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McGee Says U.S. May Not Reduce Europe Forces Even If Russia Does

TUTZING, Germany, July 14 (AP)—The United States will not necessarily reduce its armed forces in Germany if the Soviet Union decides to withdraw any groups from Communist East Germany, U.S. Ambassador George C. McGee said today.

"Moving forces 700 miles back to the Soviet Union is scarcely comparable to returning our forces to the continental United States," the Ambassador told a meeting of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Academy in this Bavarian town.

McGee said recent reports that the Russians intended to recall some of their 450,000

troops from East Germany have not been confirmed.

"On the contrary, available evidence indicates that the firepower of Soviet troops in East Germany is stronger than ever," he said. "Even if Soviet troop withdrawals did in fact take place, the reaction of the West would not necessarily involve automatic complementary withdrawals."

The United States has more than 200,000 soldiers and airmen scattered around southern, central and western Germany.

McGee also denied that the United States is so busy

fighting communism in Vietnam that it has neglected the interests of Western Europe.