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/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

PASS: ATTN BBC PRESS
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COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2--LEGAL OFFICIAL ON DEFENSE, SECURITY ISSUES

SOURCE: MOSCOW ARGUMENTY I FAKTY IN RUSSIAN NO 18, MAY 92 PP 1, 2
 TEXT:

//((INTERVIEW WITH A. KOTENKOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA IN CHARGE OF QUESTIONS OF SECURITY AND DEFENSE, BY ARGUMENTY I FAKTY CORRESPONDENT A. UGLANOV; PLACE AND DATE NOT GIVEN: "ON THE THIRD STRATEGIC LINE"))

((TEXT)) ((BEGIN BOLD))A DECREE ON THE CREATION OF A RUSSIAN ARMY HAS JUST BEEN SIGNED. BUT IT WILL BE SOME TIME YET BEFORE ALL SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS MARCH UNDER NEW BANNERS AND, PERHAPS, CHANGE UNIFORM. MEANWHILE THE ARMY LIVES IN THE PRESENT. OUR CORRESPONDENT A. UGLANOV MET WITH A. KOTENKOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA IN CHARGE OF QUESTIONS OF SECURITY AND DEFENSE.((END BOLD))

((UGLANOV)) ARE YOU AWARE THAT OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE BEGUN TO

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DISPLAY CONCERN IN CONNECTION WITH THE REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES FROM GERMANY TOWARD THEIR BORDERS?

((KOTENKOV)) UNTIL RECENTLY OUR DEFENSE WAS DEPLOYED FULLY WESTWARD AND WAS CONSTRUCTED IN ECHELONMENT IN DEPTH. THE FIRST ATTACK ECHELON WAS DEPLOYED IN THE GDR, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND HUNGARY. IT HAS NOW PRACTICALLY DISAPPEARED. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE SECOND ATTACK ECHELON. THIS WAS THE BALTIC, BYELARUS, AND UKRAINE. IT ALSO, AS IS KNOWN, IS BEING WOUND DOWN. THE THIRD WAS ON THE TERRITORY OF RUSSIA AND WAS HELD IN RESERVE. IT WAS CONTEMPLATED DEPLOYING IT IN A PERIOD OF THE THREAT OF OR IN THE EVENT OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF WAR. WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE BORDER SHOULD BE LIQUIDATED. AND IT IS PERFECTLY NATURAL THAT THE FORCES WHICH ARE BEING WITHDRAWN ARE BEING DEPLOYED EVENLY THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OF THE EUROPEAN PART OF RUSSIA, STARTING FROM THE KOLA PENINSULA.

((UGLANOV)) IN CONNECTION WITH THE FACT THAT THE CAUCASUS HAS BECOME AN EXPLOSIVE REGION FOR RUSSIA, IS SOME ARMED BARRIER ON THE BORDER OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF RUSSIA AND THE CAUCASUS BEING FORMED?

((KOTENKOV)) UNDOUBTEDLY. IT IS NOT A QUESTION, OF COURSE, OF THE PURPOSEFUL CREATION OF SOME MILITARIZED BARRIER, AS YOU PUT IT. THE FORCES BEING WITHDRAWN FROM THE WEST ARE BEING DEPLOYED MORE OR LESS EVENLY FROM THE KOLA PENINSULA TO NORTH CAUCASUS. IT IS, THEREFORE, PERFECTLY NATURAL THAT NEWCOMER UNITS WILL BE DEPLOYED IN STAVROPOL, KRASNODAR KRAY, AND ROSTOV OBLAST.

POINT TWO: IT IS A FACT THAT THE SITUATION IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS IS NOT IMPROVING IN THE LEAST. THE FORCES (UNDER RUSSIA'S JURISDICTION) STATIONED THERE ARE IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE EQUIPMENT AND ARMS AND ATTACKS ON THE ARMY UNITS CONTINUE. OUR PEOPLE ARE DYING. AN OFFICER OF OURS DIED QUITE RECENTLY IN TBILISI, AS A RESULT OF WHICH THERE WAS QUITE SERIOUS UNREST AMONG THE STUDENTS OF AN ACADEMY, OF WHICH HE WAS A GRADUATE. THE QUESTION IS: UNLESS THE UNLAWFUL ACTIONS AGAINST OUR FORCES IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS CEASE, IT WILL, MOST LIKELY, BE NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW THEM. NOT TO SIBERIA OR THE FAR EAST, NATURALLY. THE ASSIGNMENTS CONFRONTING THEM WOULD BE THE SAME. THE FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN THE VICINITY OF THE CAUCASUS.

