

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Subject: Vladimir Rubanov

Position: Special adviser to the President of the Russian Federation; former head of directorate in the Aviation Ministry

Location: Moscow

Interviewer: John G. Hines

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Prepared by: John G. Hines, based on notes

The military-industrial complex (VPK)⁸¹ had three parts:

1. Defense industry and design bureaus
2. Military-academic complex (e.g., Institute of Main Designers) that integrated civilians fully into the military system
3. Military-ideological complex made up of political workers who drove the analyses, scenarios, and assessments

If any testing demonstrated military potential then it fell under the military sphere, was stamped secret, and any resulting products would be controlled by the military. Intellectual property tended to get classified if it had any military application. There was no sense of intellectual property that did not belong to the state. Information was trading material. Military industries used secrecy to control all possible technologies. GosPlan planned force development from what the design bureaus came up with. The Finance Ministry set up payments, and the MoD took delivery. The Defense Council was a purely military organization with no support structure. It was an instrument of the VPK, not of the President. The MoD had no real money or influence.

Though political reforms in 1985-90 were deep, actual force building processes did not change much. The VPK could protect itself from the President, Shevardnadze, and others who wanted to cut force building.

The ideal organization for center-republic relations would consist of: (1) a Federal Security Council; (2) a College of MoDs of the republics; and (3) each republic has its own concept of security. All spheres (military-technological, military-economic, and military-political) should be controlled by political leaders. The military should only control troops. Decisions should be based on consensus among all of the republics. Basing and housing should be responsibilities of the republics. The Ukraine should be a nuclear-free zone. The center needs a single security system and economy. Military power should not exceed but should reflect economic power.

⁸¹ VPK — *Voennaia Promyshlennaia Kommissiia* — (Military Industrial Commission).