

MC 0572

BOX 6-07 FOLDER 10

[Institute of High Energy Physics, Serpukhov, n.d.]

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ADDRESS FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE R.F. SEPARATORS AT SERPUKHOV

Victor F. Weisskopf

Dear Friends and Fellow Physicists,

I am very sorry that I was unable to assist at this celebration of the culmination of a remarkable development. It is remarkable in two respects: from the scientific and from the human point of view. For me, Science has a broader meaning than the search for the laws of nature. It is the symbol of the relation between man and nature, it represents a human response to the challenges of the natural world. In facing nature, all human beings are equal. There are no differences of race, politics or nationality. This is why Science always was and always will be the best bridge between people. We may not understand our different languages, we may not follow our different ways of living, but we all understand the scientific language, we all come to the same scientific conclusions. This is why our collaboration here at Serpukhov has other important aspects apart from the scientific results. When the West-European physicists have joined the Russian physicists in the exploitation of this great accelerator, they not only have opened up new ways to penetrate into the structure of matter at the highest energy available today, they also have given an example of the supernational human character of science by showing how effective the co-operation of different nations can be. There are no nations or political systems within the realms of science. He, who enters the halls of a laboratory where basic research is done, has shed his nationality or his politics. He becomes a human being.

Ten years ago, when I was at CERN, this collaboration was only a dream in the heads of a few of us. Many people considered it as impractical or inopportune or against the rules. Today it is a working reality, which gives us new scientific results and a new belief in a better world of peace and co-operation.