

# BRIEFS

**IS RUSSIA** building its military forces with Western technology? Yes, a National Academy of Sciences panel found -- but the problem is less one of the free flow of scientific information than trade (some of it illicit) and espionage.

The 19-member body's report, entitled "Scientific Communication and National Security," which was released Sept. 30, found, "There has been a substantial transfer of U.S. technology -- much of it directly relevant to military systems -- to the Soviet Union from diverse sources."

Dale R. Corson, the panel's chairman and president emeritus of Cornell University, told a Washington press conference, "these transfers have occurred' through legal sales of products to the Soviet Union in periods of detente, through illegal sales of proscribed products, through transfers of American technology to

the Soviet Union by third countries and through Oct. 1.

The Academy's report exculpates scientific publication, saying, "There is a strong consensus, however, that universities and open scientific communication have been the source of very little of this technology transfer problem. Although there is a net flow of information from the United States to the Soviet Union, consistent with the generally more advanced status of U.S. science, there is serious doubt as to whether the Soviets can reap significant direct military benefit from this flow in the near term."

**MATERIALS SCIENCE** technology was cited by Allied Corp. as one of the reasons the chemical maker is acquiring Bendix Corp., according to New York Times columnist Barnaby J. Feder's report Sept. 30.

"Everything is made of materials, so your concept of where you are going in materials science is very important," Feder was told by L. James Colby Jr., Allied's senior vice president in charge of technology.

Colby said Allied was interested in Bendix' work on high-performance plastics and composites and advanced materials processing.

The Times account noted that Bendix is the first of the several corporations acquired by Allied in recent years with its own substantial research staff. Allied chairman Edward L. Hennessy Jr. has promised an expanded research and development effort for the combined companies as a result of the acquisition.

**NATIONAL LABS** may decline in coming years, a victim of federal spending cutbacks, the Wall Street Journal reported Sept. 30.

In a story on Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico, the Journal noted that the staff there has declined to 6,900 from 7,200 two years ago, and another 400 to 500 workers could lose their jobs later this year under Reagan Administration plans.

Every national lab presently has a "technology transfer" division responsible for finding other institutions to take over some of its research projects. The Administration's proposed dismantling of the Department of Energy, which funds the labs, further endangers their future, the Journal reports.

"Administrators of the Los Alamos Laboratory worry that it and the national labs on New York's Long Island; in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Livermore and Berkeley, Calif.; Richland, Wash.; Argonne, Ill.; and Albuquerque, N.M., may have seen their best days," the Journal's front-page report concludes.

**MARTIN C. STEELE**, formerly in charge of the semiconductor electronics group at GM's research laboratory, has been appointed acting director of the Institute for Amorphous Studies at Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Steele, a fellow of both the American Physical Society and the Institute for Electrical Engineers, will direct the planning of the institute's programs and the recruitment of faculty. The institute, founded by Energy Conversion Devices Inc., will begin operations this fall.

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