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AFSN LDO104222493
FROM FBIS LONDON UK

SUBJ FYI -- Further on Media Behavior 1 Apr
Full Text Superzone of Message

- 1 The following observations and programming changes for Russian media monitored by LD/BBC were noted on 31 March:
- 2 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian continued its Russian ripostes on the occasion of April Fool's day.
- 3 The "Vesti" newscast at 1600 GMT on 1 April opens its newscast with Aleksandr Gurnov pretending to be the presenter and to be speaking from London. He explains that creditors in England have taken over "Vesti" and have based it in Soho, from where it will continue to broadcast. He says that the rest of the bulletin will come from the organization's Moscow branch, where staff members who "had the good luck" to stay in Russia will be operating as usual. He then hands over to Tatyana Khudobina, who explains that this item was a joke.
- 4 Russian Television ended up its news coverage with film of a UFO sighting and a report by a BBC correspondent on the relocation of Lenin's body from mausoleum to the Mir space complex, on the basis that the greatest achievement of Soviet science is a good place to keep him out of the way.
- 5 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel in Russian at 1700 GMT ended its sports news with the sensational announcements that Gary Kasparov had agreed to play Nigel Short in Moscow for free and that Diego Maradona had just signed up for local heroes, Central Army.
- 6 Not to be outdone, Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 1430 GMT reported that the Moscow mayor's office had announced that archaeologists digging beside the Kremlin had uncovered Ivan the Terrible's wine cellar, and that the wines were to be sold off at auction in London and Paris.
- 7 No other unusual behavior was monitored from Russian media covered by LD/BBC on 1 April. [REDACTED] 01/2238z apr WC 340 BT #0663 NNNN

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2/2010

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