

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: C

DEZ 31

14:29

MUN 51 31 DEC 69

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

311358:

RFE DAILY REPORT NR 89.

1. BULGARIA: NOTHING

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: ACCORDING TO RADIO PRAGUE, RUDE PRAVO TODAY CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY CHIEF EDITOR MOC WHICH STATES THAT THE CSCP CC PLENUM IN JANUARY WILL DEAL WITH PARTY ACTIVITY IN FINISHING THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSOLIDATION. MAIN POINT OF INTEREST IS THAT, CONTRARY TO SOME WESTERN PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE PLENUM HAD BEEN POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY, JANUARY DATE IS NOW OFFICIAL.

3. HUNGARY: NOTHING

4. POLAND: NOTHING

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6. OTHER: THE TASS AND NEPSZABADSAG CRITICISMS OF THE CHINESE, COMING ON THE EVE OF THE RETURN OF KUZNETSOV TO PEKING AND THE RESUMPTION OF SINO-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS, MAY BE THE INITIAL LOW KEY STATEMENTS INITIATING POLEMICS. WESTERN SOURCES REPORT THAT KUZNETSOV WILL RETURN TO PEKING WITH INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO YIELD ON QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE (I.E., RECOGNIZING THE "UNEQUAL TREATIES" AS UNEQUAL), AS THE NEPSZABASAG PIECE ALSO IMPLIES. IF THE CHINESE ALSO REFUSE TO BUDGE THEN THE OTHER ITEMS IN KUZNETSOV'S PACKAGE SUCH AS INCREASED TRADE, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC EXCHANGES MAY NOT BE DISCUSSED. THUS THE SOVIETS MAY BE WARNING PEKING THAT THEIR PATIENCE IS ABOUT EXHAUSTED AND MAY BE PREPARING THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE FOR A FAILURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO PRODUCE AN ACCEPTABLE MODUS VIVENDI. IT IS NOT CORRECT TO MINIMIZE THE TASS (AND NEPSZABADSAG) CRITICISM AS SOME WESTERN SOURCES HAVE DONE JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE RELATIVELY MILD AND INTRODUCE NOTHING NEW INTO THE SOVIET CONDEMNATION OF THE CHINESE. THEY SHOULD BE VIEWED AS POTENTIALLY QUITE SIGNIFICANT COMING AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF RESTRAINT. ON THE PROPAGANDA LEVEL THEY SUPPLEMENT THE UNOFFICIAL LEAKS BEING SPREAD BY THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC WHISPERING GALLERY AND THUS APPEAR CALCULATED TO EXERT PRESSURE ON PEKING.

THE AUSTRIAN CP CONTINUES TO SUFFER DISRUPTION AS A RESULT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND FISCHER IN THE RESIGNATION OF THEODOR PRAEGER FROM THE KPOE-CC (DESK SPECIAL).

END MSG