

X11-13

16/25/79

TNF
Doc #157

SUBJECT: Soviet Campaign Against TNF Modernization in Europe

EO 13526
3.3(b)(1) > 25Yrs

10/1/79
12/2/79
12/4/79
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1. Over the past 2-3 weeks, the Soviets and the East Germans have stepped up their efforts to mobilize anti-TNF propaganda and demonstrations in Western Europe, using communist parties, leftwing parties and peace groups and front organizations. These activities appear to constitute a major campaign which will increase in intensity until the December NATO meeting.

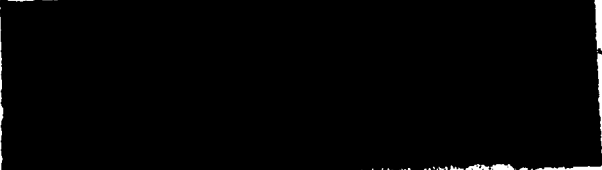
2. The Soviet efforts are directed mainly at the "soft" targets in Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, but even the Austrian and West Berlin communist parties have been ordered to lobby against TNF. The Italian party in particular has come under strong Soviet pressure to mount a big propaganda campaign in both the communist and non-communist media and to organize demonstrations, but so far has held back due to intra-party differences. The Belgian communist party has taken the lead in the anti-TNF campaign, and it is in contact with other West European parties in order to promote Soviet themes and objectives. The Belgians organized the 26-28 October anti-TNF seminar in Brussels, which is being attended by a ranking delegation from the Soviet Committee on European Security. The Belgian section of the Moscow-controlled World Peace Council was tasked on a rush basis in late September with organizing meetings, publishing a brochure and using its influence with Belgian trade unions to oppose TNF modernization. The Soviet Komsomol (party youth organization) has approached Finnish youth groups with a plan for creating an anti-TNF campaign which the Soviets hope to spread throughout Scandinavia. The East Germans are exploiting their contacts with the Dutch Christian Democratic Appeal Party (which holds the swing vote in the Dutch Parliament), Dutch journalists, the Dutch-East German Friendship Society and an anti-militarism organization to promote anti-TNF sentiments in the Netherlands.

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NATO

380-82-0205, box 19, 47/661 (Quad - Dec) 1979



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3. We are responding to this Soviet activity by systematically highlighting to our counterparts in Europe (a) Soviet efforts to manipulate West European opinion by media exploitation, (b) communist front group activity, and (c) direct Soviet pressure on Western communist parties. An analyst is preparing a periodic summary [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which publicize the Soviet military advantages in the TNF balance and the untruths of Soviet propaganda directed against TNF modernization. Local press [REDACTED] being provided fact sheets from which to prepare their own articles on the TNF issue.

4. Opposition to TNF in Europe stems from a variety of matters and is only in small part the product of Soviet propaganda efforts. [REDACTED]

the major burden for countering opposition to TNF must fall to diplomatic and other overt efforts.

CIA 3.3 (b)(1)
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Office of the Secretary of Defense ~~SUS/ESD~~
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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