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USSR - West Germany: The latest Soviet propaganda assault on West Germany is likely to increase Bonn's anxiety, already heightened by the Czechoslovak crisis.

A Pravda article summarized by TASS yesterday restated the claim that the Potsdam agreement and the UN Charter legally empower the USSR and the three Western allies to act, "if the need arises," to check "the revival of German militarism and Nazism." Moscow has made both claims publicly before and has included them in Soviet diplomatic notes to Bonn. The Soviets cited the charter last November and again in July, and have increasingly referred to the Potsdam rights since late 1966.

The Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia, however, has lent additional impact to the current warning. The number of Soviet divisions deployed there and in East Germany has heightened nervousness in West Germany about Soviet military intentions. Moscow has also raised tensions in West Germany by seeking to place on Bonn the onus for the situation in Czechoslovakia. As a means of justifying Moscow's own actions, Soviet propaganda has seized on the activities of the right-wing National Democratic Party, current West German Army maneuvers, and Bonn's calls for a strengthening of NATO's military posture.

Moscow's attacks thus appear aimed at taking some of the heat off itself and at the same time restating its claim to a right to pass judgment on German political developments. Refutation of this Soviet position by the coordinated Allied statements published by the US, Britain, and France yesterday had been forecast in the Western press. The Pravda article clearly anticipated them. Moscow is likely to continue to use this line to counter diplomatic notes which the Allies are now preparing, protesting the use of East German troops in Czechoslovakia.

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19 Sep 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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