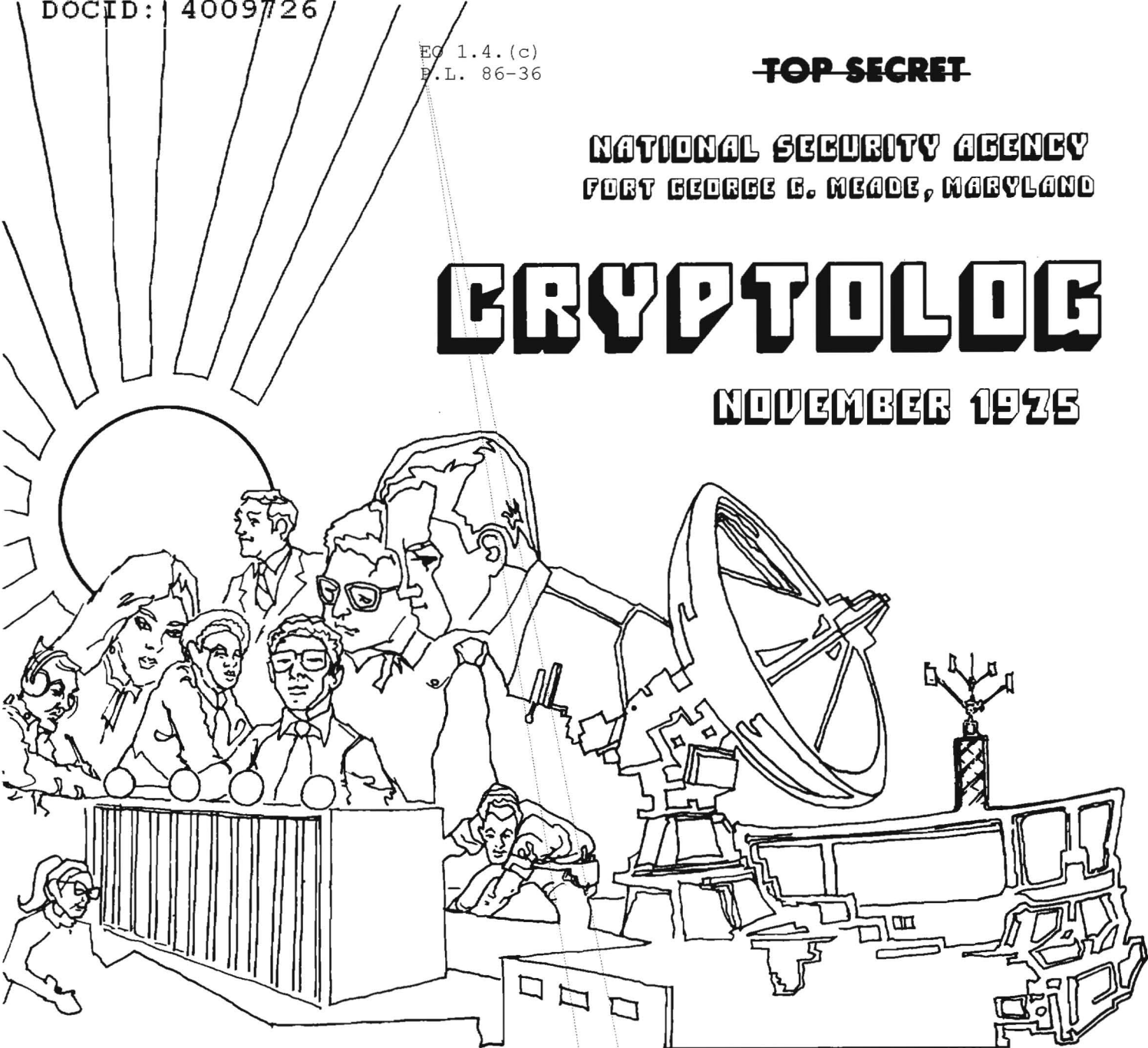


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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND

# CRYPTOLOG

NOVEMBER 1975



P.L. 86-36

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### Soviet, Publicizing Vote Data, Unveils Secret City's Existence

By THEODORE SHABAD  
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, June 3—The se- newspaper just received. It dis-

# WHEN CENSORSHIP BACKFIRES

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of the four districts that make  
up the secret city. A careful  
reader would note that the list  
jumped from No. 255 to No.  
260.  
At the conclusion of the r  
inating campaign, in which  
unopposed candidate was se-  
lected for each district, the

judge from a Central Asian  
Continued on Page 6, Column 7

### SOVIET DISCLOSES CITY'S EXISTENCE

Continued From Page 4

represent the secret

District 256 is to be repre-  
sented by Khamid T. Nadyrov,  
identified as First Secretary of  
the Communist party's City  
Committee; the name of the

By [redacted]

Tadzhik party's 135-member  
Central Committee last Febru-  
ary, indicating that their jobs  
are of more than routine sig-  
nificance. Mr. Oplanchuk was  
There have been indications  
in other publications that the



The New York Times June 4, 1971  
Secret city is believed  
associated with uranium  
in Taboshar area (cross).

unidentified city may be asso-

Soviet reference books as a  
principal site of radioactive ore.  
Census results published a  
year ago indicated that the  
city's population was 24,000.  
with a combined  
population of 203,700, and  
listed six by size.

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P.L. 86-36

Theodore Shabad is one of the preeminent American experts on Soviet physical and economic geography. He is the author of *Geography of the USSR* (1951), *Basic Industrial Resources of the USSR* (1969), and *China's Changing Map* (1972). Since 1953 he has been a member of the New York Times foreign news staff reporting from Moscow. Of all the foreign correspondents in Moscow, he appears to have the sharpest eye for irregularities in the Soviet press which many people fail to notice or appreciate, and therein lies an interesting and instructive tale.

Back in 1971, Shabad published an analysis of election reports from Tadjikistan that must have had the folks at Glavlit<sup>1</sup> hopping for weeks if not months. Now, just following the 1975 republic-level elections in the USSR, is a good time to look back at Shabad's 1971 article and the intervening years to observe what appear to be its effects.

#### Shabad's Article

Shabad noticed that, in listing the electoral districts for the 1971 elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Tadjik Republic, the newspaper *Kommunist Tadzhikistana* (18 March 1971) entirely skipped over four of the numbered electoral districts in Leninabadskaya Oblast' (Nos. 256 through 259). However, after the election, all the elected deputies were listed. One was Vladimir Yakovlevich Oplanchuk, identified as

"director of a plant," and another was a person identified as First Secretary of "a City Committee of the Communist Party." Both were members of the Central Committee of the Tadjik Communist Party, and Oplanchuk had been a delegate to both the 23rd and 24th Party Congresses.

Consulting the Soviet census that had been published in 1970, Shabad found a statement that there were seven cities in Tadjikistan with populations of 20,000 to 50,000, for a combined population of 203,700. But the census report listed only six cities, with their respective populations. Simple addition and subtraction led Shabad to conclude that the "secret city" had a population of 24,000. To suggest what and where that city was, he turned to prewar geographies identifying Taboshar as a principal site of radioactive ore in Leninabadskaya Oblast'. Thus he concluded that the "secret city" was probably Taboshar, and that its identity was being suppressed by the censors because of its relationship to the Soviet atomic-energy program.

#### What Shabad Didn't Know, But We Did

Shabad may not have known how close he came. Had he had access to CIA defector reports, he would have discovered that Oplanchuk had been the head of a Soviet uranium-mining operation in East Germany until 1956, when he was transferred to become Chief of a uranium-mining operation "somewhere in Central Asia."

