

of East Germany, it seems quite likely that with German economic assistance they will leave in an even shorter period of time. The East German Defence and Disarmament Minister has already warned that anti-Soviet sentiments are growing in the country and a number of confrontations between Soviet troops and local people have occurred.<sup>110</sup>

From this, it can be argued that the enforced withdrawals from Eastern Europe were made easier for the Soviet Union because of its prior acceptance of the principles of reasonable sufficiency, and the earlier establishment of the precedent for unilateral withdrawals in the region. In some sense the Soviet Union had already acknowledged the fact that the presence of Soviet troops in Eastern European countries was no longer entirely legitimate, and that the country was capable of responding unilaterally to this. The December 1988 unilateral initiative was critical in this respect. In addition, the Soviet Union demonstrated that it could rigorously adhere to the principle of political means by rejecting the use of force to reestablish Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe.

### **The Evolution of Reasonable Sufficiency**

With the events in Eastern Europe, and with the increasingly chaotic domestic situation in the Soviet Union, it is possible to identify the beginning of a fourth phase in the development (and perhaps eventual demise) of the concept of reasonable sufficiency. In its development first as a political idea, and later as a military idea, the concept of reasonable sufficiency has become institutionalized as a normal part of the dialogue on security in the Soviet Union. However now because of the fast pace of events in Eastern Europe, and in the Soviet Union itself, the concept may eventually outlive its utility as a dynamic security concept for guiding the international policies of the Soviet Union. One of the most important aspects of the concept of reasonable sufficiency has been the emphasis on developing a type and structure of forces that would not threaten the West, while at the same time providing adequate, or sufficient, defence for the Soviet Union. Yet, in the present context, the issue has shifted almost

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<sup>110</sup> "Warning of Strife, East German Aide Urges Soviet Pullout", *IHT*, 6 July 1990, p. 2.