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## National Intelligence Daily

Monday 8 February 1982

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8 February 1982

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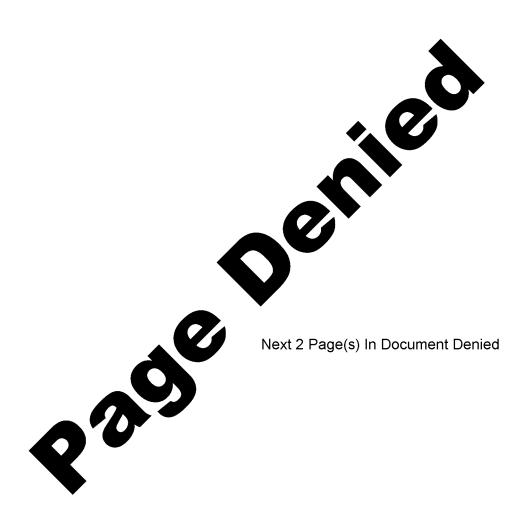
Approved For Release 2007/08/26 : CIA-RDF	P84T00301R000100010123-0
	Top Secret
Contents	
3 France: Communist Party Congress	5 4

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Top Secret

8 February 1982

25X1

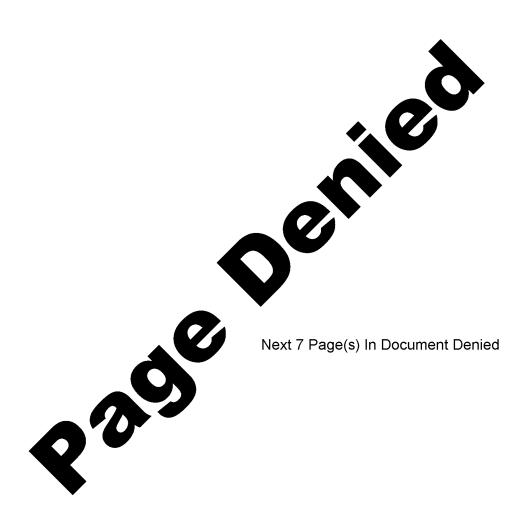


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3)	FRANCE: Communist Party Congress	
	The Communist Party congress that ended yesterday avoided serious debate on contentious issues despite recent polls that indicate the Communists' share of the electorate has been dropping since the presidential election last spring.	
	Many of the disaffected Communists remain bitter over the leadership's decision to scuttle the alliance with the Socialists in 1977 and to instruct party militants not to vote for Socialist candidate Mitterrand in the runoff against then President Giscard. The leadership's mild response to the imposition of martial law in Poland also has contributed to its loss of supporters.	
	Comment: The Communist leadership is trying to weather its present problems by simultaneously reiterating its support for the thrust of President Mitterrand's policiessymbolized by the presence of Communist ministersand clamping down on dissent within the party. They apparently hope to prevent further defections among the Communist rank and file should a split with the Socialists occur and to lay the groundwork for a resurgence of their party if, as most of the leadership apparently expects, Mitterrand's policies become unpopular with French workers.	

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