

Chernobyl / mirage shows  
water disturbed

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON ASSASSINATIONS

There were two attempts on former General Secretary

Brezhnev's life: one in Moscow near the Kremlin in 1969 that was  
observed by many; [redacted]

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In the 1970s, there were a number of assassination attempts  
by anti-Russian nationalists. These include:

-- Three attempts against Estonian First Secretary Vaino in  
1979; (open sources--assailant in jail)

-- Two attempts against Georgian First Secretary  
Shevardnadze in 1973 and 1976. There are rumors that  
both were caused by his crackdown on corruption. (Based  
on press and embassy reporting.)

-- Two attempts against Latvian First Secretary Voss in  
1977. (Emigre reporting)

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Since 1980, most of the assassinations or attempts have been "in-party," and have been motivated by official crackdowns on corruption. These include:

- The murder in 1978 of the Azeri Minister of Internal Affairs and three of his associates. (Soviet press)
- The assassination of the Kirghiz Prime Minister at a spa in 1980. (Soviet press)
- Two attempts on the life of then Rostov First Secretary (and current Minister of Internal Affairs) Vlasov in 1984 and 1985. (Embassy sources)
- Several threats against the Moscow First Secretary and other members of the Yeltsin family in 1986. (Embassy sources)