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*** Document 25 of 25 for FBS5 ***

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RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
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RUCXNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINVSERV WASHINGTON DC
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//214#//
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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL,

SERI SERIAL: CEP2###112####188

COUN COUNTRY: RUSSIA

TAKE 1 OF 2--RUSSIAN ARMY LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE, APPOINTMENTS, OTHER EVENTS OUTLINED

SOUR SOURCE: MOSCOW MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS IN RUSSIAN 16 NOV 88

TEXT TEXT:

SUBJ SUBJ:

[ARTICLE BY VIKTOR SOKIRKO: "DISPOSITION OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY" -- TAKEN FROM HTML VERSION OF SOURCE PROVIDED BY ISP]
[FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT] GENERAL COURSE

THE RUSSIAN TOP MILITARY LEADERSHIP MEETS ONCE A YEAR -- AT THE TRADITIONAL TRAINING COURSE CONDUCTED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER. THIS IS A KIND OF SUMMARIZING AND AWARD-GIVING EVENT WHERE CURRENT MATTERS ARE DISCUSSED. THE POWERFUL GENERALS? THINK TANK IS FORMED BY CHIEF COMMANDERS OF BRANCHES AND TYPES OF THE ARMED FORCES, CHIEFS OF THE MAIN AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIONS, AND COMMANDERS OF DISTRICTS AND FLEETS. IT IS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE GENERAL STAFF CHIEF, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THE OLD ANTAGONISTS, MARSHAL IGOR SERGEYEV AND GENERAL ANATOLIY KVASHIN, WILL CONDUCT THE JOINT WORK THIS TIME. MAYBE THEY WILL TRADITIONALLY HOLD SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS "IN SECTIONS?"

A DISTINGUISHING FEATURE OF THE PRESENT COURSE, WHICH STARTED IN MOSCOW AND THEN CONTINUED IN TVER, IS THAT IT WILL EXAMINE REFORM PLANS FOR THE ARMY (A DECISION TO REDUCE IT WAS MADE RECENTLY BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING CHAIRED BY VLADIMIR PUTIN). THE ARMY WILL HAVE TO SHRINK BY 365,000 PEOPLE AND ALL GENERALS

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WILL PROBABLY BE PULLING THE BLANKET TO THEIR OWN SIDE BECAUSE NONE OF THEM FEELS LIKE SHRINKING. THE MOST VEHEMENT DEBATE WILL CONCERN THE STRATEGIC MISSILE TROOPS [SMT], WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL STAFF'S PLANS, WILL HAVE TO BE "DRIED AND SHAKEN UP" AND DELEGATED TO THE AIR FORCE. SMT CHIEF COMMANDER VLADIMIR YAKOVLEV WILL NATURALLY MOUNT FEROCIOUS OPPOSITION.

YET, NO SENSATIONS ARE EXPECTED AT THE CURRENT COURSE: THE GENERALS HAVE ALREADY ACCUSTOMED THEMSELVES TO THE THOUGHT OF THE UPCOMING REDUCTION.

THE COSSACK DANCE

THE GROUP OF DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTERS HAS BEEN EXPANDED: PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN ISSUED AN EDICT APPOINTING MIKHAIL DMITRIYEV DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER IN CHARGE OF ARMS EXPORTS.

DMITRIYEV, A GENERAL FROM THE SVR [FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE], PREVIOUSLY HELD THE POST OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY. THE 53-YEAR-OLD GENERAL, A MGIMO [MOSCOM STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS] GRADUATE, WORKED MANY YEARS AS A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND IS MIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE A TECHNOCRAT. RUMOR HAS IT THAT HIS APPOINTMENT AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WAS LOBBIED BY PRIME MINISTER KASYANOV, AS A RESULT OF WHICH MIKHAIL DMITRIYEV'S CANDIDACY WAS FAVORED OVER THAT OF FIRST INDUSTRY DEPUTY MINISTER GRIGORIY RAPOTA (FORMER ROSVOORUZHENIYE HEAD), WHO WAS SUPPORTED BY SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARY SERGEY IVANOV.

