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AFSN OW0111135692

DDAT 921023

SLIN Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0945 GMT 23 Oct 92

SUBS [From the "Kray News" program

SUBJ Search Continues for Downed Su-27 Pilot

Full Text Superzone of Message

- 1]
- 2 [Text] The fruitless search for Vladimir Molokanov, a military pilot who went missing on 24 July near the Okhotsk Sea coast, has been going on for three months. On that day, Captain Molokanov, pilot first class, was returning in an Su-27 from the site of anti aircraft and missile training in Chukotka. However, he did not reach his regiments's airfield in Komsomolsk-Na-Amure. Contact with the interceptor was suddenly lost at noon local time, when it was in the area of the Shantarskiye Islands. Various explanations for the incident have been offered -- an accident, loss of consciousness by the pilot, escape abroad, and abduction by a UFO. But none of these have been confirmed as yet.
- 3 Aleksandr Nosov, head of the search team, said that the search in the area where the supposed accident occurred, an analysis of radio exchanges with the pilot, and an examination of the extraordinary event by experts so far have yielded no results. The only prevalent explanation is an accident. On its way home the jet suffered a failure in the regulators of both engines, but since it was possible to continue flight with such a malfunction, this was what Molokanov was advised to do. No confirmation for any other explanation has been found.
- 4 As for an escape abroad, both foreign and military intelligence and the diplomatic corps have carried out an investigation. No trace was found of the vanished Su-27 in Japan, the United States or South Korea.
- 5 This is the second time that a military pilot has mysteriously disappeared from this air regiment. (endall) 230945 [REDACTED] 130111.011 [REDACTED]
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