

ANDREI DMITRIEVICH SAKHAROV: ALARM AND HOPE

Peace, progress, human rights - these three goals are insolubly linked to one another: it is impossible to achieve one of these goals if the other two are ignored.

A. Sakharov, Nobel lecture

"I am convinced that international confidence, mutual understanding, disarmament and international security are inconceivable without an open society with freedom of information, freedom of conscience, the right to publish, and the right to travel and choose the country in which one wishes to live. I am likewise convinced that freedom of conscience, together with the other civil rights, provides the basis for scientific progress and constitutes a guarantee that scientific advances will not be used to despoil mankind, providing the basis for economic and social progress, which in turn is a political guarantee for the possibility of an effective defence of social rights. At the same time I should like to defend the thesis of the original and decisive significance of civil and political rights in moulding the destiny of mankind."

A. Sakharov, Nobel lecture

Sakharov had an extremely rare talent: the ability to empathise with human suffering and misery, wherever they occurred, be it of anonymous victims of nuclear tests in the atmosphere, starving Africans, soviet convicts or Palestinian refugees.

The planetary nature of Sakharov's thinking or rather his world view also stemmed from his belief that the fates of humankind are indivisible, a belief he shared with his predecessors, Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr.

Sakharov believed that social and scientific progress can and must alleviate human suffering. He suggested, and this reflected his democratic convictions, that free people were capable of using reason to build their societal life and using reason to exploit the fruits of scientific progress.

Efrem Yankelevich, Sakharov's alternatives

21 May 1921. A son, Andrei, is born to Dmitri Sakharov, a natural science scholar and teacher, and his wife, Yekaterina Sofiano.

1942. Andrei Sakharov graduates with distinction from the physics faculty of Moscow University.

1942-44. During the Second World War he works at a munitions factory in Ulyanovsk. In 1943 he marries Klavdiya Vikhireva.

1948. Sakharov is enlisted in the special group set up to create a soviet hydrogen bomb headed by Igor Tamm, and quickly puts forward the idea of building a thermonuclear device, which was made the focal point of further development work.

Beginning of the 1950s. Sakharov and Tamm propose and develop the idea of a magnetic thermonuclear reactor. This was later to become the main thrust of work aimed at using thermonuclear synthesis for peaceful ends.

12 August 1953. Successful experiment of the first soviet hydrogen bomb.

1953. Sakharov is elected a full member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour for special services rendered. He was to receive this decoration on another two occasions.

July 1958. Publication of an article in the atomic energy journal *Atomnaya energiya* on the dangers of testing nuclear arms.

1961. Polemic with Nikita Khrushchev. Sakharov speaks out against the ceasing of the soviet moratorium on nuclear arms testing.

5 August 1963. Signature by the USSR, USA and Great Britain of the Moscow Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting testing in three environments, devised on the basis of Sakharov's proposals.

March 1966. First open public statement by Sakharov: signature of an address by 25 leading figures in science, literature and art to the 23rd Communist Party congress against the political rehabilitation of Stalin.

1968. Article by Sakharov entitled "Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom" published in the *New York Times*. Sakharov is removed from secret military work on grounds of "disloyalty".

8 March 1969. Death of Sakharov's wife.

1969. First major scientific achievement in the field of cosmology: elucidation of the nature of baryon asymmetry of the universe. Sakharov subsequently devised a multi-sheet model of the universe, the theory of "induced gravity", cosmological theory on the reversal of the "time arrow" and other scientific theories.

1970. Travels to Kaluga to attend the trial of the dissidents Revolt Pimenov and Boris Yavl. Sakharov meets Elena Bonner, who would shortly become his wife.

4 November 1970. Together with Valery Chalidze and Andrei Tverdokhlebov, Sakharov founds the Human Rights Committee.

Autumn 1972. Sakharov initiates two collective appeals to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, against the death penalty and in favour of amnesty for political prisoners in the USSR.

28 June - 4 July 1974. Sakharov's first hunger strike to draw attention to the situation of soviet political prisoners.

December 1974. Call (made jointly with Sergey Kovalev) to release prisoners of conscience throughout the world.

1975. Sakharov is awarded the Nobel peace prize. He is refused permission to travel to Norway. The Nobel lecture "Peace, progress, human rights" prepared by Sakharov is read in Oslo on 10 December by his wife Elena Bonner.

8 January 1980. A decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR strips Sakharov of all his state honours and a secret decree places him in administrative exile from Moscow. Sakharov is forcibly removed to Gorky, where he is placed under overt police surveillance.

July 1980. Sakharov sends the Secretary General of the United Nations and the heads of the Security Council member States his plan for a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations.

1981 - 1984. Sakharov goes on four long hunger strikes, demanding the right of his daughter-in-law to join her husband in the USA and also permission for Elena Bonner to travel abroad for medical treatment. He is forcibly hospitalised and force-fed.

16 December 1986. Mikhail Gorbachev telephones Sakharov to inform him of his release from exile in Gorky.

23 December 1986. Sakharov returns to Moscow.

January 1989. Some 60 academic institutions nominate Sakharov as the Academy of Sciences candidate to the first congress of people's deputies of the USSR. He is also nominated in a number of districts around the country.

13 April 1989. Sakharov is elected as a Congress deputy.

May - June 1989. Sakharov takes an active role in the work of the Congress. He proposes a draft decree on power, proclaiming the Congress as the country's supreme legislative authority. He joins the Inter-regional deputies group, a prototype democratic parliamentary opposition.

Early December 1989. Sakharov is one of the initiators of the campaign to abolish article 6 of the USSR Constitution, which proclaimed the Communist party as the "leading and guiding force" of soviet society.

14 December 1989. Sakharov dies suddenly in his flat.

18 December 1989. Andrei Sakharov's funeral. Some 150,000 people attend the funeral procession and mourning rally in Moscow.

He was an inspiration to human rights activists all over Europe. Even today, I often think about him when faced with a concrete human rights situation - how would he have responded? He had an inner compass for justice and rights of the individual everywhere. He saw the victims, also those distant and forgotten - no one was too small for his compassion, on the contrary. Therefore he also became an indefatigable advocate for the rights of minorities and the poor. He told us that injustice anywhere is a threat against justice everywhere. And he lived as he taught.

