WARNING: GENEVA: POLITICAL SECTION
ATTN W5POPO

SERI SERIAL: MM1509180795
PASS PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT COPY TO

COUN COUNTRY: BELARUS
SUBJ SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2 -- MORE ON FINDINGS ON BALLOON SHOOTDOWN

REF REF: 1. LD1409184295 MOSCOW ITAR-TASS ENGLISH 141753 -- AIR DEFENSE COMMANDER ORDERED DOWNING OF BALLOON
2. LD1409152895 MOSCOW ITAR-TASS WORLD SERVICE RUSSIAN 141422 -- COMMISSION PROVIDES 'MORE DETAILS' ON BALLOON
This document is made available through the declassification efforts and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault

The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: http://www.theblackvault.com
The remnants of the balloon piloted by 55-year-old Alan Bernard Fraenkel (photograph on the left) [report is accompanied by small passport-style photos of the two men] and 63-year-old George Stuart [name as published] came down on Wednesday near the village of Krugloye in Berezovskiy Rayon, Brest Oblast. Our correspondent dictated this report from the scene of the tragedy.

When the helicopter opened fire on the balloon, Olga Nikolayevna, an elderly inhabitant of Krugloye, decided that the war had started again, and hid under an apple tree. Her son Vasily, a senior warrant officer in the reserves, heard the shooting while he was having dinner and thought, "someone's had too much to drink, stolen a helicopter, and now he's firing at the dachas." If only.....

Yuryy Sivakov, chief of the Belarusian Security Council quick reaction section and also deputy chairman of the commission examining the circumstances of the incident, summed up the initial results of the investigation. According to him, the border guards were the first to see the balloon. That was at 0941 hours. The duty officer for the Belarusian Air Defense Forces tried to establish the identity of the flying machine. But it turned out that neither the Air Defense Forces central command point nor the other command points had any information of the possible appearance of balloons. The Belarusian Center for Navigation and Organization of Flights was also unable to clarify anything as regards the legitimacy of the appearance of flying machines of that type in the republic's airspace. The duty officer made inquiries of the Polish Air Defense Forces duty officer as to whether any balloons had flown over Polish territory. No, they hadn't.....

Thus, having discovered a "UFO," Major General Valeriy Kostenko, commander of the Air Defense Forces, gave the order to put the Air Defense Forces duty patrols onto number one readiness. At 1136 the order was given for an Mi-8 combat helicopter to take off from Pruzhany military airfield; it was supposed to approach the target, identify it, and report back to the control point. When the helicopter pilot saw the balloon at an altitude of 2,300 meters, he asked the control point for permission to approach the target. The order was issued to approach the target no closer than 50 meters. The helicopter maneuvered and, from a distance of 600 meters, fired a round from a large-caliber machine gun to the side of the balloon. But even after that the balloonists did not reveal their presence in any way. Three minutes later, 20 12.7 mm bullets had reduced the balloon to tatters. The container, which subsequently turned out to be a gondola with people in it, began to fall. But
even then the pilot did not see the people.
(more)

(This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.)

15 SEP 2145z