

July 18, 2013

To: Mr. S. Naryshkin, Speaker of the DUMA

Dear Mr. Naryshkin,

I am proud to be a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, an organization with a long and distinguished history. In order to preserve its excellent reputation, some degree of independence is essential.

Any proposed changes in the legal status of the Academy should be presented to the scientist members for approval or disapproval. Apparently fundamental changes are now being contemplated without consultation with those scientists, thereby threatening to destroy the reputation of the Academy.

Please use your powers and influence to persuade your government not to go ahead with this dangerous step.

Yours sincerely,

Murray Gell-Mann
Distinguished Fellow,
Santa Fe Institute