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Mr. Martin M. Kaplan
Secretary-General
PUGWASH CONFERENCES ON
SCIENCE AND WORLD AFFAIRS

February 5, 1988

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

Thank you for the letter which you have forwarded to me through Academician Goldansky.

In my letter to Flora Lewis I have also taken note of the same place in her publication, assuming that for shortage of space her account of our conversation was sketchy and, therefore, inaccurate.

She agreed with my remarks and suggested that I should write to the editor of The New York Times in order to recapitulate our original conversation.

Perhaps you will have read in The New York Time of what really took place before this letter reaches you.

Or better still, I am enclosing a copy of my letter to The New York Times.

Sincerely,

Valentin Falin

To the Editor of the New York Times

Sir,

Debates about military confrontation between the two world systems are becoming a feature of the American press, and a subject for an exchange of opinion with its authoritative representatives. Not long ago I happened to talk about this with Mrs. Flora Lewis. As usual, the talk was rather long, and meaningful like our previous conversations.

There was one idea we discussed on which I'd like to dwell in more detail than it was done in a relatively short commentary published by the New York Times.

We won't copy you any longer in producing planes and missiles, I told Mrs. Lewis. We'll take asymmetric measures proceeding from the new scientific data we have.

But an asymmetrical approach is bound to create new problems. Different military technologies will engender different military strategies and even different military mentalities with polar views on security. If this happens, the development will go out of control. Even weapons systems will start speaking different languages.

Even now gene engineering enables people to develop the means against which it isn't always capable of making an antidote. To avoid misunderstanding, I'll repeat here what I said to Mrs. Flora Lewis, notably, that gene engineering is mentioned outside the context of SDI for an adequate answer to SDI does not lie in the sphere of biology. Gene engineering is

just one of the most graphic examples of what limitless opportunities people have of acting to their own detriment, of what enormous responsibility they bear, and how topical the problem of disarmament is on the whole.

Respectfully,

Valentin Falin

Chairman of the Board

Novosti Press Agency

Moscow, USSR