

January 30, 1990

Germanys: Early Election Forcing Pace of Unity Debate

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Summary:

An analysis of advances in East German elections which have sped-up the reunification agenda.

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English

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1032

~~Top Secret~~

6.2(d)

GERMANY:

Early Election Forcing Pace of Unity Debate

The advancement of the East German election is already forcing the pace of decisionmaking in Bonn and East Berlin as the unity question increasingly dominates both Germanys' agendas. [redacted]

6.2(d)

East German Communist leader Gysi canceled today's scheduled trip to Washington, citing the need to prepare his collapsing party for the March election. Gysi has called unification "unstoppable" but cautioned against hasty movement. [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] he will fly to Moscow soon, following Premier Modrow who leaves today to meet with President Gorbachev and Premier Ryzhkov. Meanwhile—barely a day after a non-Communist caretaker government was announced—some 100,000 demonstrators in Leipzig called for German unity and an end to Communist rule. [redacted]

6.2(d)

3.3(b)(1)

Also citing the new East German election date, West German Chancellor Kohl has canceled a trip to Latin America scheduled for March. [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

Bonn is slowing efforts toward a "treaty community" between the Germanys [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

6.2(d)

Comment: The continuing pronunification demonstrations [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] suggest a widespread German belief that the timetable for unification is being telescoped. [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] new German initiatives, such as a proposal for a demilitarized East Germany, may be announced soon. [redacted]

6.2(d)

Modrow and Gysi may try to use their Soviet visits to show their influence with Moscow: they probably will coordinate policy on managing the unification process, including responses to popular demands for reducing the Soviet troop presence in East Germany. Modrow may urge Moscow not to cut oil shipments or Soviet orders for East German goods during the election campaign even though Moscow will be hard pressed to avoid temporary cutbacks. Gysi probably hopes Gorbachev's popularity in East Germany will help slow the Communists' eroding electoral prospects. [redacted]

6.2(d)

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