Thomas Hammarberg
Council of Europe
Commissioner for Human Rights

SAKHAROV AGAINST THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR AND NUCLEAR ARMS TESTING

While nuclear weapons exist it is also necessary to have strategic parity of nuclear forces, preventing one or other side from opting for limited or regional nuclear warfare ... true security is possible only when based on the stabilisation of international relations, a repudiation of expansionist policies, the strengthening of international trust, openness and pluralisation in the socialist societies, the observance of human rights throughout the world, ... and worldwide coordinated efforts to solve global problems.

A. Sakharov. The danger of thermonuclear war

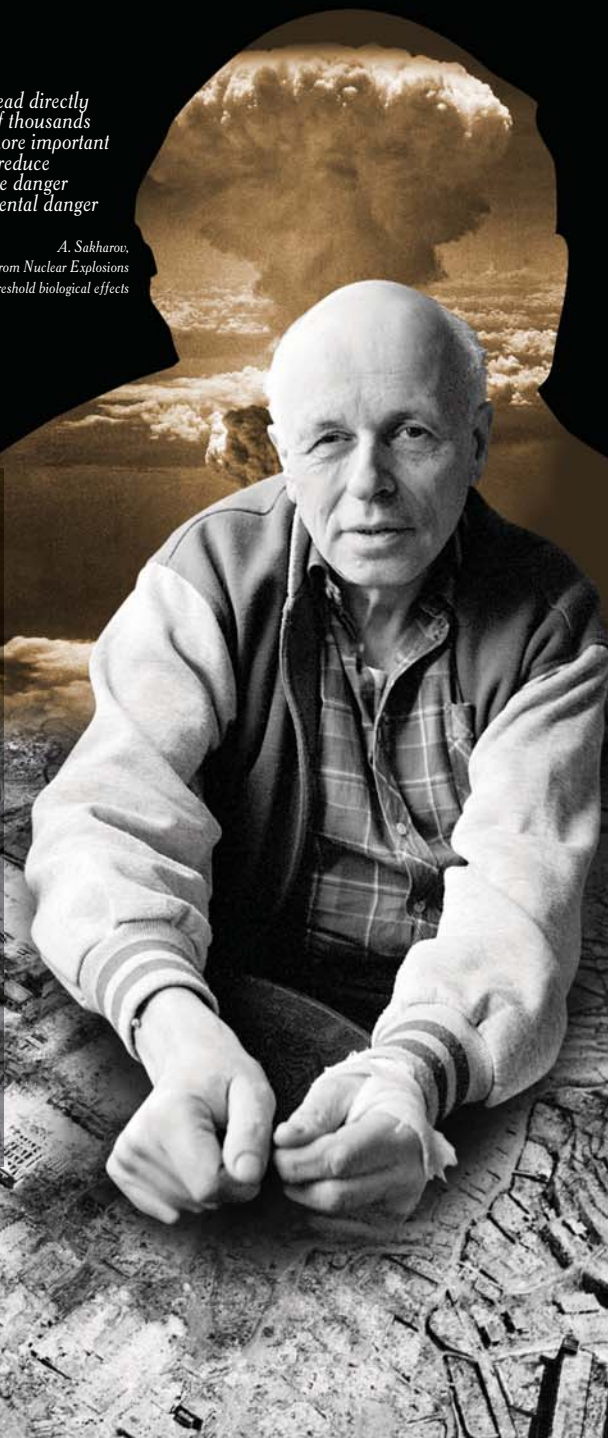
The cessation of tests will lead directly to the saving of hundreds of thousands of lives and will have the more important indirect result of helping to reduce international tension and the danger of nuclear war, the fundamental danger of our age.

*A. Sakharov,
Radioactive Carbon from Nuclear Explosions
and Non-threshold biological effects*

SAKHAROV SPENT MUCH OF HIS LIFE ACTIVELY OPPOSING A FUNDAMENTAL THREAT TO THE EXISTENCE OF HUMANKIND: THE DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR. HE SAW IT AS A QUESTION OF THE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY OF A PHYSICIST WHO HAD SUCCEEDED IN PLACING IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE AN ENERGY THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY EXISTED ONLY IN THE DEPTHS OF THE STARS, AND THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A MAN WHO HAD TURNED THAT ENERGY INTO A DOOMSDAY WEAPON.

IN THE BEGINNING, SAKHAROV OPPOSED THIS THREAT IN HIS CAPACITY OF THE PRINCIPAL DEVELOPER OF THE SOVIET THERMONUCLEAR BOMB, THANKS TO WHICH A "BALANCE OF TERROR" HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE WORLD. THEN IT WAS AS AN EXPERT CAPABLE OF FINDING TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS FOR LOWERING THE LEVEL OF CONFLICT. AND ULTIMATELY, HAVING REALISED THAT WEAPONS WERE CREATED BY SCIENTISTS BUT USED BY POLITICIANS, SAKHAROV BEGAN LOOKING AT THE ORGANISATION OF HUMAN SOCIETY, NOT JUST IN A SINGLE COUNTRY BUT THE ENTIRE ARRAY OF POLITICAL MECHANISMS CREATED BY PEOPLE IN ORDER TO LIVE TOGETHER.

IN HIS QUEST FOR FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTIONS TO ENABLE HUMANKIND TO OVERCOME POLITICAL SEGREGATION, ACHIEVE UNITY AND THEREBY FOREVER ERASE THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR APOCALYPSE, HE ARRIVED AT A NEW POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY FOUNDED ON THE IDEA OF HUMAN RIGHTS.



