

Office of the Vice-President
(Academic Affairs) and Provost



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Dr. Sergei Rogov
Director
Institute of the USA and Canada
Russian Academy of Sciences
121814 Moscow
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Fax No. 011-7095-200-1207

Dear Dr. Rogov,

I want to ask for your assistance on a troubling matter. In doing so, I hope that I can presume on our past personal contact and on the long-standing partnership between our two institutions.

Recently, I received a letter from Mr. Pavel Podvig, a researcher at the Centre for Arms Control Studies, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. Dr. Podvig has drawn my attention to the case of Dr. Igor Sutyagin, an ISCRAN researcher. It is my understanding that Dr. Sutyagin was arrested last fall by Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) on suspicion of treason and espionage. According to Mr. Podvig, among the arguments in support of the accusations against Dr. Sutyagin, the investigators have cited his participation in a Canadian research project implemented under the joint auspices of Carleton and York Universities.

I am not familiar with the details of the Russian Government's case against Dr. Sutyagin and have no intention - nor, indeed, any right - to interfere with the course of the investigation. It is, however, my duty to address those aspects of the matter with which I happen to be familiar, which implicate York University, and which are of profound importance for me and many others in the Canadian academic community who believe that collaborative academic research with our Russian colleagues is of great value to both countries.

Let me describe the Canadian project Dr. Sutyagin has taken part in.