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Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
The President of India
Rashtrapati Bhawan
New Delhi
INDIA

October 11 2002

Dear Mr. President

We would like to call your attention to recent events in the academic life of India which require an urgent investigation and serious action against those responsible.

The website http://www.geocities.com/physics_plagiarism/ presents the case, endorsed by India's leading physicists, for the plagiarism in theoretical physics by an Indian physicist, B.S. Rajput (currently Vice-Chancellor of Kumaon University) and his associates.

We have studied the facts on plagiarism presented on this website and we completely support the conclusion of India's leading physicists: it has been proven beyond a shadow of doubt that B.S. Rajput and his associates are guilty in a number of instances of plagiarism.

The article "Plagiarism scandal brewing" on Friday, Sep 27, 2002 in India's National Newspaper "The Hindu" refers to the statement of B.S. Rajput that he was not aware of the plagiarized papers with his name as a co-author, and that he threatens to take legal action against what he calls the "mischievous web-site". The website has since added a section (iv) which gives well documented proof that on many occasions B.S. Rajput was a "corresponding author" on these papers and therefore was fully aware of the plagiarism. Rajput's name is the only one common to all the plagiarized papers.

It is shocking for the world scientific community that B.S. Rajput remains unpunished. We cannot understand how any person participating in plagiarism can remain in power as a Vice-Chancellor of one of the Indian universities. Moreover, B.S. Rajput has suspended Kavita Pandey, the Head of the Physics Department of Kumaon University, from her job. Whatever charges

against her B.S. Rajput has, we have a strong concern that the suspension could be the result of her investigation of plagiarism activity by B.S. Rajput and associates.

During the last two decades, a new generation of extremely talented Indian physicists has won a broad international respect and brought great recognition to Indian physics. It would be a pity if the actions of a few plagiarists should damage the high international reputation of Indian science.

Since B.S. Rajput holds a high official position, this case can be resolved and justice re-established only if it is investigated by the highest authorities in India. We are sending this letter to strongly urge you to do so.

Yours sincerely

The group of Professors of Physics of Stanford University

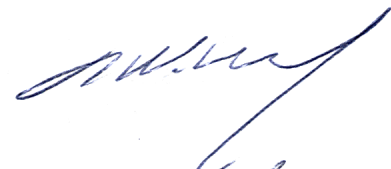
Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics, Professor S. Chu



Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics, Professor R. Laughlin



Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics, Professor D. Osheroff



MacArthur Prize Winner and Director of ITP, Professor S. Shenker



Dirac Medalist in Theoretical Physics, Professor A. Linde



Group leader, Theoretical Physics, SLAC, Professor M. Peskin



One of plagiarized authors, Professor R. Kallosh

