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— *By Engineers and For Engineers* —

Some More Blast From the Past

This issue of the American Engineer will be a “we told you so” kind of effort. We will highlight some articles from past issues relevant to today’s events. Had Congress paid attention to AEA’s warnings, perhaps some of the problems we face today could have been avoided.

AEA News
January 1986

Spies

An article in the Wall Street Journal of September 19 (1985) outlines the results of a recent study of the transfer of technology to the Soviet Union and other “Designated Countries.”

The study, release by the Department of Defense indicated that over 5,000 Soviet military research projects have benefited from American technology. The study indicated that 90% of the documents were unclassified. Of the total only about 20% were considered company “proprietary” or are subject to export controls.

Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger indicated that the problem was “**FAR MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY REALIZED**” and that the U.S. is inadvertently “**SUBSIDIZING THE MILITARY BUILDUP OF THE SOVIET UNION.**” (Emphasis added) That last phrase sounds familiar.

The report rated U.S. companies as targets of the Soviet efforts to gain technology with General Electric being rated as the top target and with Boeing and Lockheed being second and third.

It is interesting that these companies are also three of the top offenders in the use of foreign engineers in the United States. Many people believe that defense contractors cannot use foreign engineers or technicians. This simply is not true.

Foreign nationals may not work on “Classified” projects without a security clearance, which is becoming nearly impossible to get, thanks to the efforts of AEA and others.

Foreign nationals may work on non-classified projects at defense contractor’s facilities, without security clearances, provided that the contractor has export licenses for that technology for the country of origin of the foreign national. This requirement is valid only if the technology requires a license to export it. Otherwise the foreign national may work on any project the contractor chooses to work him on.

As we have stated many times, **PROXIMITY TO SENSITIVE MATERIAL OR TO SOMEONE WITH ACCESS TO THAT MATERIAL IS ESSENTIAL TO ANY ACT OF ESPIONAGE.** Perhaps the time has come to prevent all foreign nationals from working at any defense contractor’s facilities. **PREVENTIVE MEASURES ARE ALWAYS LESS COSTLY THAN AFTER THE FACT REPAIRS.**

For related information see “AEA Requests Visa Denials” in the September AEA Newsletter. (1986)

AEA Can Now Accept Credit Cards

AEA is now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express credit cards through the PayPal online payment system. PayPal is used by many of the premier online stores as well as being the number one choice of online auctions.

PayPal describes themselves this way: “PayPal enables any business or consumer with an email address to securely, conveniently, and cost-effectively send and receive payments online. Our network builds on the existing financial infrastructure of bank accounts and credit cards to create a global, real-time payment solution. We deliver a product ideally suited for small businesses, online merchants, individuals and others currently underserved by traditional payment mechanisms.”

"We seek to become the global standard for online payments, offering our service to users in 37 countries including the United States. We have over 12 million registered users, including more than 2.2 million business accounts. Our account base is growing by an average of 18,000 accounts per day, with virtually no traditional sales or marketing."

"The size of our network and widening acceptance of our product has helped us become the leading payment network for online auction websites, including eBay. PayPal is also being increasingly used at other e-commerce sites, for the sale of goods such as electronics and household items, the sale of services such as web design and travel, and the sale of digital content. Offline businesses, including lawyers, contractors and physicians, have increasingly begun to receive payments online through PayPal. PayPal's service, which lets users send payments for free, can be used from PCs or Web-enabled mobile phones."

"PayPal is a privately held company headquartered in Palo Alto, California. PayPal was a Webby Award nominee in both 2000 and 2001, and was named a *Forbes* Favorite Website in the magazine's May 2001 "Best of the Web" issue."

PayPal is the most economic way for AEA to be able to accept credit cards online. To use PayPal you must fill out an AEA online application form which when submitted takes you to the PayPal option for payment. Once there just click on their logo and follow their instructions.

I have personally used PayPal to purchase items online and found it easy to use and very convenient.

AEA News
Circa 1985

Security Clearances

The House Armed Services Investigations committee recently randomly selected some 310 security clearance holders with Secret clearances or higher and discovered that 39 were legal aliens from countries listed on the "Designated Countries" list. Forty-one of the 310 were non-citizens. The Designated Countries list is the list of countries, which accompanies every security application. A security clearance holder is required to report even casual contact with an individual from any of the countries on the list.

More than 23,000 people from countries on the designated countries list work for the defense department the Washington Post reported. This included 5,186 born in China, 3,746 from Vietnam, 3,623 from Cuba and 1,883 from the Soviet Union.