<sup>1</sup>Abbreviation for Chief Directorate for the Protection of State Secrets in the Press, known in the West as "the censor."

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~Soviet Revelations, 1973-1974

Though Shabad may not have known how close he came, the guardians of the secrets at Glavlit and the Ministry of Medium Machine Building (the ministry with overall responsibility for the Soviet atomic-energy program) knew only too well and must have had some unkind thoughts for our wily correspondent. While he had not completely spilled the beans, he had tipped them very precariously. They could be fairly certain that Shabad had focused the attention of at least a few Western intelligence analysts on the Leninabad area.

Given the choice of stonewalling it or letting the chips fall where they might, the censors apparently decided the jig was up and took the wraps off the "secret city."<sup>2</sup> In 1973, Volume 14 of the Third Edition of the *Large Soviet Encyclopedia* was published. It contained a short article on Leninabadskaya Oblast' and identified the seventh city as *Chkalovsk* (of which "Skalows I" had obviously been a garble). In typical Soviet fashion, the censors refused to show the city on the map accompanying the encyclopedia article.

In 1974, however, perhaps realizing the futility of their predicament, they passed two publications:

- a map showing Chkalovsk as a city a few kilometers southeast of Leninabad, with between 10,000 and 30,000 souls; and
- an administrative-territorial handbook listing *Chkalovsk* as a city with 26,000 inhabitants that had been created in 1956 (the year Oplanchuk was transferred from East Germany), with administrative responsibility for three widely separated settlements: *Taboshar*, about 45 kilometers north of Chkalovsk; *Palas*, about 15 kilometers to the east; and *Naugarzan*, in the extreme northern tip of Tadzhikistan, over 90 kilometers northeast of Chkalovsk. None of these four locations were included among the 63,499 entries in the 1969 USSR Postal Index (similar to our ZIP code listing). NSA's Soviet Localities File contained no open-source references to Chkalovsk or Taboshar, and no references at all to Naugarzan or Palas. But in 1974 the lid was off.

<sup>2</sup>Statements concerning the motives of the censors are of course pure speculation, in view of the lack of defectors from Glavlit.

Soviet 1975 Republic-Level Elections

Which brings us now to the 1975 republic-level elections. With the censors presumably chastened by Shabad's exposé, there was no repetition of the 1971 shenanigans: no electoral districts were omitted from the published list. This time all the four deputies from Chkalovsk were either employees of the Combine or had been nominated by workers of the Combine.<sup>3</sup> This clearly shows Chkalovsk to be a "company town" whose administrative control over Taboshar, Palas, and Naugarzan is a result of its uranium mining and refining activities.

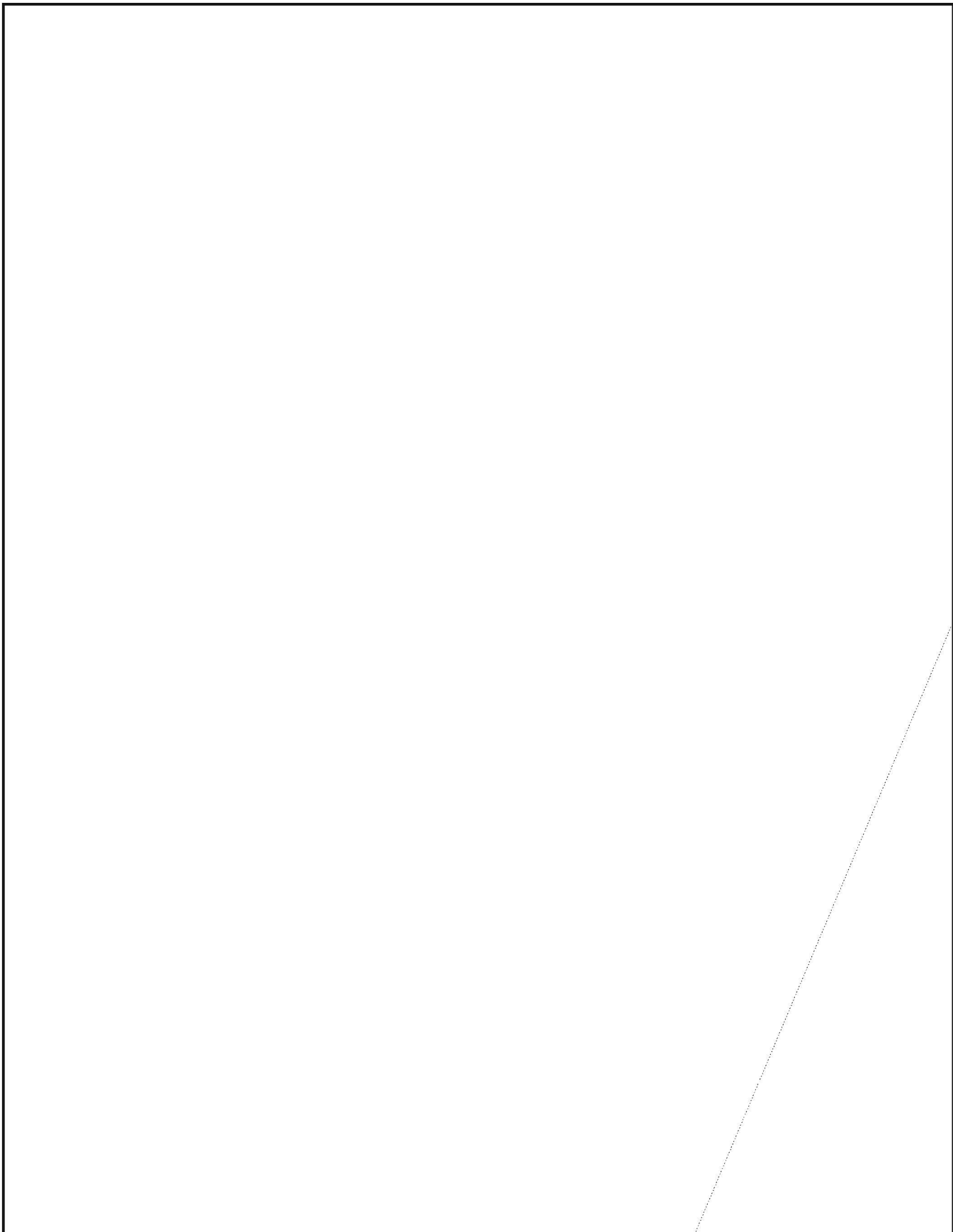
All of this, including the reference to "Skalows I," began to make sense. Presumably for reasons of security and economics, the administrative headquarters of Combine 6, along EO 1.4.(c) with support elements and other non-mining facilities, were relocated to a new city incorporating an area of extensive recent construction and the older settlement of Chkalovskij from which it took its name. In order to maintain complete control over its subsidiary mining operations, it was necessary to subordinate the local soviets of Taboshar, Palas, and Naugarzan to the Chkalovsk City Soviet. Thus, since reference to Chkalovsk was forbidden, mention of the other three locations was also taboo. The situation was not unique, but was certainly very unusual. For 15 years the blackout succeeded, and therefore may be said to have served its purpose, but in the end it was its own undoing. Were the Soviets ready to reveal their "secret city" anyway, and was Shabad's article a mere embarrassment? I doubt it.

