

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEKLY REVIEW

SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Although the USSR has declared a "pause" in Berlin talks, the Soviet leaders took steps last week to make it clear they have not retreated from their commitment to a unilateral settlement if negotiations later this year fail to produce results. Moscow the week before had observed that it would be "difficult" for Washington to negotiate during the campaign for the US congressional elections this November. Despite hints of a fixed timetable with a firm deadline, Khrushchev has kept open a number of alternative courses which suggest that he is not yet committed to a separate treaty in the immediate postelection period.

East German party officials reportedly have been informed that the sixth congress of the Socialist Unity (Communist) Party will be held in late November to hear the results of Ulbricht's meetings with Khrushchev last month. One SED party official has claimed that a German peace treaty will be signed before the congress meets.

The TASS statement of 18 September denouncing alleged "collusion" between President de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer to block a Berlin settlement strongly suggests that Khrushchev sees little possibility of arranging a four-power conference to work out a Berlin settlement prior to the signature of a separate peace treaty. With this statement, Moscow abandoned its previous restraint toward De Gaulle and bluntly charged that the "Bonn-Paris axis" is planning "all kinds of adventures" against the Soviet bloc. TASS accused De Gaulle of encouraging West Ger-

man "revanchists and militarists" and supporting Bonn's opposition to a "normalization" of the Berlin situation. The statement reaffirmed Moscow's intention to sign a separate peace treaty, "with all the ensuing consequences."

Berlin

Moscow also issued a TASS statement on 17 September reaffirming its position that the quadripartite status of Berlin ended in 1948 when the four-power Allied Kommandatura "ceased to operate through the fault of the three Western powers." The statement was in response to the Western communiqué of 23 August which stated that the abolition of the Soviet commandant's office in East Berlin could have no effect on either Allied rights or Soviet responsibilities in Berlin. Moscow denied the West's contention that Berlin remains a "single city" and renewed charges that West Berlin has been converted into a "NATO base" and that the Western commandants' offices "are in effect NATO Kommandaturas."

Soviet authorities in East Germany complied last week with a second Western demand regarding Soviet access to the war memorial in West Berlin. On 14 September, ten days after they agreed to shift from the Friedrichstrasse entry point in the US sector to the Sandkrug Bridge in the British sector, they heeded Western instructions to revert to buses instead of armored personnel carriers for transporting their guards to and from the war memorial. These decisions not to contest Western instructions provide further evidence of Moscow's desire to maintain its presence in West

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Berlin, at least for the time being, and to avoid actions which might lead to a Western denial of Soviet access to West Berlin prior to probable future East German moves to block Allied military entry into East Berlin.