According to the Post article, "...Non-U.S. citizens are employed as aircraft weapons specialist, as senior engineers on the F-16 fighter project and as specialists at an Air Force Early Radar Warning Line radar site, the first line of radar defense against a possible Soviet nuclear attack."

The Post article stated "In January 1987, the Defense Department enacted a regulation that only people (who) have been citizens for at least five years or those who have lived in the United States for at least ten years may be granted security clearances." "Under the procedure a waiver may be granted, but the study found no exceptions had been sought for these workers."

An American Civil Liberties Union spokesman was quoted as saying "The simple fact that an individual is born in a foreign country – EVEN A COUNTRY WHOSE GOVERNMENT IS HOSTILE TO THE UNITED STATES – should not in and of itself raise questions as to that persons trustworthiness."

AEA reported in one of our 1985 newsletters, and in written testimony to the House Committee on Science and Technology that over 10% of all foreign students in this country were from the designated countries and half of those were studying engineering, science, mathematics or computer science. This is a far higher proportion than for all foreign students. Much of this nations sensitive research is conducted in our universities, but not classified until after it is proven to have military applications. (I hate to say "I told you so, but...")

THIS SPACE FOR RENT OR LEASE

Does your business sell to engineers and the technical community? Would you like to advertise your product in the American Engineer?

E-mail AEA at aea@aea.org to reserve your space for the quarterly next edition and to get rates.

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Absent With Out Leave

The following members either have not updated their e-mail addresses or their system has rejected our e-mail to them for some reason.

Please update your e-mail address as you may miss out on information that could save you more than enough money to pay your AEA dues. The AAA auto insurance discount through AEA membership saved California members several times their dues.

M011123-01 M011025-02 M851223-01
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Southern California Members get Insurance Break

The Auto Club of Southern California, who is somehow affiliated with AAA, has been giving AEA members a significant break on their automobile insurance. It is my understanding it is in the ten to fifteen percent range depending on some magic AAA formula.

At the time of this writing, we are unsure if the discount will be available by the time you receive this. We are working very hard to try to keep the discount going, but at this time it is scheduled to terminate at the end of March. AAA has not given me a specific date, but that is what some of the members have told me.

We have made significant strides in membership because of this discount as it amounts to several times the annual AEA dues.

AAA has told us they do not give breaks to professional organizations anywhere in the country, so at this time the break is unique to California.

Those of you from California who do not have or have not given AEA an e-mail address have been sent a letter to inform you of the discount. This is an excellent reason to make sure we have an up to date e-mail address for you. This was money spent on postage that in many cases was unnecessary.

It is AEA policy not to share any of your confidential information with anyone without first asking if it is ok or you requesting that we share it. **You should have no concerns about us selling our mailing list or e-mail list to anyone, it will not happen.**

Would You Like to Get Similar Insurance Breaks In Your State?

Unfortunately, AAA does not have a program of auto insurance discounts for professionals. This means we have to go elsewhere to try to find similar discounts.

My entire staff and myself (that's a total of one) at the "office" do not have the time to contact companies in all fifty states. We could therefore use the help of one or two volunteers from each state to do the leg work for us.

If you are interested in helping your colleagues and perhaps get yourself a big break on your auto insurance drop me an e-mail at "billr@aea.org". We can give you a hint or two on how to get started. **It's up to you!**

AEA Press Release Congress Involved in Wage Busting

Congress is involved in Wage Busting of American workers recently seeking pay increases for themselves. Congressional members from both parties are involved in supporting wage busting of American workers by introducing legislation to import foreign H1-B workers. Importing foreign workers by the millions for more than a decade has a negative effect on the income, jobs, and skill enhancement opportunities workers for American workers and their young college.

Although importing foreign labor affects many different occupations, the American Engineering Association, Inc. is especially concerned about the detrimental effects on high tech workers, the engineering profession and U.S. Engineering capabilities.

Thousands upon thousands of good technical jobs are being lost as Americans are laid off by an astounding number of companies. The increased importation of foreign high tech workers under the H-1B visa legislation now makes no sense; "Except to those who benefit financially from the legislation."

Before we look off shore for foreign engineers industry should, at the very least, expand their selection of personnel to the pool of "Over Qualified" and senior more experienced American engineers and high tech workers cultured by years of experience.

It is well known that raising salaries and benefits solves teacher shortages. However, since this is really a wage busting issue this is not a consideration for corporations employing large numbers of engineers and high tech personnel. Congress has made it too easy for corporations to import foreign labor and this has been going on for more than two decades supported by one form of legislation or another.