DMITRIYEV'S FATE WAS FINALLY DECIDED BY PRESIDENT PUTIN, WHO RETAINED HIS CONTROL OVER ARMS TRADE AND KEPT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ILYA KLEBANOV AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS AWAY FROM THIS SIGNIFICANT SECTOR EVEN DURING THE CREATION OF THE HOLDING COMPANY ROSOBORONEKSPORT. NOW, THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO HAVE DETERMINED HIS POSITION ON THE CHIEF ARMS SPECIALIST, WHO COMES FROM THE SVR.

THE BORDER ZONE

GENERAL KONSTANTIN TOTSKIY, DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BORDER SERVICE, MAS FORCED TO CHANGE HIS PLANS URGENTLY THIS MEEK. INSTEAD OF A SCHEDULED VISIT TO LATVIA [COUNTRY AS PUBLISHED], HE BOARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRPLANE FLYING OFF TO MONGOLIA. THE CHIEF BORDER SERVICEMAN DID NOT REPLACE THE CONVENIENT AND STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT BALTIC REGION WITH THE CALM MONGOLIA OF HIS OWN FREE WILL. THE PRESIDENT, WHO FREQUENTLY TAKES GENERAL TOTSKIY ALONG ON HIS TRIPS TO THE RUSSIAN BORDER REGIONS, WANTED TO HAVE A CONSULTANT BORDER SERVICEMAN AROUND THIS TIME ALSO. JUST IN CASE.

INSTEAD OF KONSTANTIN TOTSKIY, HIS FIRST DEPUTY, COLONEL GENERAL ALEKSEY KOZHEVNIKOV, FLEW TO LITHUANIA. NOBODY CANCELED THE MEETINGS WITH LITHUANIAN POWER OFFICIALS, BUT THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE DOCUMENTS THAT WERE PLANNED TO BE SIGNED AND WHICH CAN ONLY BE SIGNED BY TOP OFFICIALS WILL ACTUALLY BE SIGNED?

THE DEPARTURE

AN UNUSUAL EMERGENCY SITUATION OCCURRED ON THE RUSSIAN-AZERBAIJANI BORDER IN DAGESTAN: THE BORDER WAS VIOLATED BY... A UFO. AN UNIDENTIFIED TARGET WAS NOTICED OVER THE MOUNTAINS AT THE HEIGHT OF ABOUT 198 METERS AFTER MIDNIGHT. THE BORDER SERVICEMEN WATCHED THE OBJECT, WHICH DID NOT RESEMBLE EITHER A ROCKET OR A PROJECTILE AND WHICH MIGHT HAVE FLOWN FROM THE CHECHEN SIDE, WHILE EYEMITNESSES WATCHED THREE BRIGHT FIRES AT A DISTANCE OF TWO METERS FROM EACH OTHER.

ONE COULD THINK THAT THE BORDER DETACHMENT WAS IN, LET US SAY, INADEQUATE CONDITION AND COULD HAVE SEEN EVEN STRANGER THINGS IN THE NIGHT SKY (THE FAMOUS DERBENT COGNAC PLANT IS LOCATED NEARBY). HOWEVER, THE UFO WAS ALSO NOTICED BY BORDER DETAILS FROM TWO POSTS ON THE SAME STRETCH NEAR THE SETTLEMENTS OF KAZMALYAR AND NOVYY FILYA IN MAGARAMKENTSKIY RAYON OF DAGESTAN. STRANGELY, THEIR INFORMATION RAISED INTEREST OF THE RELEVANT SERVICES, WHICH SET OUT TO CHECK THIS FACT. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE UFO COULD HAVE BEEN A LIGHT-ENGINE AIRPLANE USED BY THE CHECHEN GUNMEN TO SHIP AMMUNITION ACROSS THE BORDER. FLYING AT NIGHT IN THE RARE AIR AND WITH ITS ENGINE TURNED OFF, THE AIRPLANE COULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE A UFO TO THE VIGILANT BORDER SERVICEMEN.

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