

MSGNO 7 (MIIR) ALL *30/08/90* *15:07*
ZCZC 20:06:14Z (MI)

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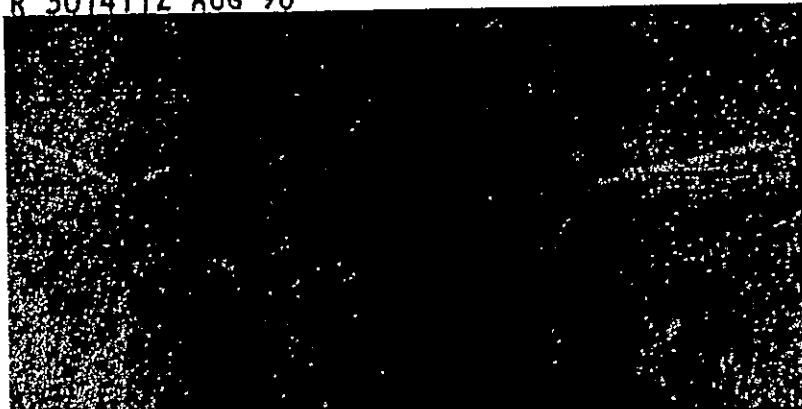
TOR: 301813Z AUG 90

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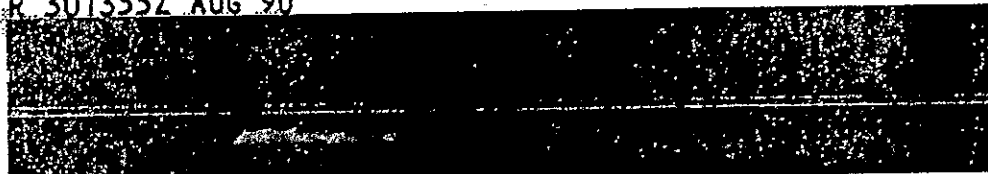
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R 301411Z AUG 90



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BT
EZ1: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MOSCOW 30512

SERIAL: (U) [REDACTED]

EZ2:

PASS: (U) [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: (U) USSR (UR).

COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJ: [REDACTED] /UNRAVELING THE SVERDLOVSK BW
DISASTER (U)

(b)(2)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 900822.

9001391188

MSGNO 7 (MIIR) ALL *30/08/90* *15:07*

A 01

REQS: (U)

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SOURCE: (U) OPEN SOURCE--DAILY NEWSPAPER, "LITERATURNAYA GAZETA", 900822, (U), IN RUSSIAN.

SUMMARY: (U) A PRIVATE INVESTIGATION BY THE LOCAL REPORTE FOR A MAJOR NATIONAL PAPER CONCLUDES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO WESTERN SOURCES, THAT THE APRIL 1979 OUTBREAK OF ANTHRAX IN SVERDLOVSK WAS DUE TO AN ACCIDENT AT "GARRISON 19", A SECRET MILITARY BW FACILITY. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE IN SPRIN 1990 ONLY SUGGESTS A CONTINUED ATTEMPT BY THE MILITARY TO COVERUP. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS MAY BE A MAJOR TEST OF GLASNOST'.

TEXT:

1. (U) THE INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY PAPER "LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (L.G.) HAS CALLED FOR A LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY INTO THE APRIL 1979 DEATHS OF AT LEAST 70 PERSONS IN SVERDLOVSK DUE TO AN AS YET UNDISCLOSED EVENT AT A SECRET MILITARY BIOLOGICAL FACILITY.

2. (U) IN "MILITARY SECRET" (L.G. 34/90, 22 AUG 90, P. 12 URALS CORRESPONDENT NATALYA ((ZENOVA)), A NATIVE OF SVERDLOVSK, WRITES OF HER PRIVATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AFFAIR. INTERVIEWING MEDICAL PERSONNEL, CHECKING IN CEMETERIES AND THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE, ZENOVA CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE DEATHS AND SUDDEN ILLNESSES WERE DUE TO A VIRULENT FORM OF ANTHRAX (SIBIRSKAYA YAZVA) THAT HIT HARDEST IN THE AREA DOWNWIND FROM A CLOSED MILITARY FACILITY, AND SEEMED TO SINGLE OUT MILITARY AGE INDIVIDUALS. SOME EARLY DEATHS WERE MISDIAGNOSED AS "BACTERIOLOGICAL PNEUMONIA". UNDER PRESSURE FROM UNNAMED AUTHORITIES, A MEDICAL COVERUP ENSUED, BLAMING THE "ISOLATED DEATHS" ON CONTAMINATED LIVESTOCK. ZENOVA CONTENDS THE COVERUP CONTINUES TODAY, AND THAT MEDICAL HISTORIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE HAVE VANISHED.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO THE AUTHOR, IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN SVERDLOVSK THAT SO-CALLED MILITARY GARRISON 19 IN CHKALOV DISTRICT WAS A CLOSED FACILITY THAT EMPLOYED BACTERIOLOGISTS. SHE BELIEVES L.G. ENQUIRIES SPARKED AN UNUSUAL RESPONSE: A VISIT BY THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER "URAL WORKER" TO THE FACILITY. AN ARTICLE LAST SPRING, "GARRISON 19", GIVES THE MILITARY VERSION OF APRIL 1979; ACCORDING TO ZENOVA, THE ARTICLE--

- IDENTIFIES PART OF GARRISON 19 (19-Y VOYENNY GORODOK) AS THE U.S.S.R. MOD MILITARY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MICROBIOLOGY.

- CLAIMS THE INSTITUTE FORMERLY WORKED ON BIOLOGICAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE MILITARY AND CIVIL POPULATIONS AND THAT PRODUCTION OF PROTECTIVE VACCINES CEASED IN 1986.

