

East Germany: Pankow's efforts to justify its role in the invasion of Czechoslovakia have done little to mollify the public.

There are now apprehensive rumors among the populace that, as a result of the situation in Czechoslovakia, the East German military forces are to be enlarged, and that stricter limitations will be imposed on contacts with West Germans.

The media have been saturated with lame explanations of the "aid operation of the allied socialist forces," and the party has organized numerous "ideological-political orientation" sessions to browbeat cultural, literary, and youth groups. Pankow has placed particularly heavy pressure on church leaders to squelch opposition from that quarter. Some religious leaders had earlier defied the authorities openly on this matter.

These pressure tactics, however, apparently have failed to produce the desired results. Many people do not believe the official explanations and, despite a tightening of police controls, there have been sporadic cases of open defiance.

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16 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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