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FOREWORD

Every Profession Needs Its Own Journal

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Co-chairman of the Board of Editors

Since the development of nuclear weapons, it has been clear to an increasing number of scientists that the future of civilization depends on the way in which their expertise is used. Some have gone further and decided that public policy for technology is too important to be made behind closed doors.

This belief comes naturally in science—which owes its great success in the past few centuries to the overthrow of authoritarianism. Modern science is ruled by the democratic principles that everyone's work is subject to question and that no one knows who may achieve the next breakthrough.

In the past decades, a small but growing community of scientists have been trying to extend that same openness to discussions of the technical basis of public policy for technology.

This movement began in the US immediately after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the nuclear scientists' movement. Their message to the public was simple, but critical to the formulation of a sound nuclear-weapons policy: "There is no secret and there is no defense." In the 1960s, Rachel Carson and other scientists added their own message explaining that technology was becoming powerful enough to threaten many of the environmental processes that sustain us.

As public concern about the nuclear arms race and environmental degradation has strengthened, private foundations and member-supported public-interest groups have supported a small but growing number of US careers in "public-interest science." And, as the anti–nuclear weapons and

environmental movements have spread beyond the US, so have the opportunities for such careers.

The most recent development of this movement has been in the Soviet Union, where the policy-making process has opened up so dramatically that *glasnost* has become an international word. In response to this opportunity, some leading Soviet scientists concerned about the arms race established in 1983 the Committee of Soviet Scientists for Peace and Against the Nuclear Threat (CSS).

From its very beginning, the CSS has seen itself as a counterpart to the public-interest-science organizations in the West and has engaged them in discussions on the technical basis for arms control and disarmament. In 1986, the discussions spawned a joint demonstration project between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the US Natural Resources Defense Council on in-country cooperative seismic-monitoring of a nuclear test ban. And, in 1987, the CSS and the US Federation of American Scientists agreed to a cooperative research project on arms reductions, the first results of which are published here.

The mission of this new journal is to publish articles on the technical basis for arms control and environmental policy initiatives. The initial focus of the journal will be US-Soviet arms control, because that is where our cooperative research agenda is furthest advanced. We hope soon, however, to publish work by scientists in Europe and elsewhere and to extend our coverage to include global energy and environmental policy issues.