous appeal to the authorities on his brother's behalf, thereby placing himself in danger.

Earlier this week, Western reports from Moscow stated that the prominent scientist, Zhores A. Medvedev, was arrested last Friday and interned in a mental hospital in Kaluga, allegedly for protesting Soviet postal censorship. (1) In view of the procedures used against such dissidents as Major-General P.G. Grigorenko, V. Novodvorskaya and others who have been committed to insane asylums as punishment for their protest activities, the fate of Dr. Medvedev may follow suit. Considering that he was arrested just before he was to address an international symposium in Moscow, it is possible that his imprisonment is a temporary measure to prevent his appearance before an international audience and that he may be released after the conference is over. Some of his colleagues, however, including his twin brother, have expressed their concern in letters and telegrams protesting his arrest.

The latest information concerning Dr. Medvedev contains certain ominous signs that parallel the case of another protestor -- Major-General P.G. Grigorenko.

After being arrested in May of last year, Grigorenko was subjected to a psychiatric examination by a commission led by a Dr. Detingof. The commission concluded that the General was

---

(1) See CAA F-62, 2 June 1970.

responsible for his actions. (2) A second psychiatric examination was then initiated and was held in Moscow at the Serbski Institute of Forensic Psychiatry. An entirely different commission, led by Professor Lunts and Dr. Morozov (the Institute's director), found their patient irresponsible for his actions. At Grigorenko's sham trial in February of this year, the head of the first commission, Dr. Detingof, changed his testimony entirely and agreed with the findings of Lunts and Morozov, in spite of the fact that he had not even seen Grigorenko since the first examination. An appeal for a third examination was denied. The court, under the scrutiny of the USSR Procurator - General Roman Rudenko who, according to Soviet law, is supposed to supervise "the adherence to legality in the activities of agencies of inquiry and pre-trial investigation," (3) found Grigorenko guilty of anti-Soviet slander and other crimes, committed while irresponsible for his actions. Whereas conviction of a person considered to be responsible for his actions carries a penalty of several years imprisonment, detention in a psychiatric hospital can be indefinite and the fate of the patient is entirely in the hands of the authorities. In the case of Grigorenko, the sentence was commitment to a special psychiatric ward of Kazan prison "until he recovers." He is now reported to be at a psychiatric clinic in Chernyakhovsk, near the Baltic port of Kaliningrad. (4)

There are disturbing signs that the process to which Grigorenko was subjected may now be applied to Dr. Medvedev. A report issued today by a Western news agency states that he was subjected to a psychiatric examination on Sunday and was found

---

(2) The Chronicle of Current Events, No. 12. See CAA, F-112 of 3 June, 1970.

(3) "Polozhenie o Prokurorskom Nadzore v SSSR", Sbornik Zakonov SSSR, 1938-1967, (Moscow, 1968), vol. 2, pp. 573-586.

(4) Reuter, 1 June 1970.



to be mentally normal. (5) A second examination is now being planned under the auspices of the aforementioned Lunts and Morozov. Eminent scientists such as P. Kapitsa, A. Sakharov, V. Engelhardt, and B. Asataurov have already sent their protests at his incarceration. Now we learn that his twin brother, an activist in the protest movement, has also sent an appeal on behalf of himself and his brother's wife. Addressed to the CPSU Central Committee, the Health Ministry, and the USSR Procurator - General (the aforementioned Roman Rudenko), the letter requests that Lunts and Morozov be removed from the seven-member commission that is supposed to travel from Moscow to Kaluga to perform a second examination. It also points out that there is no legal basis for a second examination.

By undertaking this courageous action, Roy Medvedev might dissuade the authorities from a repeat performance of the Grigorenko case. In doing so, however, he has placed himself in danger. Already expelled from the party in 1969 for convictions incompatible with the title of party member" (6), he has continued his protest against tyranny and was one of the signatories of a letter dated 19 March 1970 (also signed by A.D. Sakharov and V.F. Turchin) addressed to Brezhnev, Kosygin and Podgorny, stating the need and outlining the plan for a broad denunciation of Soviet life. (7)

We can only hope that the Soviet authorities heed these sensible demands.

---

(6) Probably for his letter sent to the journal Kommunist, dated 3 April 1969 entitled "Is It Possible To Rehabilitate Stalin Today?" in which he attacks the "campaign to 'ressurrect the political reputation of Stalin'" but also perhaps to a 3 volume anti-Stalin work circulating in samzdat called Before the Court of History.

(7) Radio Liberty Document #360.