

FOREWORD

Glasnost and the New Journal

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The realization of the principles of the "new thinking" in international relations has resulted in a spectacular improvement in the relations not only between the Soviet Union and the United States but also in East-West relations in general. A substantial part of this progress is a result of active discussions on critical international problems (especially arms control problems) within the international scientific community. In a few instances, these discussions have directly influenced important political decisions.

Despite encouraging progress, the process of arms reduction is far from complete. The level of armaments, both conventional and nuclear, still remains high and dangerous. The role of scientists who are willing to analyze new arms control initiatives and to submit the results of their research to the public and to policy-makers remains extremely important.

Until now, the Soviet scientific community has lacked publications in which it could put forward detailed analyses of arms control problems. This situation is unacceptable at a time when *glasnost* has opened up the exploration of themes and subjects until recently forbidden. Scientific periodicals represent an important component of the contemporary infrastructure of the scientific community. Without a journal in which specialists can publish and which is also accessible to a wide scientific community, expert discussion often becomes restricted to a narrow group of isolated analysts. This is especially baneful in areas that impinge significantly on public policy, and that, therefore, demand public understanding.

Science & Global Security will be important for both young and more experienced scientists, encouraging both to work on arms control and other problems of global security.

Soviet science traditionally has been and still remains rather rigid and conservative, reacting only slowly to new critical problems. This rigidity has characterized the attitude of a considerable part of the Soviet scientific community toward international security problems. We hope that the creation of a new journal will change this situation and encourage a growing number of Soviet scientists to work on problems of global security. It is extremely important for humanity's destiny that this happen.