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Mr. Eddie Oshins
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Dear Eddie:

Thank you for your letters of February 9th and 16th. I want you to know, Eddie, that I never will forget all the efforts you have made for so long on my behalf. I will always be grateful for the time and energy you have devoted to me.

As I hope you know, I am very sorry about your problems in finding academic work, and would very much like to help you. But, Eddie, as I have explained to you, I am unfortauntely not in a position to do very much. For I am not a figure in the region of psychology, only in accelerator physics. It is as a physicist that I am at Cornell. Whenever I discuss my psychological ideas, I always credit your work and help. At the present time, this is unfortunately the best I can do. (I am sorry you feel hurt about this; I have absolutely no intention of hurting you.)

At least, now that I am in the West, you will have more time and energy to concentrate on your own work. This is as it should be, not only for you but for me also. Here, in the West, I can act without the need for your generous help (or anyone's) whether as dissident or scientist or worker in psychology. I regard my psychological work done in camp and exile as past history. I see myself starting fresh, as a free man, on my own: developing new ideas, re-thinking old ones, meeting all sorts of new people, explaining and discussing my own interpretation of my ideas with them. And I will be doing this at a pace that fits in with my many commitments in other regions (like human rights). I look forward to having my ideas listened to and assessed purely on their merits, and not partly because they have come from a labor camp! So: I am really at a preliminary stage in my work, which is why events like an Academy conference would be premature. Formal, high-level but premature discussion may damage the normal development of investigations!

I am enjoying the same feeling of freedom in other regions like human rights -- where, too, I would like to be on my own, free to decide for myself what issues to raise, what debates to join (or start). Eddie, I am grateful for your impulse to fight on my behalf (as with Dr. Abrams). But now, when I am in the West, I can fight on my own, without such generous help. And, indeed, I need to choose what and whom to debate. I need to -- as the Americans say -- "set my own agenda."

Of course, all this is sometimes hard because I am still adapting to a new culture, learning English, and have a heavy schedule of trips and talks on science and human rights. But that is no real problem -- it is part of being free. And the situation is not as bad as it was when you saw me (before I

came to Cornell) -- when I was overwhelmed by a huge number of competing demands, new faces, new culture, new language. You must understand, Eddie, as I of course have quickly understood, that my connection with the West is now no longer just the comparatively simple one of my being an imprisoned or exiled dissident, and a person trying to have my ideas reach the West. While human rights and psychology are of course still of great importance to me, many other things have (some by choice, some by necessity) become important and time-consuming as well, in my new life as a free man in the West.

You must understand that I will always feel maximum gratitude to you, and wish you well, and always mention your name when I discuss my ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Yuri

Yuri Orlov