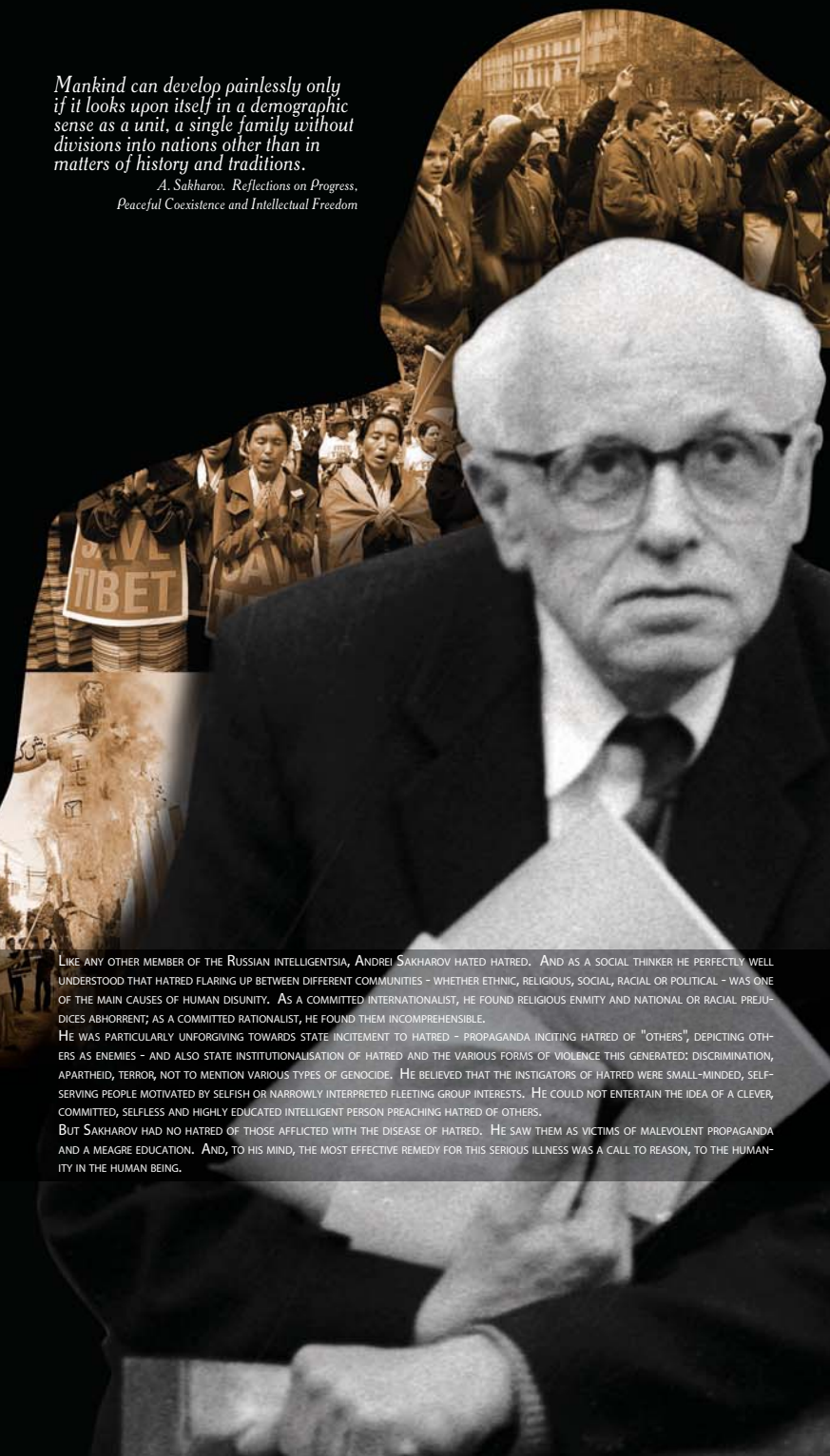
SAKHAROV AGAINST HATRED

*Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere*

*Martin Luther King (quoted by Sakharov as an epigraph
to the foreword of the collection Alarm and hope)*

*Mankind can develop painlessly only
if it looks upon itself in a demographic
sense as a unit, a single family without
divisions into nations other than in
matters of history and traditions.*

*A. Sakharov. Reflections on Progress,
Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom*



LIKE ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE RUSSIAN INTELLECTUALSIA, ANDREI SAKHAROV HATED HATRED. AND AS A SOCIAL THINKER HE PERFECTLY WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT HATRED FLARING UP BETWEEN DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES - WHETHER ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL, RACIAL OR POLITICAL - WAS ONE OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF HUMAN DISUNITY. AS A COMMITTED INTERNATIONALIST, HE FOUND RELIGIOUS ENMITY AND NATIONAL OR RACIAL PREJUDICES ABHORRENT; AS A COMMITTED RATIONALIST, HE FOUND THEM INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

HE WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORGIVING TOWARDS STATE INCITEMENT TO HATRED - PROPAGANDA INCITING HATRED OF "OTHERS", DEPICTING OTHERS AS ENEMIES - AND ALSO STATE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF HATRED AND THE VARIOUS FORMS OF VIOLENCE THIS GENERATED: DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, TERROR, NOT TO MENTION VARIOUS TYPES OF GENOCIDE. HE BELIEVED THAT THE INSTIGATORS OF HATRED WERE SMALL-MINDED, SELF-SERVING PEOPLE MOTIVATED BY SELFISH OR NARROWLY INTERPRETED FLEETING GROUP INTERESTS. HE COULD NOT ENTERTAIN THE IDEA OF A CLEVER, COMMITTED, SELFLESS AND HIGHLY EDUCATED INTELLIGENT PERSON PREACHING HATRED OF OTHERS.

BUT SAKHAROV HAD NO HATRED OF THOSE AFFLICTED WITH THE DISEASE OF HATRED. HE SAW THEM AS VICTIMS OF MALEVOLENT PROPAGANDA AND A MEAGRE EDUCATION. AND, TO HIS MIND, THE MOST EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR THIS SERIOUS ILLNESS WAS A CALL TO REASON, TO THE HUMANITY IN THE HUMAN BEING.

SAKHAROV AGAINST WAR AND LOCAL CONFLICTS

Even if it avoids large-scale war, humankind can still perish, by exhausting itself in "small wars", in inter-ethnic and inter-state conflicts.

