

ZORY,

Ref. ? date ?

Shaw

Government Accused of Laxity On Microwave Radiation Hazard

New York Times News Service

A congressional study has concluded that federal agencies have been lax in setting and enforcing standards to protect the public from the potential health hazards of microwave radiation, which at high levels has been shown to cause cataracts, sterility and birth defects.

The study, conducted by the General Accounting Office, singled out the Food and Drug Administration as being lax in monitoring its safety standards for the 2 million microwave ovens in use in the United States.

Nor has the FDA, charged by law with controlling medical diathermy devices, even set emission standards for the 15,000 in use, the study found. The machines are used therapeutically to generate heat in body tissues.

The GAO, an investigative arm of Congress, also noted that the government has failed to adequately

regulate such new and increasingly popular microwave products as communication relays, burglar alarms, smoke detectors, garage door openers, food warmers and commercial heaters.

THE STUDY, obtained by The New York Times, recommended that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the FDA join in setting a national policy on permissible limits of exposure to microwave radiation as well as standards on the amount of radiation a product could emit.

"In the past several years concern has significantly increased over the potential hazards posed by exposure to microwave radiation because of the significant increase in the use of microwave-emitting products and by a new awareness of microwave radiation as a potential health hazard," the study said.

man rights and national

ficit. businessmen in Moscow last Wednesday.

falls, "Every nation has its utterly own trade legislation," he said. "But few use it as a toy to regulate the stream of reciprocal trade, depending on the mood or on political situations that arise from time to time."

of this Brezhnev points to the record as proof of his contention that this approach will not work with the Soviet Union.

arture The Indeed key sponsors of the Jackson-Vanik amendment concede the use of trade and credits to force the issuance of exit visas

for Soviet Jews has backfired. Its chief result has been a precipitous drop in Soviet-American trade that has, Soviet officials claim, deprived American manufacturers of some \$3 billion in orders.

Finding itself unable to impose human rights as a condition for closer dealings on this major country, the Carter administration confronts an ironic necessity to assert its idealism against small nations, many of which are struggling to shake off their authoritarian ways and draw closer to Western respectability.

Experien that Ameri can help to regimes, C non-Comm greater co rights of the

But it has pressures s indirectly a more effec pressures these regi defensively.

Congress lesson as w Wilson's a "no nation judgment o tion."

Micha

add
~~check~~
not
~~in terms~~
~~issue~~

KANTOR, G., BASSEN, H. I., & SWICORD, M. L. Presented
at the USNC/URSI Annual Meeting, Boulder,
Colorado, October 20-23, 1975 HEW (FDA)
77-8011 ^{pp 411-422} Mapping of Free Space and
Scattered Fields in Microwave Diathermy."

[#3718]