

PTQ0168

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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6

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	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-01
	SNIS-00	NISC-01	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/063W

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P 141635Z APR 95  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8729  
INFO AMEMBASSY RIGA  
MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
CIS COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS  
AMEMBASSY TALLINN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 012623

E.O. 12356: DECL: 04/14/05  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PINR, RS  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS:  
APRIL 14, 1995 EDITION

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INTRODUCTION  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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1. (U) THE FOLLOWING CABLE IS PART OF A SERIES OF PERIODIC CABLES TRANSMITTING INFORMATION ON RUSSIAN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS WE HAVE NOT REPORTED ELSEWHERE. MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IS RUMOR OR SPECULATION AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CAUTION. WE ARE PASSING IT ON TO GIVE WASHINGTON READERS A BETTER FEEL FOR WHAT IS ON THE MINDS OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE RUSSIANS.  
END INTRODUCTION.

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MORE RUMORS ON YELTSIN'S SUCCESSOR  
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2. (LOU) A WELL-INFORMED SOURCE TELLS US THE OFT-REPEATED SCENARIO OF PRESIDENT YELTSIN NAMING A NEW PRIME MINISTER AND GROOMING HIM AS HEIR APPARENT IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. APPARENTLY, THERE ARE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE CANDIDATES THAT FIT THE PROFILE OF BEING ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH YELTSIN AND THE OPPOSITION: FORMER SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARY YURIY SKOKOV (THE PERENNIAL CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB) AND STATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION HEAD YURIY PETROV. PETROV HAS WORKED WITH YELTSIN SINCE THE LATTER'S SVERDLOVSK DAYS AND ONCE SERVED AS YELTSIN'S CHIEF OF STAFF IN MOSCOW. THEY ALLEGEDLY STILL MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES, ALTHOUGH IN AN INTERVIEW IN "OBSHCHAYA GAZETA" (6-12 APRIL), PETROV CLAIMS HE NOW SEES YELTSIN INFREQUENTLY AND NOTES HE IS CRITICAL OF YELTSIN'S POLICIES. PETROV IS ALSO THE FOUNDER OF THE REALIST CLUB, COMPOSED OF SOME 150 BUSINESSMEN AND REGIONAL LEADERS. THE CLUB HAS LAUNCHED A "REALISTS'  
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UNION." THE PURPOSE OF THE UNION IS NOT CLEAR, BUT MANY SPECULATE IT COULD BECOME A POLITICAL LAUNCHING PAD. IT IS ALREADY RAISING PETROV'S PROFILE AROUND TOWN.

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KALASHNIKOV VS. ZHIRINOVSKIY?  
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3. (LOU) SERGEY KALASHNIKOV, THE LDPR DUMA DEPUTY WHO

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[REDACTED]  
KALASHNIKOV IS CONSIDERING FORMING A  
FACTION OF "PRAGMATISTS" BASED ON HIS DUMA COMMITTEE.  
"THE PARTY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION" HAS BEEN SUGGESTED AS  
A WORKING TITLE FOR THE FACTION.

4. (LOU) [REDACTED] CLAIMS KALASHNIKOV IS A MAN TO  
WATCH. HE REPORTEDLY ENJOYS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH PRIME  
MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN AND FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
SOSKOVETS. HE WAS RECENTLY ASKED TO JOIN THE  
GOVERNMENT (POSITION UNSPECIFIED), ACCORDING TO

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[REDACTED] BUT REFUSED. KALASHNIKOV REPORTEDLY ARGUED  
THAT IF HE ENTERED THE GOVERNMENT AS AN LDPR  
REPRESENTATIVE IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO  
ENGINEER A BREAK WITH ZHIRINOVSKIY (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE  
ZHIRINOVSKIY WOULD RAISE A FUSS, WHICH WOULD THREATEN  
THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE LOSS OF MUCH NEEDED VOTES IN  
THE DUMA). KALASHNIKOV ALSO ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH  
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THE OIL INDUSTRY, IN WHICH HE ONCE WORKED, AND IS  
REPORTEDLY COUNTING ON ITS FINANCIAL BACKING.

