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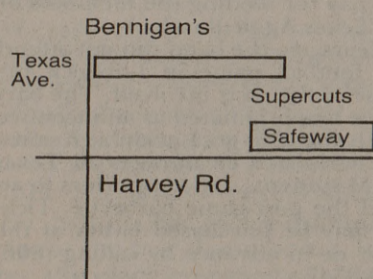
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## Soviet Union covets technology from West, says A&M official

By Todd Swearingen  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Soviet Union is falling behind as a world power and desperately desires Western technology to keep up, said Dr. Richard Thomas, head of the Center for Strategic Technologies, located on Texas A&M's campus.

Thomas said that the policies being put into effect by Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev originated in 1982 with his predecessor, Yuri Andropov. Thomas said that Andropov realized that the U.S.S.R. was rapidly falling behind in technology and could not compete in the world marketplace without changing the system.

Gorbachev's efforts have centered on presenting a new image to the world by removing the barriers between the U.S.S.R. and Europe and encouraging the necessary changes, he said.

"They recognize that change has to occur," Thomas said. "On the other hand, most of them have very privileged positions. They live in the best houses and shop in the best places — they live in the lap of luxury, to the extent that the Soviet Union can provide it."

Thomas said that Soviet actions in Europe should be taken in context — while reducing arms in Europe, they continue to build three times as many modern tanks as the U.S. Both *glasnost* and *perestroika* are specifically designed to bring the U.S.S.R. into the European community and to acquire Western technology, Thomas said.

"Let's face it, in today's world you can talk about economic success, but you're talking technology; you can talk about world power, but you're talking technology; you can talk about military power, but you're sure as hell talking about technology," Thomas said.

The Soviets are severely handicapped by bureaucratic obstacles when it comes to developing new technology because the various agencies responsible for scientific development and production do not work together, Thomas said.

"There is no commonality of interest among them," Thomas said. "The system is really a non-system."

"As far as their research is concerned, they suffer from the publish-or-perish syndrome — badly. They end up doing a heck of a lot of things that are just meaningless in terms of providing any sort of breakthrough or any sort of useful device that could be designed into a product they could sell in the world marketplace."

As an example of the difference in the quality of technology, Thomas said that Western electronic controllers can typically run for 10,000 hours before needing repair, while Soviet controllers last only 170 hours.

"And of course, we see evidence of that in the literature — they now freely admit the lousy quality," he said.

The Center for Strategic Technologies is not an exclusively military research organization, but is best known for its Soviet studies, Thomas said. Much of the Soviet research conducted by the CST is not related to the military. These include energy resources, scientific research and Warsaw Pact relations, Thomas said.

The CST typically conducts its research by studying Soviet literature to provide information and planning assistance to the U.S. government and private organizations, Thomas said.

"Among university groups doing Soviet studies, we are the only one headed by an engineer — and the only one that focuses on Soviet science engineering and technology," Thomas said.

"If we want to do a piece of research, we've got to convince somebody to give us money," Thomas said. "We're independent, to the extent that nobody buys us. We like it, and if that means we have to sponsor something he doesn't want to hear — that's too bad, we'll do it."

"If we're doing a study for a private sector firm, like General Dynamics for example, naturally we would be using our studies to make some judgements on what future weapons are going to be required for the U.S. military."

Much of the information provided by the CST is used by the government to formulate foreign policy, Thomas said. The Communist Party adopts an economic military plan every five years which will next meet in 1990, but Thomas said that no major changes are expected until 1995.

Thomas said that it is unlikely the Soviets would return to Stalin if Gorbachev were thrown out of power, because a majority of the younger generation recognizes the need for change. He said it is likely that changes would progress over a long period of time, but the country would continue to fall behind as a world power.

"As we pull away from them technologically, they will become more dangerous and we have to make that situation very adroitly."

### Sex film case may be topic of TV movie

HOUSTON (AP) — A television movie may be made about a woman who won a \$1 million verdict from four men who secretly videotaped her having sex with her attorney said.

Susan Leigh Kerr has sold her story to the William Morris Agency in California, attorney Ronald Krist said Monday.

Krist, who would not disclose the terms, also said a producer has expressed interest in making a TV movie about Kerr but the deal has been completed.

Kerr, he said, is happy about the prospect of a movie being made about the case.

"It clears up the rumor that she was a willing participant and the vindication she receives from the public disclosure of this is therapeutic," he said.

A spokesman for the Morris Agency said he could not provide immediate confirmation about any arrangement, but Krist said the agency had made plans for exclusive rights to Kerr's story.

### Texas fugitive named to '15 Most Wanted' list

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Texas man accused of being a kingpin in a multimillion-dollar drug ring that operated in four states was named Tuesday to the U.S. Marshals Service's list of its "15 Most-Wanted" fugitives.

The service said Emmett Franklin McSwain escaped from the Federal Prison Camp in Texarkana on Jan. 20, 1986, shortly after learning he had been named in a 31-count indictment accusing him of running a continuing criminal enterprise and other drug-related crimes.

McSwain, 50, was serving a 10-

year sentence for possession with intent to distribute narcotics at the time of his escape. His criminal record, dating to 1958, includes a 1970 conviction for killing a fellow inmate in the Texas State Penitentiary while he was serving a two- to 10-year sentence for burglary, the Marshals Service said.

According to U.S. Marshal Stuart Earnest in Oklahoma City, the 31-count indictment out of the Western District of Oklahoma accuses McSwain of running a PCP operation. PCP, Earnest said, is a "cooked drug" and is considered a "hallucinogenic upper."

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