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The Orlov trial

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In May this year Yuri Orlov was sentenced in Moscow to seven years strict regime labour camp and five years exile. He was a Russian dissident who had spoken up for freedom in accordance with the Helsinki agreement. This month two more human right campaigners, Mr. Ginsburg and Mr. Shcharansky were put on trial in Moscow, rigged trials, according to the London based newspaper 'The Economist'. Orlov was a scientist. In his speech in court, which was frequently interrupted by the judge, he underlined the enormity of the Soviet crime of using psychiatric hospitals to imprison people indefinitely. The press was excluded from the courtroom and his wife's notes taken from her as she left. But she reports that amongst his statements which she jotted down when she got home was that Orlov told the court that the worker Fedorov who was imprisoned for criminal offences, had become a Christian believer in prison. Addressing the judge, Orlov said "faith helped him and made him a person. Why then", he asked her "was Fedorov declared insane and confined to a psychiatric hospital". At this point he was again cut short by the judge.

At the present time western European scientists are co-operating with Soviet scientists but some of them have said they ought not to do so as a protest to the imprisonment of their brother scientist in Russia. But no action has come from this. We find it so difficult to translate into right action our moral indignation. You will remember in 1956 just on the eve of the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Russia invaded Hungary and put down with violence the Hungarian...
in

This trial of Orlov which happened in
 tended to be taken down to court for
 what we have done for him,
in a Dutch kitchen, in short has

In America scientists have cancelled planned
delegation visits to Russia as a consequence of
Orlov's imprisonment. This is right, for we
should support the Helsinki group in Russia with
our sympathy, our prayers and such action as we
can persuade our government to take. But if we
are going to translate moral indignation into
right actions we need a stronger sense of
rightness than we as an Australian community
have at present. While we spend our time with
gambling or alcohol or other forms of self-centred
pleasure seeking, we will remain too self-centred
to do anything on behalf of other people who may
be suffering wrong. It is by reverence and fear
of God that we can rise above the fear of man.

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