

## COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

Columbia University, New York City  
Mudd Engineering Building, Conference Room, 1306A

January 17, 1981

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

#### 1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chairperson Jeff Bogumil called the meeting to order at 10:20am. Present for all or part of the meeting were:

R. J. Bogumil (Chairperson)	William H. Underwood
William W. Anderson	Stephen H. Unger
Irwin Feerst	Martin B. Weiss
Alex Gruenwald	Leonard Zimmerman
Frank Kotasek	Hilton U. Brown, III (Chairperson of TAB Technology Committees Administration)
Lester Nagel	Robert Friedel (IEEE Staff)
Charles Nicita	Alexander Gimbelson (guest)
Gerald Rabow	
Anthony D. Robbi	

William Anderson, Hilton Brown, Alex Gruenwald, Charles Nicita, and Martin Weiss were welcomed as new members of CSIT. Outgoing chairperson Stephen Unger expressed CSIT's thanks to the TAB Staff--particularly Mona Reisman and Esmi Bidstrup--for the efficient and helpful manner in which they provided staff support to CSIT during 1980.

Hilton Brown said that, in keeping with his responsibilities as Chairperson of TAB Technology Committees Administration, he would be pleased to represent CSIT's position to the Technical Activities Board and to IEEE officials.

#### 2. Discussion of Energy Conservation

Gerald Rabow led a one-hour discussion on energy conservation, using the outline appended to the minutes as APPENDIX A.

The following motion, made by Leonard Zimmerman, was approved:

#### APPENDIX A

#### MOTION

That, at the next meeting, CSIT complete the discussion of item #1 of Rabow's outline and then discuss the remaining four items (see APPENDIX A).

#### 3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the November 15, 1980 CSIT meeting were approved.

#### 4. Report from Area Working Groups

Washington, DC Group. William Anderson reported that the DC group was exploring the idea of serving as a public forum to discuss SIT issues, using a panel-moderator format to present all sides of the issue.

Other Area Groups. Stephen Unger reported that two more people had volunteered to organize CSIT working groups in their areas:

Stephen Goldblatt - Indiana

Terry Hewitt - Oregon

Unger sent each one a mailing list of T&S subscribers in his area.

ACTION:  
Bogumil

It was agreed that Jeff Bogumil would appoint a CSIT member to coordinate the activities of the area working groups.

5. Report on Effort to Form an SSIT

IEEE Approves Formation of SSIT. Stephen Unger gave the following report on CSIT's effort to form an IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology:

On December 4, 1980, by a vote of 16 to 15, the Technical Activities Board recommended that the proposal to form an SSIT be approved.

On January 12, 1981, by a unanimous vote, the IEEE Executive Committee approved formation of SSIT subject to (1) submission of a formal Constitution within six months, together with recommendations from TAB, EAB, PUB, RAB, and USAB; (2) clarification of the field of interest and method of operation to avoid conflict with responsibilities already assigned to USAB and other existing entities of the IEEE; and (3) the field of interest to include the relationship of the historical development of electrotechnology and its impact on society.

APPENDIX B

(Note: A more detailed account of these events is given in APPENDIX B.)

Next Steps by CSIT. The following motion, made by William Anderson, was approved by a vote of 11 to 1:

MOTION

That CSIT take the following sequence of actions:

ACTION (1):  
all members

(1) CSIT members will submit any suggested changes to the proposed SSIT Constitution to Stephen Unger by February 1, 1981. (Note: The proposed Constitution is appended to the November 15, 1980 minutes as EXHIBIT A.)

ACTION (2):

Bogumil,  
Kotasek,  
Underwood,  
Unger

(2) A CSIT subcommittee--consisting of Bogumil, Kotasek, Underwood, and Unger--will modify the proposed SSIT constitution to satisfy the conditions specified by the IEEE Executive Committee and to incorporate suggestions from CSIT members as appropriate, hopefully by February 8.

ACTION (3):

Unger,  
Reisman

(3) The SSIT Constitution will then be mailed to all 60 CSIT members for approval by mail ballot; the deadline for return of the ballots will be roughly 10 to 14 days from date of receipt.

ACTION:

Unger,  
Reisman

It was agreed that, if the SSIT Constitution is approved by CSIT members, the Constitution would then be presented to the IEEE Executive Committee, to the cognizant IEEE boards, and to the AdComs of all IEEE societies. Formation of SSIT must get final approval before July 1, 1981 if SSIT is to begin operation in 1982. TAB's decision on whether to recommend approval of the Constitution will be influenced by how society chairpersons are instructed to vote by their respective AdComs; therefore, it is important to give all AdCom members a copy of the final draft of the SSIT Constitution before the next round of society AdCom meetings, so that they can make an informed decision on the Constitution.