A. Sakharov. The world in a half-century

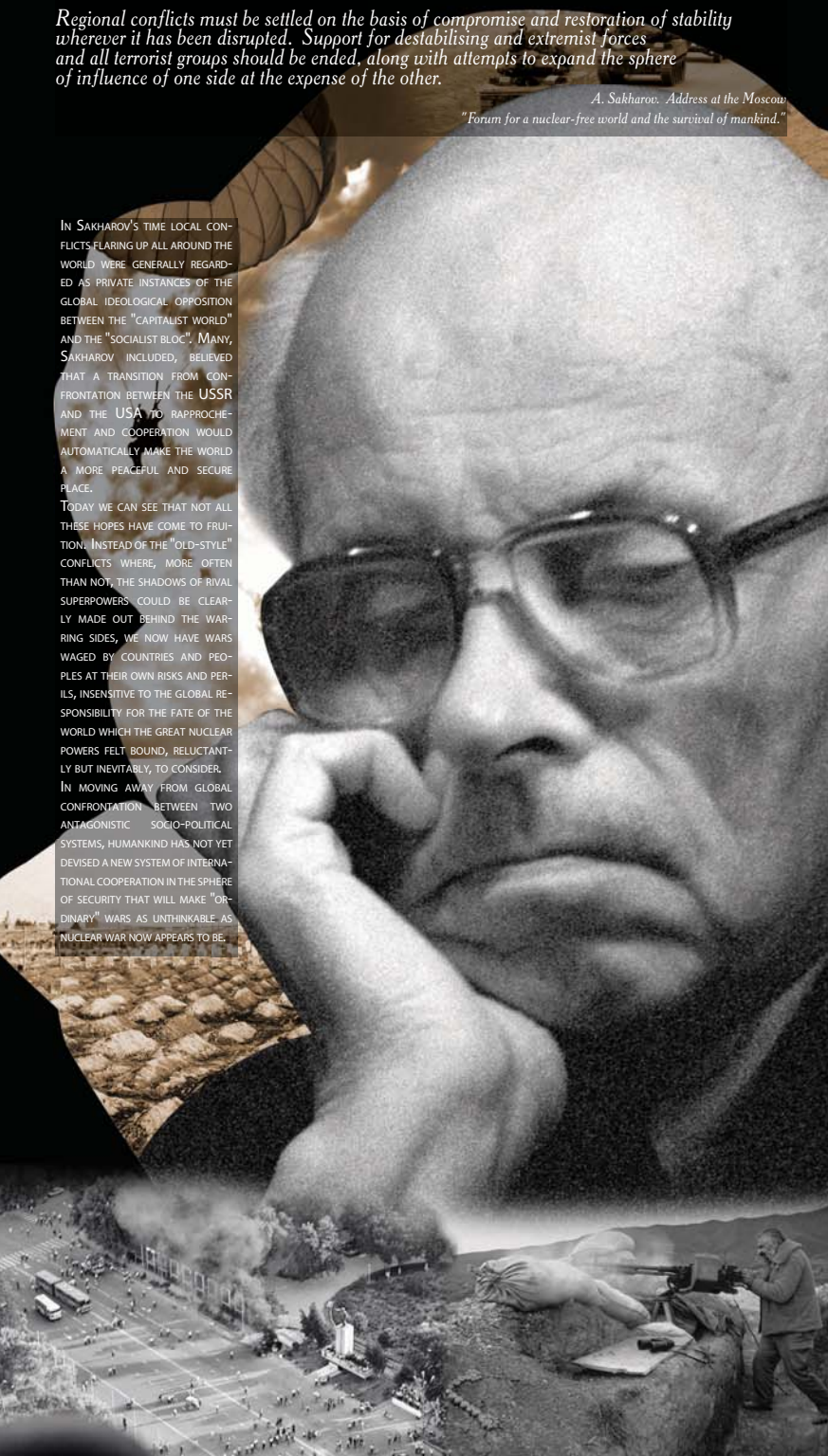
Regional conflicts must be settled on the basis of compromise and restoration of stability wherever it has been disrupted. Support for destabilising and extremist forces and all terrorist groups should be ended, along with attempts to expand the sphere of influence of one side at the expense of the other.

A. Sakharov. Address at the Moscow "Forum for a nuclear-free world and the survival of mankind."

IN SAKHAROV'S TIME LOCAL CONFLICTS FLARING UP ALL AROUND THE WORLD WERE GENERALLY REGARDED AS PRIVATE INSTANCES OF THE GLOBAL IDEOLOGICAL OPPOSITION BETWEEN THE "CAPITALIST WORLD" AND THE "SOCIALIST BLOC". MANY, SAKHAROV INCLUDED, BELIEVED THAT A TRANSITION FROM CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA TO RAPPROCHMENT AND COOPERATION WOULD AUTOMATICALLY MAKE THE WORLD A MORE PEACEFUL AND SECURE PLACE.

TODAY WE CAN SEE THAT NOT ALL THESE HOPES HAVE COME TO FRUITION. INSTEAD OF THE "OLD-STYLE" CONFLICTS WHERE, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THE SHADOWS OF RIVAL SUPERPOWERS COULD BE CLEARLY MADE OUT BEHIND THE WARRING SIDES, WE NOW HAVE WARS WAGED BY COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES AT THEIR OWN RISKS AND PERILS, INSENSITIVE TO THE GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FATE OF THE WORLD WHICH THE GREAT NUCLEAR POWERS FELT BOUND, RELUCTANTLY BUT INEVITABLY, TO CONSIDER.

IN MOVING AWAY FROM GLOBAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO ANTAGONISTIC SOCIO-POLITICAL SYSTEMS, HUMANKIND HAS NOT YET DEvised A NEW SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF SECURITY THAT WILL MAKE "ORDINARY" WARS AS UNTHINKABLE AS NUCLEAR WAR NOW APPEARS TO BE.



SAKHAROV AGAINST DICTATORIAL AND TOTALITARIAN REGIMES

The struggle for human rights is also a real everyday struggle for peace and the future of humanity.

