

September 7, 1989 Special Analysis: USSR: The Option of Force in the Baltics

Citation:

"Special Analysis: USSR: The Option of Force in the Baltics", September 7, 1989, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency, October 29, 2019.

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Summary:

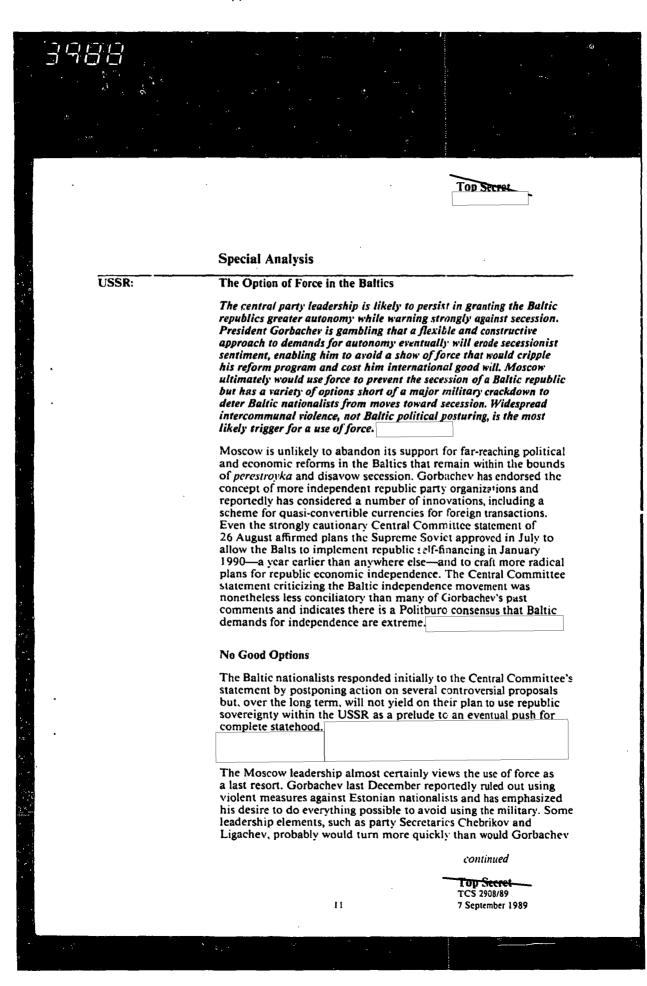
An analysis of the Soviet posture toward the Baltic's movements for greater autonomy.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

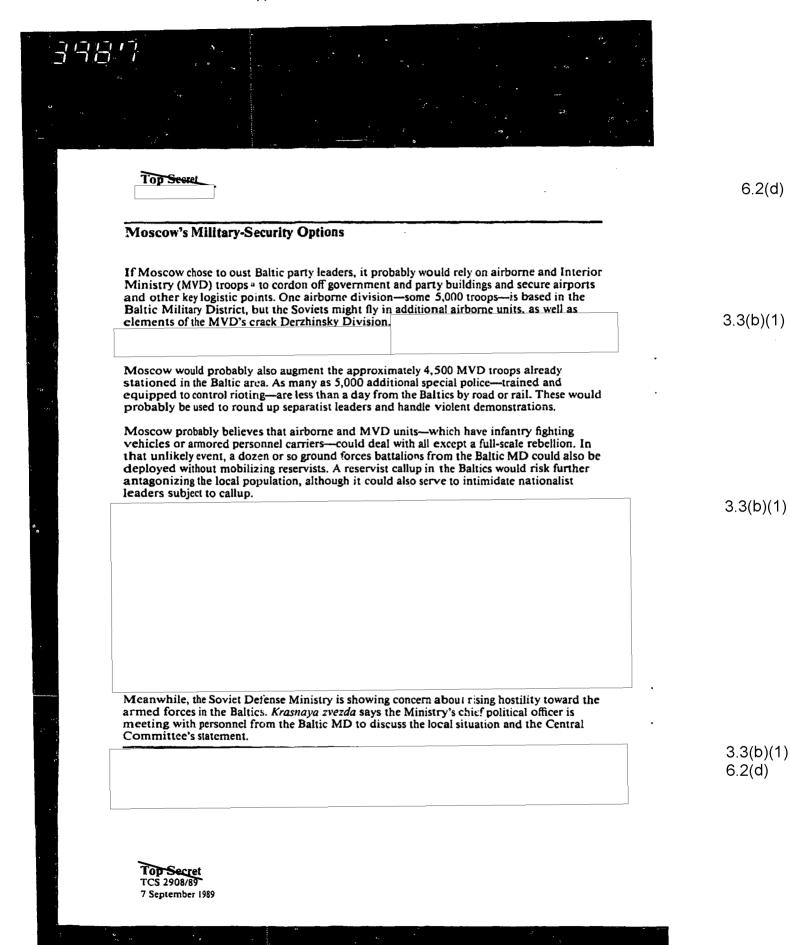


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Approved for Release: 2019/10/29 C06826769



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Gains Made for Baltic Autonomy in 1989

Pre-WW II national anthems, flags reasserted in all three republics.

Popular-front candidates dominate March elections to the Congress of People's Deputies.

National language laws passed in all three republics.

Citizenship laws proposed in Estonia, Lithuania.

USSR Supreme Soviet approves Baltic economic autonomy bill.

Lithuanian party youth organization (Komsomol) severs ties to Moscow.

Lithuanian party announces fall conference to consider cutting ties to CPSU.

Congress of People's Deputies reportedly finds annexation of Baltic republics illegal.

Potential Flashpoints

Outside agitation by reactionary Russian nationalist groups.

Extremists gain control of Popular Fronts.

Baltic parties split along ethnic lines.

Moscow leadership in open conflict over nationality policy.

Pronationalist Baltic party leaders fired.

Nationalist, "parallel" government formed, declares secession.

Widespread intercommunal violence crupts; MVD cannot control.

Soviet troops deployed; martial law declared.

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Top Secret TCS 2908/89 7 September 1989

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