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SC-07107/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
24 September 1968APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAY 2002

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Current Disposition and Capabilities of Soviet
Forces for Localized Offensive Actions
Against Berlin or West Germany

1. The redistribution of Soviet and East German forces which took place during the invasion of Czechoslovakia has resulted in an improved capability for localized offensive action against Bavaria. At the same time, however, the Soviet forces in East Germany have been reduced, and their current posture is probably poorer for offensive action against NATO than before the invasion. Although present Soviet and East German troop dispositions around Berlin are sizable, they are also considerably reduced from the levels present before the Czech invasion (see attached map).

Soviet Forces Adjacent to Bavaria

2. The invasion of Czechoslovakia resulted in the deployment of two additional Soviet armies near the Bavarian border, and the probable deployment of a third Soviet army in the East German-Czechoslovak border area. Including the army permanently deployed opposite Bavaria in East Germany, there are now at least three, and probably four, Soviet armies within 100 miles of Bavaria.

3. Considering that NATO has two corps in this area, with each corps roughly equivalent to a Soviet army, the Soviets probably would believe their superiority in the area adequate to ensure a localized victory. The current dispositions leave the Soviets weak in the 100-mile sector between the Helmstedt and Eisenach autobahns from which they withdrew forces to invade Czechoslovakia.

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4. Below is a list of the Soviet armies involved:

Permanently deployed on East German-
Bavarian border

8th Guards Army

2 motorized rifle divisions
1 tank division

2 East German motorized rifle divisions

Relocated to Czechoslovakia from East
Germany

1st Guards Tank Army

3 to 4 tank divisions
2 motorized rifle divisions

20th Guards Army

3 motorized rifle divisions

Moved to southern East Germany or north-
western Czechoslovakia from western USSR

11th Guards Army

4 to 5 motorized rifle divisions

Soviet Forces in the Area of Berlin

5. The Soviets would consider the defense of the East German border area an essential aspect of any move against Berlin. The movement of the two armies from East Germany to Czechoslovakia has reduced Soviet forces facing West Germany. In addition, it has reduced the number of divisions around Berlin from seven to four--three Soviet and one East German.

6. In all, there are currently six Soviet and East German divisions located around Berlin and between Berlin and the West German border. Five of these are in the 3rd Shock Army which has three

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divisions in the vicinity of Berlin and two near the West German border. One East German division is in the western suburbs of Berlin.

7. It is likely that as the Czechoslovakian situation stabilizes the Soviets will restore forces in East Germany to their former strength. At the same time they probably will maintain a new force on the order of six divisions along the Czechoslovak-Bavarian border.

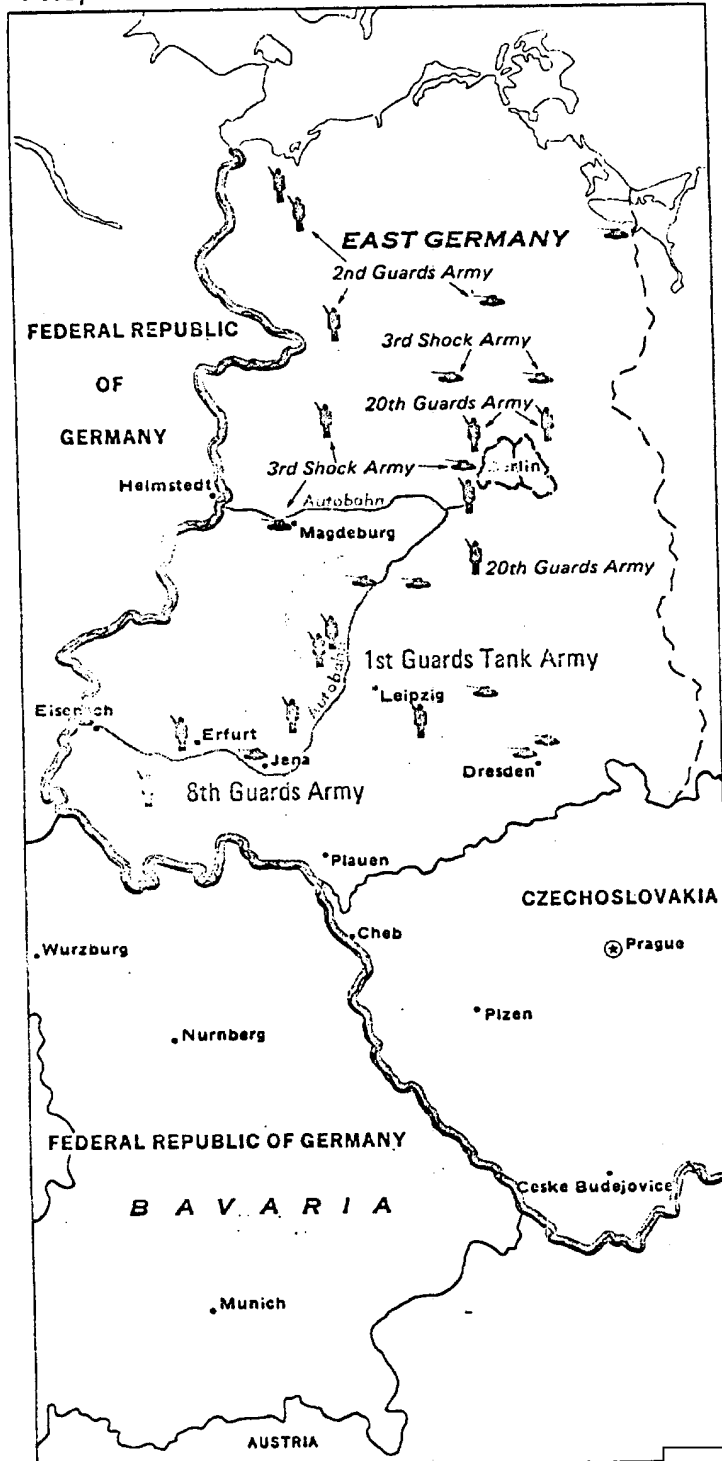
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Soviet And East German Ground Forces Deployment