APPENDIX C

CSIT member Donald Wilson sent a letter to CSIT expressing opposition to forming an SSIT (APPENDIX C).

Jeff Bogumil observed that the pros and cons of society status had been discussed exhaustively during the nine years of CSIT's existence and that these discussions had culminated in a decision, at the January 19, 1980 CSIT meeting, to seek society status.

Irwin Feerst objected to the proposed SSIT Constitution on the following grounds:

- (1) According to Feerst, the Constitution makes no provision for petition candidates;
- (2) The Constitution permits only those previously associated with SSIT AdCom to serve as SSIT president; and
- (3) It prohibits SSIT from sponsoring meetings at which security clearance is required.

Feerst said that he had expressed these objections in a letter which he had

sent to all society AdComs. (Note: Feerst's letter also urged the AdComs to reject CSIT's application for society status and urged them to dissolve CSIT.) Stephen Unger replied that Article VI, Section 1 of the proposed SSIT Constitution explicitly does provide for petition candidates. Jeff Bogumil observed that the SSIT Constitution's provisions on society president and on security clearance are standard clauses contained in the constitutions of most IEEE societies. Concerning Feerst's objection to the fact that SSIT can not sponsor meetings at which security clearance is required, Unger read a statement made by Feerst in 1976 when he was a candidate for president of IEEE:

"I do not believe that any--repeat any--IEEE board, committee, technical, council, etc. meeting ought to be closed to any member. Those technical meetings which involve matters of national security should be sponsored by either a government agency or a private contractor."

(Statement by Irwin Feerst in CSIT Newsletter, September 1976, page 3.)

6. Soviet Engineer Denied Exit Visa

APPENDIX D

Stephen Unger distributed some literature concerning "The Engineer and Human Rights" (APPENDIX D).

Unger then introduced Alexander Gimbelsion, a chemical engineering student at Columbia University. Gimbelsion described the situation of his father, Grigory Gimbelsion, an electrical engineer who has been denied permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union (APPENDIX E).

APPENDIX E

Irwin Feerst objected to CSIT's "intrusion" into the Gimbelsion case. Feerst asserted that it was improper for a transnational organization such as IEEE to get involved in this area, but that it would be proper for a U.S. organization such as IEEE's U.S. Activities Board to do so. Stephen Unger asserted that--as demonstrated by Amnesty International--the concern for basic human rights was the responsibility of all human beings regardless of nationality or political belief, and that therefore it was more appropriate for a transnational IEEE entity, such as CSIT, to address the issue.

The following motion, made by Leonard Zimmerman, was approved by a vote of 9 to 1:

MOTION

That CSIT appoint someone to draft a polite letter to the government of the USSR expressing CSIT's concern about the situation of Grigory Gimbelsion; that the letter be presented at the next CSIT meeting for approval and action; and that CSIT also consider sending the letter to the appropriate USSR engineering society (or societies).

ACTION:  
Zimmerman  
APPENDIX F

It was agreed that Leonard Zimmerman would draft the letter, roughly along the lines of the 1975 CSIT letter to the Chilean government on behalf of Enrique Kirberg (APPENDIX F).

The consensus was that the issue of human rights of engineers was only weakly related to social implications of technology, but that the modest action proposed was justified on humanitarian grounds in this particular case.

Individual CSIT members are also encouraged to write letters on behalf of Grigory Gimbelsion to Leonid Brezhnev, with a cc to the embassy of the USSR. Please address letters to:

His Excellency Leonid Brezhnev  
Chairman of the Presidium  
of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet  
U.S.S.R.

Honorable Sergei B. Chetverikov, Counselor  
Embassy of the U.S.S.R.  
1125 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

The airmail rate to the USSR is 40¢ per ½ ounce.

7. Publication - TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

Editor Norman Balabanian sent a message thanking Frank Kotasek for his help on T&S.

Kotasek reported that 1958 complimentary copies of the December 1980 issue of T&S had been sent to potential new subscribers (and to editors) as follows:

- 564 - Signers of SSIT petition
- 488 - People who checked "Ethics" on Technical Interest Profile
- 283 - People who cancelled subscription to T&S in December 1978
- 130 - PAC Chairpersons
- 128 - Section newsletter editors
- 100 - Extra copies
- 265 - Sent by mistake to people who already get T&S

T&S is sent automatically to 30 IEEE society newsletter editors and 9 trade journal editors.

Kotasek said that it is tentatively planned to send 2500 copies of the March 1981 issue to a Technical-Interest-Profile mailing list. A final decision will be made when more data are available on 1981 T&S revenues and the success of the December 1980 mailing. The paid circulation of T&S was 2917 as of December 31, 1980 (compared with 2983 in early December and 2909 on October 31).