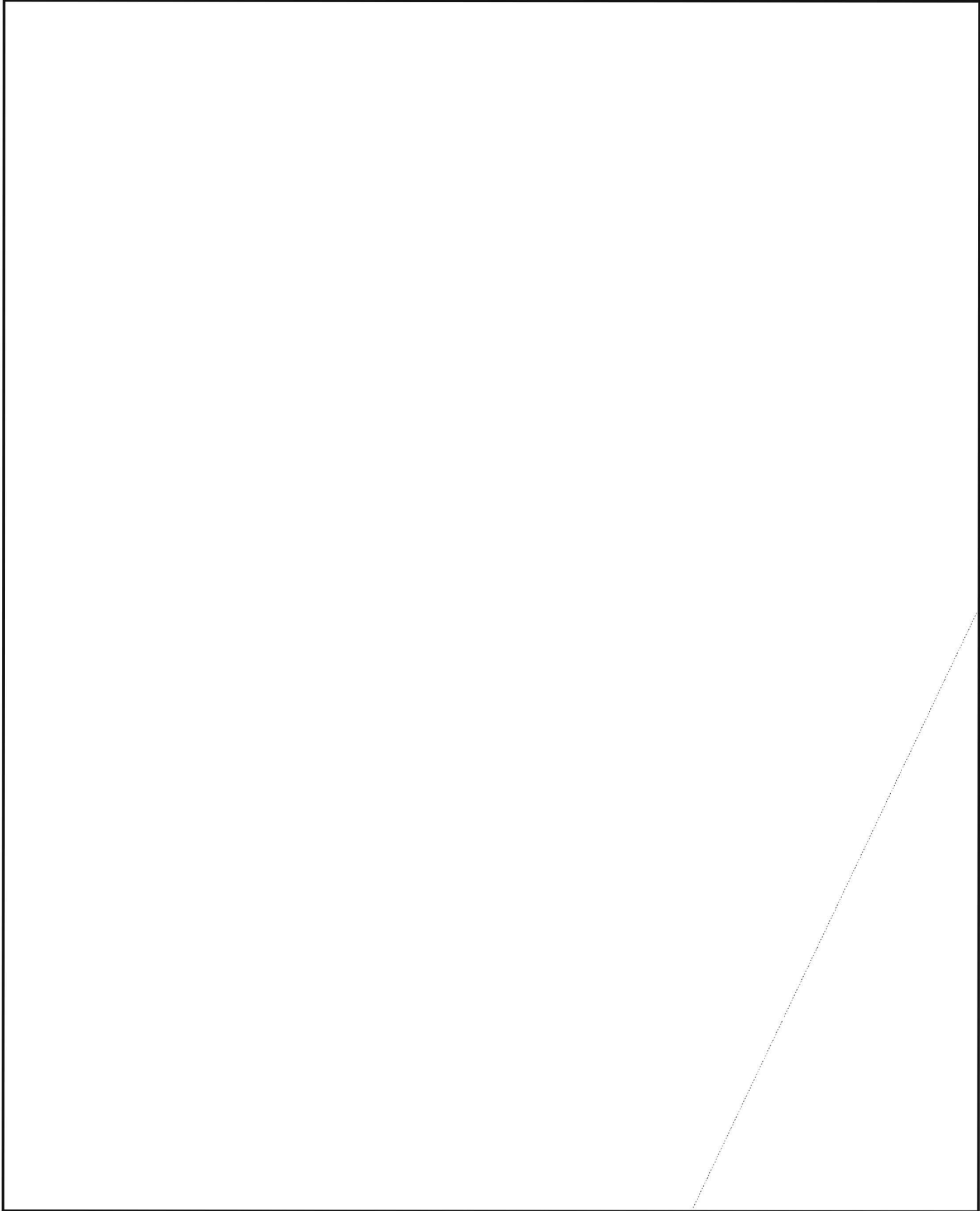
*Moral:*

Excessive censorship may betray that which it is supposed to protect; or It pays to read Soviet publications with an eye to what is not said.

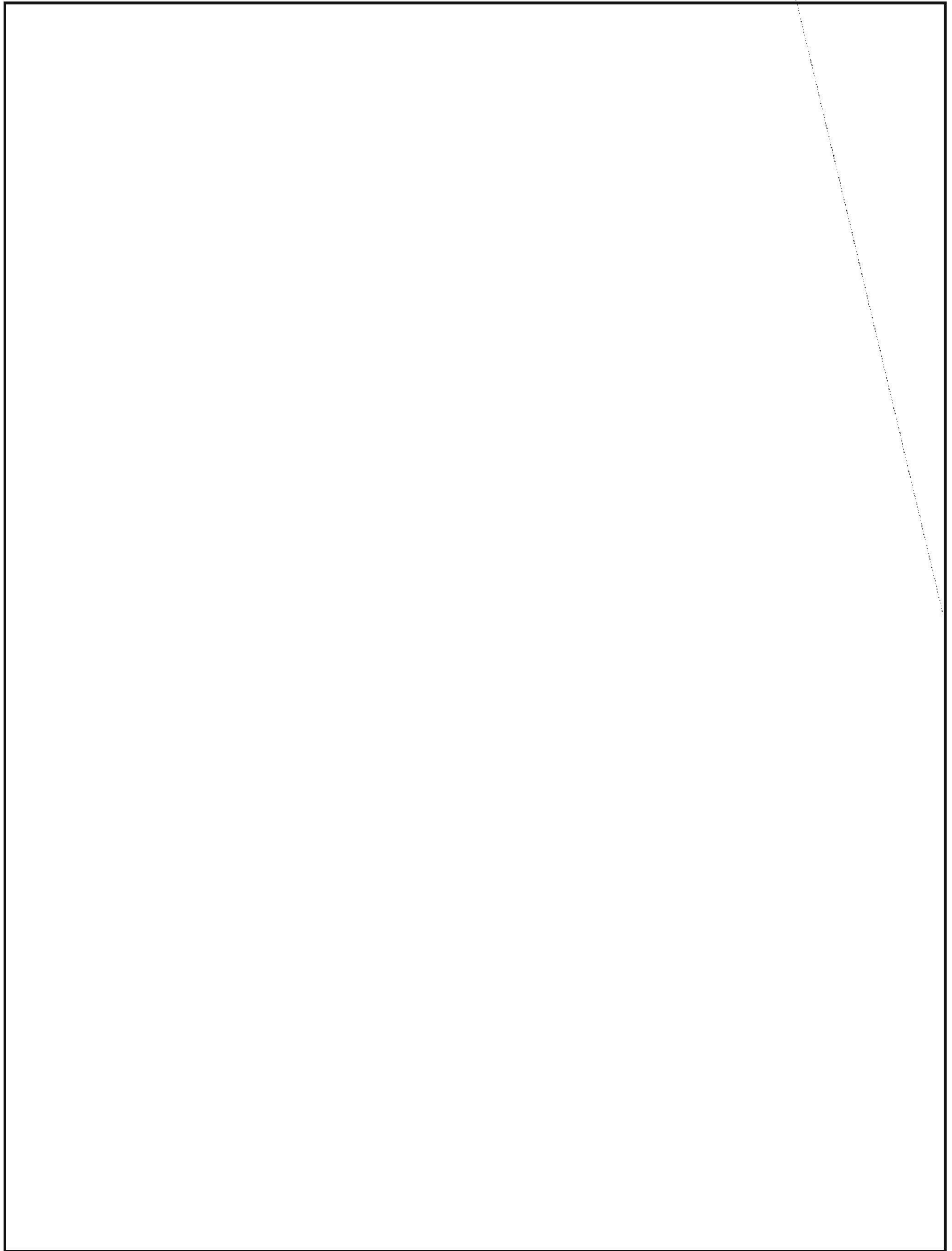
<sup>3</sup>This time the censors tried to confuse us by calling it "a construction combine." Ah what tangled webs we weave. . .

