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From the President Lord Rees of Ludlow OM

16 November 2009

Our ref: MJR/JB

Dear Mrs Ginzburg

I am writing to express sincerest condolences on the death of Vitaly Lazarevich. I write on behalf of all of us at the Royal Society, where we were proud to have him as one of our distinguished Foreign Members for more than 20 years.

I would also like to add my personal condolences. I first met Vitaly Lazarevich when you both spent an extended period in Cambridge in the late 1960s. It was a privilege and inspiration to meet him and hear him lecture when I was myself just a student. I had several opportunities to meet him over the succeeding decades at various conferences. I was also an avid reader of not only his great contributions to astrophysics, but also his fascinating general essays and, of course, the more I learnt about his biography the more I admired him for the extraordinary integrity and leadership which he had shown over a long life, during which he confronted huge challenges and difficulties. He was not only a great scientist but a very great man and will remain an inspiration to all of us who were privileged to know him.

With sincere condolences
Martin Rees

Martin Rees

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President Lord Rees of Ludlow OM
Executive Secretary Stephen Cox CVO

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