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~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

NR Record

HUNGARY: Moscow Agrees To Withdraw All Troops

The Soviet Union yesterday publicly agreed to withdraw all of its 50,000 troops in Hungary "within the shortest time possible," although it probably will still try to prolong the withdrawal. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aboimov and Hungarian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Somogyi agreed that the pace of the withdrawal would be decided in further discussions. [Redacted]

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Comment: Budapest wanted agreement on a Soviet withdrawal before the 25 March legislative election to improve the chances of the ruling Socialist Party. Moscow undoubtedly hopes the announcement will dampen public enthusiasm for withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact: two of the more radical political parties opened their election campaigns by calling for immediate, unilateral withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact. The Soviets probably will begin these troop withdrawals soon and portray them as early implementation of a prospective CFE treaty. Moscow is having problems absorbing the estimated 25,000 troops who returned home in the past year as a result of unilateral cuts in Eastern Europe and is likely to push for a gradual withdrawal of its troops in Hungary. [Redacted]

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