- CLAIMS THE INSTITUTE, UNDER PRESSURE OF SELF-IGBLMNHANCING, IS LOOKICSMVOUOMJPCOUVMUPPB

XQOR COOPERATIVE VENTURES WITH CIVIL ENTERPRISES.

- QUOTES COLONEL A. ((KHARECHKO)), CHIEF OF THE MILITARY EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION, AS NOTING RUMORS OF AN EXPLOSION THAT RELEASED A BIOLOGICAL AGENT, AND THEN CATEGORICALLY DENYING HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH EXPLOSIVES AT THE FACILITY. ZENOVA NOTES THE MILITARY DID NOT DENY VENTING OR DISCARDING THE PATHOGENS.

- CITES A SECTION SPECIALIST, B. ((MIKHAILOV)), AS BLAMING

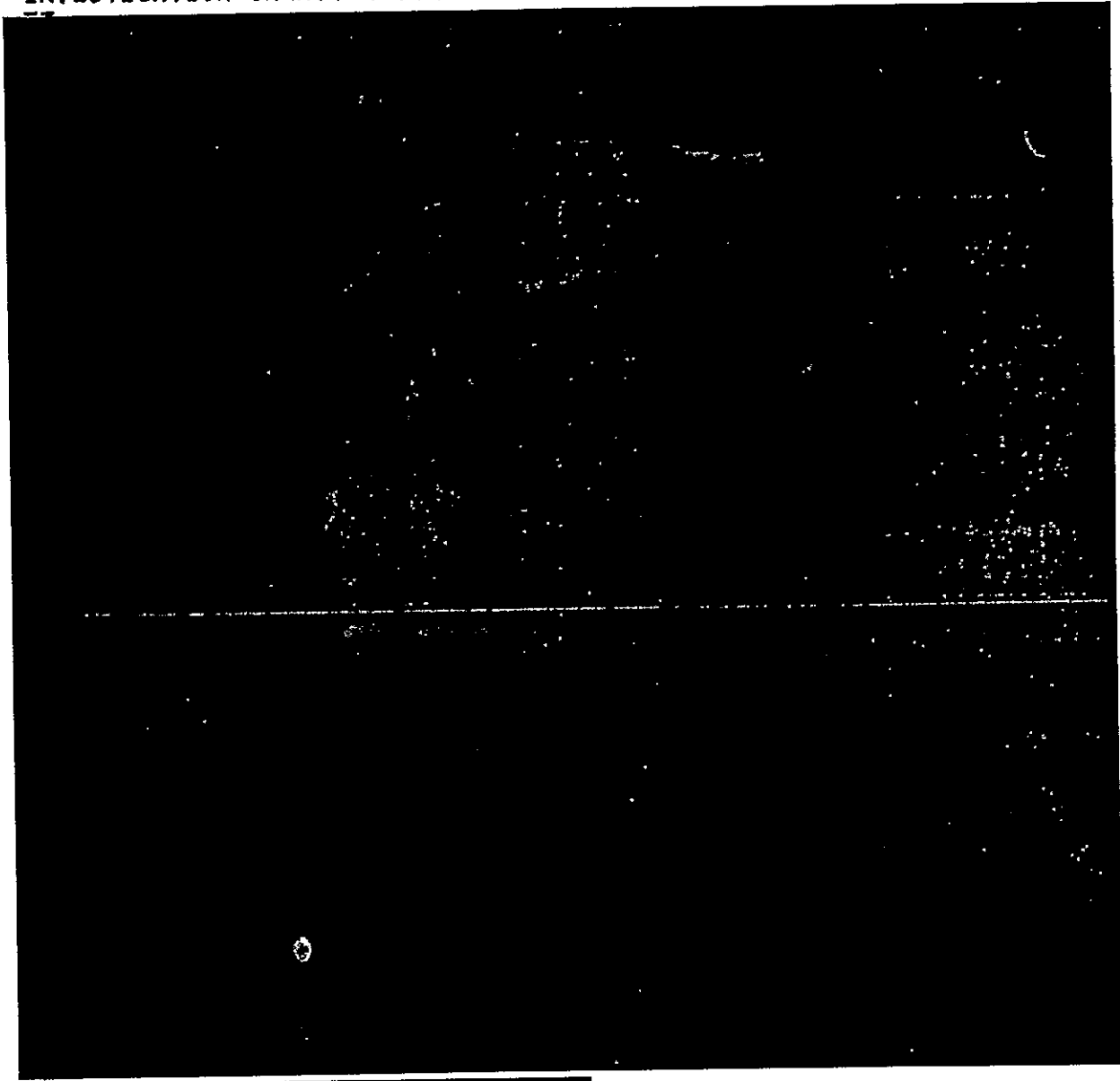
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MSGNO 7 (MIIR) ALL *30/08/90* *15:07*
OUTBREAKS OF ANTHRAX ON CONTAMINATED LIVESTOCK IN SVERDLOVSK
REGION. ZENOVA FINDS THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE ON THIS
UNCONVINCING AND NOTES DEATHS OF PEOPLE OCCURRED A WEEK OR
MORE BEFORE SYMPTOMS APPEARED IN LIVESTOCK.

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4. (U) ZENOVA CONCLUDES WITH A DEMAND FOR PARLIAMENTARY
INQUIRY TO CALL A TRAGEDY A TRAGEDY AND NAME THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. OTHERWISE, SHE SAYS, A PRIVATE
INVESTIGATION CANNOT ENSURE IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

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PROJ: (U)

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DISSEM: (U) FIELD: NONE.
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.
DECL: OADR
END OF MESSAGE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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