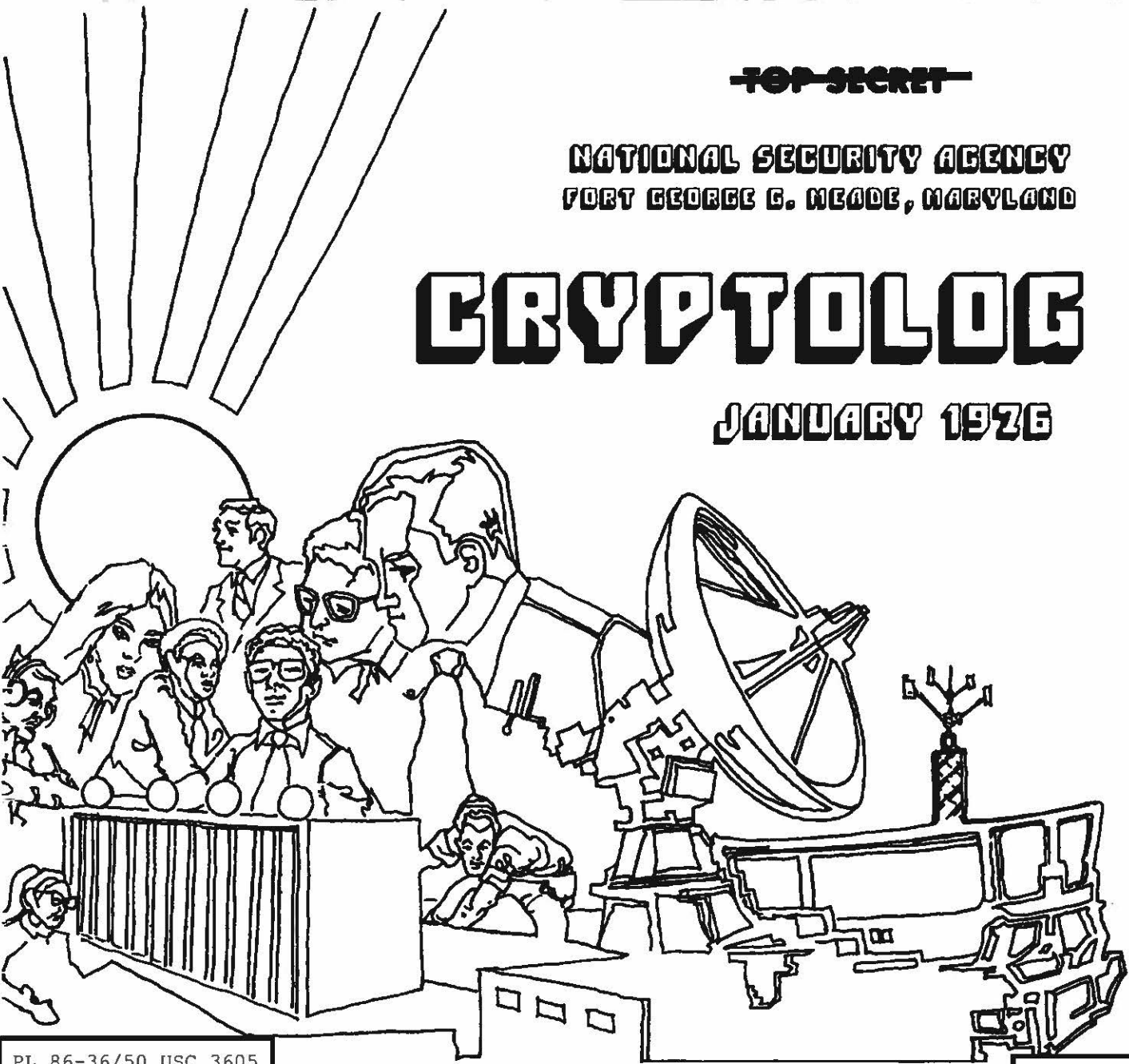


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LENIN AND STATE PRIZES: NOW YOU SEE THEM
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LENIN AND STATE PRIZES: NOW YOU SEE THEM -- NOW YOU DON'T!



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Orders, medals, and prizes play an important role in the economic and social life of the Soviet Union. They provide an extra incentive for people to strive for improvement, by appealing to their natural desire for recognition and approval and, in the case of Lenin and State Prizes¹, by rewarding them financially.

In the civilian sector, the most prestigious of these are the Hero of Socialist Labor, Order of Lenin, State Prize, and Lenin Prize. They form the bottom line of official biographic sketches and obituaries -- the measure of a person's success as a productive member of

¹Unless otherwise stated, references to State Prizes in this article do not include the former Stalin Prizes, which were discontinued after 1954 and retroactively redesignated State Prizes. State Prizes awarded by individual republics of the USSR (as opposed to national-level USSR State Prizes) have also been excluded from consideration in this article because they are less significant and are of more recent origin.

society, and a great source of personal pride. To students of Soviet affairs, they can be a measure and source of other things as well.

While all these honors are highly prized by Soviet citizens, the Lenin and State Prizes are the most difficult to obtain. The Order of Lenin and Hero of Socialist Labor may be awarded for a wide variety of reasons unrelated to any single achievement (e.g., on the occasion of one's fiftieth birthday and in appreciation of years of consistently outstanding performance), but the Lenin and State Prizes are given only for very specific contributions of national significance, such as the design and introduction into series production of a new type of aircraft. Consequently, recipients of the Lenin and State Prizes, more than any other group, may be considered the elite corps of the "technocrats."

