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THE IMPACT OF THE 1956 HUNGARIAN EVENTS ON THE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES

(Summary)

This article examines and analyzes the impact that the suppression of the Hungarian revolution by the Soviet Union in the fall of 1956 had on the authority, domestic and internal party situation of the West European communist parties. The analysis was carried out mainly on the basis of CIA documents, as well as scientific studies devoted to this topic. American intelligence reflects in detail the Western European public resonance of the events in Eastern Europe, including through articles reprinted from the Western newspapers. The research is constructed on several key points: the reaction of West European communist parties to Soviet actions in Hungary; the reaction of the European society and the pressure, which it exerted on the communist parties; the intra-party and domestic political problems of these parties and their consequences; the impact of the Suez Crisis on the degree of social indignation, directed against the Communist parties in the context of Hungarian events. The study includes little-known data that allow for clarification of the researched topic.

Keywords: West European communist parties, Hungarian uprising, CPSU, PCI, PCF.

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