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CHEMICAL PHYSICS

Letter

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President Anatoly Zagorodny

Dear Professor Zagorodny,

your letter addressing the foreign members of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine did not reach me until today through my contacts at the Chuiko Institute of Surface Chemistry in Kiev.

As member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and its Nobel Committee for Physics, and as foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and receiver of the Vernadsky Medal, I condemn the Russian military invasion of Ukraine in the strongest possible terms.

Already a few days after the invasion, I was contacted by the Permanent Secretary of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, knowing well my connections in Ukraine, about what actions could be taken from the Swedish side. I suggested a stipend programme for Ukrainian scientists, and in a very short time and in collaboration with rector at Stockholm University and also other universities, such a programme was implemented (all information at kva.se, also in English).

I distributed the stipend link to the Identification Committee of Ukraine, and the information was distributed further to Ukrainian scientists.

The Board of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided that all contacts with Russian scientific institutions shall be put on hold. I also know that university administrated funding cannot be used for Russian scientists.

On a personal note, I and my wife Viktoria, born and raised in Kiev, have been very busy helping close family members and friends in Ukraine to escape and make it to Sweden. I like to point at a very important decision taken by the Swedish government. All Ukrainian refugees are to be given the same medical treatment as Swedish citizens (in practise, at almost no cost). This was important for my wife's brother, who arrived in Stockholm in a severe medical condition and is now given medical treatment at a hospital in Stockholm since more than a week.

I am now busy completing an application to the Swedish Research Council for collaboration with the Chuiko Institute of Surface Chemistry and Professor Mykola Kartel and Dr. Tetiana Kulik. I have also applied for other funding for keeping the contacts with the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Please let me know by all possible means what more I can do to assist during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Mats Larsson

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