

THE SHAFAREVICH CASE AND THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Igor Shafarevich is one of the major mathematicians of the century, as much by his great papers as by his influence via his students and the school of mathematics he created since the 1950s. He was a dissident in the Soviet Union, and spoke out throughout his life at times when it was dangerous to do so. He received the admiration and public support of the international mathematical community in the 1960s and 1970s.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he adopted an increasingly nationalist viewpoint, and supported certain movements and parties in Russia in a way which caused consternation among those who had admired him and supported him in the past. I was one of those, and I let him know directly of my criticisms for what he said and did in the late 1980s and 1990s.

I reproduce three pieces I have written in connection with his case: my original letter to him objecting to his book *Russophobia*; a letter to the Council of the National Academy of Sciences objecting to the way this institution got involved in the Shafarevich case; and a general analysis of the meaning of membership in the Academy, comparing all the cases which have been discussed in this book. According to a well-known pattern, by engaging in a "foreign war," the NAS was drawing attention away from domestic problems.