

This document consists of 2 pages

No. 3 of 3 Copies, Series A

717-61

1. As a general proposition, there should be no controversy regarding the desirability of applying export controls over equipment, materials, and technology primarily useful in clearly identifiable areas of military interest. By and large, however, such military programs would be in the developmental stage -- a step or so away from the basic research stage.

The troublesome point is that the position paper purports to deal, not with items identified as being important in military developmental programs, but materials and equipment primarily useful in basic research.

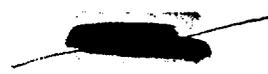
2. The paper contains the implicit assumption that impeding the conduct of basic research in certain areas of the world would benefit the United States. The validity of this assumption is open to question.

This is a subject of widespread interest to the scientific community. People in the scientific community should be in a position to furnish invaluable advice on whether the proposed controls are justifiable or feasible -- justifiable in the sense of whether the United States would stand, on balance, to lose or gain by these controls; -- feasible in the sense of whether informed and meaningful decisions can be made in individual cases if such controls were instituted.

A decision with respect to the course of action the government should take on this matter can best be made after obtaining the advice of experts in science itself. Perhaps the President's Science Advisory Committee, or some other group of recognized experts, could be called upon to express its views.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DECLASSIFIED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EO 12958, DATED 4/11/95  
By Authority of 2635 RM  
(Declassification Authority/Number)  
Date of Declassification 3/9/00

1A14 #1



3. A questionable philosophy is expressed in one of the documents presented. This relates to the recommendation, in connection with the Van de Graaff case, that the U. S. Government should suggest to the Polish Government that basic research should not be conducted in Poland in the areas for which the Van de Graaff accelerator was designed -- that the Polish Government should tell Polish scientists to throttle down their natural inclinations to pursue knowledge in these areas. Such a course of action by the United States Government would not be in keeping with our programs for promoting democracy and freedom throughout the world.