ACTION:  
Bogumil

Magazine Status for T&S. It was agreed that Jeff Bogumil would follow up on CSIT's request for magazine status at the next TAB- or PUB-Board meeting as appropriate. The intent is to get magazine status approved by July 1, 1981 so that it can take effect in 1982.

8. Election of CSIT Officers

Jeff Bogumil, our first choice for Chairperson of CSIT, had been officially appointed to that position by TAB. Elections were held for the other CSIT offices.

Leonard Zimmerman was nominated and unanimously elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Frank Kotasek was nominated and unanimously re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

Norman Balabanian was nominated and unanimously re-elected as Editor of TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY.

Anthony Robbi was re-appointed as CSIT delegate to the TAB Energy Committee. David Cook was re-appointed as alternate delegate.

Martin Weiss was appointed as CSIT delegate to the TAB Environmental Quality Committee.

Jeff Bogumil will appoint an alternate delegate to EQC and a delegate and an alternate to the TAB-USAB National R&D Policy Committee when it is formed. Members of the CSIT Washington Group will be invited to fill these three positions. Bogumil will send a letter notifying Esmi Bidstrup (Manager, TAB General Activities) of the new appointments to the TAB committees, with cc's to the cognizant TAB committee chairpersons.

ACTION:  
Bogumil

9. Report from Working Group on Information Technology

Martin Weiss was appointed as Chairperson of the CSIT Working Group on Information Technology.

10. Report from Working Group on Ethics

Stephen Unger reported that Donald Wilson is writing a blurb to tell IEEE members about the existence of the IEEE Code of Ethics and the Member Conduct Committee. Wilson will present the blurb to CSIT, and CSIT will ask the IEEE Board of Directors to publish it in The Institute once a year.

11. Next Meetings

The next CSIT meeting will be held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York City on Wednesday, April 8, 1981, at 11am (during Electro '81). The

meeting after that is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 10:15am at Columbia University.

12. New Business

History of Electrotechnology. Robert Friedel (staff director of the IEEE Center for the History of Electrical Engineering) encouraged CSIT to explore the history of electrotechnology as one of its activities. He believes that CSIT members will find the study of the history of electrotechnology to be extremely interesting and illuminating, and highly relevant to current issues of social implications of technology. Dr. Friedel invited CSIT members to make use of the resources of the Center and to contact him at IEEE Headquarters, (212) 644-7501, for more information. Jeff Bogumil said he hoped that CSIT would become actively involved in this area. (Note: the field of interest of SSIT explicitly includes "the history of the societal aspects of electro-technology.")

1984 IEEE Centennial. Alex Gruenwald (Region 1 representative to the IEEE Centennial Committee) invited CSIT to come up with ideas or activities for the 1984 IEEE Centennial program and offered to coordinate between CSIT and the IEEE Centennial Committee.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Frank Kotasek, Jr., Secretary  
February 27, 1981

## APPENDIX A

January 17, 1981 Discussion of Energy Conservation

At the November 15, 1980 CSIT meeting, it was decided that we would spend about the first hour of our January 17, 1981 meeting on a discussion of a social implications of technology topic. Energy Conservation was selected as the topic, and I was asked to lead the discussion. I would like to take up the following propositions: (For their context, see my article "Energy Conservation: A Role for CSIT" in the December 1980 issue of T &S):

(1) That the use of available energy should be optimized: Energy should be used only where benefits exceed costs, and energy efficiency should be increased where economical. (Energy costs include pollution, safety risks, foreign dependence implications.)

(2) That optimization will result in energy conservation. Energy conservation hence depends on proper understanding and implementation.

(3) That conservation can have a large impact on our energy problem. (For example, half of home heating energy can be economically saved through retrofit.)

(4) That the concept of training engineering students as "house engineers" should be implemented.

(5) That CSIT (with its forte for analysis, education, and persuasion) should give special emphasis to energy conservation. I will ask for additional ideas on how CSIT might promote energy conservation, and I encourage members of the group to give some prior thought to this.

Gerald Rabow  
November 24, 1980

## APPENDIX B

### Executive Committee Approves Society Status for Social Implications of Technology

Stephen H. Unger 1/21/81

At its January 12 meeting, the IEEE Executive Committee approved the formation of a Society on the Social Implications of Technology (SSIT), subject to several conditions. These are that a constitution satisfactory to IEEE's main boards be submitted for approval within 6 months, that the field of interest statement and operating procedures of SSIT be checked to ensure against conflicts with the roles of other IEEE entities, and that the history of the societal aspects of electrotechnology be added to the field of interest statement. None of these conditions are expected to pose any significant problems, since a draft constitution has already been developed by an ad hoc committee of TAB, the history of technology would fit well into the field of the new Society, and there do not appear to be any conflicts with the activities of other IEEE entities.