((UGLANOV)) WHEN, ACCORDING TO YOUR FORECASTS, WILL THE BORDER FORCES FROM OTHER REPUBLICS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE BORDERS BETWEEN THEM AND RUSSIA?

((KOTENKOV)) I WOULD LIKE TO SPECIFY IMMEDIATELY THAT WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN RUSSIA HAVING FULL-SCALE, ARMY-PROTECTED BORDERS ON OUR TERRITORY. IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT PRACTICALLY ONE-THIRD OF THE RUSSIAN POPULATION LIVES IN THESE REPUBLICS, AND DRAWING BORDERS BETWEEN US IS, AT THE LEAST, IMMORAL. AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGEOUS BESIDES. BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE LOSING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF RUBLES ON ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT WE LACK FULL-FLEDGED BORDERS.

SO WE ARE CURRENTLY CONFRONTED WITH FOUR TASKS. FIRST, THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL-SCALE BORDERS, GUARDED BY TROOPS AND WITH CUSTOMS POSTS AND VISA CONTROL, WITH THE BALTIC STATES. IT IS THE ABSENCE OF SUCH BORDERS WHICH IS CAUSING US THE GREATEST

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ECONOMIC HARM. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE BORDERS HERE THAT WHAT WE COULD OURSELVES BE SELLING OVERSEAS AT WORLD PRICES, THE BALTS ARE SELLING. AND OBTAINING COLOSSAL PROFIT HERE, AND WE ARE LOSING OUT.

THE SECOND TASK: A SOLUTION OF THE QUESTION WITH THE STATES WHICH HAVE DECIDED ON THE CREATION OF THEIR OWN BORDER FORCES. THESE ARE PRIMARILY UKRAINE, AZERBAIJAN, AND MOLDOVA. THEY DO NOT GUARANTEE OBSERVANCE OF COMMON BORDER PRACTICES. AZERBAIJAN, FOR INSTANCE, HAS ESTABLISHED SIMPLIFIED PASSAGE ACROSS THE BORDER WITH IRAN AND TURKEY. MOLDOVA HAS ESTABLISHED THE SAME CONDITIONS WITH ROMANIA. AS A RESULT THE CITIZENS OF THESE STATES CAN GET TO THE TERRITORY OF AZERBAIJAN AND MOLDOVA FREELY, WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY. GIVEN THE COMPLETE ABSENCE OF BORDERS WITH US, THEY ARE MOVING FURTHER AND DOING AS THEY PLEASE. WE ALREADY HAVE EXAMPLES OF CITIZENS OF IRAN AND TURKEY HAVING MOVED FREELY AROUND THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER USSR AND, TO OUR GREAT REGRET, NOT ALWAYS WITH PEACEFUL PURPOSES. UNLESS THESE STATES CAN GUARANTEE OBSERVANCE OF A COMMON BORDER REGIME, WE MUST DECIDE THE QUESTION OF ITS CLOSURE.

THE THIRD TASK IS RELATIONS WITH THE STATES WHICH ARE FORMING THEIR OWN BORDER FORCES, BUT WHICH AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON BORDERS REGIME. THESE ARE BYELARUS AND UZBEKISTAN. WE HAVE GOOD ENOUGH RELATIONS WITH THEM, AND, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THEY ARE PREPARED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SOME COMMON COORDINATING BODY TO ESTABLISH AND OBSERVE A SINGLE EXTERNAL BORDER REGIME.

AND, FINALLY, THE FOURTH TASK--OUR RELATIONS WITH STATES NOT FORMING THEIR OWN BORDER FORCES. THESE ARE AT THE PRESENT TIME ARMENIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, AND TURKMENISTAN.

((UGLANOV)) HAVE TACTICAL AND OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM THE TRANSCAUCASUS? I HAVE INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE STILL THERE.

((KOTENKOV)) NO, THESE WEAPONS WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THERE LONG AGO, LAST YEAR. BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THEY WERE THERE.

((UGLANOV)) YOU ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT IN CRIMEA GENERAL KUZNETSOV, WHO DISAGREES WITH HIS DISMISSAL, HAS DECLARED A HUNGER STRIKE.

/***** BEGINNING OF TAKE 002 *****/

REF: 924C1462A MOSCOW ARGUMENTY I FAKTY IN RUSSIAN NO 18, MAY 92
PP 1, 2 ///A HUNGER STRIKE.