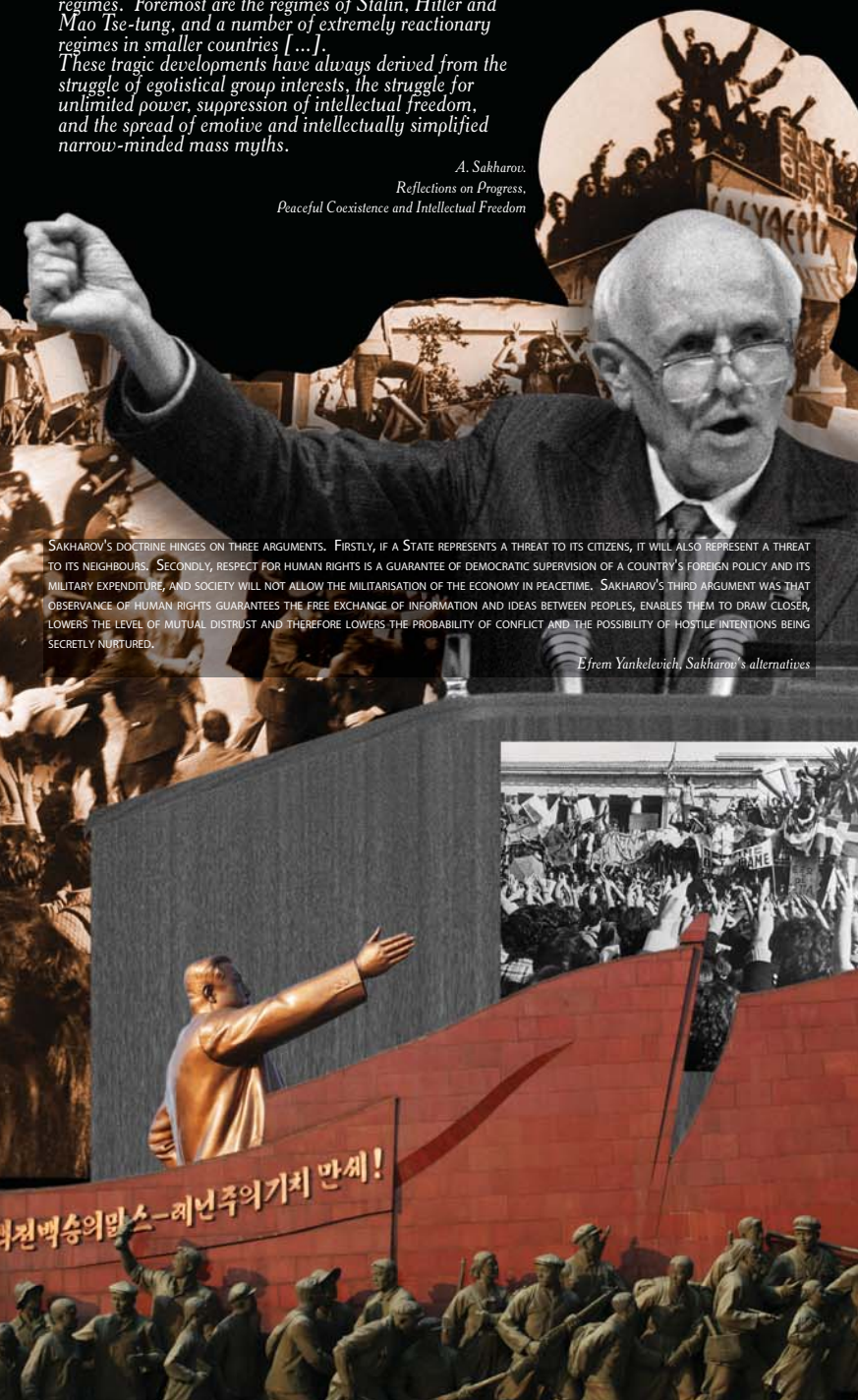
A. Sakharov. The world in a half-century

An extreme reflection of the dangers confronting modern social development is the growth of racism, nationalism and militarism and, in particular, the rise of demagogic, hypocritical and monstrously cruel dictatorial regimes. Foremost are the regimes of Stalin, Hitler and Mao Tse-tung, and a number of extremely reactionary regimes in smaller countries [...]. These tragic developments have always derived from the struggle of egotistical group interests, the struggle for unlimited power, suppression of intellectual freedom, and the spread of emotive and intellectually simplified narrow-minded mass myths.

A. Sakharov. Reflections on Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom

SAKHAROV'S DOCTRINE HINGES ON THREE ARGUMENTS. FIRSTLY, IF A STATE REPRESENTS A THREAT TO ITS CITIZENS, IT WILL ALSO REPRESENT A THREAT TO ITS NEIGHBOURS. SECONDLY, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS A GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC SUPERVISION OF A COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS MILITARY EXPENDITURE, AND SOCIETY WILL NOT ALLOW THE MILITARISATION OF THE ECONOMY IN PEACETIME. SAKHAROV'S THIRD ARGUMENT WAS THAT OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES THE FREE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS BETWEEN PEOPLES, ENABLES THEM TO DRAW CLOSER, LOWERS THE LEVEL OF MUTUAL DISTRUST AND THEREFORE LOWERS THE PROBABILITY OF CONFLICT AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILE INTENTIONS BEING SECRETLY NURTURED.

Efrem Yankelevich, Sakharov's alternatives



SAKHAROV IN FAVOUR OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The problem of geohygiene is highly complex and closely tied to economic and social problems. This problem can therefore not be solved on a national and especially not on a local basis. The salvation of our environment requires that we overcome our divisions and the pressure of temporary, local interests.

