

(Preface to DIPED-2008 Proceedings)

HANDS OFF GEORGIA!

The Proceedings have already been prepared for printing but today an event happened that force us to substitute the traditional Welcome by this appeal. In violation of all existing juridical and moral rules and elementary principles of human behaviour, a Great Country having already occupied a significant part of the sovereign state of Georgia unleashed the military conflict (in fact, the war), bombing its cities, towns and villages. All this is concealed by intense lie of propaganda company. Barbarism, insolence and cynicism, it is hard to find other words to describe the situation.

There is a danger that this act of aggression will not find an adequate repulse of the world states-leaders, since also other "great" countries have already been applying their doubtful right of military "defense of the interests (also often doubtful) of the citizens beyond their country". To take these citizens to their citizen-land and take care of them there is the only legal way to defense these interests. However, the purpose of this aggression is different and obvious: to show that the only truth in this world is the truth of power. But the aggressor will always remain the aggressor, no matter how often it calls itself as "the peacemaker".

In spite of any difficulties and obstacles, we are going to hold the Seminar/Workshop in the planned place (Tbilisi, Georgia) and on the planned dates. It started a quarter of century ago as an annual meeting of the scientific groups of Russia, Georgia and Ukraine coupled by closed research topics, and now it is a known international event. This fact has a symbolic meaning also in connection with the current situation.

At this critical time we express a hope that the scientists of all countries could join their efforts and make all the possible in order to avoid the world catastrophe that is just coming. Together they could influence their politicians and governments who promote its incoming.

We address the special appeal to our friends and colleagues, the scientists of the Great Country. There is a real danger that silent support of your government actions could turn to be your direct responsibility for their consequences in the future. Such cases are known in the history.

There exists an unwritten rule. The organizers and participants of any scientific conference should try to avoid the using of this event for purposes different to those indicated in the program. However I think that any human has a moral right (and a citizen duty!) at least once in life to violate the existing rules and traditions if it is convinced that from this benefit all.

Using this right I say:

**Hands off Georgia!
Freedom can not be stopped!**

Nikolai N. Voitovich
General Chairman
DIPED Organizing Committee
Lviv, Ukraine
08.08.08