

SECRET**CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY****EAST GERMAN MOVES TO COUNTER EVANGELICAL CHURCH CONGRESS**

East Germany is stepping up its moves against the Evangelical Church's all-German congress (Kirchentag) scheduled to meet in West Berlin from 19 to 23 July. In an effort to reduce attendance by East and West Germans, with the ultimate aim of weakening the ties between church congregations in East and West Germany, the regime has opened a campaign of threats and "persuasion" against church officials and laymen to induce them to boycott the congress on grounds that the meeting is a "cold war" tactic of "militaristic" West German clergymen. It has also refused to run special trains for West German participants; no measures barring bus or air travel have been announced to date. However, West Berlin officials are making tentative plans for some 50 special flights to Berlin in the event East Germany stops buses chartered for Kirchentag delegates.

On 8 July, the East Berlin police president formally banned sessions of the Kirchentag in the Soviet sector--a move designed to silence claims of church members that no East German law forbids them to attend. The new measure does not, however, indicate whether the regime will forbid religious services in the Evangelical cathedral in East Berlin, a step it has been reluctant to take. Church officials have canceled all but religious services in East Berlin.

On 11 July, apparently pursuant to the new order, East German police in Rostock District halted Bishop Friedrich Krummacher of Greifswald and seized his identity card, on grounds that he was en route to Berlin to attend a pre-Kirchentag meeting, which was prohibited. Krummacher was actually going to a meeting of the East German bishops' conference, of which he is chairman.

Instead of intimidating the East German clergy, the move may have had the opposite effect: Bishop Moritz Mitzenheim, generally considered pro-regime, reportedly sent a letter to Premier Grotewohl, "in the name of all the representatives of the church" in East Germany, protesting against "this measure restricting a bishop in his duty, even though the measure has meantime been withdrawn"--presumably by returning his identity card. Nevertheless, the authorities will probably attempt to confiscate laymen's identity documents to keep them from traveling to Berlin.

In its efforts to undercut the congress, the regime is handicapped by a desire to present an image of tolerance and reasonableness in support of the Soviet campaign for a negotiated settlement on West Berlin. There is even a possibility that the reversal of the police measures against Krummacher stemmed from Soviet action.

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Pastors are said to have complained to Soviet Embassy officials investigating worker unrest at the Hennigsdorf plant near Berlin that the campaign against the Kirchentag was contributing to unrest. The Soviet diplomats reportedly said Hennigsdorf workers would not be molested if they attended the Kirchentag.

Under other circumstances, the East German government probably would use the congress as

an occasion for a showdown with the Evangelical Church--the only significant remaining all-German institution. In the absence of specific Soviet assent to harsher measures, however, the regime may limit its harassments to coercion of its own population, barring selected West Germans from traveling by road or rail to West Berlin, and imposing stronger controls at the Berlin sectors borders to reduce attendance at Kirchentag meetings.

SINO-SOVIET RIVALRY IN ASIA

Heightened activity by Moscow and Peiping in relation to the Asian Communist parties during the past few months reflects the continued strain in Sino-Soviet relations, now expressed in increased political and economic rivalry rather than in the doctrinal debates which characterized the peak of the dispute last year. Both powers apparently recognized the dangers to the international Communist movement inherent in the intemperate and open exchanges of last year and seem to have agreed at the Moscow conference in November to keep direct attacks at a minimum. Since then the two countries have carried their difference forward by vying for support from individual Communist parties and regimes.

While the Chinese were not able to move the larger Eastern European Communist parties away from close support for the Soviet Union, they can consider Albania's opposition to Khrushchev's general policies a signal success. In addition, China has significantly increased its influence over the past few

years among the Asian satellites. Now Moscow, with the example of Albania fresh in mind, has apparently turned its attention to the task of consolidating its position with the important Communist parties of Asia.

The current attendance by party presidium member M. A. Suslov at the Mongolian Communist party's 14th party congress and the 40th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Republic is merely the latest in a series of bilateral visits between the Soviet party and various Asian Communist parties. Suslov also attended the Indian Communist party congress last April; Deputy Premier Kosygin made a surprise visit to North Korea in early June, which North Korea's Premier Kim Il-sung and an unusually strong delegation returned in early July; both Indonesian Communist party leader Aidit and North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong were made much of by all top Soviet leaders when they visited Moscow in June; and presidium member N. A. Mukhitdinov is scheduled to be present at the

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