The matter was discussed at the 1/17 meeting of CSIT, and a subcommittee appointed to revise the constitution as appropriate. (The committee consists of R. J. Bogumil, F. Kotasek, S. H. Unger and W. H. Underwood.) It is anticipated that a final version of the proposed constitution will be ready prior to the end of February.

Before reaching the Executive Committee, the SSIT petition, which by then had well over 800 signatures, was presented again to TAB at its 12/4 meeting. Pursuant to TAB action at its previous meeting, the proposed constitution referred to above was integrated into the proposal. The ad hoc committee that drafted it was composed primarily of individuals representing the views of those who were most skeptical of the SSIT concept. In line with a proposal made by then President Leo Young, a key feature of the constitution is that the 7 TAB Directors will each appoint a member of the Society's AdCom, which also is to include 9 people elected by the members of the Society.

Unfortunately, a number of Society AdComs instructed their TAB representatives to oppose the SSIT proposal without having had the opportunity to consider the new factor introduced by the proposed constitution. Thus a residue of opposition remained that probably would not have existed if the AdComs involved had been able to act on the basis of more complete information. (This is not to say that there would have been no opposition at all.) Nevertheless, despite this factor and the fact that a number of SSIT supporters (including then President-elect Dick Damon) were unable to be present for the vote, due to a conflicting meeting, TAB recommended approval of the proposal by a vote of 16 to 15.

It is hoped that final action to launch SSIT will be complete in time to enroll members for 1982. Current T&S subscribers will be invited to be charter members. Their support of the petition for the formation of the new society was a major factor in the success of the effort. Steps are now under way to gain formal approvals allowing T&S to attain magazine status concurrently with the birth of SSIT.

January 8, 1981

Members of the CSIT Committee;

I thought I would commit to paper a few of my thoughts following your last meeting regarding the structure and operation of CSIT. At an earlier meeting, when<sup>discussing</sup> the proposal to apply for Society status for CSIT, I suggested that CSIT, as a Committee served an important function for the IEEE, as a whole. Most of the IEEE societies operate in a predominately consensus mode where the discipline involved provides a meaningful structure for the society consensus. In recent years a large number of issues have arisen within ( and without) IEEE which are marked by a high degree of dissensus within the Institute. Some of these issues are directly job related, pension protection, wage busting, age discrimination and these have largely been dealt with through the formation of the USAB. Many of the others, those dealing with broader societal issues such as energy policy and environmental protection have tended to home about CSIT. Within USAB the issues have largely been handled by relatively informal Task Forces. The PAC organizations which copy the traditional sectional operations have been largely ineffectual.. In the same way I suggest that societal status would largely stifle CSIT's informal mode of operation which maybe essential to the largely dissensus issues with which you deal.

I suspect that the IEEE top brass have more than merely tolerated CSIT but may have even encouraged its operation in an attempt to see how you would cope with very divergent and highly opinionated inputs on these dissensus kinds of issues.



As a case in point, I suspect that the IEEE hierarchy will note closely just how you handle the inputs of Irwin Feerst. Irwin maybe, for many of us, a scattershot "gadfly" but anyone who could shake up the IEEE establishment to the degree which he has deserves some attention and some respect. I am not a supporter of Irwin, although I do subscribe to his publication, and I do find him often tiresome and completely off-target in his concerns ( my apologies Irwin) but I do not doubt his dedication or his integrity. And he clearly resonates with a large number of frustrated memâbrs of IEEE. At times I have suspected ( never very seriously) that the IEEE top brass deliberately encourages Irwin to haunt various IEEE meetings to keep the local groups on their toes and to give them some on-the-job training in handling difficult adversaries. In one instance I was at a meeting where Irwin baited Suran at some considerable length. Suran dealt with Irwin surely yet graciously and came away a winner as a result. I wondered if previous encounters with Irwin had helped develop this skill.

I suggest, therefore, that if CSIT cannot adjust to the Feerst-like gadflys of IEEE, are you then sending a message to the IEEE hierarchy that you are not able to do that one thing which makes you especially valuable to IEEE, that is to provide a kind of safety valve for dissensus.

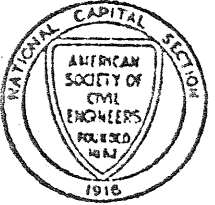
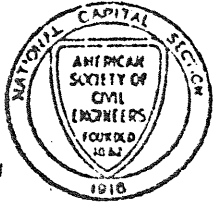
In that sense the exercise, which came to a head at the last meeting, of writing up a constitution and by-laws typical of the consensus societies may have demonstrated that the stricter operational rules ( who can vote, who can be elected etc.) of the consensus societies are inapplicable to the mode of CSIT. Thus I, for one, was in agreement with Irwin at the last meeting when he expressed the view that the proposed Constitution and By-laws had been sprung on the Committee and was being railroaded through.

