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WESTERN EUROPE

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~~TOP SECRET~~**GENERAL**

1.

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2. Soviet official expects US pressure for Arab neutrality in Israeli dispute:

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[redacted] the United States will bring pressure on the Arab countries to adopt a neutral position toward the Soviet-Israeli dispute at the coming meetings of the General Assembly.

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Comment: This approach probably represents Moscow's first step to align Arab support behind the Soviet anti-Israeli moves in the General Assembly meetings which resume on 24 February.

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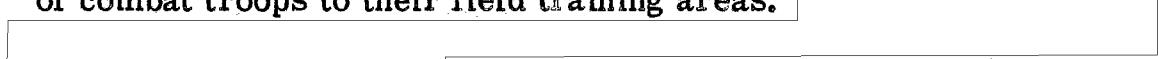
In the earlier meetings of the Seventh General Assembly, there were indications that the Arab-Asian bloc was ready to accept Soviet support.

SOVIET UNION

3. Early Soviet maneuvers in occupied Europe suggested:


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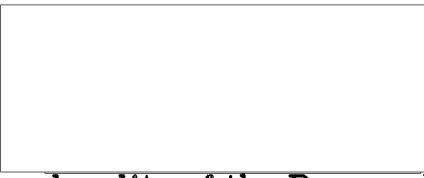
Comment: Similar activity was noted in 1952, beginning two to three weeks later, prior to the departure of combat troops to their field training areas.


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Soviet ground force elements in Germany and Austria, lend credence to the possibility that field training may begin earlier this year.

WESTERN EUROPE

4. Early West German action on Bonn and Paris treaties seen possible:



High West German officials indicate that Chancellor Adenauer, in the event of a Constitutional Court refusal to accept the government's petition for an opinion on the legality of the Bonn and Paris treaties, is determined to press for final Bundestag approval of the treaties between 10 and 14 March. The court's attitude is expected to be known by 25 February.

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If the government's petition is accepted, Adenauer will postpone Bundestag action until April, in the expectation that the court's opinion on the treaties' legality would be favorable.

Comment: The Chancellor recently stated that the French protocol demands might cause further delay. His coalition supporters are now urging rapid ratification without any treaty changes. They suggest that the protocols might later be negotiated and approved by executive action.

5. Dutch opposition to French EDC protocols seen growing:

Ambassador Chapin at The Hague reports 3.3(h)(2)
that the Dutch Government is evidently seriously concerned over the implications of the EDC protocols proposed by the French.

A Dutch Foreign Ministry official stated that the ambiguities of the French texts necessitate further study and emphasized that the government feels unable to urge speedy parliamentary ratification of the treaty.

Comment: Earlier, it had been expected that the Netherlands would be one of the first countries to ratify the treaty, and the initial Dutch reaction to the protocols was "not unfavorable."

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