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trip to Europe by which the continuance of the alliance is confirmed.

However, strong Congressional pressure for a drastic cutback of the U.S. military presence in Europe will continue...Brandt argues that his Ostpolitik makes the FRG more independent of the U.S., particularly of its troop presence...The opponents of the Ostpolitik argue that the FRG arrangement with Moscow has fanned the isolationist trends in the U.S....In any event a certain apathy toward Europe is spreading in the U.S...There is an increasing temptation for Washington to pay less consideration to Europe and to seek direct agreement with the Kremlin in several areas: the White House cannot defend positions which are gradually surrendered by the Europeans.

Nevertheless, the Americans -- in any event Nixon -- continue to be ready to counter the Soviet efforts to dominate Europe as long as the Europeans are also determined to prevent this. Once they give up, an American withdrawal on the Vietnam pattern is no longer inconceivable..."

END TEXT.

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HILLENBRAND *fm*

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