

In subsequent trips to Russia, Glenn and I both found that the gesture was warmly remembered.

### Comments Following A. Ghiorso's Talk

*Dr. Seaborg*

Thank you very much.

I think it is true that the naming of this element, mendelevium, had a dramatic impact in furthering, in a positive way, American/Soviet relations at that time. I think it really is rather difficult in today's atmosphere to realize what a step that was at that time. It was quite a step, and there were a number of people who criticized us for it.

I recall that at the time of the visit of Vice President Richard Nixon to the Soviet Union in 1959--the time of his famous kitchen debate with Premier Khrushchev--it occurred to me that it might be useful if he knew the story of mendelevium. He happened to be a long-time friend. I therefore wrote him a letter and told him that we had recently named this element, mendelevium, after the Russian chemist hero, and that at some point or other that might be of some advantage to him in his discussions. I learned later that he used this information; that is, he told some people about this and got quite a good reception. And one of the aftermaths of that was that a little later I got a copy of Mendeleev's chemistry book, autographed by Mendeleev, from a second-hand book dealer in the Soviet Union, who told me that he had learned about this from Vice President Nixon. This was a book that the book dealer had picked up somewhere; actually it was the book that was sent to a physician in