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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Tito Starts Afro-Asian Tour

Yugoslav President Tito left for Afghanistan on 6 January on the first leg of a tour which will take him to Pakistan, India, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Egypt.

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COMMENT: In addition to trumpeting the benefits of nonalignment, Tito is expected to discuss the Middle East situation with each of his hosts. The trip will end with another round of Tito-Nasir talks in Cairo.

Yugoslav Premier to Visit Italy and the Vatican

Premier Mika Spiljak will start an official visit to Italy on 8 January to be followed by a call on Pope Paul VI. The premier will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Nikezic.

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COMMENT: The Yugoslavs probably will discuss Italian help in reaching a trade agreement with the Common Market. Belgrade has been alarmed by Italy's recent tariff increases which closed an important market to exports of Yugoslavia's beef and veal.

The report concerning Spiljak's proposed audience with the Pope is unconfirmed. If it is true, he will be the first high-ranking Yugoslav official to be received by a Pope since the war. Yugoslav-Vatican relations have been improving steadily for several years, the last high point being the signing of an agreement in June 1966 to exchange permanent representatives.

Bulgarian Tourist Official to Visit US

One of Bulgaria's highest tourist officials, Stefan Nedelchev, will participate in an Air France sponsored tour of major U.S. cities. The tour, designed to promote tourist interest in Eastern Europe and the USSR through contact with U.S. travel agents, is expected to last 15 days.

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COMMENT: Nedelchev's participation underscores Sofia's desire to seek more meaningful contacts outside the Communist

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bloc, and emphasizes Sofia's drive to stimulate Western tourism as a means to ease the country's balance of payments deficit, to aid growing French-Bulgarian detente, and to improve relations with Washington.

International Youth Congress Planned for West Berlin

West Berlin papers of 4 January reported that the Frankfurt headquarters of the left-wing student organization SDS has announced that a congress of European student organizations will be held in West Berlin February 17-18. According to the SDS statement, the congress will be sponsored by student groups from seven West European countries, and will be devoted to protesting US Vietnam policy.

The SDS predicted that 10,000 youths will attend the congress, including representatives from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, East Germany, and perhaps Cuba. The program for the congress reportedly includes a mass rally at the Sport Palace, to be addressed by Jean Paul Sartre, Peter Weiss, and H. Rap Brown.

The US Mission in Berlin reported that East German newspapers had already reported on 28 December that the "Secretariat of the International Vietnam Conference, West Berlin 1968" was planning a meeting in West Berlin for February. The East German reports stated that representatives from France, Belgium, Italy, Holland, the UK, and the FRG had accepted invitations.

The Mission added that the West Berlin Senat has announced that the SDS has not requested facilities for the Congress in the Sport Palace or in any other large hall controlled by the Senat. In addition, the two largest halls in Berlin are booked solid until March. [REDACTED]

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Reported Differences Between Hoxha and Shehu

Albanian Party First Secretary Enver Hoxha and Premier Mehmet Shehu are at odds over Tirana's alliance with Peking.

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[REDACTED] Hoxha is said to favor a policy similar to that of Rumania--tight control by the government and police internally and pragmatic flexibility toward the

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West and East externally. Shehu, on the other hand, is said to favor uncritical adoption of Chinese practices internally and whole-hearted support of Communist China externally.

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COMMENT:

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Albania's basic alignment with China, moreover, remains unchanged. It is an accepted fact, however, that numerous sectors of the Albanian population are dissatisfied with the country's Chinese alliance and it is likely that such feelings can still be found in some party and government circles.

Ulbricht Comments Again on West German Policy

East German boss Walter Ulbricht again blasted West Germany on 6 January, but apparently dropped the East German demand that European security arrangements must not be negotiated until after Bonn concludes a non-use of force treaty with Pankow. Ulbricht, speaking at the annual GDR reception for foreign diplomats, stated it will be possible to speak of a new policy only when Bonn recognizes existing frontiers, renounces its sole representation claim, desists from efforts to gain nuclear weapons, recognizes West Berlin as an "independent political entity," and declares the Munich agreement null and void ab initio.

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COMMENT: Because Ulbricht was addressing his remarks to the diplomatic representatives of the Eastern European nations, he may have side-stepped the issue of possible bilateral renunciation of force agreements between Bonn and these nations for diplomatic reasons. Future speeches and articles in the party press should indicate whether the East Germans have put aside their oft-voiced demand that European security arrangements are contingent on a direct East-West German treaty.

Ulbricht's comment on an "independent political entity" of West Berlin suggests that the GDR has shelved, at least temporarily, the claim that West Berlin legally belongs to the GDR.

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