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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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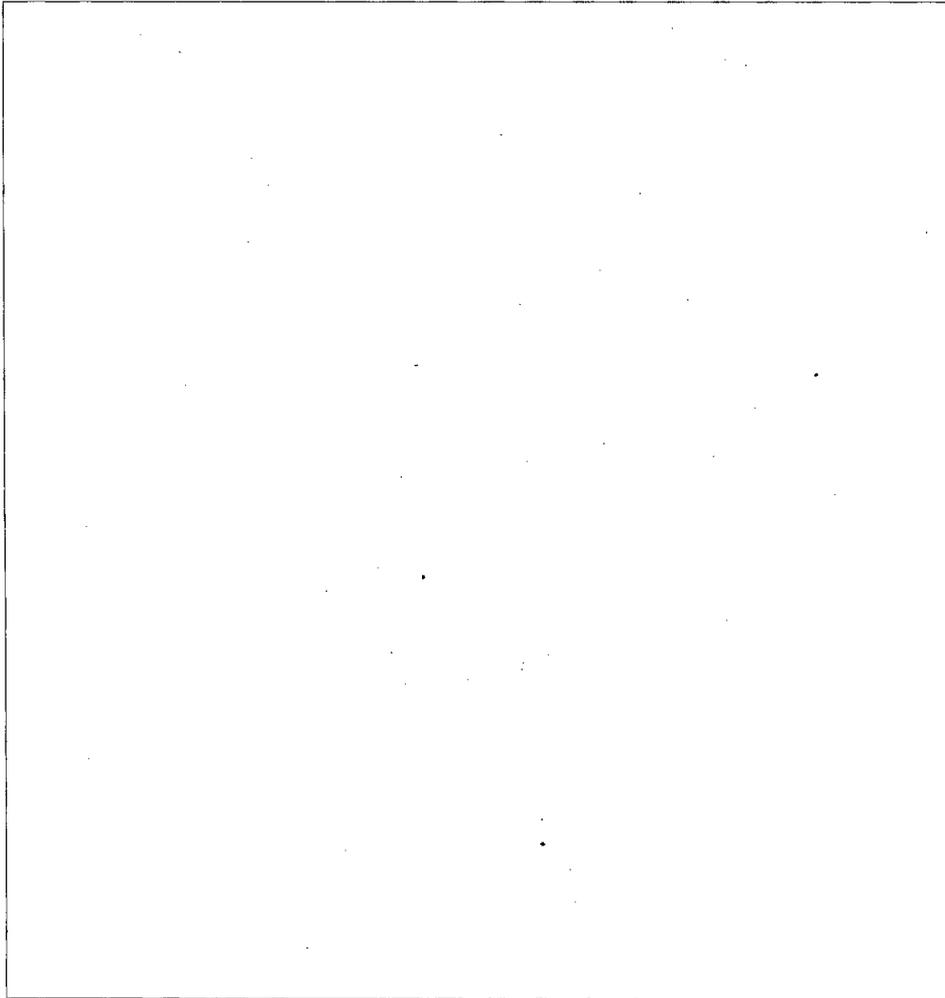
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Marshal Konev's Role
As Party Spokesman

Ivan S. Konev's appointment as chief of the recently established combined Soviet bloc military command, together with his earlier designation as deputy defense minister and his recent speeches and articles emphasizing the party's role,

suggest that he is the chief public spokesman for the party within the military group. As such he may be the party's counterweight in the officer corps to the popular and independent-minded Marshal Zhukov.

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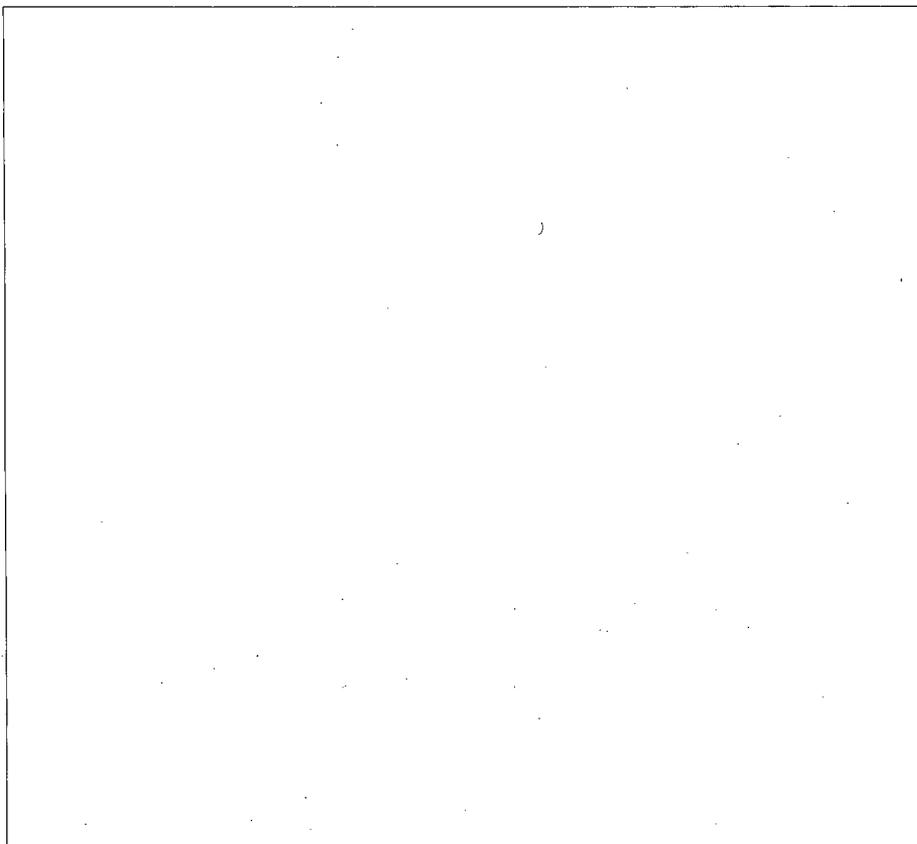
Both in his article commemorating Soviet Armed Forces Day and in his V-E Day speech, Marshal Konev, in contrast to other military leaders, departed from the current alphabetical listing policy by placing First Secretary Khrushchev at the head of the list of party workers sent to the fronts during World War II.

In the V-E Day speech, Konev went so far as to single out Khrushchev by stating that "Comrade Khrushchev, Comrades Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Zhdanov, and Scherbakov"

were sent by the party to lead the troops in their fight against the invader.

In addition, Konev's speech devoted more attention to the party's role and emphasized party militancy to a far greater degree than any of the public pronouncements of other military leaders.

Konev's new prominence and political orientation also suggest that he is the leading military figure in whom the party leaders, especially Khrushchev, place special trust.



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