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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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State Dept. review completed

A Soviet View of German Talks

The departing Soviet Counselor in East Berlin, B. P. Khotulev, presented a US Mission officer with a "pessimistic" view regarding the pace of the Bahr-Kohl talks. He said that Kohl told him the East Germans had no interest in making concessions to reach an agreement with Bonn at this time because they were not convinced that the present FRG government could complete action on the agreement before the forthcoming elections or that Brandt would be returned to power.

The American Embassy in Bonn earlier reported that an "optimistic" view of the talks also exists. This analysis holds that: (A) The GDR realizes that it would achieve quicker international recognition and entry into the U.N. by not delaying the talks with the FRG (B) A negotiated treaty, even if it were not ratified, would restrict any new government and could help get him reelected by being forthcoming on a treaty.

The reopening of the preliminary Bahr-Kohl discussions on 2 August may show whether the pessimistic or optimistic view is correct.

Khotulev also said that the Soviets would answer "but not immediately" the proposal given to Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko on 3 June concerning the reaffirmation of Four Power rights for Germany and Berlin, which in Allied eyes must precede FRG and GDR entry into the UN. The Mission considered that Khotulev took a more positive view on the possibility for such negotiations than he had in the past, but he indicated that the Soviets would "need to turn an unwilling GDR around to accept such a reaffirmation." In the talks to date Kohl has adamantly refused specific reaffirmation of four power rights saying point 9 of the GDR draft treaty, which provides that prior treaties affecting the GDR and the FRG will not be affected by the new treaty, is sufficient.

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East Germans Dog UN Secretary General's Steps

East German Foreign Minister Otto Winzer arrived in Moscow on 20 July for a "brief friendly visit." Winzer probably hoped to meet again with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim who is also in Moscow and to gain additional Soviet backing for GDR membership in the UN. Waldheim heard this message before during a two-hour meeting with Winzer in Geneva on 1 July.

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Belgrade Student Trial Resumes

The trial of three University of Belgrade students, charged with "criminal acts against the people and state," resumed yesterday. The defendants are accused of having organized an "illegal group" and of having established links with foreign students and unnamed groups hostile toward Yugoslavia. The prosecution also claims that one of three represented the "group" at the "International Trotskyists Congress" in Essen last year. All are said to have had illegal pamphlets and brochures on their person when arrested.

Sentencing is expected Monday. This otherwise insignificant trial is being given fairly prominent press coverage as part of an apparent effort by the regime to balance publicity surrounding the current trials of Croatian nationalist students in Zagreb. Authorities are anxious to demonstrate an across-the-board opposition to all extremists.

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Croatian Party Leader Applauds New Policy

The head of the Croatian party organization, Mrs. Milka Planinc, wasted little time endorsing the federal party's decision that each republic is to combat its own unique form of nationalism. In an interview carried in the major Zagreb and Ljubljana dailies, Mrs. Planinc announced a new program for her party. Croatian energies will now be channelled toward the "positive" application of the constitutional reforms aimed at weeding out breeding grounds for extreme nationalism.

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She reaffirmed the right of all Yugoslav peoples to build and further develop their cultural and artistic

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heritage -- so long as it remains in harmony with the interests of the working class. "Nationalism nevertheless must not be allowed to breed mutual distrust or enmity, otherwise it is not very far to the knives." Mrs. Planinc then turned to the Croatian press, where she apparently intends to take the initiative against nationalism, and warned it to tone down "sensational reporting" from areas of the republic still fighting nationalism, and concentrate on those districts where the victory has been won.

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Consumer Protection In Yugoslavia

The Social-Health Chamber of the Yugoslav Federal Assembly yesterday passed a ban on the advertising of tobacco and alcoholic beverages. The vote was 70 to 12. Some of the opposition were concerned -- not over the merits of the bill -- but whether or not the Federal Assembly, in the new decentralized system, has the right to pass such an ordinance. They argued that a ban of this type can only be declared by each of the republics and provinces. Those in favor insisted that the medical aspects of the measure outweigh the constitutional considerations.

This debate is typical of what is going on in the Yugoslav Parliament today. The National Assembly finds itself operating in limbo, until the second set of constitutional amendments are introduced later this year. At that time, the Assembly's role, rights and privileges will be defined.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE BRANCH

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