

Former Soviet refusenik to be Regents' lecturer

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FORMER SOVIET REFUSENIK TO BE REGENTS' LECTURER AT UCSD

Yacov Al'pert, a distinguished physicist and former Soviet refusenik, will be a Regents' Lecturer at the University of California, San Diego, from February 13 until March 3.

Al'pert, an expert on the propagation of radio waves, is a guest of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. He was invited to come to UCSD by the late engineering professor, Henry Booker, in 1979. During his stay on campus he will meet with students and give two free seminars on research topics.

On February 15, Al'pert will give a seminar on "Some Problems of the Electrodynamics of Tether Systems," at noon in Nierenberg Hall at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. His other talk, "Studies of the Ionosphere in the USSR: Early Period to 1958 and 1960-1970," will be February 21 at 4 p.m., in the Mayer Seminar Room, Mayer Hall, on the Revelle campus.

Al'pert and his wife, Svetlana, were allowed to leave the Soviet Union in late 1987. He spent some time at St. John's College, Cambridge, England, before coming to the United States where he has been doing research at the Smithsonian Institution Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, MA, and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Al'pert, 77, first applied for a visa to leave the Soviet Union for Israel in 1975. This resulted in his removal from his positions of responsibility, reassignment to a relatively minor post, exclusion from scientific committees, and restriction of his scientific activity.

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