

INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

HEADQUARTERS

MEMORANDUM

*SCIENCE
POLICY*

For : Prof S Dhawan,
Chairman, ISRO.

cc to: Prof P D Bhavsar,
Scientific Secretary,
ISRO.

File / Ref: R & D

From : Y S Rajan,
Scientist, ISRO HQ.

Dr V Siddhartha,
ISRO HQ.

Date: January 28, 1975

Subject :

Getting Foreign Technology for our Space Programmes

*- Import of Technology
- Foreign Collaboration*

KW

- 1.0 I don't think there is anything inherently wrong in buying foreign technology, if we can effectively absorb them and put into our system as we need them. This may be a vital necessity for many a sensor system for satellites, solar cells, materials etc. (In launch vehicle area we have Viking).
- 2.0 When the Europeans are willing and do not have some inhibitions we should move on this front fast - but not without preparation.

For such a preparation some philosophy and goals needs be defined. It would be interesting to go through the following reproduction from New Scientist January 23, 1975 as to how the Soviets approach this problem.

Quote - "The Soviets have stepped up their buying of western licences since they joined the Paris Convention on the Protection of Industrial Property in 1965, but a Pravda editorial of early 1974 cited a total of only 120 new products and processes introduced into production by that date under licence. Wilczynski puts total Soviet purchases by the beginning of 1973 at about 250. Given the time lags in utilising the licences, the two figures may well be compatible. In any case, these are fairly low numbers by world standards.

Perhaps the USSR is able to absorb western technology effectively without actually buying a great deal of it? We know that the Soviets have invested very heavily not only in scientific and technological training and R&D facilities but also in information services for screening and transmitting material from western literature. We know, too, that they have gone in for systematic copying from western machines used as prototypes. And we know that Soviet work in fundamental research is often as advanced as anyone's. It is possible they have so arranged their technological effort that a relatively small infusion of commercial purchases produces a large effect on their domestic technical levels, generally by a very rapid adaptation and diffusion of new technology from abroad" - Unquote

*VS: to see
for*

3.0 Your views on this matter, especially, vis-a-vis ISRO's immediate and future needs are requested. Do we make a paper on this for ISRO Council? Or do you want further details to be worked out.

USP