

"A True Internationalist": Words from the Rabinowitch Family

Victor Rabinowitch was a true internationalist. He particularly loved working and traveling in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Born in London of Russian émigré parents, he devoted a good portion of his life to the development of programs that foster collaboration with Russian scientists. A firm believer in the importance of education, particularly in science and technology, he worked with colleagues to share those benefits with others. He was truly interested in people and enjoyed nothing more than meeting and talking with them. He didn't mind sitting in airport lounges waiting for flights because he loved to observe those around him. He was as comfortable talking with taxi drivers as he was prime ministers. On arriving in a new land, one of the first places he would visit was the local market. He would regale colleagues with stories of new foods and restaurants he had visited.

Victor was truly committed to making the world a safer, more prosperous place for the benefit of all people. He believed, as did his father, that scientists could play a unique role in promoting mutually beneficial relations among countries. When Russian and American scientists met at the Rabinowitch summer home in Vermont after an early Pugwash conference, he later recalled how he watched some of the world's most eminent scientists roll up their sleeves and together collate the papers they had presented.

He believed also that institutions were only as good as the people who worked in them and that it was the responsibility of managers to cultivate and support their staffs. His management style was not desk bound; he much preferred walking the hallways, often whistling as he went, and dropping in on his colleagues in their offices, listening to their concerns, and encouraging them whenever needed. He was jovial and kind by nature and staff welcomed his counsel. They always knew he had their backs! And that he did not need to take credit for their successes. Victor was a man of principle, dedicated to improving the human condition by advocating for science and technology, for human rights, for arms control and international security and for using the world's resources, both human and financial, to achieve common goals. May he rest in peace.