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OSI-WS-22/69

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DIRECTORATE OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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WEEKLY SURVEYOR

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CYBERNETICS

USSR Center for Cybernetics Research to Be Located in Kiev:
The Institute of Cybernetics of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences is being greatly expanded and will become the cybernetics research center of the Soviet Union. The Institute, headed by Victor M. Glushkov, already employs 2600 people and consists of 42 departments. Well equipped with computers, including a Kiev-67, Dnepr-21, and BESM-6, the Institute now has its own experimental plant, trains the children at a specialized boarding school, and operates an East European student exchange program, (Neues Deutschland, 5 Apr) [redacted]

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Comment: The author of the referenced article is probably correct in stating that the principal cybernetics research center will be located in Kiev, although this has not been officially declared. Two other major research centers for cybernetics in Moscow and Novosibirsk could compete with Kiev for this key position but neither of these is expanding as rapidly as the Kiev institute. Each of these centers has a training facility so expansion can occur without drawing on the personnel of others. The Institute of Automatics and Telemechanics (Technical Cybernetics) and Glushkov's institute were the only research institutes to be awarded the "Order of Lenin" this year. However, Glushkov, by virtue of his chairmanship of at least two important government agencies, appears to have a lead over other possible contenders for aging Admiral Berg's role of cybernetics czar. If he assumes this role, Glushkov would probably foster a more revolutionary trend in techniques for systems management than that of the more conventional automatic control theorists who now direct the Soviet cybernetics program.

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Soviet Interagency Commission on Software Identified:
The Proceedings of the First All-Union Conference on Programming held in Kiev in November 1968 lists the Interagency Commission on Software of the State Committee on Science and Technology under the Council of Ministers, USSR, as a cosponsor of the meeting. The principal sponsor of the conference was the Institute of Cybernetics in Kiev. Other co-sponsors were the Cybernetics Council of the Academy of Sciences, USSR;

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the Ukrainian Council on Cybernetics; the Ministry of Radio Industry of the USSR; the Ministry of Instrument Construction, Means of Automation and Control Systems of the USSR; the Institute of Applied Mathematics of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and other organizations. (Proceedings of the First All-Union Conference on Programming, Kiev, Nov 68) [redacted]

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Comment: The existence of an executive organization at the administrative level of the State Committee on Science and Technology has been assumed for several years. This assumption was based on the rate of growth in the programming effort in the USSR and the desire expressed by several Soviets for central direction and consolidation of such activities. As evidence by participation in this conference of some 700 organizations represented by 1500 people, Soviet interest in programming and software is growing to the point where it could get out of hand if left unmanaged by an executive organ of some type. If this national-level Interagency Commission includes theoreticians and computer designers as well as program and software developers, it could facilitate a consolidated program for the development and application of, for example, new classes of modular computing systems for the management of large military, industrial, and economic complexes. This was probably the intention of the Soviets in setting up this commission. [redacted]

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