OBITUARY

Nikolai Al'fredovich Platé (1934–2007)

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The editorial board and staff of the journal *Solid Fuel Chemistry* announces with deep regret the death of Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Sciences academician Nikolai Al'fredovich Platé on March 16, 2007. Platé was a full member of the European Academy of Sciences, member of the State Commission for Chemical Disarmament, member of the bureau of the National Committee of the Russian Federation Security Council, and Director of the Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, RAS.

Nikolai Al'fredovich Platé was born on November 4, 1934. His father, professor A.F. Platé, was the pupil of Academician N.D. Zelinsky. A.F. Platé was the head of the chair of petroleum chemistry and organic catalysis at the Faculty of Chemistry, Moscow State University.

Platé made a great contribution to polymer science. He was the recognized authority in this field both in

Russia and abroad. His theoretical works found vast practical applications.

Platé is the author of 500 scientific papers, 90 patents, and 6 monographs including "Comb-Shaped Polymers and Liquid Crystals," "Macromolecular Reactions," "Physiologically Active Polymers," "The Fundamentals of Chemistry and Technology of Monomers."

The achievements of Platé in science and pedagogical and public activities have been honored with high government awards, scientific prizes, and orders of the USSR, Russia, and foreign countries: the Order of Friendship, Medal of Reverence, Orders for Services to the Fatherland (of IV, III, and II classes), State Prizes of the USSR and Russian Federation (1985 and 2002), the Prize of the Government of the Russian Federation (2000), and the Kargin and Lebedev prizes of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences (1981 and 1995). Academician Platé has been awarded with the international prize Golden Age for his prominent contribution to chemical disarmament (1988) and with the Herman Mark medal "For Outstanding Advances in Chemistry of Polymers" of the Austrian Research Institute for Chemistry and Technology. He was given the Legion of Honor of the government of the French Republic. The governments of Belgium and Poland marked his achievements by their own high awards: for services in invention (Belgium) and the Comandor Cross (Poland).

Academician Platé was the chairman of the RAS Scientific Publishing Council, editor-in-chief of the journal *Vysokomolekulyarnye Soedineniya (Polymer Science)*, member of Commission for Awarding State Prizes in Science and Technology, and member of the Russian Federation President's Council for Science, Technologies, and Education.

As the chairman of the United Scientific Council for the Chemistry of Petroleum, Gas, and Solid Fuel, Academician Platé greatly assisted the development of fundamental and applied researches in the chemistry and technologies of solid fossil fuels and their practical applications in Russia.

Platé actively supported the journal *Khimiya Tverdogo Topliva (Solid Fuel Chemistry)*.

The Editorial Board and staff of the journal will remember forever Nikololai Al'fredovich Platé as a cheerful and person and outstanding multifaceted scientist.