

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNAL USE ONLY

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4 May 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, Directorate of Science and Technology

VIA: Director, FBIS  
Chief, AG/FBIS  
Chief, ME/LAB/AG

FROM:

SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Give an Oral Presentation

1. I request approval to present a talk based on the attached outline, titled "Beyond the Organizational Weapon: Religion, Nationality, and the Structure of Soviet Politics in the 1980s."

2. When approved, I intend to give the oral presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Washington Chapter on 15 May 1981.

3. None of the material in this oral presentation is, to my knowledge, classified.

4. I am not under cover. I will be identified as an FBIS employee but will append the standard disclaimer indicating that the views expressed are my own and not necessarily those of the Agency.

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Attachment: (Two copies of text)

I have reviewed the attached outline and to the best of my knowledge have found it to be unclassified.

STAT

Director, FBIS

4 MAY 1981

Date

I have reviewed the attached outline and to the best of my knowledge have found it to be unclassified and approve it for presentation.

Executive Officer  
Directorate of Science & Technology

Date

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Preliminary Outline for a presentation to the AAASS Washington  
Chapter Annual Meeting, May 1981

"Beyond the Organizational Weapon:  
Religion, Nationality, and the Structure of Soviet Politics in the 1980s"

[Redacted]

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Religious and nationality groups--both separately and jointly-- are acquiring ever greater influence in Soviet society; and this influence has given them a certain political power. Existing Soviet institutions, however, explicitly exclude participation by religious and nationality groups and so have little place for these new actors. This conflict has had different consequences in and for different parts of the USSR but has resulted in a change in the way political decisions are made on at least certain issues. Here I want to examine three religious/national groups--Islam and the nationalities of Central Asia, Orthodoxy and the Great Russians, and Roman Catholicism and the Lithuanians--in order to trace how the current situation came about, what its future course is likely to be, and how this will affect the structure of Soviet politics in the 1980s. I will consider the three cases jointly according to the following outline:

- I. The Nature and Relationship of Religion and Nationality in the USSR
  - A. Available Structures
  - B. Interaction of Religion and Nationality
  - C. Soviet Understanding of the Problem--the new definition
- II. Religion and Nationality as the Subjects and Objects of Politics
  - A. Party and State Structures--formal and informal
  - B. Religion and Nationality as Constraints and Opportunities
    1. Domestic

2. Foreign

C. New Participants in Soviet Politics--the changing limits of the permissible

III. Possible Crisis Points

A. Economic development

B. Foreign relations--the reciprocal nature of the problem

C. Succession--the paradoxical standing of religious and national groups