



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2000

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Monday  
27 December 1982*

~~Top Secret~~

~~CPAS 110 1138017  
TCS 110012  
27 December 1982~~

FRANCE-USSR: Attacks on French Media

The French Communist Party and the Soviet Embassy in Paris have accused the French media of conducting an anti-Communist campaign. The party has charged that the state-supervised television and radio networks are publicizing "false reports" about the use of forced labor on the Soviet gas pipeline to Western Europe and about Bulgaria's involvement in the assassination attempt against the Pope. The Soviet Embassy, in a letter to prominent editors, has denounced the media for "impudent libel" against the USSR. [REDACTED]

Comment: French Communist leaders have grown increasingly angry about what they view as the government's tolerance of anti-Communist reporting on television and radio. Their willingness to side openly with the Soviets will aggravate already strained relations with Socialist coalition partners and could alienate those Communist voters who oppose close identification with Moscow. The Soviets have begun responding more actively to Western charges of Bulgarian and Soviet complicity in the attack on the Pope. [REDACTED]

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