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PAGE:0094

INQUIRE=DOC14D  
ITEM NO=00234782

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX441 MCN = 91103/03011 TOR = 911030131  
RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS2712 1030132-UUUU--RUEALGX.  
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 130132Z APR 91  
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
INFO RUEALGX/SAFE  
R 121421Z APR 91  
FM FBIS LONDON UK  
TO RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA  
RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC  
RUEBFGA/VOA WASH DC  
RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/SEE/SI//  
RUEKJCS/DEFINTAGENCY WASH DC  
RUEOACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//  
RUETIAV/MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD  
RUFHVOA/VOA MUNICH GE  
RUMJBP/FBIS OKINAWA JA  
ACCT FBILD-EWDR  
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS 3S/PMU/SU

SERIAL: LD1204142191

BODY

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: 'STRANGE ROAR' PRECEDES 'MYSTERIOUS BLAST' IN SASOVO

SOURCE: MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 1303 GMT 12 APR 91

TEXT:

///((BY TASS CORRESPONDENT ANATOLIY KAKOVKIN))

((TEXT)) SASOVO, RYAZAN REGION IN CENTRAL RUSSIA APRIL 12 TASS --  
A SHATTERING EXPLOSION SHOOK THIS SMALL TOWN IN THE HEART OF RUSSIA  
SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT TODAY, KNOCKING OUT MOST WINDOWS AND LEAVING  
SOME LOCALS SLIGHTLY INJURED BY SPLINTERED GLASS.

ACCORDING TO EARLY REPORTS, NO-ONE WAS SERIOUSLY HURT BY THE  
MYSTERIOUS BLAST, WHICH TOOK PLACE JUST OUTSIDE SASOVO IN THE RYAZAN  
REGION AT 01:30.

THOSE LIVING IN HIGH-RISES FELT THE BUILDINGS ROCK HEAVILY AS IF  
HIT BY AN EARTHQUAKE, BUT NO DAMAGE TYPICAL OF EARTH TREMORS WAS  
REGISTERED.

THE EXPLOSION, PRECEDED BY A STRANGE ROAR, LEFT A HUGE CRATER IN  
A FIELD 1.5 KILOMETERS FROM THE TOWN. THE CRATER IS 3.5 METERS DEEP  
AND 28 METERS IN DIAMETER.

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Approved for Release  
Date SEP 1997

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PAGE:0095

EXPERTS FROM THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON EMERGENCIES RUSHED TO THE SITE TO EXPLORE IT AND TAKE GROUND AND ATMOSPHERIC SAMPLES. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, DETECT ANY CHANGES IN EITHER RADIATION LEVELS OR THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THE AIR.

THE MILITARY, FOR THEIR PART, REPORTED NO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS OVER THE AREA.

THE UNUSUAL FORM OF THE CRATER, WHICH HAS A BIG BUMP RIGHT IN ITS CENTRE, AS WELL AS LARGE CHUNKS OF EARTH REMAINING UNBROKEN ALMOST RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A BOMB BLAST OR THE EXPLOSION OF AN ARTILLERY SHELL, ACCORDING TO SASOVO MAYOR A. ROZHROV.

HE TOLD TASS IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW THAT SCRAPS OF PAPER BAGS FOUND NEARBY SUGGEST THAT SOME SALTPETER, WHICH CAN SELF-EXPLODE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, MIGHT HAVE BEEN STORED IN THE FIELD AND GONE UP IN THE AIR.

THE FINAL CONCLUSION IS EXPECTED FROM THE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE INVESTIGATING THE BLAST.

ADMIN

(ENDALL) 12130 [REDACTED] 3/0023Z APR

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