

# U.S. Curbs Technology For Soviet

## Tightening Ends Exports Debate

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WASHINGTON, March 18 — The Carter Administration announced today that it would tighten controls on American exports of high-technology products to the Soviet Union, a move that ended weeks of intense debate within the Government.

In a statement, the Commerce Department said: "The new guidelines impose tighter controls in such areas as computers and software, manufacturing technology and materials critical to the manufacture of high-technology defense goods."

The new guidelines, which are to go into effect immediately, mark the end of the Administration's review of export control policy that was prompted by the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan late last December. Following the Soviet action, President Carter suspended about 700 export licenses that had allowed American companies to ship advanced equipment to Moscow.

At a news briefing at the Commerce Department, officials indicated that, under the new controls, many of these licenses could be revoked.

### Oil Goods Tightened

At the same time, officials said that Mr. Carter had approved a new policy on delivering American oil technology to the Soviet Union that would place severe restrictions on equipment that Moscow could buy for gas and oil production.

The new rules would permit American companies to export oil equipment to the Soviet Union, but they would forbid them from giving the Soviet Union technology and expertise that would permit Moscow to produce its own equipment. In this way, officials argue, Washington would retain some leverage over the Soviet energy program.

Some aides, however, had asked whether it was in the American interest to limit Moscow's ability to modernize its oil industry.

Noting that the Central Intelligence Agency has estimated that Moscow could face an oil shortage in the early 1980's, these aides argued that Washington should promote Soviet oil production as part of a strategy of limiting potential Soviet pressures to challenge Western oil supplies in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere.

### Military Application Cited

Although the State Department and many Commerce Department aides were reported to have argued that such tighter controls would set back relations with Moscow and would also harm American trade interests, Mr. Carter was said to have sided with Zbigniew Brzezinski, his national security adviser, who advocated the stiffer criteria.

Mr. Brzezinski, as well as some Pentagon experts, have maintained that Moscow has used advanced American

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equipment to bolster its military forces and that a more restrictive trade policy would give Washington some influence over such Soviet actions.

By law, Government officials are prohibited from publicly discussing pending export licenses, so Government aides could not provide details on what specific sales would be prohibited. But several officials indicated that deals covering computer equipment and advanced industrial processes were unlikely to be approved.

One aide, for example, said that the multibillion-dollar deal in 1972 in which American companies sold Moscow equipment for a truck plant at Karma River would not have been approved under the new standards. In recent weeks, members of Congress have been critical of the Karma River plant deal, citing evidence that trucks produced at the facility were used by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

In the area of computers, officials said that current standards would be tightened to conform to those prevailing in 1976, a year in which restrictions on computer exports to the Soviet Union began to be relaxed.

In theory, the United States, as a member of a Western trade group known as the Coordinating Committee, or CoCom, is already prevented from exporting high-technology goods with potential military use to the Eastern bloc. The trade group, which includes Japan as well as allied governments in Western Europe, was established in the late 1940's and maintains a list of commodities that cannot be shipped to the Soviet Union or Eastern European countries.

In recent years, however, the group has been disregarded by Western governments, and the United States, as well as other countries, have sought to be exempted from CoCom controls in doing business with Moscow. Last year, for example, officials said that some 1,500 Western deals with the Soviet Union were exempted from CoCom controls, including about 600 sales by the United States.

A Commerce Department aide told reporters today that, in essence, Mr. Carter's new policy meant that the Administration would seek few, if any, exemptions from CoCom controls in the future.