A. Sakharov. Reflections on Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom

It is vitally important to regulate the scale of and as far as possible cease environmentally harmful plant operations and constructions, replacing them where necessary with environmentally safe and perhaps even more expensive facilities, replacing dangerous agricultural technologies with technologies that are less harmful for people and nature and implementing wide-ranging global measures to restore landscape and natural balance, particularly by preserving and restoring woodland

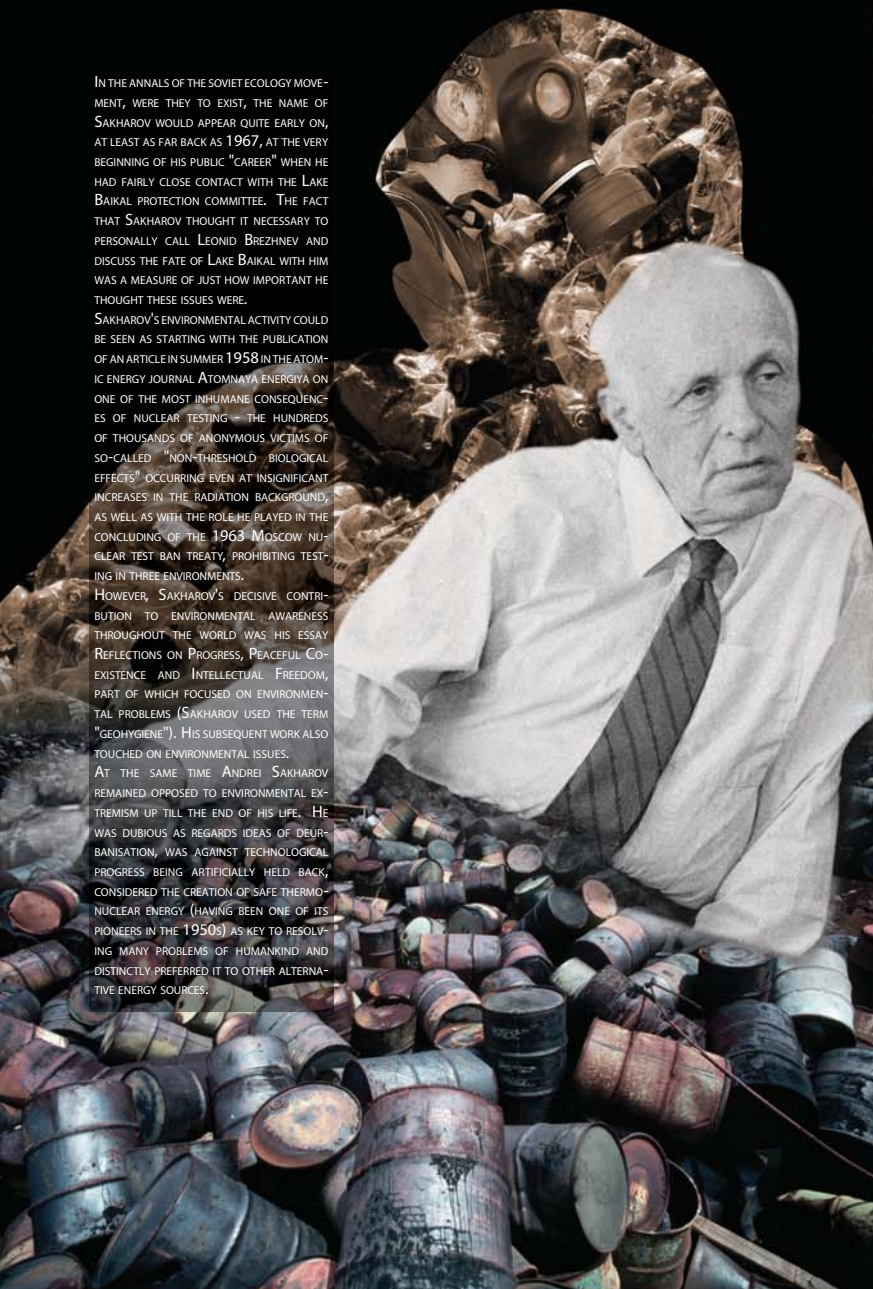
A. Sakharov. Reactors Underground

IN THE ANNALS OF THE SOVIET ECOLOGY MOVEMENT, WERE THEY TO EXIST, THE NAME OF SAKHAROV WOULD APPEAR QUITE EARLY ON, AT LEAST AS FAR BACK AS 1967, AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF HIS PUBLIC "CAREER" WHEN HE HAD FAIRLY CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE LAKE BAIKAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE. THE FACT THAT SAKHAROV THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO PERSONALLY CALL LEONID BREZHNEV AND DISCUSS THE FATE OF LAKE BAIKAL WITH HIM WAS A MEASURE OF JUST HOW IMPORTANT HE THOUGHT THESE ISSUES WERE.

SAKHAROV'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY COULD BE SEEN AS STARTING WITH THE PUBLICATION OF AN ARTICLE IN SUMMER 1958 IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY JOURNAL *ATOMNAYA ENERGIYA* ON ONE OF THE MOST INHUMAN CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR TESTING – THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ANONYMOUS VICTIMS OF SO-CALLED "NON-THRESHOLD BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS" OCCURRING EVEN AT INSIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE RADIATION BACKGROUND, AS WELL AS WITH THE ROLE HE PLAYED IN THE CONCLUDING OF THE 1963 MOSCOW NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY, PROHIBITING TESTING IN THREE ENVIRONMENTS.

HOWEVER, SAKHAROV'S DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WAS HIS ESSAY *REFLECTIONS ON PROGRESS, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM*, PART OF WHICH FOCUSED ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (SAKHAROV USED THE TERM "GEOHYGIENE"). HIS SUBSEQUENT WORK ALSO TOUCHED ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

AT THE SAME TIME ANDREI SAKHAROV REMAINED OPPOSED TO ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISM UP TILL THE END OF HIS LIFE. HE WAS DUBIOUS AS REGARDS IDEAS OF DEURBANISATION, WAS AGAINST TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS BEING ARTIFICIALLY HELD BACK, CONSIDERED THE CREATION OF SAFE THERMONUCLEAR ENERGY (HAVING BEEN ONE OF ITS PIONEERS IN THE 1950S) AS KEY TO RESOLVING MANY PROBLEMS OF HUMANKIND AND DISTINCTLY PREFERRED IT TO OTHER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.



SAKHAROV AGAINST HUNGER AND INEQUALITY

The most decisive and important role in the issues of the modern world is played by the global political polarisation of humankind, which is divided into the so-called first world (conventionally called the Western world), the second world (socialist) and the third world (the developing countries).

