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Washington, D.C. 20505

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DATE 4-3-98 BY 9707/JS

7 March 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[Redacted] b7C (per FBI)  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT:

Changes in Eastern Europe Create Upheaval  
in Soviet Front Groups

*Handwritten:* Soviet Active Measures

1. Moscow's international front organizations, already beset by an array of financial and political problems, are now feeling the effects of last fall's dramatic changes in Eastern Europe. This paper discusses those effects and how Moscow is adjusting its international front groups to deal with these changes.

[Redacted]

3. Comments and queries are welcome

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Office of Global Issues  
Directorate of Intelligence

Attachment:

[Redacted]

APR 30 1990

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Washington, D. C. 20505

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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

5 March 1990

Changes in Eastern Europe  
Create Upheaval in Soviet Front Groups

Summary

Already beset by an array of financial and political problems, Moscow's front organizations are now feeling the effects of last fall's dramatic changes in Eastern Europe. Some of the new East European governments have taken action against the Kremlin's fronts by disbanding their national front affiliates, withdrawing personnel, and cutting off financing and other support. Several of the fronts have also been discredited by the forced resignations of key East European front officials. The financial cuts are affecting the fronts unevenly, with those like the World Federation of Trade Unions and the Christian Peace Conference most dependent on East European support hit the hardest. With six of Moscow's ten major front organizations currently headquartered in Eastern Europe, however the situation likely will get worse. These developments will give Moscow added incentive to take stock of its traditional front apparatus and also reevaluate its three-year effort to introduce reforms aimed at attracting mainstream Western groups.

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This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] of the Office of Global Issues. Comments and queries are welcome, and may be addressed to the [redacted]

[redacted] Office of Global Issues, on [redacted]

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Front Affiliates Jump Ship

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The rapid political changes in Eastern Europe have disaffected the national affiliates that traditionally formed the backbone of the Soviet international front network.<sup>1</sup> Several East European affiliates have already withdrawn from the World Peace Council (WPC)--Moscow's premier front and the organization that serves as the coordinator for the entire Soviet front apparatus. The Czechoslovak Peace Committee dissolved last November, the East German Peace Council disbanded in January, and the Hungarian Peace Council suspended its membership in late February, according to press reports. A generally reliable source reports, moreover, that Poland intends to withdraw from the WPC, although Warsaw may reconsider if the front reforms itself by becoming more democratic and non-ideological. Other fronts, such as the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), will probably lose affiliate members as new independent trade unions are formed in Eastern Europe. [REDACTED] the Czechoslovak trade union is already suffering defections and, according to press reports, the Bulgarian trade unions are reconsidering their membership in WFTU. [REDACTED]

Leadership and Personnel Problems

Along with the dissolution or withdrawal of its affiliates, several of the fronts are also experiencing the discreditation and resignation of key East European front officials and the withdrawal of staff members. Harry Fisch, a WFTU Bureau member and head of its East German trade union affiliate, for example, was removed from his job after being arrested in December and charged with the illegal use of trade union funds. Dusan Utcak, Secretary General of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ), resigned in February for political reasons, according to press reports. Bishop Karoly Toth, president of the Christian Peace Conference (CPC), has been discredited in Hungary because of his membership in the Hungarian Communist Party and links to the former Budapest government. In addition, reliable sources report that the Hungarian Peace Council withdrew its WPC secretary from Geneva--he served as a liaison officer to the UN and other international organizations--and that Poland and East Germany were unable to fund the office and living expenses of their secretaries at the WPC headquarters in Helsinki. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix 1 for a complete breakdown of Moscow's major international front organizations. [REDACTED]

# Moscow's Major International Front Organizations

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Fronts	Headquarters	Leadership
World Peace Council (WPC)	Helsinki	President: Evangelos Makhairas (Greece)  Executive Secretary: Ray Stewart (New Zealand)  Honorary Chairman: Romesh Chandra (India)
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)	Prague	President: Sandor Gaspar (Hungary) Resigned March 1989  General Secretary: Ibrahim Zakaria (Sudan)
Christian Peace Conference (CPC)	Prague	President: Dr. Karoly Toth (Hungary)  General Secretary: Lubomir Mirejovsky (Czechoslovakia)
International Organization of Journalists (IOJ)	Prague	Secretary General: Dusan Ulcak (Czechoslovakia) Resigned February 1990  President: Kaarle Nordenstreng (Finland)
International Union of Students (IUS)	Prague	President: Josef Skala (Czechoslovakia)  Secretary General: Georgios Michaelides (Cyprus)

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## Moscow's Major International Front Organizations

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Fronts	Headquarters	Leadership
World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)	Budapest	President: Walid Masri (Lebanon) Resigned 1989  Secretary General: Gyosgy Szabo (Hungary)
Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF)	East Berlin	President: Freda Brown (Australia)  General Secretary: Vacant
International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)	Brussels	President: Joe Nordmann (France)  General Secretary: Amer Bentoumi (Algeria)
World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW)	London	President: Jean-Marie Legay (France)  Secretary General: Stanley Davison (United Kingdom)
Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO)	Cairo	President: Mourad Ghaleb (Egypt)  Secretary General: Nuri Abd-al-Razzaq Husayn (Iraq)

Note: Several other Soviet front organizations have their headquarters in Eastern Europe including the World Federation of Teachers Unions (East Berlin), the Berlin Conference of European Catholics (East Berlin), the International Radio and Television Organization (Prague, and the International Center for Trade Union Rights (Prague).

