

*** Document 47 of 25 for FBIS ***

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PDTG P 181553Z SEP 95

FM FM FBIS LONDON UK

TO TO RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA

RAYWBBK/DIO CANBERRA AS

RAYWBFA/ONA CANBERRA AS

RHDLONE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2//

RHEBAAA/DOE IOD WASH DC//DASI FOR RAINE//

RHEPAAAB/ACCIS LANGLEY AFB VA

RHEPAAA/UTAS RAMSTEIN AB GE//INOW//

RHFTAAA/OSIA EUROPE RHEIN MAIN AB GE

RHHMMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUALJDT/JDET YOKOTA AB JA

RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA

RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA//DIIC//

RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//

RUCOPKA/COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC//J2//

RUCOXAQ/FITRON ONE ZERO ONE//320//

RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA//POLCH//

RUDKMKB/FBIS LONDON UK//BBC//

RUDKTA/AMEMBASSY TALLINN

RUDMONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//

RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC

RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC

RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//OIS//

RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA

RUEALGX/DEFINTAGENCY WASH DC

RUEBFGA/VOA WASHINGTON DC

RUEDADA/AFIA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC

RUEDADA/AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/CIE//

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK

RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA

RUERWAA/DIR OPERATIONS GROUP CARISLE BKS PA

RUESDJ/FBIS OKINAWA JA

RUESEV/FBIS VIENNA AU

RUESFW/FBIS WARSAW PL

RUESMF/FBIS MOSCOW RS

RUETIAV/MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD

RUFDBJA/CDR USASETAF VICENZA IT//AESE-CMO//

RUEGARD/USCINCEUR INTEL VAIHINGEN GE

RUFQBBA/US SURVEY SEC SHAPE BE

RUFTAKA/UCIRF AUGSBURG GE

RUHBABA/CG III MEF//G-2//

RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INO//

RUWSMXI/USCINCTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//J2-O/J2-J//

RUWTAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//TAI//

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RXDBHW/CINCNORTHWEST UAJ

RXFNDA/COMNORTH//JOINTINT//

RXFPSH/SHAPE BE//PIO//

RXFPSH/SHAPE BE//UAJ//

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Approved for Release

2/2010

COPY TO [REDACTED]

COUN COUNTRY: BELARUS

SUBJ SUBJ: RED TAPE PREDICTED TO HAMPER BALLOON DOWNING INQUIRY

SOUR SOURCE: MOSCOW IZVESTIYA IN RUSSIAN 16 SEP 95 P 3

TEXT TEXT:

(((REPORT BY VLADIMIR MIKHEYEV: "BEFORE TAKING OFF, A U.S. BALLOONIST SAID THIS RACE WOULD BE HIS LAST"))

((FBIS TRANSLATED EXCERPT)) FOUR DAYS ON, IT IS POSSIBLE TO FORECAST QUITE CONFIDENTLY THAT THE INVESTIGATION WHICH HAS BEGUN INTO THE DEATHS OF TWO U.S. PILOTS OF THE BALLOON DOWNED BY A BELARUSIAN AIR DEFENSE HELICOPTER TUESDAY IN THE REGION OF OSOVTSY MILITARY AIRFIELD WILL INEVITABLY COME UP AGAINST A MUDDLE OF PAPERS AND A BUREAUCRATIC LACK OF COORDINATION ON THE PART OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

AN INVESTIGATION WILL HAVE TO BE CONDUCTED INTO WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS KNOWN IN BELARUS THAT FOREIGN BALLOONISTS MIGHT BE FLYING OVER BELARUS. IF IT WAS, WERE THOSE OFFICIALS WHO, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR JOBS, ARE MEANT TO BE INFORMED ACTUALLY NOTIFIED OF THE PROBABLE *APPEARANCE OF "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS" IN THEIR SOVEREIGN AIRSPACE?

INCIDENTALLY, THE LAST POINT COULD ALSO BE THE SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION: IS IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN A GAILY COLORED BALLOON, WITH A HEAVY BASKET, AND ANOTHER AIRCRAFT? THIS QUESTION IS APPROPRIATE, BECAUSE COLONEL LAZER, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF AIR DEFENSE IN CHARGE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, ORIGINALLY MAINTAINED THAT A METEOROLOGICAL OR OTHER KIND OF SONDE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE FOR EFFECT.

