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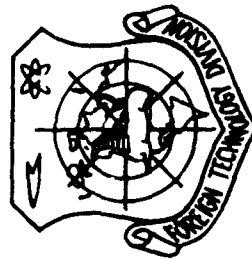
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



PRAVDA EDITORIAL DISCUSSES PROBLEMS IN INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

by

Author Unknown

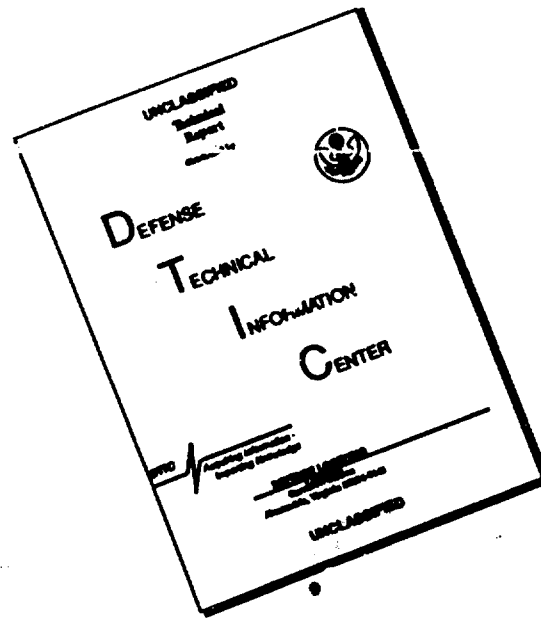


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PREPARED BY:
TRANSLATION DIVISION
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
WP-APB, ONIC.

PRAVDA EDITORIAL DISCUSSES PROBLEMS IN INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Each stage in the building of a Communist society involves new day-to-day tasks. One of these tasks, the urgency of which was stressed at the December Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CC CPSU), has to do with the improvement of the methods and very system of national economic management. An important role in this program is played by the rapid collection, processing, and analysis of information.

The importance of scientific and technical information in our age cannot be exaggerated. Its accessibility, completeness, and effectiveness are decisive factors in the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and in the ensuring of steady advances in production efficiency. Our country has created a state-wide system of scientific-technical information - an indispensable link in the chain of economic management and scientific and technological expansion. This system includes a network of all-union, branch, and interbranch territorial information organizations engaged in the systematization of data on the latest scientific-technical achievements, improved technological techniques, and advanced production engineering experience.

Nevertheless, the new and complex problems inherent in the development of the national economy, science, and culture require further improvements in the handling of information in our country. The world is presently witnessing a veritable information explosion based on electronic computer and organizational equipment. Within the socialist economic system, automated and mechanized data

systems provide truly enormous opportunities for scientifically governed economic management and accelerated technical progress. This is clearly demonstrated, to cite a specific case, by experience in the operation of this system in the electrical engineering industry. This industry services a large number of enterprises, research and development, and planning organizations which receive current data, on microfilm cards and in other documentary reports, regarding the latest accomplishments in the production of electrical engineering equipment.

Automated production control systems based on modern information techniques permit the most effective implementation of a unified technical policy in a specific branch of industry, the consistent improvement of output quality, and the supervised introduction of new methods. Unfortunately, by no means all ministries and departments have paid the proper attention to the great advantages of high-capacity automated data systems. That this is so is indicated by the fact that the ministries of power and electrification, agriculture, and public health, along with certain other agencies have done very little to convert their information-support departments to an advanced technical basis.

There must be a significant improvement in the efficiency of the patent information service, whose organization is a responsibility of the Committee on Inventions and Discoveries [Komitet po Delam Izobreteniy i Otkrytiy]. It is no longer tolerable that enterprises and research organizations obtain material on important scientific discoveries and inventions only after long delays. Moreover, the thoroughness and quality of this information is often clearly inadequate, thereby reducing the possibilities of its practical exploitation.

Researchers, designers, and production specialists have made serious charges against the Inventions and Discoveries Committee. The staff of this Committee has been slow in setting up the state service for standard reference data - in-

formation on the characteristic properties of materials and elements, and on certain physical and chemical quantities. As a result, scientists and specialists are forced to spend a great deal of unproductive time in independent searches for, and determinations of this kind of data.

It is of great importance that full consideration be given to the latest scientific and technical advances when planning future enterprises. Planning organizations must consistently have available up-to-date information on equipment already in serial production and on up-coming industrial items, as well as on those machines and devices which are being, or have been, removed from production because of obsolescence. The fact is, however, that the catalogues of equipment produced by enterprises of the heavy, power, and transport machine-manufacturing sector, the chemical and petroleum machine-manufacturing sector, and the instrument-, lathe-, and tool-manufacturing industry cover only two-thirds of the nomenclature actually in serial production. Moreover, the Committee on Publications [Komitet po Pechati] of the USSR Council of Ministers is holding up the release of catalogues from 8 to 12 months. Many machine-manufacturing industries are failing to keep planning and design organizations informed regarding equipment scheduled for future production, as well as on items which have been retired from production. As a result, planning for new enterprises often specifies obsolete equipment and technological processes.

The organization of an information service capable of reflecting modern scientific and technical advances, and the improvement of the performance of all agencies involved in the dissemination of such information must become one of the focal points of ministerial and departmental concern. Effective monitoring of the situation in this vital area of activity is the responsibility of the State Com-

mittee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on Science and Engineering [Gosudarstvennyy Komitek Soveta Ministrov SSSR po Nauke i Tekhnike].

The creation of automated and mechanized data systems is frequently inhibited because of delays in the development and manufacture of the associated hardware. The Ministry of Instrument Manufacture, Automation Facilities, and Control Systems [Ministerstvo Priborostroyeniya, Sredstv Avtomatizatsii i Sistem Upravleniya] must pay closer attention to the production of the modern machines and equipment required for the high-speed location, storage, analysis, and dissemination of information.

A number of enterprises, planning and design organizations do not always employ the materials they receive from the various information services in a businesslike manner. Every scientist, engineer, technician, and production efficiency expert must cultivate a concern for constantly keeping abreast of the latest developments in his or her respective fields and an ability to put these advances to intelligent and skillful use. The importance, also, of ministerial and departmental management, along with the organizations engaged in actual planning operations, basing their practical activities to a greater and bolder degree on scientific and technical information cannot be overestimated.

It is the job of Party organizations insistently to inculcate in all workers a genuine taste for scientific, engineering, and economic information and to foster, in every possible way, further improvements in the data-support sector. This is one of the primary conditions for better economic management and for faster scientific and technical progress.

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<p>ABSTRACT (UNCL, 0) EXTRACT OF REPORT. Each stage in the building of a Communist society involves new day to day tasks. One of these tasks, the urgency of which was stressed at the December Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, has to do with the improvement of the methods and very system of national economic management. An important role in this program is played by the rapid collection, processing, and analysis of information. The importance of scientific and technical information in our age cannot be exaggerated. Its accessibility, completeness, and effectiveness are decisive factors in the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and in the ensuring of steady advances in production efficiency. The world is presently witnessing a veritable information explosion based on electronic computer and organizational equipment. It is the job of Party organizations insisently to inculcate in all workers a genuine taste for scientific, engineering, and economic information and to foster, in every possible way, further improvements in the data support sector. This is one of the primary conditions for better economic management and for faster scientific and technical progress.</p>				