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East Germany: Seeking Fresh Policy Options

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Summary:

An analysis of East German dissatisfaction with economic growth and the Politburo's decision to task Berlin's Humboldt University with policy development.

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English

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~~Top Secret~~

6.2(d)



EAST GERMANY: Seeking Fresh Policy Options

Some East German Politburo members have become alarmed about East Germans' growing popular restiveness and about sluggish economic growth. [redacted] they tasked East Berlin's Humboldt University last month to draft proposals for new economic policies and increased popular political participation. The requesters reportedly did not include Politburo hardliners like Egon Krenz, the leading contender to succeed party boss Erich Honecker.

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6.2(d)

Comment: Turning to the university, a relatively independent organization, rather than party-dominated think tanks suggests the Politburo group recognizes the need for fresh solutions. The leadership is concerned about political turmoil in Eastern Europe, increasingly open domestic protests, and the widening gap between East and West German living standards. The move to explore new options probably has Honecker's approval, but proposals for more than modest reforms are unlikely to win the hardliners' support.

6.2(d)

~~Top Secret~~

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