

**February 3, 1990**

**USSR: Estonians Call for Independence Negotiations**□□□

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**Summary:**

An analysis of Estonian movements for independence.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

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~~Top Secret~~

## NR Record

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In a meeting yesterday, Estonia's local and national legislators called for negotiations with the USSR Supreme Soviet to establish Estonian independence and appealed to the UN and to CSCE member nations for support. The unofficial group formed a negotiating commission and drew roughly 90 percent of Estonia's more than 4,300 legislators, virtually all of whom endorsed the declaration.

Nationalist leaders as recently as last month were asserting that the push for negotiations would come only after the Estonian Supreme Soviet election in March and a public referendum on the issue of independence.

**Comment:** Public support in Estonia for a more aggressive pursuit of independence is growing and apparently includes the backing of a significant proportion of ethnic Russians in the republic. Moscow probably will not go beyond a condemnation of the declaration. The Estonians are likely to press preparations for a congress of "citizens" in March—to be elected by more than 500,000 Estonians—which they hope will accelerate their push for independence.

~~Top Secret~~

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