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CYBERNETICS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNISM

- USSR -

ed. by A. J. Berg

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[Following is a translation of a book comprising a collection of articles, edited by Academician A. I. Berg, and entitled Kibernetika na Sluzhbu Kommunizmu, Vol. I, Moscow/Leningrad, 1961, pp 1-312. Authors are indicated with the individual articles.]

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From the Editor

The preparation of the present collection was begun in 1959 in connection with the creation of the Scientific Council on Cybernetics at the Academy of Sciences USSR. After becoming acquainted with the literature on cybernetics and checking into the great significance of this new science of control for the Soviet Union, the editor decided to convince readers at large of this. Quite considerable work was done on the collection and systematization of the materials; a multitude of reports was given, for the preparation of which quite a little time and effort were applied. After a year, the editor became convinced that at the present time, in conjunction with the rapid development of cybernetics and the progressively greater incorporation of it into the most diverse fields, a single person cannot cover all these subjects. Therefore, it was decided to prepare a collective work, calling it Cybernetics at the Service of Communism. The first volume of this work has been published in 1961; the next two volumes will be prepared for publication in 1962 and 1963; the problems of these will be to throw light more extensively upon all fields of cybernetics with gradually increased detailing of the contents.

In the first volume no attempts have been made to develop those fundamentals on which the science of control, cybernetics, is based. We are pursuing a more modest aim--attracting the attention of Soviet readers at large to the new science, for the extensive application of which there are particularly favorable conditions existing in this organized, socialist government.

The editor would like to take advantage of this opportunity to express his sincere thanks to the authors of the present collection for their active participation, attitudes of patience and good will toward the numerous requests of the editor that they introduce various additions and modifications directed at further perfection of the material presented.

The editor would also like to express his appreciation to the directors and groups of workers of the Gosenergoizdat /State Power Engineering Publishing House/ and its printing office for attention shown to the publication of the present collection and its prompt publication, timed with the convocation of the Twenty-Second Congress of the CC CPSU.

Academician A. I. Berg