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Russ Computers

A new way to destroy all internal political dissent in Soviet Russia could be furthered by the proposed sale of sophisticated American computers to the Communists.

Defense Department staffers who have opposed the sale on security grounds now hope that new proof of the Russians' use of computers to suppress dissent will prevent the transaction.

A report by Victor Zorza, expert on Soviet affairs, and evidence gathered by the Central Intelligence Agency now substantiates what sounds to most Americans like a horror movie. Zorza has written that the full records of any Soviet citizen's psychological characteristics and actions "could be used to devise an approach that would quickly persuade him that his best interests require him to conform to the political guidance of his spiritual adviser at the KGB (the Soviet secret police)." Coupled with mood-altering drugs, the computers become a tool for suppressing dissent.

Most Americans heard little of the Declaration of Frankfurt a year ago. This was a statement from a conclave of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia. It revealed that "Religious people and those citizens vindicating their right to think otherwise than in terms of party directions have been whisked away to so-called 'special psychiatric hospitals.' Subjected to drugs, they are numbed and can no longer defend their faith."

The U.S. has been too slow to react to urging from other parts of the world to denounce the new Russian weapon against its people. Most Western governments have been supportive of a move by the Canadian Psychiatric Association asking the World Health Organization of the United Nations to speak out against the Russian mind-bending project.

Our foot-dragging is difficult to rationalize. The Russian practice is repugnant and violates all our American political tenets. Aiding the Russian government by furnishing computers which will make even more mind-twisting possible would be totally unethical. Neither money nor possible offending of the Russian government are justifiable excuses.

Summary: Some may argue the Russians simply will buy computers elsewhere. Let them. We shall not have contributed to a downfall of integrity.