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international scientific fame of France be thus weakened", it had declared.

A very vast majority of the owners of French laboratories decided Tuesday March 9 at the semi-day, during a general assembly with the Town hall of Paris, for the resignation of their administrative tasks, according to a first vote by show of hands which must be followed by a formal consultation. Only ten people, among the few 800 to 900 directors of laboratories and persons in charge for teams of research present, decided against this resignation.

The owners of laboratories signatories of the petition "Let us save research" must now confirm this vote during a formal consultation with secret bulletin.

Approximately a front hour, a spokesman of the collective "Let us save recherche"avait it indicated that two hundred directors of laboratories and persons in charge for teams scientific had already announced by electronic mail that they resigned their administrative offices.

This advertisement had been made little before the opening of the general assembly of the owners of laboratories, which were to decide if they resigned collectively of their administrative offices, as are committed there the signatories of the petition, which had collected, Tuesday, nearly 65 000 signatures.

The general assembly, organized in camera, will be followed by a press conference around 15 hours to the village hall of the Town hall, then of a manifestation of the researchers in direction of the ministry for research.

"A RESIGNATION IS NEVER A SUCCESS"

"the resignation is neither an end in itself, nor a stop of the movement, it is an obliged passage", launched the spokesman of the collective, Alain Trautmann, by opening the general assembly. During this meeting of the owners of laboratories, some 1 500 researchers were gathered on the place of the Hotel-of-City to express their support for their outgoing owners.

This collective resignation is without precedent.

Monday, the two involved parts camped on their positions, after several attempts of the government to defuse the crisis, at two

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weeks of the regional and cantonal elections. "I would not like only the debate limits myself to a question of means. (...) We are not in a bargaining at the small week but vis-a-vis the construction of the future of the country ", had launched the Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, in a published interview Tuesday in *Libération*.

Taking note in advance of the decision of the heads of laboratories, Mr. Raffarin had estimated that "a resignation is never a success" : "I would have a reaction of sadness inevitably because I do not wish that the international scientific fame of France be thus weakened." "When one puts 3 billion euros on the table for the research [from here at 2007], one puts much more than what we make for many of other professional categories", insists it.

THREATS OF PARALYSIS

But the figure of 3 billion euros, announced Saturday by Matignon, did not convince the researchers. "If this 3 billion is concretized, one will be very content, had reiterated, Monday, the spokesman of the collective" Save research ", Alain Trautmann. But for the moment, it is only about one reformulation of the promise made by Jacques Chirac devote 3 % of the GDP to research. What it would have been necessary (...), they are concrete answers and not to make another promise."

According to a survey CSA for *the Cross*, the movement is approved by more than four French out of five (82 %). 47 % state *"to support"* the movement and 35 % to have *"sympathy"*, only 12 % expressing of *the "indifference"* and 5 % declaring itself *"opposite"* or *"hostile"*.

In the immediate future, the decision of the heads of laboratories will have especially a range symbolic system. But very quickly, it could involve a paralysis of the apparatus of research: the outgoing directors will not order any more products or of material for the laboratories, or will not sign any more orders of mission for displacement of the researchers.

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