



Directorate of
Intelligence

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Gorbachev and the Problem of Western Radiobroadcasting Into the USSR (U)

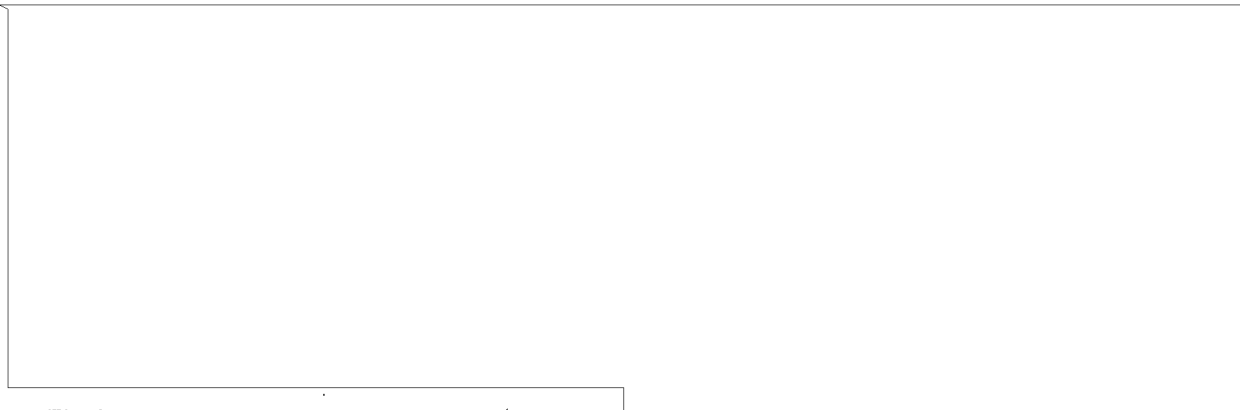
A Research Paper

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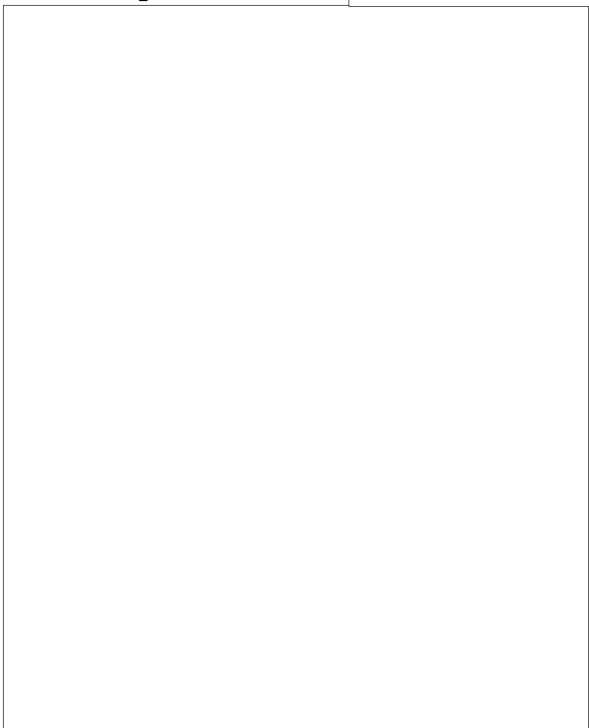
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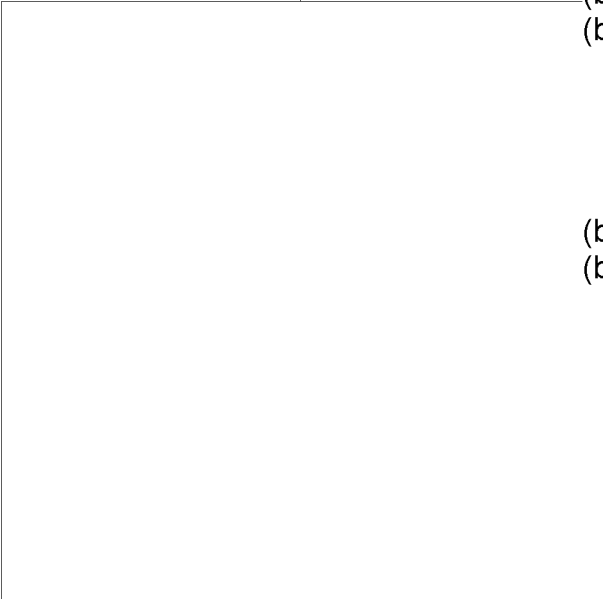


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The Kremlin hopes to decrease RFE/RL's effectiveness by fanning existing ethnic hostilities among the broadcasters and editors, sometimes by activating *agents provocateurs*. RFE/RL's foreign staff includes three waves of emigres: those who came West at the end of World War II in 1945 (mainly Russians and Belorussians), so-called third-wave emigres (predominantly Jewish) allowed to emigrate in the 1970s, and a more recent group of non-Jewish emigres. Differences in political orientation and ethnic identity of the staff members create an ideal setting for KGB provocations designed to foment and exaggerate existing differences among the station's staff.



Although in the late 1950s Soviet operatives made several assassination attempts against RFE/RL's employees, there is no evidence that Moscow has resorted to assassination since then.



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A noteworthy case occurred in 1978 when Bulgarian intelligence operatives—perhaps with Soviet technical support—killed broadcaster Georgi Markov by injecting him with poison using the tip of an umbrella. In February 1981, a bomb exploded at the Munich headquarters of RFE/RL, injuring four employees and causing over \$1 million in damage. Although the culprit was never found, the blast was thought by many to be the work of East European intelligence operatives.

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