

RADIO FREE EUROPE  
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

FEB 24 15:51

TO: C

MUN 51 24 FEB 70

TO: DURKEE INFO YARROW HOVEY DUNNING REYMAN KAUFMANN SCHNEIDER  
FM: WALTER INFO COOK BROWN KOHAK LYON

241 539:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 45

1. BULGARIA: WE NOTE THE ABSENCE FROM THE SCENE FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS OF POLITBURO MEMBER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TANO TSOLOV. (CF. DS ON TSOLOV) WE DRAW NO CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS (MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOBRI DZHUROV WAS ABSENT FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS LAST YEAR, DUE TO ILLNESS WE LEARNED LATER), BUT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WATCH IT.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: CS IS REPRESENTED AT A MEETING OF THE "EXECUTIVES OF WRITERS' UNIONS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" (WHICH OPENED IN BUCHAREST YESTERDAY) BY ANDREJ PLAVKA, CHAIRMAN OF THE SLOVAK RPT SLOVAK WRITERS' UNION. THIS REFLECTS THE CS REGIME'S FAILURE TO BRING THE CS AND CZECH WRITERS' UNIONS INTO LINE. (IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CUBA AND MONGOLIA ARE REPRESENTED, WHEREAS YUGOSLAVIA IS NOT.)

COUNTRY MEETING TODAY REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE CS ECONOMIC SYSTEM. THE PICTURE IS A GLOOMY ONE INDEED. THE JANUARY CSCP PLENUM BEGAN TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION SOMEWHAT, BUT ONLY IN THE NEGATIVE SENSE OF STRESSING THE ABSOLUTE PRIMACY OF POLITICS. IN THE LONGER RUN WE ASSUME THAT OBJECTIVE NECESSITY WILL FORCE THEM TO PLACE GREATER STRESS ON ECONOMIC AS OPPOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE LEVERS. AT THIS FUTURE POINT WE SHOULD ENGAGE OURSELVES IN A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SPECIFIC ECONOMIC LEVERS AT ISSUE. UNTIL THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THERE ARE SERIOUS LIMITATIONS ON THE EXTENT OF PROGRAMMING ON CURRENT INTERNAL CS ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN WHICH WE CAN USEFULLY ENGAGE.

3. HUNGARY: NOTHING.

4. POLAND NOTHING.

5. RUMANIA: NOTHING.

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PAGE 2    MUN 51

6. OTHER; THE SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE SABOTAGE OF THE SWISSAIR PASSENGER PLANE (DS) IS UNUSUALLY CRASS EVEN FOR THEM. THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SHOWED A BALANCED RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE FACTS OF THE INCIDENT. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER AND HOW SOON ELEMENTS OF THE "TASS" LINE NOW EMERGE IN THEIR COMMENTARIES. THE "RADIO BUDAPEST" (DS) REPORT IS A CASE IN POINT.

END MSG