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~



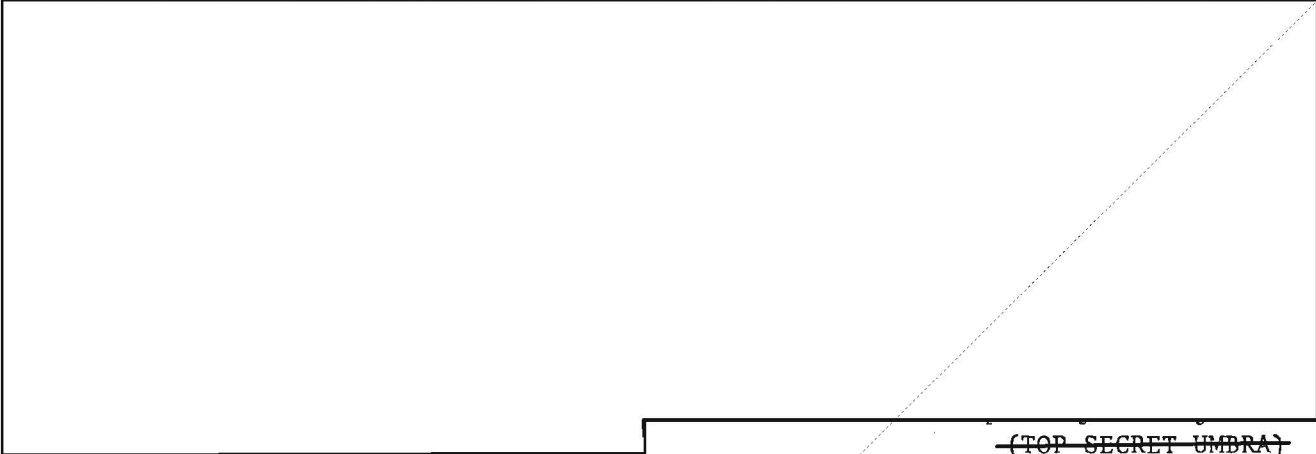


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# DESKPAD: A Programmer's Tool

By

C651

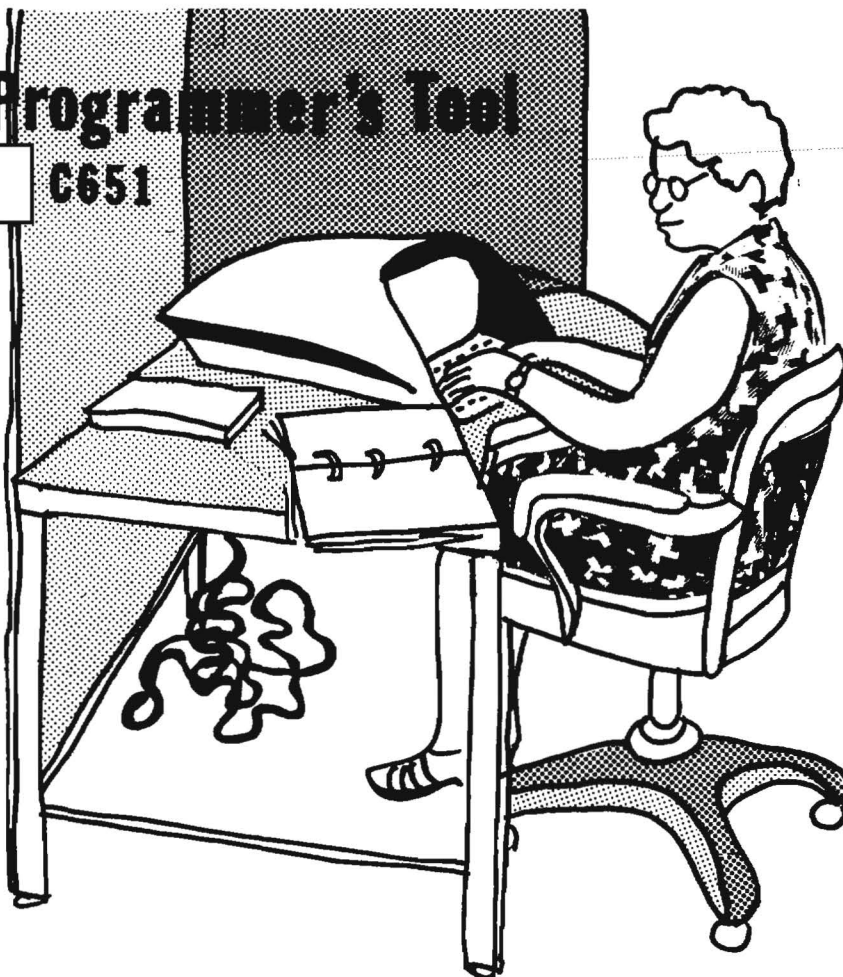
P.L. 86-36

Software is getting more costly and taking up more of the Data Processing budget. More work is being requested of fewer people. Software is becoming more sophisticated and more complex. How can management meet the new challenges? Increased productivity is one way, and DESKPAD is a way of attaining this goal.

DESKPAD is a remote-terminal, time-sharing, software-development system. The DESKPAD system provides the full capability of an on-line computer system to the programmer when he needs it. By assisting the programmer, DESKPAD increases overall productivity in areas such as documentation, generation of specifications and design plans, as well as the actual programming. The remote system saves the programmer time in various ways: travel to and from machine areas is reduced since updating is performed on-line; the time-consuming task of making corrections, on tape or cards, to programs is eliminated; there is no longer a need to wait for a machine run to see how a piece of code fits in, since the program text is available on-line; and documentation is kept up to date, since it can be changed as the program is modified or generated while the program is being developed.

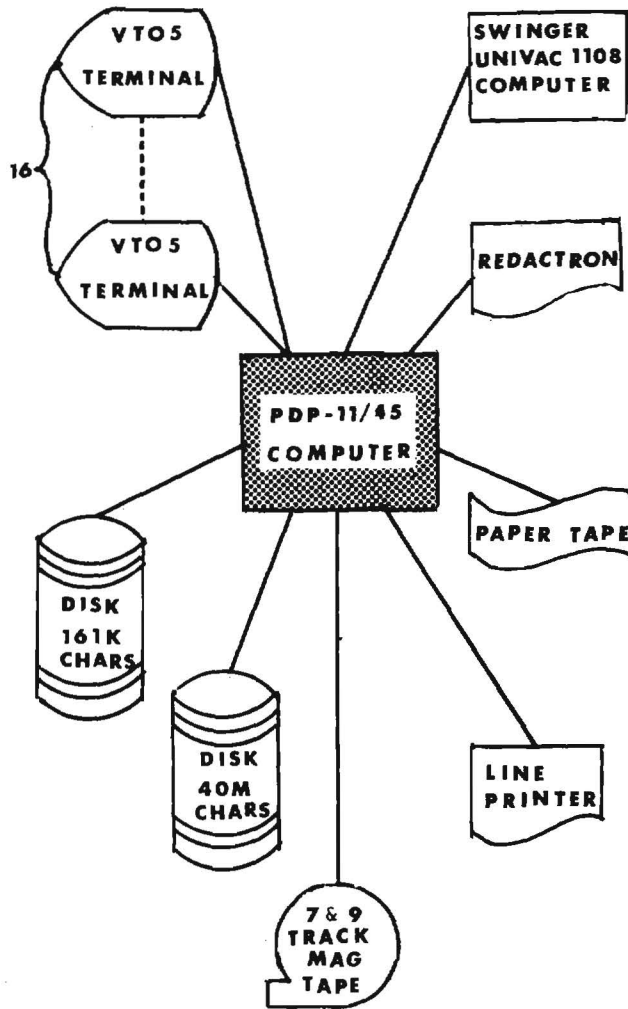
With the increased productivity made possible by DESKPAD, the system can pay for itself in less than 5 years. The average salary of a programmer is \$12,800 a year. A 5-percent increase in his productivity will yield an increase in his value of \$640. In a division of approximately 70 people, the total increase in value will be \$44,800 a year, which is approximately one-fifth of the \$180,000 cost of the DESKPAD system.

