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RUSSIAN SCIENTIST VANISHES IN SPAIN

U.S. Colleagues Seem Puzzled by Disappearance During a Nuclear Arms Parley

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WASHINGTON, July 15 — A Soviet expert on computer modeling and on the potentially catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons in changing the world's climate disappeared while attending a meeting in Spain, according to his American colleagues.

The Russian, Vladimir Aleksandrov, vanished while in Madrid in March, leaving behind his passport, some airline tickets and perhaps a few additional belongings, the colleagues said.

His disappearance appears to have attracted little attention outside the few scientists who knew him. It was brought to wider attention in a report from Stockholm, Sweden, published in the July 4-10 issue of *Nature*, a British scientific journal.

American Confirms Report

John M. Wallace, director of the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Oceans at the University of Washington in Seattle, said in a telephone interview that he had received word from sources in the Soviet Union that Mr. Aleksandrov was missing.

Dr. Wallace said that he subsequently reached the organizers of the meeting, which was held in Córdoba, Spain, and learned that Mr. Aleksandrov had disappeared while in Madrid.

Dr. Thomas Malone, a scholar-in-residence at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford, Conn., said a Soviet delegate said in a scientific workshop in Britain last month that Mr. Aleksandrov had "disappeared in Spain under circumstances that they did not understand."

He told the workshop group, which had expected Mr. Aleksandrov to attend, that the Soviet Union had referred the matter to the International Red Cross.

Mr. Aleksandrov is the author of a computer model that supports conclusions by American scientists that a nuclear war would cause a climatic chill, the so-called nuclear winter, by throwing so much dust into the atmosphere that sunlight would be obscured.

The article in *Nature* cited speculation that Mr. Aleksandrov might have defected or been forcibly repatriated to the Soviet Union, or had even been killed before he could defect or could say something in opposition to Soviet policies. The article acknowledged that the suggestions were farfetched.