

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 2009

President Ralph Cicerone
The National Academy of Sciences
2100 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear President Cicerone:

I congratulate you and the members of the National Academy of Sciences on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the first agreement on scientific cooperation between your academy and the Soviet Academy of Sciences, which was replaced as your partner by the Russian Academy of Sciences two decades ago. I understand that you and your colleagues in the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine will be meeting in Moscow later this month to discuss future areas of cooperation between the academies. Please extend my best wishes to all of the American and Russian participants for a productive meeting as you celebrate past achievements and develop new endeavors.

Working together, the academies have made many contributions to international science—from proving elusive mathematical theorems to providing new insights into the secrets of outer space to probing the bountiful resources of the earth—as well as to the critically important domain of international security and arms control. Dialogues sponsored by the academies on arms control issues that began during the cold war and continue today have been especially important. Overall, the academies working together have provided a rudder of stability in the overall relationship between the United States and Russia.

The inter-academy program has also helped set the stage for a variety of inter-governmental initiatives—in physics, Arctic science, biosecurity, and nuclear-materials protection, for example. Now, as we expand our interests in energy conservation, climate change, biomedical advances, and international education, we will continue to look to you for ideas and for important venues that can help us move forward in unison with the Russian government.

I will be particularly interested in your report of the discussions of future opportunities for cooperation that will emerge during your celebration in Moscow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.