The DESKPAD system consists of a Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) PDP-11/45 computer with 112K of main memory and 40 megabytes of mass storage. The system contains various peripherals including magnetic tape, paper tape, 16 VTO5 CRT terminals, a link to the UNIVAC 1108 computer, and a REDACTRON Communicating Typewriter. Hardware is under control of the RSTS/E (Resource Sharing Time Sharing/Extended) system



purchased with the system from DEC. RSTS allows the users to perform time-sharing with the Basic-Plus language. Basic-Plus performs matrix manipulation, alphanumeric string operation, virtual memory addressing, and many other functions that allow both simple and advanced programming to be performed. Also available are many utility programs to standardize redundant operations needs for everyday use. These utilities include a peripheral interchange program (PIP), an accounting information program (MONEY), a system status reporter (SYSTAT), a file recovery program (BACKUP), a character/line editor (EDIT), and a powerful cursor control editor (PAGE). PAGE is the most frequently used software package on DESKPAD. The editor was obtained at no cost to the government through our membership in the Digital Equipment Computer User Society (DECUS). It provides the user with total control of the VTO5 terminal. PAGE makes the task of editing more enjoyable than one the programmer resents doing. In addition to the previously mentioned software, a software interface has been purchased from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). The interface allows RSTS users to make use of the RT11 single-user system. The

# DESKPAD HARDWARE



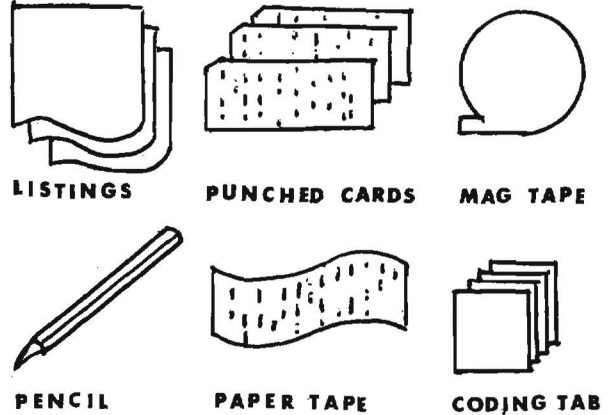
RT11 system provides the user the capability of running the PDP-11 Macro Assembler and Linker as well as FORTRAN IV. With the OMSI-supplied interface, DESKPAD expands its capability to compete with most of the large-scale systems in the Agency.

The DESKPAD system is currently in use in the Field Software Support Division of C6. With the division supporting 26 small systems, some with virtually no updating facility or so primitive that it takes 2 to 3 passes to complete a single update, it is easy to see why DESKPAD has become quite popular. DESKPAD currently supports 69 people using 700 files assigned to 144 accounts. A "HELP" program is available to provide users with current system information. HELP provides information ranging from sign-on instructions to execution of a FORTRAN program. A "GRIPE" program gives the user a means of communicating with the system manager. It informs him of system deficiencies as the user sees them. All gripes are answered within one week by the system manager. Technical

notes are generated to provide users with documentation of user-written utility programs and to provide additional documentation on any other area of DESKPAD that requires it.

With austerity hitting all parts of the Agency, systems such as DESKPAD can provide the needed technology to meet the ever-increasing demand on the diminishing work force.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE Without DESKPAD



## With DESKPAD



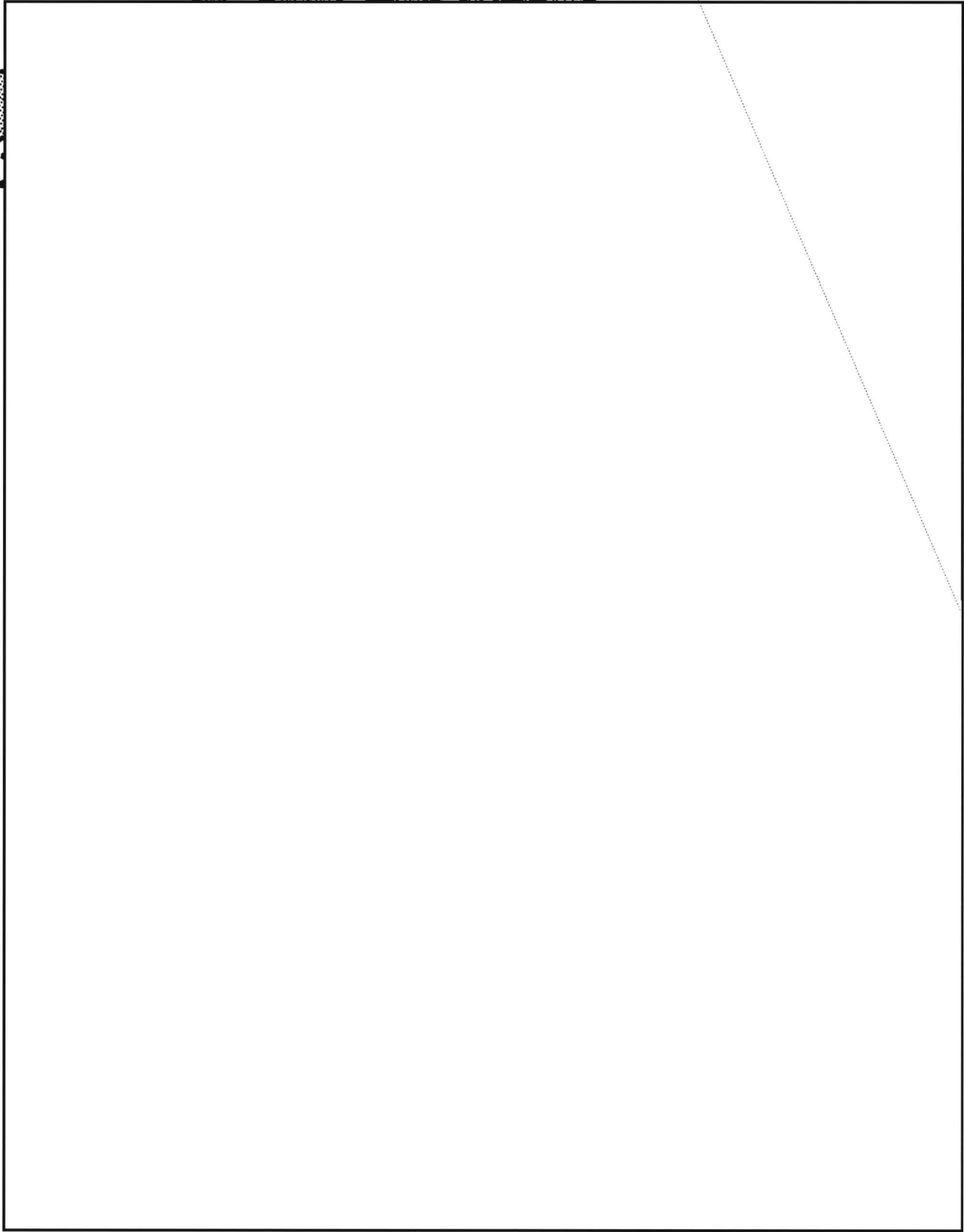
Solution to NSA-croctic No. 1  
(CRYPTOLOG, October 1975)