Therefore I suggest to the Committee that you carefully reconsider this issue of society status and the requisite step of accepting a Constitution and By-laws that could very well destroy the support you now enjoy. Were you to change your mind and acknowledge to the IEEE that society status was inappropriate for CSIT, I would suggest, that you would not loose in their esteem but would instead gain, for I do not believe the IEEE hierarchy is naive on this kind of problem and that CSIT's search for an appropriate "modus operandi" has it's parallels elsewhere in IEEE.

I am not arguing against a more formal structure for IEEE but rather that an appropriate structure for handling the kinds of issues which you have handled will probably be quite unlike the other IEEE societies.

I should add that in most ~~the~~<sup>of</sup> the CSIT meetings I have attended I thought Steve Unger dealt with Irwin in a even-handed and admirable way, far more fair than I would have been. But, at the last meeting, I think Irwin's valid questions about the <sup>b</sup>submission of a Constituion and By-laws, questions which had a bearing on the whole future operation of CSIT, were unfairly and very unwisely dismissed. That maybe all that a gadfly might expect but it is not what I would expect of a Committee which is looking for wider acceptance within IEEE.

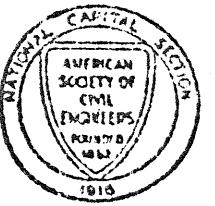
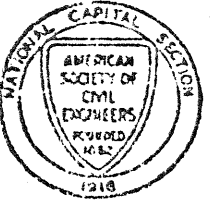
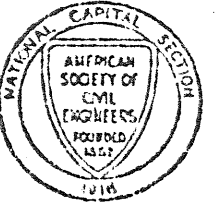
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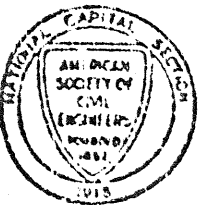
THE ENGINEER

AND

HUMAN RIGHTS



national capital section  
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#### PREFACE

This document has been assembled to provide helpful and useful information to the engineer interested in becoming involved in the human rights movement.

Civic Affairs Committee

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Civic Affairs Committee expresses its sincere thanks to the following persons for their assistance and valuable suggestions in the preparation of this document.

Roberta Cohen, Human Rights Officer, U. S. Department of State,  
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Advancement of Science, Washington, D. C.

HUMAN RIGHTS

A body of international law has developed that defines certain basic universally accepted human rights which every person in the world should be able to enjoy. These rights should be enjoyed by all persons regardless of their form of government; and social, economic or political systems.

Governments have abridged, violated, or subverted these rights, and have illegally imprisoned, tortured, and harassed their citizens. Persons have been denied the right to earn a livelihood; to an education; to speak out; to inquire; to travel; and to enjoy the full protection of the laws of their country. In addition, persons have "disappeared" (where government authorities have refused to acknowledge their arrest, or to provide information on their whereabouts - although in some countries these persons have been seen in secret detention centres). Often these people are guilty of nothing more than holding an unpopular political, social or religious belief; of working through peaceful means for changes in the system or form of government; of desiring to emigrate; or of requesting the enjoyment of their human rights.

PHILOSOPHY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Engineers have both personal and professional reasons for working to protect and advance the rights of colleagues abroad. The denial of fundamental rights to any individual is, in and of itself, reason enough for men of good will everywhere to raise their voices in protest. The sense of solidarity which links colleagues operates to give engineers an even greater interest in the fate of their co-workers.

We act out of a belief that engineers are part of a worldwide fellowship; that oppression of any colleague elsewhere diminishes us here; that engineers, as individuals and through engineering organizations, can work on behalf of the rights of fellow engineers.

Persons of certain background, or certain occupations, are able to work on behalf of the rights of oppressed persons abroad who share their occupations and interests. The factors that bring such groups together in a common attempt to defend others abroad may be based on occupation, or on a common racial, religious, or national background. In our pluralistic society, overlap may often be found between groups and several different groups may be active on behalf of a particular persecuted individual. This strengthens the total effort in support of the individual.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The most commonly accepted international statement is that of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948 as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations" in preserving the dignity and worth of the human person. Under the Charter of the United Nations, member states are pledged to take joint and separate action to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Universal Declaration is only one of a number of important international human rights documents. Between 1951 and 1968 the General Assembly of the United Nations alone adopted 15 international conventions and two international covenants. As well as these United Nations' documents, there have also been two regional human rights conventions drawn up: the European Convention on Human Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights.

ACTIVITIES

The one universal and perhaps most significant support that can be given to an oppressed person, is to not forget them or allow them to be forgotten. The spirits of the person who has probably already been socially, physically, and psychologically isolated by his or her government are greatly uplifted and sustained by contact or knowledge of contact from the international community. Their government is also made aware that the fate of this person is of concern to a great many people throughout the world.

