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EMPLOYMENT OF THREATS AND WARNINGS
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Stalin attempted to intimidate adversaries by threatening to unleash local Communist forces and sympathizers to instigate strikes and riots. Less directly, he threatened the use of Soviet forces against nations opposite Soviet borders.

- In 1948, the city of Berlin was blockaded as a counter to currency reform in West Berlin and the West's denial of Soviet control over the Ruhr.
- In 1948 and 1949, Stalin fulminated against Yugoslavia and Tito; the USSR applied the pressure of troop movements towards Yugoslavia's borders, frontier incidents involving Yugoslavia's neighbors, a rigorous economic blockade, and an increasingly bellicose tone in diplomatic notes and propaganda.
- Throughout 1948-1949, the USSR sought to block the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty by playing upon the deeply rooted fear of war in Western Europe. Soviet utterances included threats of civil war, sabotage, invasion, strikes, treaty cancellations, parliamentary obstruction, and international working-class solidarity.
- In 1949-1950, Stalin made vague threats against US diplomatic efforts to negotiate a separate peace treaty with Japan.
- When the attack by North Korea on the South in June 1950 stimulated plans for the rearmament of West Germany, both Moscow and German Communist

leaders intimated that West Germany might expect to share the fate of South Korea. Soviet leaders sent threatening notes to the British and French governments which characterized the rearmament of West Germany as a breach of their respective treaties of alliance with the Soviet Union.

Khrushchev also sought to intimidate states bordering the Soviet Union with the USSR's huge land army. On at least two occasions, he threatened adversaries with "rocket attacks" or transatlantic nuclear strikes.

- In 1956, in an effort to impress the visiting Shah of Iran with Soviet military power, Kremlin leaders treated him to a "secret" film of a test explosion of a Soviet hydrogen bomb.
- In 1956, Khrushchev threatened "rocket attacks" against Great Britain and France if they did not desist from their armed attack upon Egypt during the Suez crisis.
- In 1958, Khrushchev threatened a new Berlin crisis when he announced his intention to end the occupation regime in the former German capital.
- On April 18, 1961, the day after the abortive invasion by Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs, Khrushchev sent a diplomatic note to President Kennedy warning of the "consequences which aggression against Cuba could have for the whole world and the United States of America itself."
- Following his Vienna meeting with Kennedy in 1961, Khrushchev threatened to solve the German question unilaterally within the year.
- Aerial photography in October 1962 indicated preparations in Cuba for the installation of Soviet medium and intermediate-range ballistic missiles. In addition, air bases were being prepared to accommodate nuclear-capable bombers, which were in the process of being uncrated and assembled.