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To the members of the Institute: Science and Mediocrity

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Dear friends,

Our scientific directorship has chosen today to popularize among us the precarious thoughts of a certain Cluj-Napoca native would-be minister. This is obviously a manoeuvre to pave the way to the aforementioned mediocre, on the assumption that he would resume his position at the helm of the Ministry of Research. I stand up resolutely against this political trickery. Our Institute is not a theater of coterie manipulations. I've never heard our scientific directorship speaking highly of the scientific value of a member of the Institute, where there was one. But on many occasions, I've seen ours fawning over foreigners, with their tongues hanging out of their mouths. Foreigners both to these places and to the science.

For indeed, the said delphic of Cluj has broached the issue of the scientific diaspora.

As concerns the Romanian scientific diaspora, I'll give you an accurate picture of the actual state of affairs.

Scrupulous careerists fail to assert themselves in Romanian scientific research, a tough nut to crack for them. Consequently, they fly away to Europe or America, where milk and honey are flowing, where the scientific research is contemptible and laughable, and where they can manufacture for themselves lists of scientific publications. Afterwards, they return with these doctored lists to Romania to dupe their gullible co-nationals into singing them praises for their scientific value and to bliss us with their smart-aleck faces. The Romanian scientific diaspora is made up of failed internationals. The local bosses welcome these impostors with open arms as they could provide them with the opportunity to go abroad and to forge international liaisons which, in their opinion, give them scientific identity and credibility in the eyes of their co-nationals. Words fail me to speak out against this imposture of pestilent intellectuality; we are falling backwards and are thrilling at the bare thought of America, at the slightest odour of the stinky Europe.

People living abroad for years are sometimes returning to Romania, with their tail between their legs but their nose in the air, claiming a chair at one of the Romanian universities. But not anyhow and not any chair. They want to plunge directly into a full professorship position or to get straight the highest scientific degree, to become a prime - , an out-out-out scientist in the local research institutes. The fact that they have no professional expertise whatsoever, no genuine scientific achievements is by no means relevant. They wave their doctored list of scientific publications, compiled offhand, comprised of multiple casual co-authors of multiple nationalities who are publishing on and on the same endless rigmarole. We are all descending from apes, only they are coming down from international scientifics. If they are all silent about the contents of their scientific achievements, is due to the fact that none of them have such a thing.

I suggest throwing them all into the canal. As quickly as possible. And do not forget to flush!
(Translated from Romanian Antiphys. Rev. **148** (2008) by Iulia Negoitza)