

~~Top Secret~~
[redacted]**USSR-WESTERN EUROPE: CDE Preparatory Meeting**

Moscow evidently wants to impress upon West European delegations to the preparatory meeting in Helsinki for the impending Conference on Disarmament in Europe that it is concerned about security issues other than INF. [redacted]

The Soviets and their allies have approached the first week of procedural talks in a businesslike and nonpolemical manner, according to the US delegation. Chief Soviet negotiator Grinevskiy and other Eastern representatives have told their Western counterparts that they intend to abide by the preparatory conference's mandate to address only procedural matters and to conclude within three weeks. Polish delegates already are circulating an informal Eastern draft agenda for the CDE, which opens in Stockholm on 17 January. [redacted]

During a plenary session last Friday, however, Grinevskiy warned that developments in Europe and elsewhere cannot fail to have a serious impact on the deliberations in Helsinki. Soviet media commentary on the preparatory meeting has recalled past Eastern charges of US obstructionism at the CSCE review meeting in Madrid, which had directed that the CDE be held. [redacted]

Comment: The Soviets appear to be playing a cautious game in Helsinki—as they are at the MBFR talks in Vienna—out of concern that overplaying the INF issue in these nonnuclear multilateral arms talks might alienate the West Europeans. Moscow is sensitive that European governments value the MBFR and CSCE and CDE forums as opportunities to discuss security issues as equals with the two superpowers. [redacted]

The USSR nevertheless intends to keep open the possibility of raising INF and other substantive matters at Helsinki. If the Warsaw Pact countries carry out their implied threats to walk out of various arms control talks later this month, a prolonged CDE preparatory conference could provide the Soviets with a platform from which to appeal to INF opponents in the West. [redacted]

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