[Redacted] "Uncertain Origins": P.L. 86-36

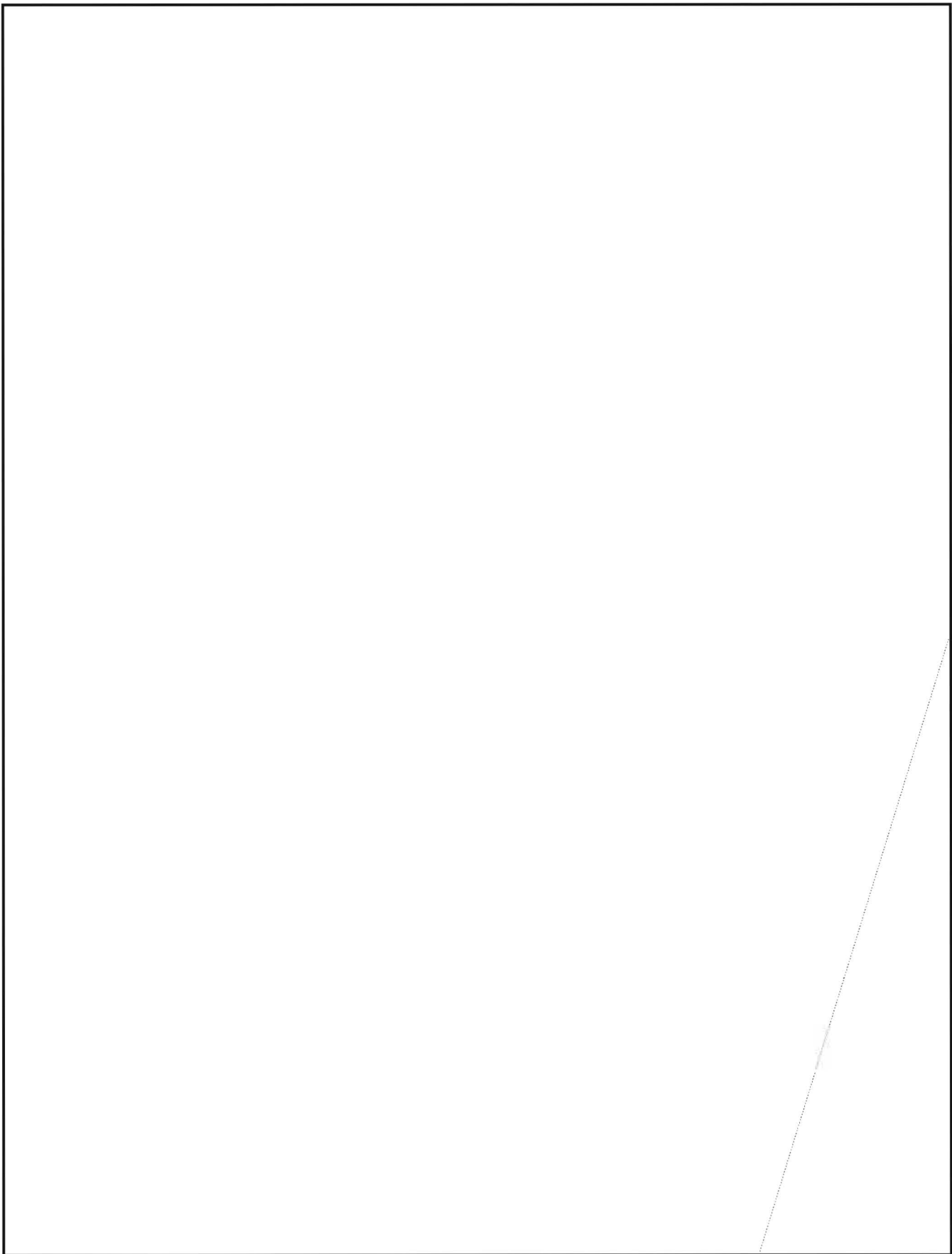
"The analysts I met were anything but desolate. Working in a pair of tottering quonset huts at tables they had made themselves and harassed by wind, dust, and erratic electricity, they saw themselves in league against the forces of evil -- variously embodied in the VC, the weather, and NSA."

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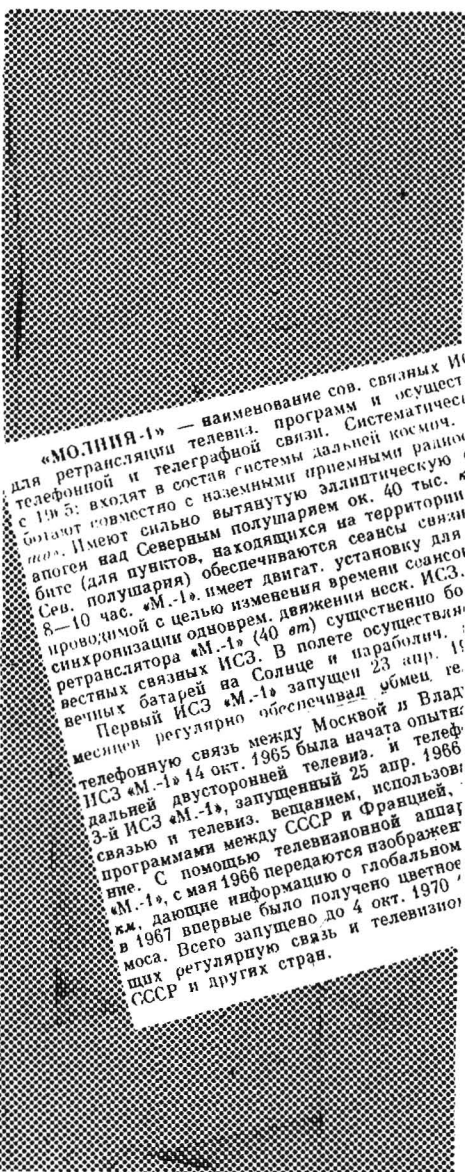
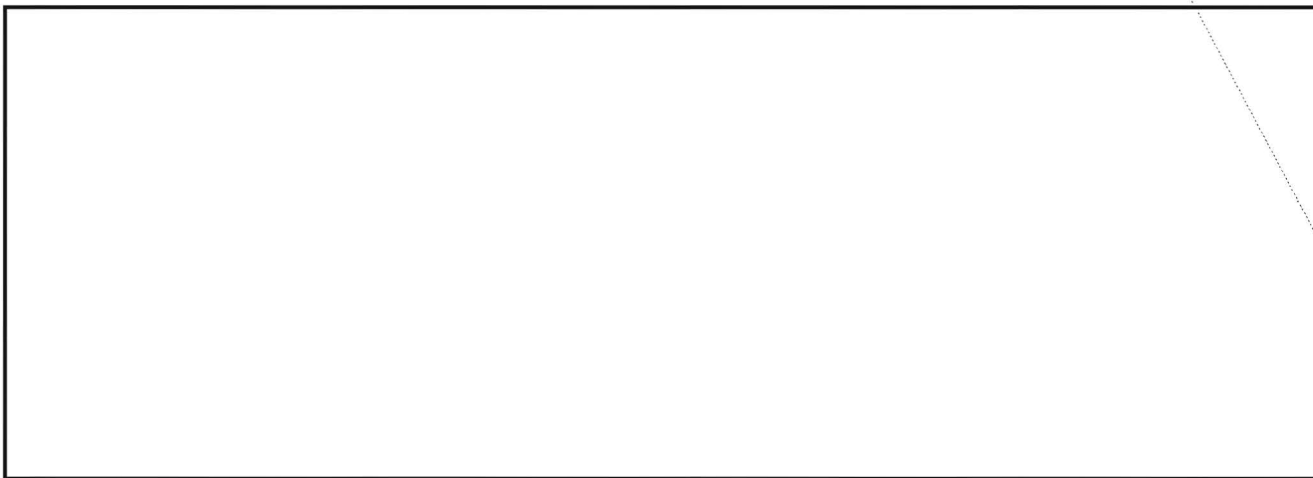
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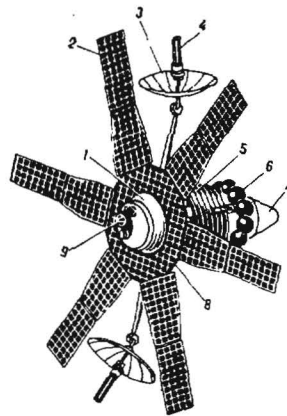


