



SHEMYAKIN INSTITUTE OF BIOORGANIC CHEMISTRY RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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Dear Joshua,

It was nice to hear from you after our last meeting at Skytop Lodge. As you correctly mentioned in your letter of July 7 the political context has changed dramatically since December, 1990. Our Academy is now Russian Academy of Sciences, and we experience the same difficulties as the country in general. The Institutes are only partially supported by the Academy and we all struggle for survival.

Under such pressure I am not sure that the Presidium and the new President are prepared to spend effort and money on the issues not directly related to that struggle.

Stimulated by your letter I will try to find out what did President Yeltsin state about Sverdlovsk (1979) epidemic and what is his team doing now about the investigation. Some papers appeared recently in the domestic press also related to the activity of Sverdlovsk institute which is exactly what you expected.

I do not think that the visit of Drs. Burgasov and Nikiforov should be seen as a cloud on the credibility of academies' activities - you and we did what we could under the circumstances.

I will write to you again when I collect the information presently available. However, being completely tied up by the duties at the Institute and my own peptide research I feel hesitant to do an independent investigation.

To my view, the American-Russian Biomedical Research Foundation is a more attractive place for investing time and effort than Arms Control Activities. I will also discuss with Eugene Sverdlov all these issues.

Kind personal regards
Sincerely,

Vadim T. Ivanov

Vadim
Washington, D.C.