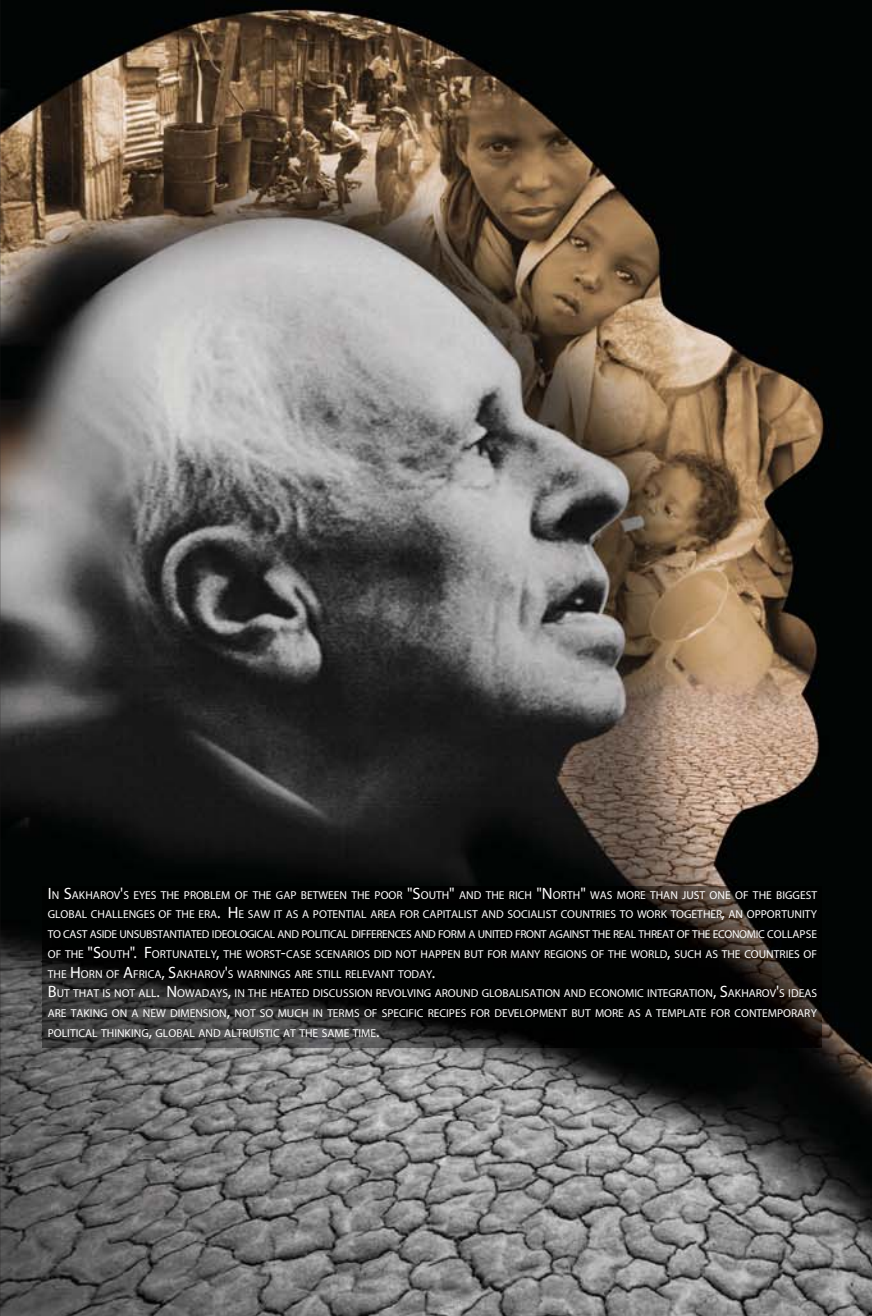
A. Sakharov, Nobel lecture

"Nowadays [...] hunger and premature death are an imminent threat to most of humankind. For that reason the primary task of genuinely human progress is now to counter those dangers."

A. Sakharov. The world in a half-century

The problem of relations with the "third world", where half of humankind is concentrated, is particularly important. Multilateral aid for developing technology and training officials, food aid and other material aid are now being widely implemented but still on an insufficient scale. These efforts must be expanded [...] But on the other hand the developing countries themselves must reconstruct their national psyche and take substantial responsibility for their fate and the fate of humankind as a whole.

A. Sakharov. My Country and the World



IN SAKHAROV'S EYES THE PROBLEM OF THE GAP BETWEEN THE POOR "SOUTH" AND THE RICH "NORTH" WAS MORE THAN JUST ONE OF THE BIGGEST GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF THE ERA. HE SAW IT AS A POTENTIAL AREA FOR CAPITALIST AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO WORK TOGETHER, AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAST ASIDE UNSUBSTANTIATED IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND FORM A UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE REAL THREAT OF THE ECONOMIC COLLAPSE OF THE "SOUTH". FORTUNATELY, THE WORST-CASE SCENARIOS DID NOT HAPPEN BUT FOR MANY REGIONS OF THE WORLD, SUCH AS THE COUNTRIES OF THE HORN OF AFRICA, SAKHAROV'S WARNINGS ARE STILL RELEVANT TODAY.

BUT THAT IS NOT ALL. NOWADAYS, IN THE HEATED DISCUSSION REVOLVING AROUND GLOBALISATION AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, SAKHAROV'S IDEAS ARE TAKING ON A NEW DIMENSION, NOT SO MUCH IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC RECIPES FOR DEVELOPMENT BUT MORE AS A TEMPLATE FOR CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THINKING, GLOBAL AND ALTRUISTIC AT THE SAME TIME.

SAKHAROV IN FAVOUR OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Intellectual freedom is essential to human society - freedom to obtain and distribute information, freedom for open-minded and unfearing debate, and freedom from pressure by officialdom and prejudices. Such a trinity of freedom of thought is the only guarantee against an infection of people by mass myths, which, in the hands of treacherous hypocrites and demagogues, can easily be transformed into bloody dictatorship.