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**MOLNIYA-1.** Name of Soviet communication satellites intended for relaying of TV programs, and long-distance telephone and telegraph communication. These satellites have been used since 1965. They are part of the *Orbita* space system of long-range radio communication. These satellites travel on an elliptical orbit of great eccentricity with an apogee of about 40 thou. km in the Northern hemisphere. With an orbit of such shape (for points located in the USSR and other countries in the Northern hemisphere), communication may be maintained for up to 8—10 h at a time. *Molniya-1* satellites have rocket engines to make CORRECTIONS OF ORBITS in order to alter the hours of available communication time and to synchronize the travel of several satellites moving round the Earth at the same time. The output power (40 W) of the relay transmitter on *Molniya-1* is considerably higher than that on other known communication satellites. The satellite's design provides in-flight orientation of solar batteries towards the Sun and of the parabolic antenna towards the Earth.

The 1st *Molniya-1* satellite which was launched on April 23, 1965, regularly provided TV and telephone exchange between Moscow and Vladivostok for many months. On October 14, 1965, the 2nd *Molniya-1* satellite was launched for experimental 2-way long-distance TV, telephone, and telegraph communication; the 3rd *Molniya-1* satellite, launched on April 25, 1966, besides serving for communication and TV broadcasting between USSR ground stations, was also used for an exchange of TV programs between the USSR and France, this including colour TV. Since May, 1966, TV



*Molniya-1* communication satellite.  
 1—sealed body; 2—solar battery; 3—high-gain antenna; 4—Earth sensor for antenna orientation; 5—radiative cooler; 6—working fluid for minor corrections of flight path; 7—correction engine; 8—heater panel; 9—Sun sensors.

equipment on board the *Molniya-1* satellites yields images of the Earth as seen from altitudes of 30,000—40,000 km, which contain information about cloud pattern in globular scale; a colour photo of the Earth taken from space was produced in 1967. By August 1, 1968, 13 *Molniya-1* satellites have been placed into orbits to provide regular communication and TV broadcasting over the territory of the USSR and other countries.

*Kosmonavtika*, V. P. Glushko, Editor-in-Chief, Moscow, 1970 (2nd edition, expanded); *The Soviet Encyclopedia of Space Flight*, G. V. Petrovich, Editor-in-Chief, Moscow, 1969 (translation of 1968 edition of *Kosmonavtika*).

(UNCLASSIFIED)

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I am sick to death of hearing people refer to "Some Old Lady in Tennis Shoes" in a frivolous or disparaging tone. You younger readers may not know any better, but you older hands certainly should. Come on, people! My appraisal of SOLITS is now, as it was then, very simply, "Thank God!"

I first met SOLITS 25 years ago and she amazed me. She was at once the Agency's computer system, the Agency's conscience, the Agency's spirit, and the Agency's respect. No matter where I looked, she was there: armed with the simplest tools, garbed in her idiosyncrasies, resolute in her manner, doing her thing.

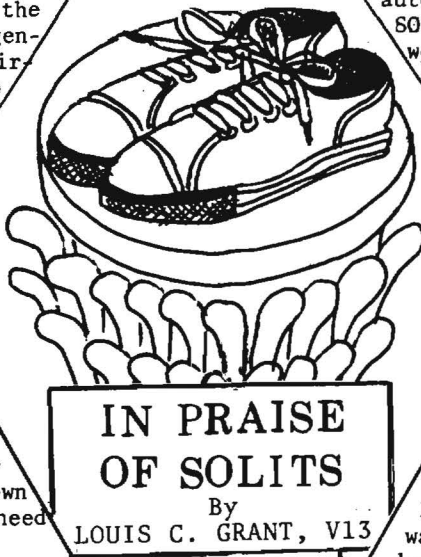
SOLITS embodied all the basics of a computer: *memory bank* (she never forgot anything); *data storage* (she never got rid of anything); *retrieval* (she knew where everything was); and *rapid access* (she had instant opinions). All this and she was seldom down for maintenance, she generated her own data input, and she didn't even need air-conditioning to operate.

Like any good conscience, SOLITS was frustrating and at times hard to live with. She was there whether you wanted her or not; she nagged until you listened; and she didn't give a damn who you were. If she had an opinion, you got it. In fact, you got it over and over until it registered. And I know of no Agency senior who ever escaped the determined SOLITS touch. The frustrating part was that you inevitably were sorry for it when you failed to heed her counsel.

In spirit, SOLITS personified the phrase "weird and wonderful." Professionally she was unorthodox, crotchety, jealous, suspicious, and selfish. She was the undisputed ruler of her one-desk kingdom. You were free to seek a request, but you never dared suggest how she might grant it. In short, a royal pain. Yet under that autocratic armor was a true Queen. SOLITS reigned over her younger co-workers. She lent them money, befriended the lonely, counseled the unknowing, ministered to the sick, and comforted the bereaved. But always with an air of noblesse oblige that never betrayed her inner feelings. Indeed a regal gem.

SOLITS was deeply respected for one very simple reason: she worked. The general excellence of her effort and her profound dedication are manifested in every success the Agency ever had. SOLITS never sought the spotlight, but you can bet the script was based on something she had done. And she was always in the wings ready to cue the front man. She richly deserved the applause.

Oh yes, she really did wear tennis shoes. But the Agency has stood in them -- proudly -- ever since the ribbon was cut. If they ever build a museum here, I hope there is a pair of bronzed tennis shoes enshrined and dedicated to the First Lady of our business. Wherever you are, SOLITS, my professional respect and gratitude are with you.



P.L. 86-36

## DEPARTMENT OF GOLDEN OLDIES

Most Golden Oldies were apparently written by Anon., but the author of the following one is known: NSA-er Dr. [redacted] who retired in 1972.

### Notes on Blue Russian

Blue Russian is a dialect spoken by about 16 persons scattered widely over the Valdai Hills. It is called "Blue Russian" because of the characteristic tint of the faces of speakers as they hold their breath while pronouncing imperfective and frequentative verb forms.

Just to give you an example: BIT' means "to beat"; POBIT' means "to do a little beating", and its imperfective is POBIVAT'. ZAPOBIVAT' means "to begin to do a little beating," and its imperfective is PEREZAPOBIVYVAT'. This last verb, interestingly enough, has a special frequentative form: namely, PEREZAPOBIVYVYVOVAT', which may be rendered "to make a practice of making fresh starts on projects involving a limited amount of beating." Hence, the handy ex-

pression Shkol'no-dvorovyj Perezapobivyvyuyushchij, "schoolyard bully."

