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18 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-81: Probable Soviet Courses of Action
with Respect to Germany, through
Mid-1954

1. This short estimate was difficult to coordinate because views on both Soviet policy and the situation within Germany are in a fluid state.

2. The most difficult paragraphs were 7 and 8. We all agreed that the Kremlin is unlikely to withdraw Soviet forces from East Germany. At the same time we felt that a Soviet proposal to withdraw all occupying forces from Germany would be a powerful political warfare weapon, and that there was a remote possibility, in certain circumstances, of actual withdrawal. These paragraphs may be brought up for discussion at the IAC meeting.

[Redacted]
Acting Assistant Director
National Estimates

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O/NE [Redacted]
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