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## The General Meeting of the Russian Academy of Sciences

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### *Address of Academician M. I. Kuz'min*

I support the proposal about a broad discussion of the concept of the Academy's development, with the Academy's associates participating in it. Many useful and important things are contained in the papers that were heard today at the general meeting of the RAS Branch of Earth Sciences. In particular, I think that Academician V.E. Fortov was right when he said that the financing of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) was reduced undeservingly. The foundation must still support basic research; this is a body with which the Academy can work efficiently and promptly. However, the current situation is such that almost half a year has already passed, all the grants have been distributed, but there is no movement as far as financing is concerned. Therefore, the Academy together with the RFBR leadership must constantly

monitor this issue. Furthermore, the foundation has successfully passed the recent audit by the Russian Chamber of Accounts.

At present, many research universities have sprung up, including my city of Irkutsk. Academic institutes should collaborate more closely with these universities in joint RFBR grants.

It is very important what Academician S.M. Aldoshin said about housing construction for researchers. The Irkutsk Research Center is solving these problems; however, we should also think about accommodations for those who come for temporary work at our scientific establishments. This would promote staff turnover, which is, no doubt, useful for the development of science.