



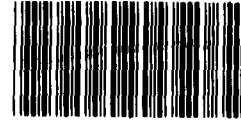
UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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JUNE 15, 1984

NATIONAL SECURITY AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

B-201919



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The Honorable William Proxmire  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Proxmire:

Subject: U.S. Exports Subject to National Security  
Controls (GAO/NSIAD-84-137)

Your letter of May 22, 1984, asked us, in part, to determine the (1) percent of U.S. exports subject to national security control, (2) U.S. market share in various regions of the world for products subject to national security control, and (3) volume of letters from U.S. exporters to Commerce complaining about sales lost because of licensing delays.

The government does not record exports in a form amenable to making the calculations implicit in your first two questions. For example, a response to your first question would require a matching of the thousands of export categories tracked by the Bureau of the Census and the approximately 170 national security commodity control numbers used by Commerce. No crosswalk between the data currently exists.

Concerning your third question, U.S. exporters' letters of complaints are dispersed throughout the Commerce Department. There is no central repository for these letters, and it would take more time to locate, collect and analyze them than was available to us.

Although we are unable to provide figures for total actual exports involving national security controls, we asked Commerce to develop information by country on the dollar value of such license applications approved in calendar year 1983. We then calculated what percent these represented of total U.S. exports for 1983 as recorded in the Trade Policy Information System. (See enc. I) Experience shows that the dollar value of applications approved does not equate to actual exports; an exporter

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may apply for a license to ship \$100 million worth of goods but ship only \$1 million. Also, there is a time lag which should be recognized; i.e., a license may be approved in 1983 but the export may not be shipped until the following year. We did not verify the data provided by Commerce to the original documents.

We hope that the information enclosed will prove useful to your conference deliberations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank C. Conahan".

Frank C. Conahan  
Director

Enclosure

1983 U.S. Exports of Products Controlled  
for National Security Reasons

<u>Geographic areas of exports</u>	<u>Total exports (millions)</u>	License applications approved for exports controlled for national security <u>reasons</u> (millions)	<u>Percent of total</u>
North America	\$ 37,869.9	\$ 2.6	(a)
Latin America	21,557.2	3,819.7	17.7
Caribbean	3,842.0	188.3	4.9
Europe	54,925.4	10,431.6	19.0
Africa	7,811.5	1,753.5	22.4
Middle East	11,827.2	1,721.1	14.6
Asia	46,565.3	6,178.6	13.3
Oceania	4,781.4	1,060.3	22.2
Communist countries	5,087.6	1,039.0	20.4
Unspecified <sup>b</sup>	6,138.0		
Other countries <sup>c</sup>	<u>                    </u>	<u>707.7</u>	
	<u>\$200,405.5</u>	<u>\$26,902.4</u>	13.4

<sup>a</sup>Less than one-half of one percent.

<sup>b</sup>These include transshipments and hidden sales for which the ultimate destinations are unreported.

<sup>c</sup>These include exports to countries or areas not included specifically in the geographic groupings of the Trade Policy Information System from which data on total exports were obtained.