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Executive Secretary

5 March 1985

Date



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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON.	THE	DISTRICT	OF	COL	UMBIA

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Honorable Malcolm Baldrige Secretary of Commerce Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mac:

I wholeheartedly support your proposal for an NSC-led effort to deny the Soviet Union and other potential adversaries access to sensitive scientific and technical information through NTIS. As you know, we all have sought to develop effective ways for reducing the overall flow of militarily useful U.S. and Western technology that is strengthening Soviet military capabilities. Recent legislation allowing DoD to control sensitive, nonclassified information of military importance has been helpful from our point of view.

In November 1984 DoD initiated a new review of the release of all technical data. That month I issued new directives requiring document reviews for export control considerations, which will lead to marking documents (including formerly classified documents) that are found to be sensitive and controlling their distribution. Because NTIS' mission is to disseminate technical data publicly, the Department of Defense (DoD) will not provide any exportcontrolled technical data to NTIS in the future. The DoD appears to have already made some progress in this regard. I am sure your staff has pointed out that only one of the DoD studies you cite as being available in NTIS (Polymeric Microelectronics) is dated after 1981.

I fully agree with you that we should make a coordinated, government-wide attack on the loss of S&T information. National Security Council (NSC) could establish general guidelines, using already-implemented programs as examples. I propose that the NSC assign this effort to the Senior Interagency Group (SIG) on the Transfer of Strategic Technology. That SIG includes the relevant government agencies and can address this particular problem of technology transfer control in terms of broader Administration policy. I presume that some sort of working group would be established to involve policy officials familiar with the issue.

Finally, let me note that we also do not want to relax our efforts in stopping illegal trade in militarily-significant technology. You mention that this source accounts for little

more than 10 percent of Soviet acquisitions. But this technology is the "quality ten percent" that has been specifically targeted by Soviet intelligence under the direction of the Soviet military R&D authorities. We want to continue the Reagan Administration momentum in controlling this severe loss and improving the management of our export control system.

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I look forward to continued cooperation in these and other matters of technology transfer management.

Sincerely,

cc: Secretary of State
Attorney General
Secretary of Energy
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Director, Central Intelligence
Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration