

Restricted

GRS 200

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FM MOSCOW
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 438
OF 231350Z MARCH 87

SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

1. MIPT SUMMARISES POINTS MADE BY MARCHUK IN IZVESTIYA INTERVIEW PUBLISHED ON 21 MARCH. IN VIEW OF PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH MARCHUK ON 31 MARCH REFERENCE TO THIS ARTICLE MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE BRIEFING FOR THE VISIT TOGETHER WITH SHORT NOTES ON THE SALIENT POINTS.
2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MARCHUK THE PRIME MINISTER MAY WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO TRENDS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH SHOW CERTAIN SIMILARITIES:
 - (A) DECENTRALISATION: THE ACADEMY HAS ANNOUNCED MEASURES TO TRANSFER FUNCTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN UK GOVERNMENT-FUNDED RESEARCH IS OFTEN DEVOLVED TO HEADS OF INSTITUTES AND LABORATORIES RESULTING IN MORE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.
 - (B) PERSONNEL: THE ACADEMY HAS ANNOUNCED AGE-BARS FOR MANAGERS AT 65 OR 70. FEW BRITISH SCIENTISTS RETAIN EXECUTIVE POWERS BEYOND THE AGE OF 65 ALTHOUGH MANY STILL CONTINUE RESEARCH OR CONTRIBUTE AS ADVISERS TO GOVERNMENT AND AS SUPERVISERS.
 - (C) TECHNICAL RESOURCES: THE ACADEMY IS RE-ESTABLISHING A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL DEPARTMENTS WITHIN ITS ORGANISATION. THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL HAS ALSO MOVED IN THAT DIRECTION BY SETTING UP AN ENGINEERING DIVISION AND INCORPORATING THE WORD 'ENGINEERING' IN ITS TITLE.

CARTLEDGE

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SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SEE MIFT.

1. IZVESTIYA OF 21 MARCH CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT OF USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES G I MARCHUK IN WHICH THE LATTER EXPLAINS MEASURES FOR REFORM (QUOTE PERESTROIKA UNQUOTE) DISCUSSED AT THE ACADEMY'S GENERAL MEETING 10-12 MARCH.

2. IN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY B KONOVALOV, IZVESTIYA SCIENCE OBSERVER, MARCHUK STATED THAT WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING A LEADING POSITION FOR SOVIET SCIENCE IN ALL FUNDAMENTAL DIRECTIONS THE FOLLOWING MEASURES ARE BEING PUT IN HAND:

(A) DECENTRALISATION

THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE ACADEMY (ABOUT 20) IS BEING SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHENED BY TRANSFERRING FUNCTIONS FROM THE PRESIDIUM ALLOWING THE LATTER TO CONCENTRATE ON MAJOR STRATEGY AND COORDINATION. IN THEIR SECTORS DEPARTMENTS WILL HENCEFORTH BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MATERIAL AND BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS, PLANNING, THE DISBANDING OF INEFFECTIVE GROUPS AND ESTABLISHING DIRECT SCIENTIFIC LINKS OVERSEAS.

(B) PERSONNEL

FOLLOWING A REVIEW ONE IN FORTY OF ACADEMY PERSONNEL HAD BEEN RETIRED AND ONE IN TWENTY DEMOTED. HEADS OF INSTITUTES AND LABORATORIES WILL RELINQUISH EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AT AGE 65 (UP TO 70 FOR MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY) AND RETURN TO SCIENTIFIC WORK. NEW POSTS OF ADVISERS TO DIRECTORS AND THE PRESIDIUM ARE BEING CREATED SO THAT MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY CAN CONTINUE TO IMPART THEIR EXPERIENCE WITHOUT LOSS OF SALARY. ATTENTION IS TO BE GIVEN TO IMPROVING SALARIES AND HOUSING CONDITIONS FOR YOUNGER SCIENTISTS.

(C) TECHNICAL RESOURCES

THE ABOLITION OF THE ACADEMY'S TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT (IN THE 1960S) IS NOW SEEN AS A MISTAKE SERVING TO ISOLATE THE ACADEMY FURTHER FROM INDUSTRIAL NEEDS. TO HELP RECTIFY THE SITUATION A DEPARTMENT FOR INFORMATICS, COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION AND A DEPARTMENT FOR PROBLEMS OF MACHINE BUILDING, MECHANICS AND CONTROL PROCESSES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SET-UP. OTHER INSTITUTES REQUIRE A STRENGTHENING OF THEIR EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP AND DESIGN FACILITIES. THEORETICAL INSTITUTES REQUIRE MORE DESKS, PERSONAL AND MAINFRAME COMPUTERS. SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTATION MUST BE DEVELOPED SO THAT BY 1995 SOVIET LABORATORIES ARE EQUIPPED TO WORLD STANDARDS.

(D) INNOVATION

THE DRIVE FOR INNOVATION MUST NOT DETRACT FROM THE NEED TO ADVANCE AREAS OF FUNDAMENTAL WORK AND PUBLISH RESULTS. SCIENTIFIC

IDEAS THEN HAVE TO BE APPLIED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AND FOR THIS IT IS ESSENTIAL TO STRENGTHEN THE LINKS BETWEEN THE 50,000 ACADEMY SCIENTISTS AND OVER 800,000 INDUSTRIAL RESEARCHERS.

(E) DEMOCRATISATION

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING SECRET BALLOTS, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FEATURE OF ELECTIONS TO SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE ACADEMY BUT CARE IS NECESSARY NOT TO TAKE THIS PROCESS TOO FAR. AN INSTITUTE'S STAFF MAY WELL CHOOSE THE BEST DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION BUT THE POWERS OF SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP NEEDED FOR AN INSTITUTE HEAD WERE A MATTER FOR JUDGEMENT BY THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE.

(F) FORECASTING

ABOUT 150 PROGNOSSES BY LEADING SOVIET SCIENTISTS ON FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WILL BE USED TO FORMULATE STATE PLANS UP TO THE YEAR 2000. ALLOWANCE MUST BE MADE FOR UNANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENTS.

(G) REPUBLICAN ACADEMIES

THE 14 REPUBLICAN ACADEMIES SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON PRIORITY AREAS WHERE THEY CAN MAKE AN EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO COPY THE USSR ACADEMY ACROSS THE BOARD.

3. MARCHUK FINALLY POINTS TO THE NEED TO FORMULATE A STATE PROGRAMME FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH, EXPLOIT THE NEW FLEXIBLE STATUTE FOR ACADEMY INSTITUTES, SET UP NEW ENGINEERING CENTRES AND TEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL LABORATORIES IN INSTITUTES, AND EXTEND THE SYSTEM OF INTER-BRANCH COMPLEXES BRINGING TOGETHER SCIENTISTS, DESIGNERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS.

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