What can be done in support of persecuted persons and how it is best done depend on the particulars of each case. The personalities of different countries are quite different in their responses to pressures and inducements. In general flexibility is quite important and no one method should exclude others.

Sustained work is very important in the effectiveness of what is being done. Human rights involvement cannot be dealt with as a passing fad. It is a long struggle with few demonstratable accomplishments along the way.

Some specific types of activities are: writing letters; visits; boycotts; publicity activities to keep the person's case before the public; and encouraging official action by the United States government.

Letter writing is the simplest and least costly support for a persecuted person. Letters can be written to government officials, to others in the person's country, such as professional



institutions, media, and where the addresses are known to the person and their family.

When overseas trips, whether business or pleasure, are planned, visits with the persecuted persons and their families (where this does not endanger them); and colleagues; and government officials can be included in the travel itinerary.

Whether to boycott or not to boycott a country in protest over the treatment of their citizens is a difficult personal decision. Two important diametrically opposed, and equally valid viewpoints have emerged.

One viewpoint is that professional meetings, interchanges, and even tourism should be boycotted in protest against persecutions. That by denying American technology, know-how, and dollars to a totalitarian government you can influence its leadership and deny support to its policies. The viewpoint opposed to boycotts is that they make direct contact with persecuted engineers impossible and deny information to the outside world. This results in greater isolation and more intensive persecution for these victims.

The plight of persecuted engineers can be kept before the public by cooperating with the other organizations involved in human rights; issuing news releases in their support; and participating in national and local meetings on human rights.

Congress should be petitioned to adopt resolutions and issue statements in support of persecuted engineers.

LETTER WRITING

Information on writing letters to persons being persecuted or on their behalf. These suggestions are intended to apply to letters written to persons and officials in the country committing the violation. Letters to persons or officials in the United States should follow generally accepted correspondence practices.

OFFICIALS

Letters written to government officials and officers of professional organizations should discuss the case and convey a sense of community outrage with the maltreatment to which the person and family are being subjected; the injustices being perpetrated and the denials of basic universally accepted human rights. Letters on behalf of "disappeared" persons should ask the officials for information concerning the whereabouts, legal situation and state of health of the person. Whenever possible, these letters should be written on official organizational stationary. Professional organization; business; academic; or other official letterheads convey a sense of organizational support to the recipient.

A number of points should always be borne in mind whenever letters are addressed to detaining authorities:  
-letters to government authorities should always be formal and courteous. An abusive or sarcastic tone may damage the persecuted person's chances.

- remember that the correct form of address, the style of the letter, and even the language in which it is written may determine whether it is attended to or ignored.
- take care to avoid any comments in letters which might be regarded as political. Many governments are very sensitive to what they consider to be "interference in the internal affairs of the state".
- emphasize humanitarian concern and the importance of the case for the country's reputation in the world. Stress positive aspects - respect for the constitution and the judicial process, understanding of the government's current difficulties - in such a way as to encourage a response to the letter;
- it is helpful to refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or, for instance, the European Convention on Human Rights, when writing to the relevant countries.

#### VICTIMS

Letters written to persecuted engineers provide important psychological support. They should be warm, supportive, and sympathetic. Topics of mutual professional interest can be discussed. Letters should not be political, nor should they contain promises that cannot be personally fulfilled by the writer. Inquiries about birthdays, anniversaries, professional specialization, and so forth are permissible. Letters may be written in English or the victims language.

Often first letters will not get through and sometimes letters may never get through to the victim. Persistent letter sending may result in letters eventually getting through.

When writing to imprisoned persons, you should remember that in some countries prisoners are not allowed to receive letters at all; in others, they are rationed to, perhaps, one letter every three months. In view of the attitudes of different government authorities, an effective way of reaching the prisoner may be to send an open postcard. Whether by letter or postcard, it is important to stress that you are a well-wisher working in a similar field in your own country. Be careful to explain your own nationality, and write only the most general inquiries about the prisoner's well-being.

Do not be discouraged by a lack of response. Even if letters get through there may be reasons why a victim is unable to respond. Whether or not letters actually get through to the victim, a steady flow of letters is valuable. They make a significant impression on the authorities, giving them a clear message that the victim has not been forgotten. This can sometimes cause the authorities to ameliorate their treatment of a victim.

Letters should be sent via registered mail with an air mail advice of delivery card (return receipt) requested. At the time of posting, you will receive a receipt which must be kept. The registry fee carries with it an indemnity. As the postal regulations point out, you are entitled to the indemnity if the letter is lost regardless of the value of the contents. Do not insure letters. The return receipt is returned to the

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sender, signed by the addressee or a local post office official, upon receipt of the letter by the addressee. If, within 30 days, neither the return receipt nor the letter (with a stamp indicating the reason for non-delivery) is returned, form #542 "Inquiry About A Registered Article" should be filed at the local post office. If, in response to the inquiry, the local Postal Service indicates that the letter has not been accounted for, you are entitled to the full indemnity and should file form #565 "Application for Indemnity" in order to receive it. If no answer is received to the inquiry within six months of filing, file form #565 for indemnity anyway.

