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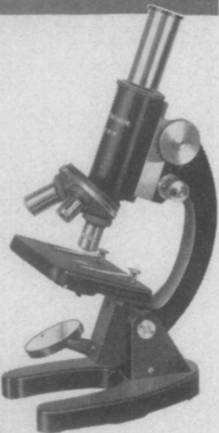
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GENERAL SCIENCE

Russia Far Behind U.S.

► SOVIET SCIENCE is far behind that of the United States, despite Russian achievements in space.

This is the opinion of the Princeton professor of chemistry, Dr. John Turkevich, who was recently science attache at the American Embassy in Moscow.

In an oral report to the National Science Foundation he said that both Russian politicians and scientists recognize U.S. scientific superiority. The United States has "the most powerful and aggressive group of scientists and science programs, and the best-equipped laboratories in the world."

Despite their Sputniks, Dr. Turkevich was notably unimpressed with Soviet science generally and charged that neither their equipment in science nor talent matched ours. "For every good man they have, we have ten," the Princeton chemist said.

Even Soviet Premier Khrushchev acknowledges this superiority, he said. Last year, in a conversation with the Soviet leader on U.S. ability in space, Dr. Turkevich asserted that eventually the U.S. would beat the Soviets in their launch ability. Khrushchev responded: "America is powerful and strong. If Americans put their mind to beating us, they can do it."

Faith in Science

Officially, however, the Communists insist that Sputnik has proved that science can advance faster under a communist system. Dr. Turkevich said his experiences in Russia convinced him that the Soviet people had more faith in science and technology as a way of life than Marxism. A tremendous concentration upward on outer space, rather than communism, better explains Soviet advances in this area, Dr. Turkevich said.

Actually, their system as applied to science and technology "is so inefficient that they cannot put anything on the road" despite their impressive launches, he said. "There is not nearly as much basic research being done in Russia as in the United States," the science diplomat said. "They have had notable failures about which they are quiet."

Prominent among these is "their 30,000-ton white elephant," the 10 BEV (billion electronic volt) atomic accelerator, virtually ineffective because of faulty construction that may be attributed to undue haste in an attempt to outdo the U.S. in accelerator development.

"Sometimes, especially in science, it pays to go slowly," said Dr. Turkevich, pointing to the success of the accelerators at Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Stanford accelerator, both in full and successful operation.

He credited the national concentration in the Soviet Union on science to the large numbers of engineers and scientists prominent in their government.

Soviet and American space achievements

have been compared to an alarm clock and a small Swiss watch. Dr. Turkevich said the comparison is apt, except that it should be added that "It was the Soviet alarm clock that woke America up to make the Swiss watch."

He decried the tendency of Americans to sell their science achievements short. But he also warned against complacency. The present weakness in Soviet science only "gives us breathing space."

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