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Financial Cutbacks

Facing economic problems of their own, the governments in Eastern Europe have begun to curtail their customary contributions to Soviet front organizations. [redacted]

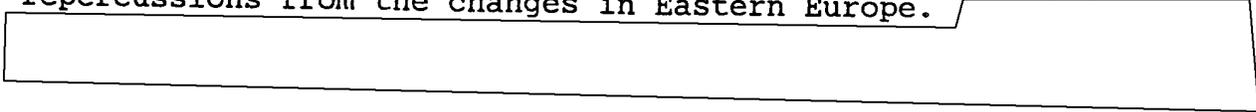


Financial cuts are affecting the fronts unevenly depending on their degree of reliance on East European support. [redacted]

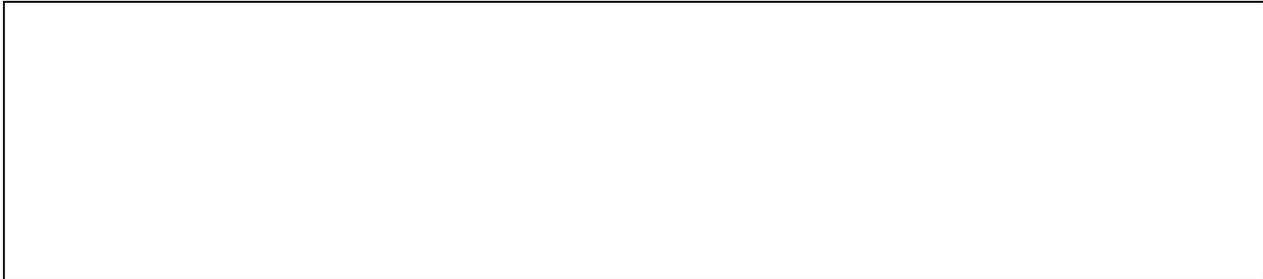


More Problems Ahead

In our view, Moscow's front network will face additional repercussions from the changes in Eastern Europe. [redacted]



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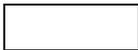
Moscow Faces Some Key Decisions

Moscow, in our view, is well positioned to weather the current upheaval. These developments will give Moscow added incentive to take stock of its traditional front apparatus and also reevaluate its three-year effort to introduce reforms aimed at attracting mainstream Western groups. Consequently, we expect the Kremlin will respond to the growing loss of support in Eastern Europe by relocating the more viable fronts, replacing others with newly established organizations, and completely closing down the least effective ones.<sup>2</sup> Soviet organizations have already taken over many of the functions of the international fronts. For example:

- o The dramatic changes in the Soviet Union and the positive reception of Gorbachev's policies in the West have enabled the Soviet front affiliates to have direct access to Western groups. This has greatly reduced Moscow's need for ostensibly non-Communist groups to act as middlemen in contacting and influencing Western groups--the *raison d'etre* of the Kremlin's front groups since Lenin. Soviet Peace Committee Chairman Genrikh Borovik claims that the SPC has increased its contacts with Americans a hundred fold in recent years.
- o Moscow can now also rely on a new breed of front groups--ones it influences but does not directly control and whose membership typically consists of professionals from East and West.



The Soviets have tried to set up other professionally based peace groups for lawyers and teachers like the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA). Despite the absence of direct control mechanisms, Moscow exercises considerable influence over these new organizations. The idea for the creation of IALANA stemmed from an initiative of the International Association of

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 2 for a discussion of how several of the key fronts are facing change. 



Democratic Lawyers, Moscow's international front for targeting the legal community. (b)(1) (b)(3)

- o Moscow also has at its disposal several "fronts of fronts," smaller offshoots of the old mainline organizations that are not widely known as Soviet-controlled fronts, to fill any gaps as it revamps its front apparatus. These groups traditionally have operated with a low overhead, effectively getting the Soviet message out to the West while channelling money to sympathetic political groups. Since 1988, for example, Moscow has used the ~~International Center for Trade Union Rights~~, a labor group established by WFTU, to provide training and funding to unions. [redacted]

## Appendix 2 Fronts Meet to Restructure

After more than three years struggling with reform, the WPC in February elected a new leadership and began a major restructuring, according to press reports. Greek peace activist Evangelos Machairas was elected WPC president succeeding Romesh Chandra, who will serve as Honorary Chairman responsible for liaison with the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations. [redacted]

Machairas--who will have little of the power, prestige, and perquisites enjoyed by Chandra--will serve a one year term, essentially acting as Chairman of the newly elected 30-member executive committee. Administration of the WPC will fall to New Zealander Ray Stewart, who was elected Executive Secretary. The WPC, which has apparently decided to move its headquarters from Helsinki to Athens, announced that it was planning to set up five regional centers--in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific. [redacted]

The Soviets have planned for WFTU and the World Democratic Youth Federation (WFDY) to hold meetings later this year to consider their future direction and structure. WFTU's 12th World Congress of Trade Unions is scheduled for Moscow on 13-20 November and it is shaping up to be a lively session focusing on organizational and leadership changes intended to enhance the front's performance. The Soviets are reportedly divided over what to do with WFTU in the era of "new thinking," with one faction of the Soviet central labor organization urging that the front be dismantled and another faction calling for substantial reform. Despite these problems, the Soviets still intend the meeting to be a major event with more than 1200 delegates, including representatives from Western trade unions. [redacted]

WFDY's General Assembly is planned for November or December in Budapest, and Moscow hopes to use the Assembly to revitalize WFDY--which according to an untested source is undergoing a spiritual and financial crisis--by incorporating a wider range of political views, encouraging broader participation, and shunning anti-imperialistic rhetoric. Moscow's restructuring efforts will probably meet strong resistance from a number of Third World delegations. Cuban and Indian representatives, for example, have argued that the emerging Soviet philosophy no longer accurately reflects the international youth movement and should not dictate WFDY's agenda. [redacted]

