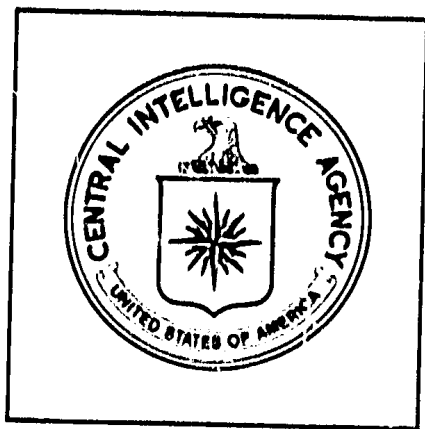


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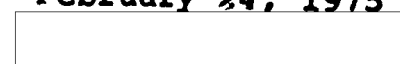


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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the USSR - Eastern Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome.

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Soviets Still See Little Hope for Progress
in Border Negotiations in Peking

Soviet spokesmen continue to take the line that there is little hope for progress in the current round of border negotiations in Peking. In conversations with US officials in Peking late last week the Soviet ambassador and his deputy were at pains to de-emphasize the importance of the return to China of the head of the Soviet border delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev. They said that Ilichev, who has not been in Peking in six months, returns from time to time only to see if China has any new proposals. The chief Chinese negotiator's recent departure for Nepal is another sign that the talks are not going very far very fast.

Soviet attacks on the Chinese National People's Congress have been persistent and wide-ranging, and two editorial articles in *Pravda* this month have stressed the theme of Maoist hostility toward the USSR, going so far as to say that the Chinese leaders are actively promoting a nuclear war between the US and the USSR.

The Soviets are obviously worried about the possibility of improved Chinese relations with the US and Western Europe. In a lengthy article by a leading Soviet Sinologist that appeared in the January issue of the Soviet journal *USA*, the author attacked those in the US who have sought closer relations with China and deplored what he perceived as efforts by the US to exploit Sino-Soviet differences for its own benefit.

The article seems to blur, although not totally eliminate, the usual Soviet distinction between the anti-detente (and pro-China) forces in the US and the US government. It suggests that the Soviets are concerned about the consequences of President Ford's projected trip to China.

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Grechko Arrives in New Delhi--May
Push for Naval Facilities

Soviet Defense Minister Grechko arrived in New Delhi yesterday for a three-day visit during which he will talk about new Soviet military aid to the Indians. He may also make a pitch for the use of Indian port facilities by Soviet warships and of Indian airfields by Soviet aircraft for "space support missions." The commanders in chief of the Soviet navy and air force are with Grechko in India.

The Soviets have repeatedly sought the use of the port of Vishakhapatnam on the Bay of Bengal in return for fulfilling India's arms requirements. The Soviets may believe that the Indians will be more receptive now that the US arms embargo on the sale of lethal arms to Pakistan and India has been lifted. The port facilities would be a convenience, but are not crucial to the current level of Soviet naval operations in the Indian Ocean.

The Indians have rejected Soviet requests for facilities in the past and will be reluctant to reverse their policy. New Delhi has tried to develop a better balance in its relations with the two super powers and has openly condemned the establishment of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean region.

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Dolanc To Act for Tito in Party Diplomacy

Belgrade last week announced to the diplomatic community that Tito has now exempted himself from party as well as from state protocol duties. Stane Dolanc, secretary of the executive bureau, will henceforth be Tito's alter ego in receiving visiting party leaders.

The designation of Dolanc raises the chances that he will succeed to Tito's party posts. Although Dolanc has been the number-two in party diplomacy for over three years, this is the first formal recognition of his status.

The move to ease Tito's protocol responsibilities began last year, when the state vice president was officially designated as Tito's plenipotentiary at state functions, and it was announced that Tito would no longer be the host at long state dinners. The new regulations provide that the vice president --currently Petar Stambolic--will also be responsible for "plenary discussions" with visiting leaders of foreign delegations.

When the health of the 82-year-old leader permits, however, Tito will no doubt continue to see selected foreign leaders.

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Soviets Suggest Vice President Rockefeller
Attend Moscow's Celebration of V-E Day Anniversary

The Soviets have proposed that Vice President Rockefeller go to Moscow in connection with the 30th anniversary celebration of V-E day. While no formal invitation was extended, K. G. Fedoseyev, the deputy director of the USA division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, suggested that the Vice President represent the US during a talk with Ambassador Stoessel on February 19.

Fedoseyev said that the Soviets hoped to attract high-level delegations from the allied powers and that the ministry was planning a "solemn" soiree in the Kremlin on the eve of V-E Day. The British and French embassies in Moscow report that they have received no official word of such an event.

Fedoseyev cited a number of other possible US-Soviet arrangements to commemorate the occasion, including meetings of veterans of the US-Soviet linkup on the Elbe near the end of the war and of aircrews that participated in shuttle bombing.

Other plans for the anniversary were outlined in a Central Committee announcement on February 9. Nationwide activities are to be concentrated in a five-day period ending May 9, with party, government, and mass organizations called upon to organize and carry out activities at all levels of society in celebration of the victory. The culmination is to be an "all people's" holiday on the 9th.

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Mladenov-Gromyko Talks in Moscow

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov today began a previously unannounced "friendly visit" to the USSR for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. Mladenov is the fourth Warsaw Pact foreign minister to be summoned to Moscow in the past month. Only the Hungarians and Romanians have yet to make the journey.

The Soviets are probably using these sessions to brief their allies on "tactics" for the recently resumed European security talks and on possible new Soviet initiatives. A knowledgeable Polish journalist recently reported that the Kremlin would call in the Pact foreign ministers "one-by-one" for briefings on tactics.

Mladenov and Gromyko may also discuss:

- Measures to develop a more cohesive Pact foreign policy.
- Plans for commemorating the end of World War II and the founding of the Warsaw Pact.
- A European Communist conference (as possibly signaled by Bulgarian party leader Zhivkov's recent visit to Romania).
- Mladenov's trip to Egypt, scheduled for February 26-28.

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