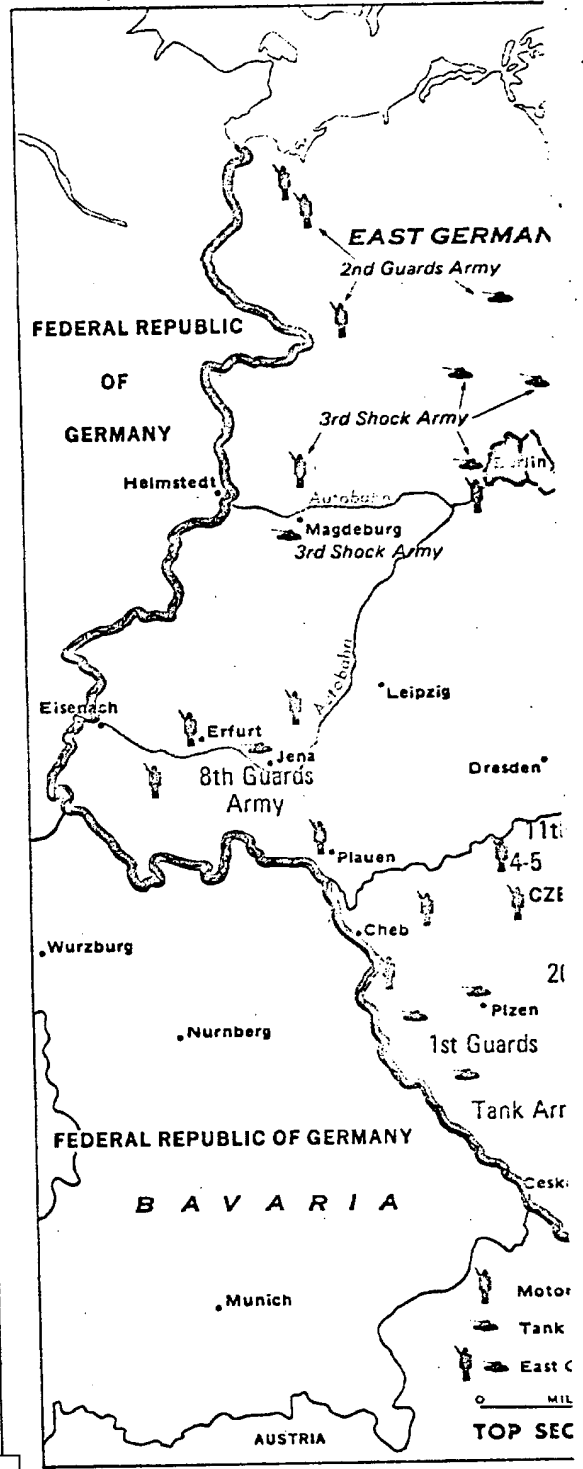
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Ground Forces Deployment Against West Germany And Berlin

September 1968



Possible Future Soviet Deployment

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