

August 27, 1989 Special Analysis: USSR: Balts to Mark 1939 Anniversary Tomorrow

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Summary:

An analysis of planned demonstrations in the Baltics and Soviet efforts to dampen local support for opposition movements.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

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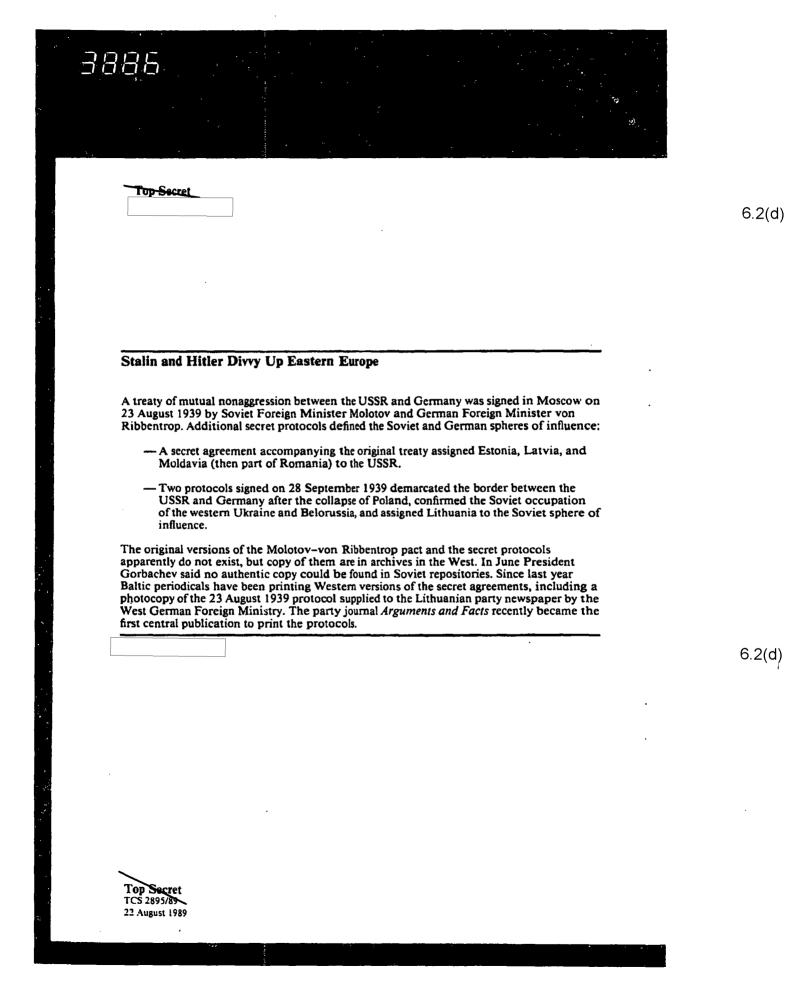
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	Top Secret	6.2(d)
	Special Analysis	
USSR:	Balts To Mark 1939 Anniversary Tomorrow	
	Nationalists in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are planning demonstrations tomorrow to mark the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-von Ribbentrop pact. Although Moscow reportedly intends to renounce the treaty, party officials are trying to play down its significance, fearful that radical nationalists in the Baltic and other non-Russian republics will exploit the renunciation in their drive for independence. Pragmatic Baltic leaders are trying to dampen local expectations about what they regard as a largely symbolic issue.	6.2(d)
	Popular fronts and independence groups are organizing a human chain that will link the three Baltic capitals for 15 minutes tomorrow evening. More than 600,000 demonstrators are expected to be on hand to cover the some 600 kilometers from Tallinn through Riga to Vilnius. Lithuanian nationalist groups are sponsoring mass meetings tonight and tomorrow afternoon, while the Latvian National Independence Movement today concludes in Riga a two-day	
	international conference—attended by US and West German Government officials—on national self-determination.	6.2(d
•	Both Baltic nationalists and symp.::hetic republic party officials want to keep pressure on Moscow to denounce the 1939 pact and its secret protocols, which they believe led to the Soviet takeover of the region in July 1940. The popular fronts have organized massive petition drives calling for nullifying the pact and withdrawing the "occupation forces." Last week a Lithuanian legislative commission declared the pact and the Soviet takeover illegal, and the Estonian party leader denounced the treaty and called for its abrogation.	6.2(d
	Moscow Gets Cold Feet	
	The Balts are frustrated by what they regard as Moscow's foot-dragging. The Congress of People's Deputies commission formed in May to investigate the pact was expected to have published its findings earlier this month. By late last month the commission had finished its draft report, which reportedly recommends that Moscow admit the secret protocols exist and nullify the pact however, President Gorbachev reportedly has delayed announcing the findings until after tomorrow's anniversary. Politburo member and international affairs chief Yakovlev, who	3.3(b)(1
	chaired the commission, said last week in <i>Pravda</i> that the report would be submitted to the Congress this fall.	6.2(d
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