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WHY SOME DEMOCRATS ARE IN TROUBLE  
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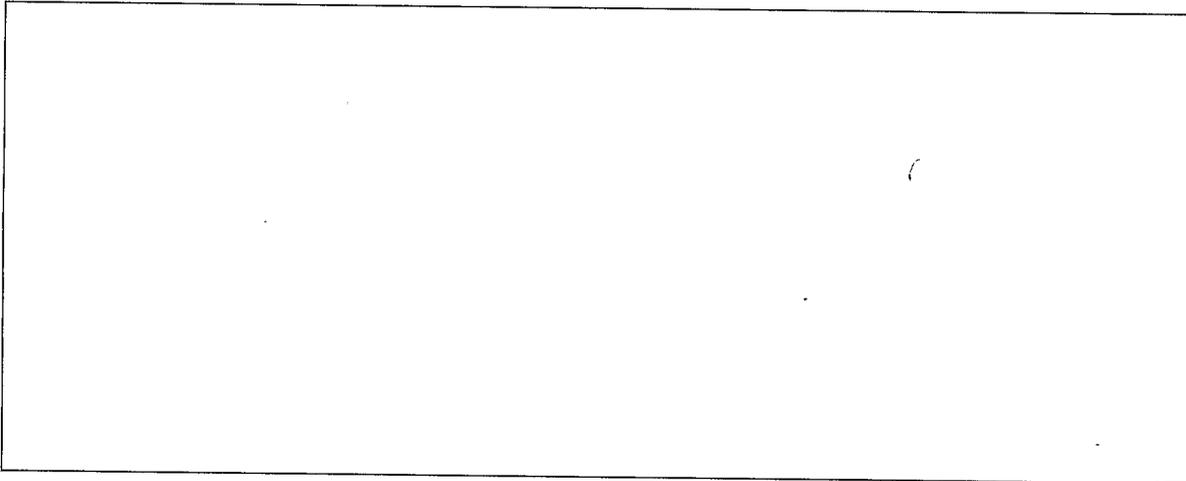
P 141635Z APR 95  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8730  
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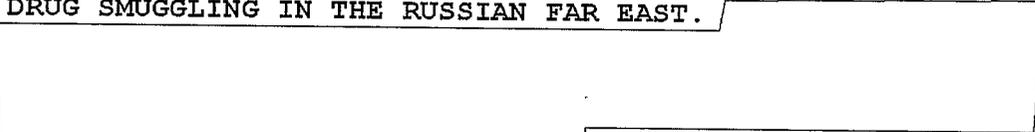
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FSS (EX-KGB) DEALS WITH ECONOMIC CRIME  
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6. (C) THE FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE (FSS) -- CALLED THE FEDERAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SERVICE (FSK) UNTIL IT WAS RECHRISTENED AND ITS POWERS EXPANDED IN A LAW SIGNED BY PRESIDENT YELTSIN IN EARLY APRIL -- HAS BEGUN TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN COMBATTING ECONOMIC CRIME, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHE. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN RECENT WEEKS HAS BEEN ARMS AND DRUG SMUGGLING IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST.



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CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS THE FSS STILL USES PART OF "THE LUBYANKA" -- THE BRIGHT YELLOW BUILDING ON LUBYANKA SQUARE THAT LONG HOUSED THE KGB. RECENTLY MOUNTED BRONZE PLAQUES OUTSIDE THE EDIFICE, HOWEVER, PROCLAIM THE BUILDING'S OTHER OCCUPANT, THE RUSSIAN BORDER GUARDS SERVICE.

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A SECOND GROZNYI INVASION?  
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7. (LOU) IN AN UPBEAT ARTICLE IN THE APRIL 13 ISSUE OF "THE MOSCOW TIMES," PAVEL FELGENGAUER, THE WELL-

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"SEGODNYA," PREDICTED THERE WILL BE NO GUERRILLA WAR IN  
CHECHNYA. NEITHER DZHOKHAR DUDAYEV, HE ARGUED, NOR HIS  
FIELD COMMANDERS, HAVE EXPERIENCE IN PARTISAN WARFARE.  
ACCORDING TO ONE EMBASSY CONTACT IN THE RUSSIAN  
MILITARY, HOWEVER, THAT JUDGMENT MAY BE PREMATURE.  
THIS OFFICER CLAIMS THAT MANY DUDAYEV LOYALISTS ARE  
PRETENDING TO SWITCH SIDES TO THE PRO-MOSCOW SALAMBEK  
KHADZHIYEV TO GAIN UNIMPEDED ENTRY BACK INTO THE  
CAPITAL AND CARRY ON THE WAR. "SOON THE RUSSIAN ARMY  
WILL HAVE TO INVADE A SECOND TIME," HE ADDED.

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THE WITHERING AWAY OF "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA"  
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8. (U) OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, POLOFF HAS  
WITNESSED THE RAPID DECLINE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S  
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOVIET ERA, "SOVETSKAYA  
ROSSIYA." WHEN POLOFF FIRST VISITED THE PAPER'S OFFICE  
IN THE LATE EIGHTIES IT WAS A BUSTLING PLACE, EMPLOYING  
SOME 250 PERSONS, WELL FINANCED BY THE CENTRAL  
AUTHORITIES. THE FAILED AUGUST PUTSCH, THE DEMISE OF  
COMMUNISM, AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION BROUGHT  
ON HARD TIMES. THE PAPER WAS CLOSED DOWN A FEW TIMES  
FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND ITS SUBSIDIES WERE  
DRASTICALLY CUT. "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA'S" OFFICES BEGAN  
TO SHOW THE SIGNS OF DECLINE: FIRST THE SECRETARIES  
DISAPPEARED, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WORKED IN THE EDITOR-  
IN-CHIEF'S OFFICE; THE NAME PLATES EVENTUALLY CAME OFF  
THE DOORS (AS JOURNALISTS DEPARTED); AND AN EERY CALM  
SET IN OVER THE ENTIRE OFFICE SPACE.

