

SECRET

USSR-Czechoslovakia-Poland: Top-ranking Soviet military officers have been participating in the exercise taking place near Czechoslovakia's borders.

TASS announced yesterday that Soviet Defense Minister Grechko, Warsaw Pact commander Marshal Yakubovsky, and the Soviet Army's political chief, General Yepishev, were in Dresden on 13 August for the exercise. The pact chief of staff, Soviet General Shtemenko, was reported to be in Poland on 14 August.

Moscow probably is using the exercise as a vehicle for keeping large forces in the border areas in order to threaten Czechoslovakia. Yesterday, a travel restriction covering the southeast quadrant of East Germany was extended to 1 September. This indicates that Soviet and East German troops operating in this area are not preparing to return to their garrisons soon. This general area has been off limits to allied liaison mission personnel since shortly after Soviet troops began to move into it in May.

[Budapest radio announced yesterday that Hungarian and Soviet forces in Hungary are also conducting a joint communications exercise.]

25X1

16 Aug 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

SECRET