

Transcript of an interview
Conducted by Azatlik Radyosi (Radio Liberty)
Tatar- Bashkirt desk reporter, with
Academician Askar Kaibyshev
Ufa, Russian Federation, February 21, 2005

20:59

Announcer: A well known scholar and physicist residing in Ufa, a member of the Russian Academy of Science, founder and former director of the Institute for Metals Superplasticity Problems, Academician Askar Kaibyshev, has been accused of passing Russian State secrets and the sale of technical know-how for the production of arms to a South Korean company. At the end of last week he was notified of these charges.

Azatlik Radio (Radio Liberty) reporter in Ufa, Fennis Fethi met and personally spoke with the scholar.

Fennis Fethi (FF): So what is our countryman accused of? Selling secret technology and in obtaining financial gain from it.

The investigation of these charges had begun in March 2003, but became known to the general public only in recent days. Askar Ekremuli Kaibyshev is not only well known in Bashkortstan and Russia but also known in the rest of the world.

Our countryman was born in Moscow in 1939, and in 1962 after graduating from the Moscow Alloy & Steel Institute began working at the Ufa Motor Fabrication plant. In 1986 our talented scholar established and directed as part of the Russian Academy, the Institute for Metals Superplasticity Problems. From 1991 to 1995 he became the President of the Bashkir Academy of Science, and in 1995 again returned to head the Institute for Metals and Superplasticity Problems.

He is credited with publishing many research papers, and one of his books is now in the process of being published in America.

So what are the accusations against Mr. Kaibyshev? According to the investigating authorities Askar Kaibyshev sold, without permission, technology developed at his Institute to a South Korean firm, and also the great scientist is accused of making personal financial gains from this sale.

During the two years of investigation, Mr. Askar has consistently claimed that his Institute and he personally were not guilty of the charges, and stated that these were brought up by a competitor firm and certain structures that support them, and is strictly an attempt to dig a hole under us, because the technology which is claimed to have been sold without approval, is not a secret whatsoever,

as it has been known for a long time, and has been patented a long time ago in the United States.

23:34-25:22

Askar Kaibyshev (AF) (in Russian)

I suppose that this order is coming from those people. Many facts prove that we did not deliver any dual technologies, or, moreover, any information outside those patents that we have with the South Korean company.

The case was supposed to be closed a long time ago, but this does not suit some people, and that's why they still try to find any negative information about me and the Institute in any possible way. It has already been two years, and during this time, irreparable harm was done to our Institute.

The most amazing fact is that the government does not take any concrete decisions about this problem, so it seems like a real order from some people.

FF: Do the investigators take your evidence into account?

AK: No, the investigators reject vigorously all my evidence, and, moreover, they reject all our attempts to institute proceedings against those people who have ordered this arrangement, because the investigators are ruled by exactly the same people who started all this. Even though we have full rights to institute a proceeding against those comrades who stole our money, we cannot do that.

25:23

FF: Academician Kaibyshev does not hide the methods used in the investigation.

FF (quoting AK): "The attack against us was started by the Federal Security Bureau (FSB) and this investigation has been conducted by them in a very crude manner. Work at the institute has virtually come to a complete halt and we have lost many of our talented brains," says Askar Kaibyshev. "The employees of the Institute have also been pressured to give false witness against me. Against members of my family and me, all types of scare tactics were used during the past two years are still continuing."

His wife Galina Alexandrovna who was present in the interview confirmed and brought up many examples, concluding that FSB operatives are still utilizing the 1937 methods.

The world renowned scientist who has been removed from the management of the Institute that he had established, still virtually daily goes to his place of work and also visits the security bureau for questioning.

It should also be mentioned that in recent days his assistant for finances, Irina Zaitman, has also been removed from her post. Both accused parties had to sign documents forbidding them to leave Ufa.

Fennis Fethi
Radio Libery (27:00)
Ufa