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CONTACT: Katherine Tynberg-703- 821-8803  
John Shideler, PhD-703-358-9127

## **World Renowned Russian Scientist Under Investigation by FSB For Allegedly Divulging “State Secrets”**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA – Prof. Oscar Kaibyshev – a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a prominent researcher on the topic of “superplasticity” in metals – is currently under house arrest by the FSB (formerly KGB) and is being interrogated seven to eight hours a day according to Helen Varkovetsky, Kaibyshev’s wife’s cousin living in Ontario, Canada. Kaibyshev was Director of the Institute for Metals Superplasticity Problems (IMSP), a job he had held since its conception. However, an institute spokeswoman confirmed today by telephone that he was fired from his job on January 18. Kaibyshev himself detailed the involvement of the federal security services in a faxed letter received on February 15.

Kaibyshev is the co-author, with Farid Utyashev, of a book on “superplasticity” which – according to peer review – is of considerable practical use for specialists in metallurgical and machine building industries concerned with the technology and development of gas turbine engine components. Research for the book included technical cooperation with the General Electric Corporate Research and Development and other US-based firms.

The book will be available in late March through Futurepast, Inc., an Arlington, Virginia-based training and consulting firm that has worked on projects involving Russia and the Ukraine since 1994. It was published by Futurepast under a grant from the International Science and Technology Center, a multinational governmental organization meant to help experts in states of the former Soviet Union to switch from weapons research to research for civilian purposes.

In the faxed letter received yesterday, Kaibyshev alleged that the FSB was being used by elements of organized crime in Russia to gain advantage over other mob-related structures. Kaibyshev’s institute, he wrote, “has become the victim of such a situation.” Kaibyshev’s current

troubles date to allegations made by the FSB in 2003 that the ASA Company of Korea had received an unauthorized transfer of technology from the IMSP.

Much of this work is covered in the book being produced by Futurepast, Inc. “All work was in the public sphere, and observed all laws of the USSR and then the Russian Federation,” wrote Prof. Kaibyshev.

According to Kaibyshev, the FSB has restricted his institute’s ability to work for the past two years. Moreover, while Prof. Kaibyshev was hospitalized for a heart attack, he said, FSB officers illegally took a safe from his office. When it was finally returned, money belonging to the IMSP had disappeared. When Prof. Kaibyshev asked for its return, he was told if he “pursued this issue, they would ‘bury’ me.” The Office of Public Prosecutor pursued the matter and found that a FSB officer had stolen the funds. After this finding, the FSB pursued Prof. Kaibyshev more actively, accusing him of revealing state secrets, the export of dual technology and financial infringements.

To defend itself, the IMSP requested the Russian Academy of Science (RAS) to conduct an independent audit of IMSP contracts. A commission of RAS experts found that no unauthorized data was exported. This should have stopped the FSB actions, but instead the FSB increased its interrogation of IMSP staff.

According to Futurepast’s president, John C. Shideler, PhD, “We are doing what we can to help Prof. Kaibyshev. The professor has been very sick – hospitalized for a serious heart condition – and, according to his wife, this interrogation could endanger his life. We hope to produce an outcry among the international community to aid in Prof. Kaibyshev’s exoneration.”

The FSB, with the likely sanction of the Putin government, first developed a campaign against journalists, and businessmen, and more recently against so-called “scientist/spies.” Prof. Kaibyshev’s treatment bears similarities to that accorded nuclear physicist Vladimir Soyfer, historian Igor Sutyagin, and physicist Valentin Danilov who were accused of or charged with treason. Sutyagin has already received a sentence of 15 years in prison and Danilov got 14 years. In the case against former Navy officer Aleksandr Nikitin, he was ultimately acquitted after five years of proceedings. Journalist Gregory Pasko was found guilty of high treason and served one and one-half years of a four-year sentence to hard labor for reporting on releases of radioactive liquids from Russian nuclear submarines in the Sea of Japan. And former diplomat Valentin Moiseev has been released from prison after serving time for espionage.

For further information, contact Futurepast, Inc.; 2111 Wilson Blvd. Ste. 700; Arlington, VA 22201 USA; Tel +1-703-358-9127; Fax +1-703-358-9566; Toll-free US & Canada 1+888-358-9047; Mobile +1-571-278-9486; [www.futurepast.com](http://www.futurepast.com).