THERE IS ALSO CONFUSION IN THE CHRONOLOGY OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE BELARUSIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL AERONAUTICAL FEDERATION, WHICH IS OBLIGED TO WARN OF TRANSNATIONAL FLIGHTS BY ITS BALLOONISTS. THE FEDERATION INFORMED MINSK BACK IN MARCH OF THE LONG-DISTANCE FLIGHT COMPETITION THAT WAS BEING PREPARED, VALERIY TSYAPKALA, BELARUSIAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DECLARED. ANOTHER DEPUTY HEAD OF THE FOREIGN POLICY DEPARTMENT -- PETR BELYAYEV -- MAINTAINED THAT THE NAVIGATION SERVICES HAD RECEIVED NOTIFICATION IN MAY.

REUTERS REPORTED THAT AN EXECUTIVE ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL -- YURIY SIVAKOV -- IN TURN RELATED THAT BACK IN JULY MINSK HAD LINKED ITS CONSENT TO THE PROVISION OF "NOTIFICATION" OF THE ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL KIND. ACCORDING TO SIVAKOV, HOWEVER, "WE DID NOT RECEIVE SUCH NOTIFICATION AND DID NOT GIVE THE ORGANIZERS (OF THE COMPETITION) FORMAL PERMISSION."

THIS CLAIM IS INSOLUBLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE POSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AERONAUTICAL FEDERATION. A SPECIAL STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN ITS NAME BY THE ORGANIZER OF THE GORDON BENNETT-95 RACE -- THE SWISS AERoclub -- STATES THAT IT HAD "RECEIVED ALL THE NECESSARY PERMITS TO ENTER THE AIRSPACE OF BELARUS," TO WHICH THEY HAD PASSED A PRECISE INDICATION OF THE ROUTE.

STRICTLY SPEAKING, IT IS NOT EASY TO PREDICT WHERE THE PREVAILING WINDS WILL BLOW BALLOONS. THE GERMANS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO WON THE RACE, LANDED IN LATVIA BECAUSE THEY STAYED IN THE AIR FOR 92 HOURS. THE AUSTRIANS FLEW ON TO UKRAINE. ANOTHER THREE U.S. CREWS FOUND THEMSELVES INSIDE BELARUS, AND TWO OF THEM LANDED SAFELY ON TERRA FIRMA THEMSELVES.

LANCES ARE ALREADY BEING BROKEN OVER WHETHER THE CASUALTIES COULD HAVE HAD TIME TO TRANSMIT THEIR IDENTIFICATION SIGNALS. THEY HAD AT THEIR DISPOSAL INSTRUMENTS ENABLING THEM TO FIX THEIR LOCATION AND TO MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS. IN PARTICULAR, THEY HAD MULTICHANNEL RADIO TRANSMITTERS AND A SYSTEM OF SOLAR BATTERIES FOR THEM. THIS WOULD SEEM TO SWEEP ASIDE THE VERSION PUT FORWARD BY RUTH LUDWIG OF THE BALLOON FEDERATION OF AMERICA, WHO ASSUMED, SO AP REPORTED, THAT THE AMERICANS' POWER

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SUPPLY HAD COME TO AN END -- THE BATTERIES WERE FLAT. ((PASSAGE OMITTED))

THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS VOICED SEVERE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE FACT THAT MINSK KEPT QUIET ABOUT THE INCIDENT FOR 24 HOURS AND THEN CONFINED ITSELF TO AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET, WITHOUT EXPRESSING REPENTANCE OR MAKING A FORMAL APOLOGY. AS STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MIKE MCCURRY FORMULATED WASHINGTON'S POSITION, "WE POSSESS INDIRECT EVIDENCE WHICH MIGHT ENABLE US TO MAKE THE ASSUMPTION THAT THIS TRAGIC MISTAKE NEED NOT HAVE HAPPENED." WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS SO HAS TO BE ASCERTAINED IN THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION.

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(ENDALL) 16 SEP [REDACTED] 18/1557Z SEP [REDACTED] 646

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