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Director of Central Intelligence

# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Saturday, 24 August 1991



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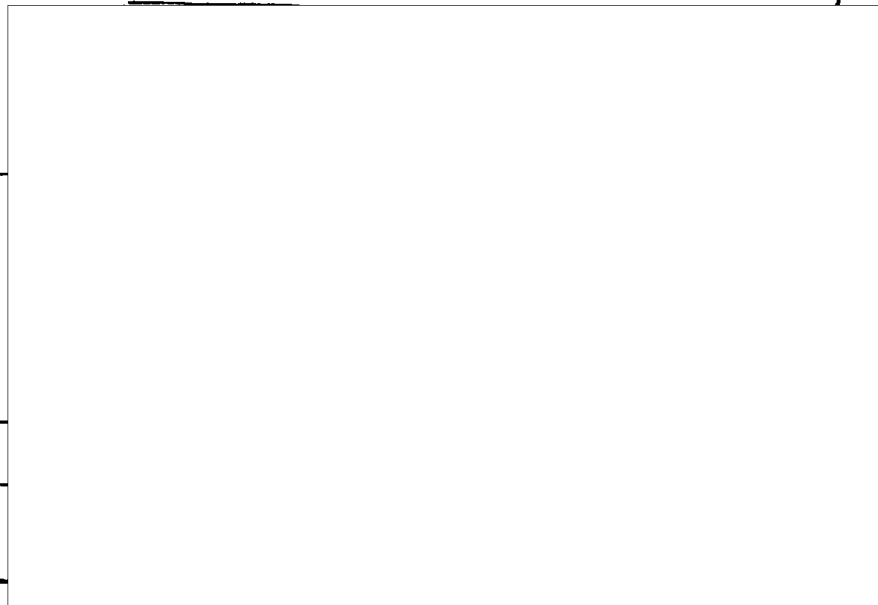
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NR Record

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USSR:

**Situation Report**



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### Communist Party Tottering Across USSR

After sealing Communist Party Central Committee headquarters, police seized the headquarters of the Moscow party organization and impounded documents, which will be scrutinized for evidence of party complicity in the coup attempt. The leaders of the Kazakh, Uzbek, and Moldovan Communist parties quit the union party Politburo yesterday, and Politburo members Alfred Rubiks, Yuriy Prokofyev, and Oleg Shenin were arrested. The military, the KGB, and other key national organizations officially disbanded their party cells, while *Pravda* severed ties to the party leadership. New Defense Minister Shaposhnikov has announced his immediate resignation from the party and has ordered the General Staff to abolish all political organs in the military. With Gorbachev looking on, Yel'tsin signed a decree suspending all Communist Party activity throughout Russia pending an investigation of the coup. In an effort to shore up the situation, party leaders issued disclaimers of union party involvement in the coup, and Gorbachev warned the Russian legislature against fomenting anti-Communist hysteria.

The party is now without a newspaper, its headquarters has been seized, it is without funds, and the general populace hates it. An investigation is certain to reveal significant party complicity in the coup attempt, which will lead to the arrests of more party figures and accelerate its decline. Further party defections and protests are likely throughout the country. Defections will hit the hardest in the provinces, the last remaining bastion of party influence. These developments will force Gorbachev to renounce the party or risk ceding much of his remaining legitimacy to Yel'tsin and others.

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