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WASHINGTON, MARCH 29, REUTER -- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAY BE FORCED TO IMPOSE TOUGH RESTRICTIONS ON THE FLOW OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION TO THE SOVIET UNION, DEPUTY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) DIRECTOR BOBBY RAY INMAN SAID TODAY.

''I THINK IN SIX MONTHS, A YEAR, OR 18 MONTHS AS THE GOVERNMENT BEGINS TO SEE THE FULL MAGNITUDE OF WHAT THE SOVIET UNION GETS FROM THE WEST, THERE WILL BE A DECISION,'' HE TOLD A HOUSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE.

HE SAID IT IS VITAL FOR SCIENTISTS TO BEGIN VOLUNTARILY CONSULTING WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND IN SOME CASES SUBMITTING RESEARCH FOR PRE-PUBLICATION REVIEW IN AN EFFORT TO FORESTALL LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE FLOW OF INFORMATION.

MR INMAN, A NAVY ADMIRAL, SAID A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S GAINS IN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY HAVE RESULTED FROM LEGAL TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES.

BUT REPRESENTATIVE ALBERT GORE, A TENNESSEE DEMOCRAT, SAID ANY LEGAL RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO U.S. SCIENCE.

CITING A DANGER TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM, MR GORE SAID SUCH RESTRICTIONS COULD THWART SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES AND THAT SIMILAR CONSTRAINTS IN THE SOVIET UNION ''ARE WHAT MAKES SOVIET SCIENCE SO PITIFUL.''¥
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