

February 9, 1990

Eastern Europe: Pressing Soviet Troop Withdrawals□□□

Citation:

"Eastern Europe: Pressing Soviet Troop Withdrawals", February 9, 1990, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency, October 29, 2019. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/209549>

Summary:

An analysis of Soviet efforts to stall troop withdrawals in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

2903

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

EASTERN EUROPE: Pressing Soviet Troop Withdrawals

Moscow is trying to delay Hungarian and Czechoslovak demands that it withdraw its forces quickly. The Soviets are arguing that rapid pullout will overwhelm their rail system and cause serious problems in housing and employing the withdrawn troops. Budapest wants the withdrawal completed by 1 March 1991, seven months before the Soviet proposal.

[Redacted] troop withdrawal talks between Prague and Moscow have soured over the Czechoslovak demand that half the Soviet troops withdraw by this May and the rest by December; Moscow has proposed the withdrawal be completed next year. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

6.2(d)

Comment: Moscow has [Redacted] said it intends to withdraw all its forces from Hungary and Czechoslovakia but will try to stall until well into 1991. Although the Soviets probably could remove their troops and equipment within the time frames Budapest and Prague demand, they undoubtedly want a more gradual withdrawal that would not disrupt their transportation system. Moscow also would prefer as much time as possible to reassign and arrange housing for the some 135,000 men and their families that are returning. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

6.2(d)

NR Record

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TCS 2733/90

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