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USSR: TASS REVIEWS PRAVDA FOR 2 JAN

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"PRAVDA -- REVIEW" -- TASS HEADLINE

TEXT MOSCOW JANUARY 2 TASS -- TODAY'S PRAVDA FRONTPAGES PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. "MOST OF THE HOPE-RAISING EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE WORLD OVER RECENT YEARS AND IN THE LAST YEAR ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS," GORBACHEV STRESSES.

THE MESSAGE POINTS OUT THAT "PROGRESS AND SECURITY FOR ALL CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY JOINT EFFORTS, ONLY THROUGH COOPERATION AND MINDFULNESS OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF INTERESTS."

PRAVDA REPORTS ABOUT THE TELEPHONE TALK BETWEEN SOVIET AND U.S. PRESIDENTS. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR, BUSH CALLED GORBACHEV BY TELEPHONE. AFTER EXCHANGING NEW YEAR GREETINGS, THE PRESIDENTS TALKED ABOUT MATTERS TO BE HANDLED SOON AND IN THE LONGER TERM.

"TOWARDS COMMUNISM...ABOARD AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT" IS THE TITLE OF AN ARTICLE BY NATALYA MOROZOVA, IN WHICH SHE TRIES TO PROVE THAT COMMUNISM COULD NOT "COLLAPSE" BECAUSE IT NEVER EXISTED. THERE WAS, INSTEAD, AN ENDLESS, GRANDIOSE AND ALL-PERVAIDING TALK ABOUT COMMUNISM.

THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE WRITES THAT "ACTUALLY, THE PARTY LEADERSHIP CARRIED ON THE STALINIST TRADITION UP TO THE YEAR 1985: BY EXPLOITING POPULAR ENTHUSIASM, IT COVERED UP ITS INCOMPETENCE IN GOVERNING THE COUNTRY. NO END QUOTATION MARKS AS RECEIVED SHE EMPHASIZES THAT "THOSE WHO ACTED AS TRUE ANTI-COMMUNISTS WERE OUR IDEOLOGISTS."

ANATOLIY KOMIN, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR STATE COMMITTEE ON PRICES, ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM PRAVDA'S CORRESPONDENT ABOUT THE PROPOSED "SIGNIFICANT RISE IN PRICES ON MOST OF THE CONSUMER GOODS AND FOOD" IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1991. KOMIN EMPHASISED THAT "TARDINESS IN CARRYING THROUGH THE REFORM OF RETAIL PRICES IS DANGEROUS TO PERESTROYKA."

PRAVDA ACQUAINTS READERS WITH THE CHILDHOOD AND TEENAGE YEARS OF ARTYOM SERGEYEV, A PROFESSIONAL REVOLUTIONARY WHO DIED IN 1921. AS A BOY, SERGEYEV WAS TAKEN BY STALIN TO THE LATTER'S HOME WHERE HE SHARED A ROOM WITH STALIN'S SON VASILYIY.

A REPORT FROM THE SVERDLOVSK REGION TELLS ABOUT AN ENTERPRISE, WHICH USED TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR FUEL AND IS NOW BEING RETOOLED TO MANUFACTURE WOMEN'S DECORATIONS MADE OF EMERALD.

VALENTIN SHAROV ANALYSES CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN EASTERN EUROPE OVER RECENT YEARS. SPEAKING ABOUT THE "COLLAPSE OF THE AUTHORITARIAN, COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATIVE STALINIST MODEL OF SOCIALISM" IN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE AUTHOR EMPHASIZES THAT "THE CLEANSING AVALANCHE OF REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN EASTERN EUROPE WAS HISTORICALLY NECESSARY AND LEGITIMATE."

PRAVDA PRINTS THE TEXTS OF NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE FROM CHINESE PRESIDENT YANG SHANGKUN AND U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH.

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Approved for Release

2/2010

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PRAVDA'S CORRESPONDENT IN BONN MET A PERSON WHO RESEMBLES VERY MUCH THE SOVIET PRESIDENT. HE TOLD THE CORRESPONDENT THAT GORBACHEV ENJOYED RESPECT AND POPULARITY IN THE WEST AND, AS HIS DOUBLE, HE ALSO ENJOYED A GREAT SUCCESS.

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