#### VICTIMS' FAMILIES

In some cases, the address of the family of a persecuted, imprisoned or "disappeared" engineer may be available. Always remember that a victim's family is likely to be under surveillance and possibly in danger of arrest. Make sure that any letter you write cannot be open to misinterpretation. Picture postcards containing greetings are likely to escape censorship altogether, and would be welcomed by families in need of moral support.

Never press a family with letters if you do not receive a reply; it may not be safe for them to write or receive letters.

## RESIDENTS

Letters should be sent to colleagues, business and professional associates in the victim's country. These letters should discuss the case, specifically the crime of which the person is accused, the treatment the person and family have received at the hands of the government; the violations of the person's universally accepted human rights; and the illegalities of the person's persecution, imprisonment or "disappearance". There should be appeals for support of the person and for intervention on the person's behalf.

APPENDIX A

ATTACHED REFERENCE MATERIALS

ASCE and Human Rights, a statement adopted by the Board of Direction,  
American Society of Civil Engineers, April 13, 1980.

Professional and Public Interest Organizations Active in Human  
Rights Activities

Bibliography

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

ASCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

A statement proposed by the National Capital Section,  
on why the American Society of Civil Engineers should  
become a participant in the human rights movement.  
Adopted by the Board of Direction, April 13, 1980

"A prime responsibility of every Academy is to encourage and defend the scientific life of the country. Despite this fact, scientists of German society, as far as I know, have become silent witnesses to the fact that a considerable part of German scientists, students and teachers have been stripped of the possibility to work and obtain for themselves the means of subsistence. I haven't the slightest desire to belong to any scientific society capable, even under outside pressure, of conducting itself in such a fashion."

Albert Einstein, on resigning from the Bavarian Academy:  
April 21, 1933

Much has changed since Einstein wrote these words. Germany's National Socialist government has been eradicated and its racial teachings condemned. A body of international human rights law which provides standard frames of reference for a person's economic, social, civil, political, and religious rights has come into being since 1948, to guide the conduct of nations. Today the peoples of the world take notice and react with revulsion when governments tyrannize their citizens.

But much also remains the same: human rights violations still are commonplace occurrences throughout the world; governments still imprison their citizens without trial; torture still exists; citizens are still deprived of the right to earn a livelihood for holding unpopular beliefs and persons are still harassed and imprisoned for trying to exercise the basic human rights defined by international law.

The theme in Einstein's statement--that professional organizations must not be silent and acquiescent to human rights violations--is as valid and relevant today as it was in 1933.

The standards and ideals of professional ethical and moral conduct to which an engineer and his professional organization subscribe do not allow ASCE to be a "silent witness" to persecution.



The American Society of Civil Engineers, is committed to the "advancement of the profession of engineering to enhance the welfare of mankind" and has challenged its members to "...advance the integrity, honor and dignity of the engineering profession by using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare." These sentiments transcend a narrow interpretation of the engineer as only a technical practitioner and ASCE as only a technical society. By its own words, ASCE declares itself a professional organization and thus accepts the broad based concerns of all professional organizations.

Human rights is one of these broad based concerns. ASCE has a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership within the engineering community, by making a meaningful commitment in support of the human rights movement.

What makes the plight of the persecuted engineer so unique, that it is necessary for him or her to receive special support over and above that which others may receive? Actually nothing. The engineer's suffering is no greater nor lesser, at the hands of a tyrannical government, than any other segment of that country's society. But engineers are our own and there exists a special quality of collegiality among engineers of all nations.

Experience has shown that this special quality of collegiality can be more effective in supporting victims of oppression, than the appeals of the broad based human rights organizations. The professional organizations of lawyers, social scientists, physical scientists, and other groups have been effective in assisting their colleagues who were victims of persecution. By becoming involved, ASCE can offer the same kind of valuable peer group support to engineers suffering persecution at the hands of tyrannical and totalitarian governments.

There is a place, a need for, a professional responsibility for ASCE's joining the ranks of other professional organizations in the human rights endeavor.