Just what are these prizes? According to the new (third) edition of the *Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Ehntsiklopediya* (Large Soviet Encyclopedia) (BSEh), the Lenin Prize is "one of the highest forms of rewarding citizens for the most outstanding achievements in the field of

science and technology, literature, art and architecture. . . Re-established in 1957². . . 30 Lenin Prizes (including 25 in science and technology and 5 in literature, art, and architecture) of 10,000 rubles each are awarded once every 2 years. . . [Announcements of] awards are published on the anniversary of the birth of V. I. Lenin. Persons receiving the Lenin Prize are given the title 'Lenin Prize Laureate,' a certificate, an honorary pin, and an identification card. The Lenin Prize may not be awarded more than once to an individual."

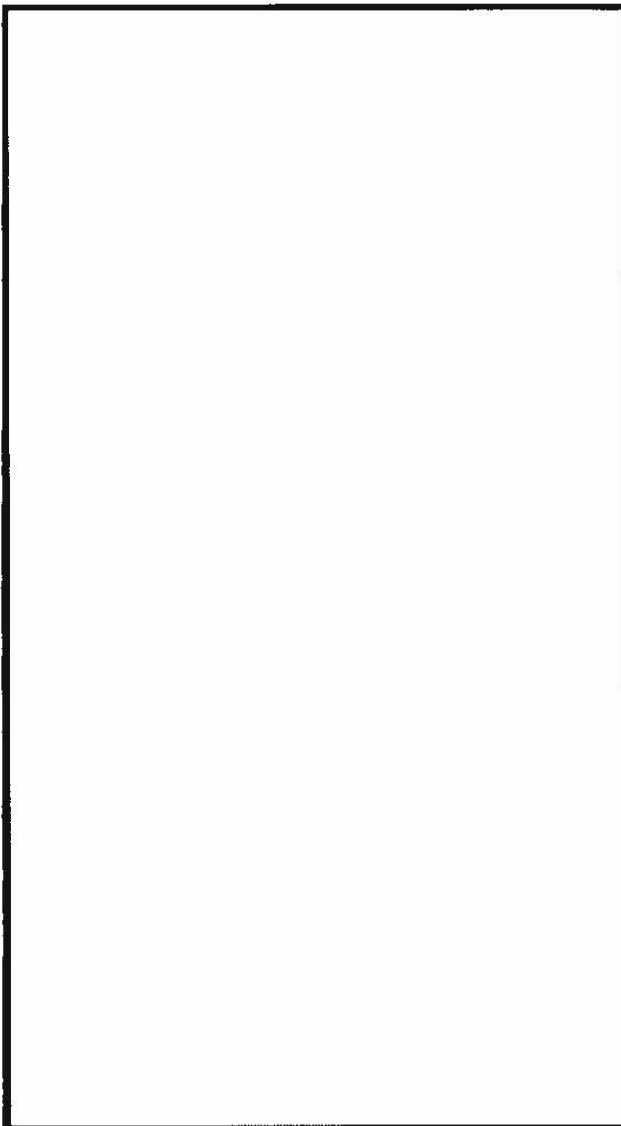
The same edition of BSEh states that "USSR State Prizes are a form of rewarding citizens for outstanding achievements in the field of science and technology, literature, and art. . . They are awarded for scientific research making a major contribution to the development of the nation's science; for work creating and introducing the most progressive materials, machines, and machinery into the national economy. . . A USSR State Prize Laureate may be awarded a USSR State Prize more than once, but not within 5 years of any previous award. Established in 1966. . . as many as 50 awards in the field of science and technology and as many as 10 for literature and art are made yearly on the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Each prize is 5000 rubles. . . Persons receiving the USSR State Prize are given the title 'USSR State Prize Laureate,' a certificate, and an honorary pin indicating the year of the award. . ."

A prize may go to an individual, as sometimes happens in the field of pure science, for the development of basic theories. More often, however, the prize is shared by a number of persons throughout the USSR, especially when the award is for the development and production of complex and sophisticated equipment. On the average, prizes are shared by seven or eight persons. Prizes are announced in *Pravda* and *Izvestiya*, with an indication of the recipient's name, job title, place of employment, and reason for the award.

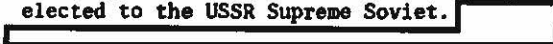
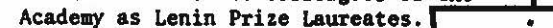
According to published accounts, in the fields of science and technology since 1970, 226 people have shared 32 Lenin Prizes, while 1,057 people have shared 126 State Prizes. But according to BSEh, there should have been 75 Lenin Prizes, and 250 State Prizes could have been awarded. Where have all the prizes gone?

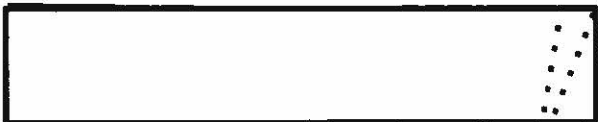


²Originally established in 1925, Lenin Prizes were discontinued after 1934. From 1957 until 1968, Lenin Prizes were awarded yearly.



The following figures help to elucidate the nature and scope of the problem:

- In 1970, 49 Lenin Prize Laureates were elected to the USSR Supreme Soviet. 
- The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences was given the Order of Lenin in 1969 and celebrated the occasion with the publication of *Akademiya Nauk Ukrainskoj SSR 1969 g.* (Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian SSR, 1969), which identified 48 colleagues of the Academy as Lenin Prize Laureates. 



- From 1968 to 1972, 12 Lenin and State Prize Laureates were elected to the Department of Mechanics and Control Processes, USSR Academy of Sciences, which is engaged in many projects in the areas of shipbuilding, aerospace, electronics, and computer engineering.