SOURCE: MOSCOW ARGUMENTY I FAKTY IN RUSSIAN NO 18, MAY 92 PP 1, 2
TEXT:

((KOTENKOV)) WE SIMPLY HAVE NO INFLUENCE HERE, UNFORTUNATELY. ONLY BY WAY OF NEGOTIATIONS. BUT FROM THE PURELY HUMAN STANDPOINT GENERAL KUZNETSOV'S BEHAVIOR CAN ONLY BE WELCOMED. WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THE QUESTION: "ARE YOU PREPARED TO FIGHT RUSSIA?" IS STANDARD AT THE TIME OF OFFICER CERTIFICATION IN UKRAINE.

((UGLANOV)) AND IS THIS QUESTION BEING PUT TO RUSSIAN OFFICERS?

((KOTENKOV)) THIS IS PRECISELY THE POINT, AFTER ALL, KUZNETSOV IS

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A RUSSIAN OFFICER. IT IS A PROVOCATIVE QUESTION. BUT SUCH ACTIONS ARE NOT ONLY BEING ADDRESSED TO SPECIFIC PERSONS. THE ORGAN OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, UKRAINSKI OBRII, WRITES AS FOLLOWS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE ANDREYEV FLAG, WHICH IS SACRED FOR THE RUSSIAN SAILOR: "FOR 200 YEARS THE ANDREYEV FLAG COVERED UP THE ROTTENNESS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE. NOW THEY WANT IT TO COVER UP THE CRETINISM OF THE CIS. ENOUGH!"

BUT, GENERALLY SPEAKING, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF ADOPTING A HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD RUSSIA. WE MAY SPEAK, THEREFORE, OF A WHOLLY NEGLIGIBLE, RECKLESS GROUP OF UKRAINIAN NATIONALISTS, CHIEFLY OF A WESTERN UKRAINIAN PERSUASION. AND UNLESS THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE IN THE PRESENT POLICY COURSE, I BELIEVE THAT BIG INTERNAL UPHEAVALS AWAIT UKRAINE.

((UGLANOV)) ARE CONSCRIPTS BEING DRAFTED FOR RUSSIA FROM OTHER REPUBLICS?

((KOTENKOV)) NOT AS YET. ALTHOUGH AT THE RECENT COUNCIL OF DEFENSE MINISTERS ON 28-29 APRIL, WHICH WAS HELD IN MOSCOW, IT WAS A QUESTION OF A NUMBER OF CIS STATES BEING PREPARED TO MAKE THEIR CONSCRIPTS AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE IN THE CIS JOINT ARMED FORCES, ON THE TERRITORY OF RUSSIA INCLUDED.

((UGLANOV)) WILL COSSACK UNITS BE FORMED IN THE SPHERE OF THE DON ARMY?

((KOTENKOV)) THERE IS NO FULLY FINISHED CONCEPT OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES AS YET. A STRUGGLE OF IDEAS IS UNDER WAY, AND I WOULD NOT CARE TO DWELL ON THIS. BUT SUCH AN ASPECT OF MILITARY ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS POSSIBLE. IT COULD BE A QUESTION OF PROFESSIONAL RESERVES. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUCH A PROFESSIONAL RESERVE I WHOLLY ALLOW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF COSSACK UNITS. WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF COSSACK TRADITIONS, SOLE RESPONSIBILITY, FIRM DISCIPLINE AND, POSSIBLY, PAID SERVICE. SUCH A VERSION IS POSSIBLE.

((UGLANOV)) AND, FINALLY, RUMORS, PERHAPS, HAVE REACHED ME TO THE EFFECT THAT UP UNTIL RECENTLY A NUMBER OF TOP SCIENTISTS HAD BEEN ENLISTED IN A STUDY OF UFO'S AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. I AM TALKING ABOUT SOME FRAGMENTS OR WHOLE "ARTICLES," WHICH ARE BEING KEPT SECRET IN HANGARS AND UNDERGOING TESTS.

((KOTENKOV)) WORK IS BEING PERFORMED ON THE GLOBAL MONITORING OF SPACE AND THE AIR SPACE ON THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. ALL UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS ARE RECORDED. ANY OBJECT ENTERING THE FIELD OF VISION OF OUR EARLY WARNING STATIONS IS, OF COURSE, MONITORED. BUT I HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY OBJECTS BEING STORED AND STUDIED ANYWHERE.

ADMIN
(ENDALL) [REDACTED] 21/1720Z MAY
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