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Headline: Moscow Air Defense To Be Downsized, Receive Su-27's

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Subslug: [Dmitriy Kholodov report: ``Holiday Treats. Waiting for a
 Matthias Rust'']

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Dmitriy Kholodov report: ``Holiday Treats. Waiting for a
 Matthias Rust'']

2. [Text] Today the Moscow air defense system [PVO] can cope with over 1,000 aircraft and cruise missiles of a potential foe. The system's effectiveness has been demonstrated by the latest tactical exercise during which out of 27 targets, 26 were destroyed. In the near future, however, the PVO's combat capacity around Moscow will be reduced by 10 to 15 percent following cutbacks in missile and aviation units. The southern (!) flank will be affected most.

3. We are taking great pleasure in presenting this absolutely confidential information to the public in honor of a holiday-PVO Day. May our enemies beware, because soon not only cruise missiles, but even the notorious Rust will not get through to the glorious capital.

4. Our Moscow skies will now be guarded by new aircraft- Su-27's. Pilots at the Bezhetskiy PVO air regiment got them back in November, and they will start operating them beginning 1 August. Ten aircraft are brand-new. The others are from Latvia, Georgia, and Uzbekistan.

5. This aircraft is remarkable for its outstanding performance. Russian air aces, performing demonstration flights, proved this convincingly: The machine is versatile and the rigid laws of physics can therefore be disregarded. It flies vertically upward and vertically downward, upside down, and on its side. In a fit of enthusiasm, the pilot put on a real top-class show: His Su-27 moved in for a landing, did not land, but after bouncing some on its rear wheels, without touching the ground with its front ones, it took off again.

6. Two squadrons in the Bezhetskiy regiment have been treated to the Su-27's. God loves a trinity, and so there will be a third one. Soon several Su-27's will fly to Astrakhan. There on a state testing range

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the planes will do a little shooting, and then return to Moscow. The entire journey will be made without landing or refueling.

7. In honor of the holiday Moscow PVO district commander Anatoliy Kornukhov organized a press conference, where the above super-secret facts were presented. Responding to a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS question about when the PVO had last detected a UFO, the commander said that although the radars did not pick them up, in 1989 he witnessed a strange disappearance without a trace of the most advanced interceptor, which was flown by an experienced pilot. During that time a UFO sighting was reported.

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