

*He did not live long enough to reach this day: on 21 May 1991, Andreï Dmitrievich Sakharov would have been 70 years old. We have decided to mark this date as a sign of our respect to an outstanding thinker of our time and a talented physicist who has put forward a number of brilliant ideas in physics and who has accomplished so much for our country.*

*In this issue of our journal after a brief review of his scientific activity, the main papers of A. D. Sakharov are published. Then in the section "From the history of physics" articles are included with a detailed discussion of his dissertation for the candidate's degree and with a discussion of certain aspects of the history of the problem of the work on creation of thermonuclear weapons. A more complete collection of the papers of A. D. Sakharov, and also recollections about him will soon be published, and the interested reader will have an opportunity to become acquainted in greater detail with particular aspects of the scientific activity of Andreï Dmitrievich. We wish to thank the compilers of the collection of articles of A. D. Sakharov for the materials provided by them.*

*Board of Editors of Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk*