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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER



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East Germans Comment on Bonn-Belgrade Tie

Attempting to make the best of what they obviously regard as a distasteful situation, the East Germans have characterized the resumption of diplomatic relations between West Germany and Yugoslavia as an "admission (by Bonn) of the failure of ten years of political-diplomatic blackmail."

According to an editorial in Neues Deutschland, Bonn was forced to "undo this classic case of application of the Hallstein Doctrine" because Yugoslavia continues to maintain and increase "close friendly relations" with the GDR.

Neues Deutschland also chortled gleefully that Bonn's attempt to force Yugoslavia to accept Bonn's "self-determination" formula had been rejected by Belgrade. The paper concluded that Bonn's claims regarding "easing tension" would not be credible until it renounced completely the Hallstein Doctrine and its sole representation claim.



COMMENT; The East Germans apparently have a point about Yugoslavia's refusing to accept a statement concerning "self-determination," but, in general, the Neues Deutschland editorial is unconvincing in its attempt to convey a sense of sangfroid.



GDR Government Delegation Visits Syria

Deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Gerhard Weiss, headed a GDR trade delegation to Syria from 16 to 27 January. Weiss was accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Wolfgang Kiesewetter, and Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Eugen Kattner.

The German delegation met with Syrian President Al-Attasi, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Ibrahim Makhus, and Trade Minister Zuhayr Alkhani and discussed the "implementation of agreements concluded by the two governments." Both sides used the occasion to take swipes at Israel and West Germany, and stated Pankow and Damascus would strengthen their relations

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and continue to hold periodic bilateral consultations. [redacted]

COMMENT: The Weiss visit to Syria is one of several middle echelon delegations mounted by the East Germans to Asian and African countries recently. This flurry of activity may be due in part to an East German attempt to exploit West Germany's resumption of diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia by suggesting to "third world" nations that the Hallstein Doctrine is now passé.

The rather innocuous communique may have resulted when East German efforts to gain Syrian recognition were thwarted.

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Kadar Reportedly Worried about Rumored Changes in Czechoslovak Policy

[redacted] the fall of Novotny and the subsequent rumors about a Czechoslovak shift to a nationalist posture have caused Kadar considerable worry. If Czechoslovakia, as the reasoning goes, develops such a policy, it would mean almost total geographic isolation of Kadar's pro-Soviet regime, a condition which could force Hungary to change its alignment and, eventually, its leadership. [redacted] there is already a marked increase in activity of nationalists within the Hungarian party who are looking for a new leader.

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COMMENT: Kadar probably is not overly excited by such rumors, most of which are traceable to Rumanian and Yugoslav sources. There is some evidence, however, that Kadar is worried over the development of nationalist trends in Hungary. Kadar used his New Year's address to defend his policies against unspecified "anti-Soviet elements" in Hungary.

Rumania may Adopt West German Color TV System

The Rumanians and the West Germans have recently discussed AEG-Telefunken's PAL color TV system, according to Die Welt of 31 January. The article appeared just two weeks after the West German newspapers reported Soviet dis-

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content with progress on its adoption of the French SECAM system. [redacted]

COMMENT: East Germany may also be considering the PAL system over the SECAM system. If the Soviets and the Rumanians also opt for the PAL system, as this article suggests they might, this would mean the probable rejection by all of Eastern Europe for the French system.

Belgrade Balks at Bulgarian Nationalism

Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Secretary Miso Pavicevic warned the Bulgarian ambassador in Belgrade on 29 January of the possible harm recent articles in the Bulgarian press concerning the Macedonian people may have on Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations. Pavicevic stated that it was of "mutual interest" to develop friendly relations between the two countries and noted that the Yugoslav State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs will "follow with special attention the further development of this question." [redacted]

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COMMENT: Recent statements and articles in connection with the forthcoming 90th anniversary of Bulgarian independence have caused a general uproar in Yugoslavia. Particularly offensive have been Bulgarian references to the Treaty of San Stefano which gave to that country large sections of the Balkans (including Macedonia) for a short time in 1878. In reality, the Yugoslav's appear to be over-dramatizing the situation and their reaction probably represents Belgrade's edginess over increased nationalism on the part of the country's ethnic minorities as well as Sofia's alleged territorial aspirations. There is, however, always the possibility that Yugoslav-Bulgarian polemics are in some way connected with the upcoming Budapest conference.

East German Travel to Hanoi

The official East German news agency ADN reported on 30 January that GDR Deputy Prosecutor General Guenter Wendland would lead a study delegation of the Vietnam committee of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee to Hanoi on 1 February. The delegation was invited by the DRV investigative commission for "the unmasking of US war crimes." [redacted]

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