

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



Berlin and Germany

In the most optimistic Soviet assessment to date of the US-Soviet negotiations on Berlin, a public lecturer in Moscow stated on 30 April that agreement could come as early as May or June and almost certainly could be achieved this year. He termed the proposals Secretary Rusk presented to Gromyko at Geneva reasonable and said they contained significant changes in the US position. The lecturer expressed the view that while the French could veto an agreement on liquidating the occupation regime in West Berlin, this could be negotiated. He claimed that even Chancellor Adenauer and Foreign Minister Schroeder are displaying a more flexible attitude.

Moscow's desire to maintain conciliatory relations with the US was also evident

in the presence of a group of high-ranking Soviet military officers, headed by Marshal Konev, at the observance in Moscow on 25 April of the anniversary of the meeting of US and Soviet troops at the Elbe River at the end of World War II. The Soviet speeches were mild, stressing the need to revive Soviet-American friendship typified by the Elbe meeting, and Konev took pains to be friendly with US military officers attending the function. Marshal Malinovsky's moderate May Day speech alluded only briefly to US nuclear testing and did not repeat the usual line that the USSR will be obliged to follow suit.

The Soviet press had made routine attacks on the NATO ministers' council meeting in Athens. A Pravda article on 29 April denounced alleged US plans to transfer nuclear weapons to West Germany under a NATO cover and warned that the USSR would have to take similar measures to safeguard its security and that of its Warsaw treaty allies.

Berlin remained relatively quiet during the past week, and no untoward incidents occurred either within the city or along the access routes.



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