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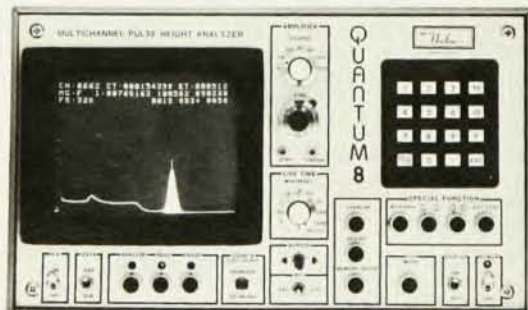
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# QUANTUM 8

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## letters

from the spirit of independence, individualism and political freedom that are the essence of America. In the USSR, the basic rule is that one does not publish unless it is very clear that publishing is necessary to show the fruits of their "better system" to the world. One would expect that this policy must lead to a great superiority in military technology. In fact, it is the USSR that has to devise methods of "importing" their enemy's technology to help maintain their own security.

Another important point is that when one wants to keep a secret, telling everybody exactly which secret one wants to keep may not be the best strategy. After so much history, we should know that the only real secret about a possible new weapons technology is the fact that some people consider it to be possible and effective. Once that fact leaks out, history has repeatedly shown that the ability of the other side to work out (or get) details is not that inferior. The only reasonable alternatives in dealing with defense-oriented research are either opening it up (and keeping quiet about its defense significance) or classifying it early enough.

What DOD achieved in San Diego and Tucson was not keeping the USSR away from sensitive defense secrets. It was pointing out to the USSR where the cheese is being hidden. The Laws of Nature cannot be classified.

I. GLASER

*The Weizmann Institute of Science*

5/83

*Rehovot, Israel*

## Money-saving tip

In his nice review of the SIPRI volume "World Armaments and Disarmament, 1982" (March, page 67) John Dowling commented on the book's high price. I thought it might be useful to point out that a major fraction of the articles in the volume are available at considerably less expense in the soft-cover volume *The Arms Race and Arms Control*, published in the US by Oelgeschlager, Gunn & Hain at \$9.95.

C. J. PETHICK

*University of Illinois*

5/83

*Urbana, Illinois*

## Correction

**April, page 69**—The report of the Dirk Brouwer Award to George Contopoulos should have stated that he was professor of astronomy at the University of Thessaloniki from 1957 to 1975 and became professor at the University of Athens and director of the Astronomical Institute of the National Observatory of Athens in 1975. □