A. Sakharov. Reflections on Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom

Freedom of conscience, the existence of an informed public opinion, a pluralist system of education, freedom of the press and access to other sources of information [...], these conditions are a vital necessity, not only if all abuse of progress, witting or unwitting, is to be avoided, but also if we wish to strengthen that progress.

It is particularly important that an effective system of education and a creative sense of heredity from one generation to another are only possible in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom

A. Sakharov, Nobel lecture

UNDERLYING THE NEW SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY PUT FORWARD BY SAKHAROV IS THE IDEA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE UNFAILINGLY EARMARKS AS FUNDAMENTAL THE CIVIL RIGHTS WHICH TOGETHER FORM THE CONCEPT OF "INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM", WHICH HE CONSIDERS NOT AS AN INDIVIDUAL HUMAN VALUE BUT AS A STATE OF SOCIETY.

SAKHAROV ATTACHED FUNDAMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE TO INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRSTLY, THIS FREEDOM IS DEAR TO HIS HEART AS AN ACADEMIC; SECONDLY, SAKHAROV BELIEVED THAT INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM WAS THE MOST POWERFUL INSTRUMENT FOR SEEKING RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES FACING HUMANKIND IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND FOR GUARANTEEING PROGRESS IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM.

THE THIRD, MOST IMPORTANT AND DEEPEST-LYING REASON IS THAT INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM ENSURES THAT SOCIETY GIVES PRIORITY TO REASON, WHICH IS THE FUNDAMENTAL DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC OF HUMANS AS A BIOLOGICAL SPECIES AND THE FUNDAMENTAL SAFEGUARD AGAINST DISUNITY, GUARANTEEING ALL-IMPORTANT HUMAN UNITY. THESE ARE THE CHALLENGES LAID DOWN FOR US BY SAKHAROV'S SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY:

«Восьмью лет в колхозе трудился — в леску, надевать — в поле, двести... Десять лет назад купили с мужем этот дом за одиннадцать тысяч. Для детей и внуков. И выгорают. Сына с семьей — в один конец города, нас с дочкой и внуком — в другой. Я ветеран труда, дочка два, дцать второй год учительствует, внук вернется — женится. Как жить будем? А эта, из Совмина, говорит: «Он помет и не женится...»

АРГУМЕНТЫ
И РАДКАТЫ

Обращаюсь в редакцию, но прошу считать это письмо направленным в адрес XIX Всесоюзной партийной конференции. Не пора ли увеличить отпуск рабочим и низкооплачиваемым? Согласитесь, что 15 дней отбыва в году — это несерьезно.

ЮНОСТЬ

Именно за бытовыми благами лезут «наверх»



ANDREI DMITRIEVICH SAKHAROV: 1921-1989 AND AFTER

My fate was, in a way, an exceptional one ... Not from a false sense of modesty but from a desire to give an accurate assessment, I would say that my fate has proved to be bigger than me. I only tried to be on a par with my own fate.

A. Sakharov. Interview with the newspaper Molodezh Estonii [Youth of Estonia]

I am not a professional politician - which is perhaps why I am constantly obsessed by the question as to the purpose and end-result of the work I have done. I am inclined to believe that only moral criteria, coupled with objective thought, can serve as a sort of compass in the cross-currents of these complex problems. ... I will refrain from making any concrete prognoses ... yet, both now and evermore, I will hang on to my belief in the strength of the human mind and spirit.

A. Sakharov, Autobiography

ANDREI DMITRIEVICH SAKHAROV WAS A CHAMPION OF REASON. INDEED, THAT WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND HIS DEMOCRATIC CONVICTION IN PUBLIC LIFE. DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN THE ONE AND ONLY ATTEMPT IN HISTORY TO BUILD A SOCIETY FOUNDED ON REASON. THE NAME OF SAKHAROV LENDS ITSELF TO ALL KINDS OF COMPARISONS. SOME HAVE MENTIONED HIM IN THE SAME BREATH AS MAHATMA GANDHI, LEV TOLSTOY AND OTHER ADVOCATES OF NON-VIOLENT CHANGE. OTHERS TEND TO COMPARE HIM WITH ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN AND LECH WALESA AS DISTINGUISHED WARRIORS AGAINST TYRANNY. ALL THESE COMPARISONS HAVE THEIR REASONS. PERSONALLY, I WOULD PREFER TO PLACE SAKHAROV THE PHYSICIAN ALONGSIDE VERNADSKY THE GEOCHEMIST WHO PUT FORWARD THE CONCEPT OF THE "NOOSPHERE" - THE REASONING THAT BECAME AN ELEMENT OF THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF OUR PLANET - THE BIOLOGIST TEILHARD DE CHARDIN - THE AUTHOR OF THE "ANTI-ENTROPY" THEORY OF EVOLUTION - AND OTHER CREATORS OF A NEW, HOLISTIC PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE IN WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANKIND BECOMES A FACTOR OF COSMIC SIGNIFICANCE.

I THINK THAT ANDREI DMITRIEVICH WOULD FIND SUCH A COMPARISON AN APPEALING ONE.

Sergey Kovalev.

Andrei Sakharov: responsibility to reason

SAKHAROV BECAME A SYMBOL OF THE EPOCH BUT THERE ARE A FAIR FEW PEOPLE WHO, WHILE HAVING ENORMOUS RESPECT FOR THE PERSON AND HIS HUMANIST ACTIVITIES, SEE HIM AS A KIND OF DON QUIXOTE. I THINK THAT THIS IS WRONG. WE WERE CONTEMPORARIES OF A MAN WHO WAS CONSTANTLY ENGAGED IN A "REVOLUTION OF CONSCIENCE" FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, WHO CREATED NEW CONCEPTUAL SYSTEMS, SEEKING TO TRANSFORM NOT ONLY PEOPLE'S CONSCIENCE BUT EVEN REALITY ITSELF. TIME AND TIME AGAIN IT WAS THE STANDARD SCENARIO; THEY MISUNDERSTOOD HIM, THEY GOT UPSET AND THEN THEY AGREED WITH HIM.

Boris Altshuler.

Andrei Sakharov: facets of a life

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