

note
Satellite Countries

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SATELLITE ROLES IN SOVIET BLOC PROPAGANDA
AND IN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC PENETRATION EFFORTS

Note by the US Delegation

The pattern of Eastern European satellite activities in promoting Soviet foreign policy appears to have two aspects: (1) propaganda attacks, confined largely to the NATO countries and Yugoslavia; and (2) cultural and economic penetration efforts, directed at underdeveloped areas.

PROPAGANDA ROLES

2. Propaganda roles allotted to the satellites with regard to European targets appear to be based on historical, geographic and cultural factors. For example, East Germany and Poland concentrate on the Federal Republic of Germany, Czechoslovakia on the Federal Republic and Austria, Albania and Bulgaria on Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Rumania on the Balkans, etc. Except possibly when carried out in support of specific Soviet initiatives relating to Germany and European security, such a logical division of roles would appear to require little formal co-ordination. It is not difficult for the satellites to follow the well established Soviet line even with regard to Germany and European security. During the past year, however, the forum of the Warsaw pact was twice used to concert the Bloc's position on East-West issues.

CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC PENETRATION

3. Outside the European area, Albania, a moslem country, concentrates on propagandising the Middle East on the compatibility of Marxism and Islam and on the benefits which small underdeveloped countries stand to gain from "selfless" Soviet aid. Since 1958 Bulgaria has quadrupled its broadcast output in Arabic. Rumania has made an effort to increase its ties with Latin nations, particularly in Latin America.

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4. In the economic sphere, the Czechs have played the main role to date in relations with Afro-Asia, though the roles of East Germany and Poland are growing in importance.

5. The roles assumed by these regimes are, of course, largely consistent with their respective economic capabilities. The Czechs have played a special role as arms suppliers to the UAR, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Yemen and Guinea. The arms deliveries to these countries were financed largely by Czech credits. For this reason, the Czechs have extended a disproportionately large share of the total satellite credits to the underdeveloped countries. Of total satellite credits to these countries since 1954 of \$649 million, the Czechs have accounted for \$409 million, Poland \$183 million and East Germany \$44 million.

6. It is presumed that satellite economic programmes having important political overtones (such as the Czech arms deliveries) are determined by Moscow, with whom the economic burden is shared. Available information indicates that the Bloc has an established framework for co-operation in its economic offensive. The few details available concerning this co-operative arrangement refer to the relationship of the USSR and the satellites in pursuit of common objectives in the Middle East. Thus, the economic agreements which the USSR has concluded with the UAR permit satellite organizations to participate in construction, industrial and other projects covered by the Soviet line of credit.

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