

November 7, 1989

East Germany: Pressure for Power Sharing Rises□□□

Citation:

"East Germany: Pressure for Power Sharing Rises", November 7, 1989, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency, October 29, 2019. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/209475>

Summary:

An analysis of demonstrations in Leipzig and their calls for increased power sharing.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

1866

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

EAST GERMANY: Pressure for Power Sharing Rises

A record number of demonstrators turned out in Leipzig yesterday amid signs of rifts in the Communist Party over power sharing. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

Some 500,000 demonstrators marched yesterday in Leipzig to demand free elections, totally free travel, and an end to the party's leading role. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] the party is split over whether to begin formal talks with opposition groups.

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)
6.2(d)

A new draft law, which was published yesterday, gives all East Germans the right to travel outside the country at least 30 days a year and to turn a visit into a permanent change of residence; application procedures and financing, however, remain a problem. The opposition group New Forum labeled the reforms inadequate. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

[Redacted] the regime intends to formally abolish the Ministry of State Security and reconstitute it as a division of the Interior Ministry. The security force allegedly will be halved. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

6.2(d)

Comment: The demonstration in Leipzig underscores public skepticism over East German leader Krenz's reforms. Party sentiment for power sharing may bring about open clashes at tomorrow's Central Committee session and will put pressure on Krenz to make a gesture toward the opposition. For example, he might be prepared to resign as head of state and turn that position and the one of legislative speaker over to one of the allied parties. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

Public skepticism about the allied parties' autonomy and doubts about whether Krenz is willing to share power would undermine the effectiveness of such gestures. If carried out, cutbacks in the security force would make the loyalty of those remaining questionable if the regime imposed a crackdown. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

The draft travel law substantially liberalizes existing regulations. But the reaction of New Forum and the continuing flow of emigres suggest such measures will not stem the exodus. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

[Redacted]

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TCS 2959/89
7 November 1989

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