

overall behaviour of the Soviet system as it concerns relations with the West. These may be termed the sectarian, neo-Stalinist, and reform trends, and are outlined in Table 1. They consist of composite directions of policy on a series of related issues: dealings with the West, domestic political development, the future general line of the CPSU in foreign and domestic affairs, and policy toward security and cooperation in Europe. Attention is given to domestic politics, since in the relatively highly centralized Soviet system the international situation and the foreign policy of the regime are reciprocally related to the goals, prestige, missions, roles, and therefore interests of diverse segments of Soviet society. Foreign policy and domestic politics may of course be out of kilter at a given moment, as may Soviet policy on different issues in external affairs. But over a lengthy time period, the variations in Soviet behaviour sort out into three underlying trends.

It should be emphasized that we are dealing here with massive trends in system behaviour, and not with the orientations of individuals except insofar as the latter act as the bearers of a given tendency. Individuals may entertain views on domestic and foreign policy, for example, that are logically incompatible.⁵ Where leaders are concerned, they may also be of more than one mind as they seek to reconcile conflicting trends in Soviet policy. In addition it is quite