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

ACTIVE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

National Academy of Sciences  
Committee on Human Rights  
2101 Constitution Avenue N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20418  
202-389-6226

American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility  
Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights  
1515 Massachusetts Avenue N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20005  
202-467-4400

Committee of Concerned Scientists  
9 East 40 Street  
New York, N. Y. 10016  
212-686-8862

Federation of American Scientists  
307 Massachusetts Avenue N. E.  
Washington, D. C. 20002  
202-546-3300

Helsinki Watch  
205 East 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y. 10017  
212-867-7035

Amnesty International USA  
705 G Street S. E.  
Washington, D. C. 20003  
202-544-0200

Human Rights Internet  
1502 Ogden Street N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20010

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

MATERIAL ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Scholarly Freedom and Human Rights; the problem of persecution and oppression of science and scientists by the Council for Science and Society in collaboration with the British Institute of Human Rights, 1977. Available from the Council for Science and Society; 3/4 St. Andrew's Hill, London EC4V 5BY

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights; published by the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, American Association for the Advancement of Science; 1515 Massachusetts Ave. N. W.; Washington, D. C. 20005.

Basic Documents on Human Rights; ed. by Ian Brownlie, 1971.

The Human Rights Reader; edited by Walter Laquer and Barry Rubin, 1979, New American Library, \$6.95.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenants on Human Rights; and the Helsinki Final Act; are available in Department of State Publication 8961, Selected Documents No. 5 "Human Rights" Stock No. 044-000-01713-0, Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

D18

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

*Now, therefore,*

*The General Assembly*

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance,

both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

*Article 1*

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

*Article 2*

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

*Article 3*

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

*Article 4*

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

*Article 5*

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

*Article 6*

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

*Article 7*

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

*Article 8*

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

*Article 9*

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

*Article 10*

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

*Article 11*

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

*Article 12*

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

*Article 13*

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

*Article 14*

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

*Article 15*

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

*Article 16*

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

*Article 17*

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

*Article 18*

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

*Article 19*

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes

freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

*Article 20*

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

*Article 21*

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

*Article 22*

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

*Article 23*

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone one has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

*Article 24*

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

*Article 25*

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

*Article 26*

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

*Article 27*

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting

from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

*Article 28*

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

*Article 29*

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

*Article 30*

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

APPENDIX E

Biographical Sketch. GRIGORY GIMPELSON

BORN: 1933, Leningrad, U.S.S.R.

ADDRESS: 33 Parchomenko Ave. Apt. 75  
Leningrad, U.S.S.R.

EMPLOYMENT: Senior Engineer and later Assistant of Project Manager at the Scientific Research Institute of Ship Automation, Leningrad.

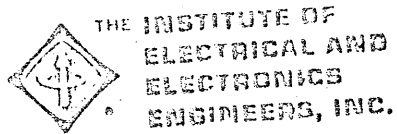
APPLICATION FOR EXIT VISA: ~~four~~<sup>SIX</sup> times. ~~four~~<sup>SIX</sup> refusals, the latest in December, 1980. We will reapply in the spring of 1981.

REASON FOR REFUSAL: Access to allegedly sensitive documents during his employment at the Research Institute in Leningrad. (However, Gimpelson has not been employed at this Institute since 1973. He declares that he was never exposed to security information; in any case the projects he worked on are certainly dated by now.)

PERSONAL: Married to Bronislava Tonkonoraya. One son, Alexander, who was going to be drafted into Soviet military service. In such instances, the U.S.S.R. forbids emigration for at least five years since the soldier may then be deemed a security risk. To avoid this delay, the parents were divorced in 1977. Mrs. Gimpelson and Alexander were then allowed to emigrate in 1977. They currently reside in Queens. Alexander is a student in the Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT STEPHEN H. UNGER, (212) 280-3107





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ELECTRICAL AND  
ELECTRONICS  
ENGINEERS, INC.

ATTORNEY  
C-SIT Minutes - 6/9/75

APPENDIX F

345 EAST 47TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 AREA CODE 212 752-6800

June 16, 1975

General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte  
Jefe Supremo del Estado  
Edificio Diego Portales  
Santiago, Chile

Dear General Pinochet:

The Institute of Electrical & Electronics, Inc. (IEEE) is a transnational organization of 170,000 engineers residing in 130 countries.

The Committee on Social Implications of Technology (C-SIT) of the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc. is concerned with the ethical bases of engineering employee-employer relationships. We wish to enquire as to the status of Dr. Enrique Kirberg, formerly rector of the Universidad Tecnica del Estado in Santiago. On the basis of information available to us at present, it would appear that he has not received treatment consistent with our proposed employment practices guidelines, a copy of which is enclosed. We would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Hansen, Ph.D.  
Chairman - IEEE/C-SIT

RCH/gd

Enclosure: Copy of Employment Practices Guidelines

cc: Chilean Embassy, Washington, D.C.  
Mr. Arthur P. Stern, President, IEEE

cc: R. C. Lacerda, Director Region 9  
B. S. Goldberg  
Prof. Clemens, Columbia University  
J. M. Benjamin  
R. J. Bogumil  
V. Klig  
A. Rossoff  
P. D. Edmonds  
Ms. E. Bidstrup  
R. M. Emberson  
C. F. Stewart  
J. H. Klein