This is clearly an issue of wage busting, bought and paid for by Corporate America.

It is well known to the engineering community that wages have fallen and wages for Contract Engineers are the same today as those paid in 1986. It is also remarkable to note that although many Contract Engineers work out of town and must maintain 2 residences, much like Congress, engineers are not getting paid per-diem. Their living expenses or per-diem are taken out of their base pay and this exemption is curtailed after their first year of employment.

Bill Reed, AEA's president said "I can understand some of our Congressional representatives being uninformed or not being on top of all the issues, but to introduce legislation based on manpower shortage fabrications and opinion and supporting it with the findings of NRC's biased committees are totally inexcusable. Further, ignoring and disregarding factual information because it is in opposition to their legislation is also unacceptable."

AEA's vice president, Richard F. Tax notes; "I can cite one, well known, incident where the concerns of members of the engineering community were ignored and we lost seven astronauts and the space shuttle Challenger. I assure you, passing legislation based on lies, fabrications and Manpower Shortage Propaganda will only create more problems. Here is a opportunity to make corrections, put a hold on importing foreign workers, end this travesty and investigate this whole situation."

AEA's Board of Directors unanimously agree that all legislation importing foreign engineers and high tech workers under the H1-B provisions be repealed, and in all layoffs, H1-B employees be laid off prior to U.S. citizen employees.

AEA Proposes Unemployment Solutions

Ft. Worth, Texas - The American Engineering Association announced today the following proposal was faxed to President Bush in an attempt to relieve domestic engineering and high tech unemployment.

Employment in the technical community for the fourth quarter was: Fourth quarter engineering unemployment was 70,000 (3.2%), Electrical Engineering unemployment 22,000 (3.0%), Programmer unemployment 39,000 (6.5%) and CSSA unemployment 80,000 (4.2%) Multiply all unemployment numbers by 3.3 in order to get the actual displacement.

AEA president Bill Reed said, "Lockheed-Martin recently stated they had over three hundred thousand resumes for a little over three thousand jobs. These were applications for permanent jobs and probably did not include thousands of contract workers. Boeing recently announced they would be sending much of their work overseas including much of their technical work."

The proposal contains the following points.

Require all companies who hold federal contracts to do that work in the United States and use citizens to do the work. To do less is to expose our nation to potential espionage, terrorism or at the very least an increased buildup of competition to our nations companies at a time when they can least cope. Some, if not most of our defense contractors, send at least portions of their work including engineering and R&D overseas. This should stop.

Enforce the "deemed export regulations". The "deemed export regulations" apply not only to goods sent overseas, but also to foreign workers who are exposed to any sensitive material here in this country. Each foreign worker must be licensed to work with that material/information. These regulations must be enforced to the maximum extent of the law.

Stop sending R&D and engineering work overseas. The United States government sends billions of dollars every year in defense and sensitive research and development funds to overseas companies (competitors). One only has to look at our friends, the Japanese, selling our submarine propeller technology to the Russians a few years ago to see the folly in this policy.

To paraphrase a comment by former Representative Helen Bentley "It makes no sense if a war breaks out to

have to protect a factory in Taiwan, that makes a defense critical item for us."

Put a three to five year moratorium on all student and work visas. Insist on immigration laws with real enforcement teeth in them. We must have a method of tracking all visa holders while they are in this country.

(This item will have a cost associated with it, but must be done.) We must ensure compliance with the law.

The late Barbara Jordan, Chair of the *U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform* said "As a nation with a long history of immigration and commitment to the rule of law, this country must set limits on who can enter and then credibly enforce our immigration law."

Part of the recommendations of the commission was employer sanctions – partially adopted with a wink and a grin, but never enforced. Both Ms. Jordan and the late Richard Estrada, Dallas Morning News editorial writer and member of the commission, were for meaningful employer sanctions.

To stop illegal immigration and the abuses of legal immigration we should have employer sanctions that carry felony penalties for each violation.

President Bush has stated that we must reduce or eliminate our reliance on foreign oil. It is just as important to eliminate our reliance on foreign labor in the technical workplace. Our immigration laws to relieve the "temporary shortage" of technical workers have been in effect for some three decades now. Each passing year industry has become more addicted to foreign labor.

A green card holder should be considered to be "out of status" after two years, and dealt with appropriately, if the first step to citizenship has not been taken. The "green card" is intended to be the track to American citizenship. We should see a steady progress toward citizenship each year that individual is here.

