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## Corning exec: Spies in Europe seek fiber optic secrets

By LARRY WILSON  
Corning Bureau

CORNING — Intelligence agencies of foreign governments have attempted to penetrate industrial espionage activities occurring in the international business community.

Riebeck said Corning had sprung

Wednesday. "It is important for the committee to understand that if there were involved or whether the attempts were successful — subjects Riebeck did not specify in his public testi-

mony.

Riebeck told the congressional com-

mittee that Corning has taken steps to

protect corporate security, including

investing more money on security sys-

tems worldwide. It is

extremely dependent on preservation of

its trade secrets,

Corning's major European fiber optic

manufacturing facilities are in Wales

and Germany.

Preserving the integrity of Corning

and development efforts is crit-

ical to the continued success of our cor-

poration," Riebeck said.

Riebeck called on the federal govern-

ment and intelligence agencies to

develop secure communications

systems that companies such as Cor-

ning and IBM had been "hammed"

in recent industrial espionage efforts.

Corning spokesman Kathryn Little

said Riebeck was one of two executives to

testify at the hearings on the vulnerabil-

ity of U.S. corporations to foreign eco-

nomic espionage. The other was

Marshall C. Phelps Jr., an IBM vice pres-

ident and development director.

Fiber optic technology, developed by

Corning in the 1970s, is used to man-

ufacture the hair-thin strands of glass

that are replacing copper wire in com-

munications systems worldwide. It is

one of Corning's fastest-growing and

most profitable businesses.

Intelligence Committee press releases

say that Britain and both

Germany and France had been "hammed"

in recent economic espionage.