

Statement

V. L. Ginzburg

It is with greatest surprise that I now read comments to my telephone conversation with British journalists; this interview was presented to readers and listeners in the form of out-of-context phrases attributed to me^{*}. I have to state that the comment and rephrasing of the interview grossly misrepresent my point of view. In Stalin's era my wife was unjustly sentenced and exiled for "an attempt on the life of the Leader" and it is very plausible that I myself avoided being put in prison only because I took part in the work on the atomic bomb project. Numerous immensely talented scientists became victims of the system, while whole branches of science were trampled into the ground for reasons of ideological despotism. Only a totally unprincipled person would equate our time – the so-called "Putin's era" – to that of Stalin's rule.

There can be no doubt that I am not indifferent to the status of science in Russia; I feel satisfaction seeing that this status, which in the 1990s and at the beginning of the 21st century was very pitiful indeed, now starts to improve. I see that new, non-trivial problems are being considered, that young talented people find where to apply their creative powers. I would be very happy if the debate around the legal status of our Academy led to decisions favouring the sciences, and if the reforms, whatever their form, did not reject those valuable positive elements that undoubtedly took shape in the Soviet-era science.

I regret to say that we witness the efforts of some journalists who resort to printing politicized clichés and slogans instead of supporting a careful and profound discussion of problems that plague science and education.

Yours truly
V. L. Ginzburg
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^{*} The text was not shown to me