

**ARTICLE APPEARED
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FOREIGN OUTLOOK: INTELLIGENCE FAILURES

The CIA even monitors the jokes that people tell behind the Iron Curtain. There is a practical reason for this: Humor is an outlet for their pent-up feelings and, therefore, indicates what they're really thinking.

What are some of the latest jokes circulating in communist countries? As Russians tell it, visiting Americans always get bouquets of fresh flowers in their hotel rooms, with a polite card requesting: "Please don't water the flowers; it rusts the microphone."

And this riddle is now making the rounds: What is a Russian trio? It is a Russian symphony orchestra that has just come home from touring America.

Throughout the Soviet bloc, people are still whispering this story: A dissident is arrested after scrawling on the statue of the country's communist leader: "He is crazy." The sentence is 21 years hard labor -- one year for defacing public property and 20 years for revealing a state secret.