

December 8, 1989

East Germany: Who Controls the Guns?

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Summary:

An analysis of the resignation of the National Defense Council.

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Contents:

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~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

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The resignation of the entire National Defense Council on Wednesday has seriously weakened the Communist party's control of the military. Premier Modrow probably now is the nominal Commander in Chief of East Germany's military forces.

— He presumably exercises his authority through the new proreform Defense Minister, Admiral Hoffman.

The military has publicly expressed support for the internal changes and stressed that its role is to defend East Germany against external threats and not to prop up Communist authorities against popular opposition.

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

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6.2(d)

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