The 16 speakers of Blue Russian are under constant observation so that scientific data on the incidence of linguistic strangulation may be obtained. Their zero birth rate during the past 50 years has aroused comment. But it is still too early to assert, with Hammerkopf, that "Blue Russians are too exhausted from talking to be able to propagate." This is dogmatic theorizing in the worst tradition of the University of Berlin.

As this goes to press, it has been learned that two of the 16 Blue Russians have died. It seems that one of them, a devoted member of the Pedagogico-Organizational Committee of the 7-year School of Staraya Russa, suffocated in the midst of an impassioned speech on schoolyard bullies; and his wife died of a similar cause shortly afterwards while talking to friends about making fresh starts on projects involving a limited amount of simplification of Blue Russian.



# National Cryptologic School Offers Course-Equivalency Tests

The National Cryptologic School offers employees the opportunity to earn course credit by taking EQUIVALENCY TESTS. Frequently, through experience or self-study, a person has already learned the material presented in a course. If this knowledge can be demonstrated, time and energy required to take a course can be saved. Equivalency tests may be scheduled through the cognizant NCS department. They are available for the following courses:

EA-100 Introduction to COMINT/ELINT Technology  
EA-030 Introduction to Multichannel Technology  
EA-100 Basic SIGINT Technology  
EA-200 SIGINT Instrumentation and Measurements Techniques  
EA-201 Communications Signals Measurements and Analysis Techniques  
EA-202 ELINT Measurement and Analysis Techniques  
EA-380 Advanced ELINT Collection/Analysis

Cognizant department: E23, 8198s



ED-210 Tests and Measurements  
Cognizant department: E42, 8047s

ET-100 Introduction to Electronics  
ET-260 Solid State Devices and Applications  
ET-261 Digital Concepts  
Cognizant department: E24, 8975s

MA-400 Introduction to Computer Science Mathematics  
MP-1B5 CDC 6600 Series System Software  
MP-1B6 CDC 6600/7600 Advanced Technical Skills  
MP-1C5 UNIVAC 494 RYE System Software  
MP-1C6 UNIVAC 494 Advanced Technical Skills  
MP-1D6 IBM 360/370 Advanced Technical Skills OS  
MP-1E5 UNIVAC 1108 System Software  
MP-1G5 Project HOLDER - UNIVAC 494 System Software  
MP-1H5 Burroughs 6700 System Software  
MP-1K6 CDC 6600/6700 Advanced Technical Skills (IDA)  
MP-154 Introduction to Computer Systems Software  
\*MP-160 Introduction to Computer Science  
MP-166 FORTRAN for Operators  
\*MP-188 APL Programming  
\*MP-277 FORTRAN Programming  
\*MP-230 COBOL Programming  
\*MP-242 PL/1 Programming  
\*MP-243 Burroughs Extended ALGOL Programming  
\*MP-248 BETA Programming  
\*MP-267 POGOL Programming  
\*MP-335 IBM 370 Programming  
\*MP-368 IBM 370 Job Control Language (JCL)  
\*MP-375 PDP-11 Programming

\* Toy problem also required.

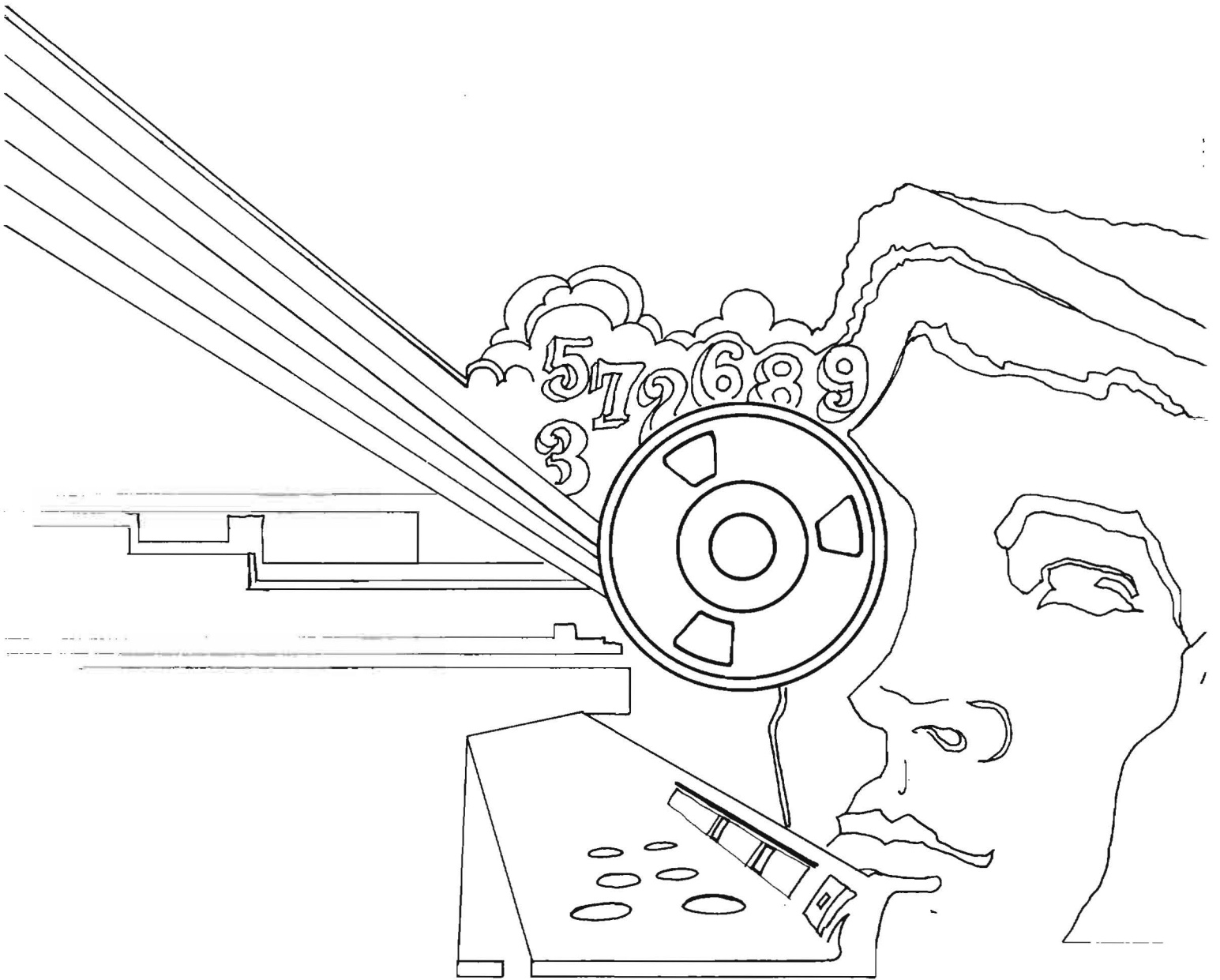
Cognizant department: E21, 8555s

TA-200 Intermediate Traffic Analysis and Technical Reporting  
TA-261 Computer Aid to Traffic Analysis  
TA-361 Air Defense Technology and Traffic Analysis  
Cognizant department: E14, 8017s

TG-126 Target Studies - Mainland Southeast Asia  
Cognizant department: E12, 7119s

- A grade of "P" is assigned for passing the course through an equivalency test. Grades of "F" are not recorded. Aspirants may take the test only once.

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