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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

10 March 1960

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Moscow has combined expressions of optimism over the summit conference with efforts to increase pressure for Western concessions. Khrushchev, in a speech on 5 March after returning from his Asian trip, said he intends to enter the forthcoming talks in "full readiness to seek out, together with other states, ways to a solution of disputed issues." On 7 March, a Pravda editorial echoed this sentiment by claiming that the meeting would be held in a "very favorable atmosphere" as a result of Khrushchev's "successful" Asian tour.

Soviet bloc officials are attempting privately to create a strong impression that some decisive action may be taken on a separate peace treaty with East Germany if the summit meeting does not produce an agreement. These officials have given Western sources conflicting versions on the timing of such action in order to obscure Soviet intentions and increase pressure for Western concessions.

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[redacted] assured an American official that the USSR had no intention of signing a separate treaty prior to President Eisenhower's visit in June. His statement implied, however, that the West might expect some action after the visit. A Soviet official informed [redacted]

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[redacted] that if the summit talks failed, the USSR would proceed with a separate treaty

and denied that such a course would be postponed until after June.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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Soviet officials have sought to intensify pressure for concessions and stimulate fear of a private understanding between the USSR and the United States. The Soviet ambassador to Bonn warned Free Democratic party leaders that Germany would "disappear entirely" if Bonn persisted in its present hostility to the USSR and obstructionist policy on Berlin. He said the West Germans did not realize that the USSR and the United States had reached a "large measure of agreement through diplomatic channels," and that Bonn would be "well advised" to take this new situation into account.

Moscow is stepping up its efforts to portray the Bonn government as an increasingly dangerous obstacle to an East-West agreement. The Soviet official in Paris claimed that the US Government fails to realize Adenauer is moving to sabotage an East-West agreement by exaggerating such issues as the high-altitude flights to Berlin and the new documents for Allied Military Liaison missions--documents bearing the name "German Democratic Republic."

Moscow climaxed a two-week propaganda campaign against the

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West German - Spanish military talks with notes on 4 March to the three Western powers and Bonn protesting the talks as a violation of Allied agreements on Germany. The notes implied that an understanding between the USSR and the three Western powers could be reached, provided Bonn does not disrupt the "certain relaxation of tension" which Moscow claims has taken place. Timing the notes to secure maximum impact before Khrushchev's visit to France and Adenauer's trip to the United States, Moscow apparently hopes to focus increased attention on the need for a German settlement. The notes will also provide a background for Khrushchev to renew appeals for restrictions on German military power during his visit to France.

Western Position

A high official in the West German Foreign Ministry has privately affirmed that Bonn favors a return to the basic Western plan of 14 May 1959 in order to discourage a disposition in "certain quarters" to offer additional compromises on Berlin. The official considers the present occupation rights the safest basis for continued Allied presence in the city and fears that an "interim agreement" for Berlin would ultimately undermine the confidence of the city.

The official believes that Khrushchev is unwilling to take any steps involving the risk of war and will therefore move cautiously on the question of a separate peace treaty with East Germany. In his opinion, however, the Western powers face a major test in how they react to the Soviet pressures

aimed at creating an atmosphere of crisis in order to intimidate and disunite them.

Speaking at a party rally in Berlin on 5 March, Social Democratic party (SPD) chairman Ollenhauer, replying to recent Soviet propaganda tactics, stated it was time for Moscow to "stop hoping" that the SPD ever would become a promoter of Soviet policies. He added that there was no purpose in considering proposals for negotiations emanating from the East German "nominees of Moscow." He did, however, endorse military withdrawal from both parts of Germany as a proper approach to the question of German reunification.

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