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9. (LOU) WHEN POLOFF RECENTLY VISITED [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SAID "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA" NOW EMPLOYED ONLY FIFTEEN PERSONS, "DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE." FINANCES WERE THE MAJOR PROBLEM. THE PAPER RECEIVED A MISERLY SUBSIDY FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND, [REDACTED] RECEIVED SEVERAL TIMES MORE FROM ITS "FRIENDS," PEOPLE WHO READ THE PAPER AND SENT IN TEN OR TWENTY THOUSAND RUBLES FROM TIME TO TIME TO KEEP THE PAPER AFLOAT. (THE CONTRIBUTORS ARE DULY ACKNOWLEDGED IN EACH EDITION). [REDACTED] HAD BROUGHT IN SOME ADDITIONAL REVENUE BY SELLING ADVERTISING SPACE TO THE MMM INVESTMENT FIRM AND GERMES, BUT EVENTUALLY, HE SAID, HAD TO GIVE UP THAT SOURCE IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING PROTEST FROM THE PAPER'S READERSHIP, WHICH DID NOT LOOK KINDLY UPON CAPITALIST ACTIVITIES SUCH AS ADVERTIZING (THE PAPER NOW CARRIES NO ADVERTIZEMENTS).

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BEASTS AGAINST BEASTLINESS  
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10. (LOU) WHILE THE TRADE UNIONS AND POLITICAL

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PARTIES SEEK TO AROUSE APATHETIC MUSCOVITES FOR VARIOUS  
 DEMONSTRATIONS, ONE WOMAN, [REDACTED] BELIEVES IT  
 MIGHT BE EASIER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE TO GET ANIMALS TO  
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 TAKE TO THE STREETS. IN ANY EVENT, SHE IS HOPING TO  
 ORGANIZE A MARCH OF "BEASTS AGAINST BEASTLINESS" (IT  
 SOUNDS BETTER IN RUSSIAN, "ZVERI PROTIV ZVERSTVA.") THE  
 IDEA IS TO HAVE ASSORTED ANIMALS (SOME DRAWN FROM THE  
 LOCAL ZOO) TO MARCH FROM PUSHKIN SQUARE TO MAYAKOVSKIY  
 SQUARE IN THE CENTER OF MOSCOW, HOPEFULLY AT THE END OF  
 MAY. THE ANIMALS WOULD BEAR SLOGANS CALLING FOR PEACE,  
 BROTHERHOOD, AND SO ON. STRANGE AS THIS IDEA MIGHT  
 SOUND, THE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IS APPARENTLY INTERESTED, AS IS THE RUSSIAN ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT "KEDR." THE MOSCOW AUTHORITIES HAVE, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT CLEANUP AFTER THE MARCH.

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[REDACTED] TO THE NEW RUSSIA  
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11. (C) IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT THE PLIGHT OF THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY, A [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF ABOUT THE JANITOR IN HIS EMBASSY WHO HOLDS AN ADVANCED DEGREE IN PHYSICS. THE JANITOR RECENTLY LET IT BE KNOWN TO HIS SUPERVISORS THAT HE COULD LAY HIS HANDS ON SOME NUCLEAR MATERIALS IF THERE WERE ANY BUYERS. TO HIS DISAPPOINTMENT, THERE WERE NONE.

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12. (LOU) THE DIPLOMAT, MEANWHILE, SAID HE IS TIRED OF HEARING AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS REFER TO RUSSIA'S POLITICAL CULTURE AS "ASIATIC" -- A COMMON SHORTHAND FOR RUSSIA'S CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRACY, PERSONALITY-BASED POLITICS, AND RAMPANT CORRUPTION. "WE'RE AN ASIATIC  
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COUNTRY AND WE'RE MUCH MORE EFFICIENTLY RUN THAN RUSSIA," HE SAID. "FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WE CATCH CRIMINALS WE DON'T LET THEM GO, WE HANG THEM." ON THE OTHER HAND," HE ADDED, "I'M QUITE SURE RUSSIA WILL BE HERE IN FIFTY YEARS, EVEN IF THE ECONOMY PROBABLY WON'T HAVE IMPROVED MUCH BY THEN. I'M NOT SURE IF [REDACTED] WILL STILL BE AROUND." MILES

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