



European
Mathematical
Society

From the President, Ari Laptev

02 April 2007

Vice-Chancellor
Professor Anders Hallberg,
Uppsala University,
BOX 256,
751 05 Uppsala
Sweden.

Dear Professor Hallberg,

Many thanks for your reply to my letter of March 21st 2007. In this letter you write: "*After having been formally cautioned, the two professors tendered their resignations.*"

I have been in touch with Professor Oleg Viro. After having heard his report on the sequence of events leading to his resignation, I was surprised to discover many discrepancies between your and his account. I find these conflicting reports most disquieting and the implications very serious.

Professor Viro informed me that he did not know in advance why he was called for a meeting with you on Feb 8. At this meeting, he in fact did not tender his resignation. In his view this happened after your strong demand for his immediate resignation under conditions which gave him no choice.

If Professor Viro's statement is correct, then the action you took goes blatantly against the important tradition of academic freedom, respect for individuals and their dignity that goes back several hundreds of years in Europe and North America.

I have received numerous letters from both European and American mathematicians protesting against Uppsala University's treatment of Professors Viro and Jöricke who are widely regarded as eminent mathematicians bringing important new expertise to Sweden.

This matter has aroused a considerable amount of negative publicity for Uppsala University and possibly even for Swedish science as a whole. Yet more serious is the fact that the incident has been seen as a danger to the entire international mathematical community.

If the facts have been substantially misrepresented, then I am obliged, on behalf of the European Mathematical Society, to invite you to reconsider your decision regarding the expulsion of Professors Viro and Jöricke.

Yours sincerely,

Copy to:

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Chairman of the Uppsala University Board, Dr Hans Dalborg
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