Worker retraining should be OJT-On the Job Training. More education funds without restrictions on immigration will never result in more citizen technical workers. Worker retraining programs without restrictions on immigration will do nothing for our national security or the displaced citizen.

Any stimulus given to corporations must be given with the caveat that the funds may only directly benefit citizens of the United States. We must quit subsidizing our corporations to hire foreign.

AEA "ITAA Position Is Un-American"

Ft. Worth, Texas - In response to an Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) letter to Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Edward C. Aldridge in which ITAA president Harris Miller questioned the decision to ban non-citizens from working on sensitive but not classified material.

American Engineering Association president Bill Reed said, "It's time the Defense Department tightened their controls on all potential defense and sensitive material. We have had over three thousand citizens killed and to suggest our defense controls are too tight at a time when we are at war with terrorists both overseas and within borders is Un-American."

"ITAA is the same organization that gave us a doubling of foreign H-1b workers just three months before the economy turned south and the dot-com crash. This increase was based on less than scientific studies, less than truthful information on the need for foreign workers and cash to congress, not on actual need. ITAA and their members speak of their manpower needs three to five years in advance; are we to believe they did not know of the pending layoffs only three months away?"

Reed goes on to say "ITAA is a transnational organization of largely transnational corporations whose only interest is in the profit of the next quarter, not this nations interest. DOD is doing exactly the right thing, but is years too late. ITAA still claims a shortage of computer programmers and engineers, yet we have reports of Lockheed-Martin needing some three thousand people over the next three years or so and having to sift through three hundred thousand resumes to find them. Where is the shortage?"

"Do we want our smart bombs or missiles programmed by non-citizens? Do we want our services communications designed by people who cannot get a security clearance? The "deemed export regulations" apply not only to goods sent overseas, but also to foreign workers who are exposed to any sensitive material here in this country. Each foreign worker must be licensed to work with that material/information. These regulations must be both tightened and enforced. Proximity to classified or sensitive information is the spy's greatest asset."

ITAA and their membership simply want lucrative government contracts and to be able to staff them with underpaid foreign workers. The American Engineering Association urges the Under Secretary to give us the most secure regulations possible and put some unemployed citizens back to work.

Your State Department at Work

Visas are actually issued by the State Department rather than INS or the Department of Labor. The basic reason there are three agencies involved is so that each can blame the other for their constant screw-ups. This keeps everyone confused and not knowing who is at fault. That makes it more difficult to fire the perpetrator.

The Department of Labor's job is to see that all of the appropriate boxes are checked and then to rubber stamp the application.

The INS's roll in the system is apparently to take the rubber stamped document from DOL and "bless it" and then pass it on to the State Department which ensures we are protected from rapist, muggers, murders and terrorists.

Check out the harsh and mean spirited method employed by the state Department's Gestapo like agents. I'll tell you the cruelty and lack of compassion by these officials is heartbreaking!

No wonder the radical Islamic terrorists hate our guts. How could we as a nation impose such questions on this potential rapist, muggers, murders and terrorists? Shame, shame on you State Department officials!

State Department form DS-156 -- the official nonimmigrant visa application -- asks the following question: "Do you seek to enter the U.S. to engage in export control violations, subversive or terrorist activities, or any other unlawful purpose? Are you a member of a terrorist organization as currently designated by the U.S. Secretary of State?" The footnote to the question states, "A YES answer does not automatically signify ineligibility for visa."

No wonder we have problems. I tend to lean more on the side of the following headline from a recent Ann Coulter column. "Don't Just Profile. Deport."

American Engineering Association

Membership Application

Mail to: American Engineering Association
P.O. box 820473
Ft. Worth, Texas 76182-0473

The American Engineering Association is a National, non-profit corporation dedicated to the enhancement of the engineering and scientific professions and our nation's continued technical leadership. Our members are from virtually all disciplines of the nation's technical community.

If you are concerned with the direction of the technical professions, we urge you to join with us in working to improve the professional lives of the nation's technical professionals.

You must be a citizen or permanent resident alien to qualify for membership in the American Engineering Association.

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Please check our website often for issue updates and action required. www.aea.org

Thank you for your desire to leave a better profession for our children and grandchildren than you came into.

Unemployment Rate:	5.7%	Mar 2002
Consumer Price Index	+0.3%	Mar 2002
Payroll Employment	+58,000	Mar 2002
Unemployment Initial Claims:	445,000	Apr 13, 2002
Federal Minimum Wage	\$5.15	

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