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**DOCN** 002S02367

**PDTG** P 151335Z SEP 95

**FM** F3IS WARSAW PL

**TO** TO A1G 4621

**REPT**

**FM** F3IS RESTON VA

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**WARNING**

**ATTN** WSP0PO

**SERI** SERIAL: WS1809135595

**PASS** PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

**COUN** COUNTRY: BELARUS

**SUBJ** SUBJECT: TAKE 1 OF 2 -- DETAILS OF INQUIRY INTO U.S. BALLOON DOWNING

**REF** REF: MM1509180795 AND ADD MOSCOW KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA RUSSIAN 16 SEP -- MORE ON FINDINGS ON BALLOON SHOOTDOWN

**SOUR** SOURCE: MINSK ZVYAZDA IN BELARUSIAN 16 SEP 95 PP 1, 3

**TEXT** TEXT:

///(REPORT BY SYARHEY KHRYPACH: "THE BELARUSIANS, SWISS, AND POLLS ARE 'BLAMED' FOR THE DEATH OF U.S. BALLOONISTS. WHERE IS THE TRUTH?" -- FIRST PARAGRAPH PUBLISHED IN BOLDFACE; PASSAGE WITHIN SLANTLINES PUBLISHED IN ITALICS))

((F3IS TRANSLATED TEXT))


TO REMOVE ALL DOUBTS AND INSUINITATIONS, AS WELL AS TO ISSUE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FOREIGN PRESS, THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATING THE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT, WHICH WAS SET UP AT THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL INSTRUCTION, PROVIDED DETAILS OF THEIR INVESTIGATION ON 14 SEPTEMBER. THEY WERE REPORTED BY YURY SIVAKOW,
This document is made available through the declassification efforts and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

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SO, ON 12 SEPTEMBER AT 0914, THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE DETECTED A BALLOON IN BELARUSIAN AIRSPACE. THE SERVICEMEN WERE SURPRISED BY THE BALLOON'S UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE, SINCE THEY HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT IT. THE CENTRAL COMMAND POST EXAMINED ALL APPLICATIONS (FOR FLIGHT PERMITS). AS A RESULT OF THE EXAMINATION, THEY CONCLUDED THAT THIS FLYING OBJECT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN THAT PLACE AT THAT TIME, SINCE THERE WAS NO APPLICATION CONCERNING IT. FOLLOWING THIS, MAJOR GENERAL VALERII KASTENKA, COMMANDER OF THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMATIVE ACTS, DECIDED TO ANNOUNCE THE HIGHEST ALERT.

AT 1136 A TAKE-OFF ORDER WAS SENT TO PRUZHANY AIRFIELD. A MI-24 COMBAT HELICOPTER TOOK OFF WITH THE MISSION TO CLARIFY ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT AND TO IDENTIFY IT. IN PARTICULAR, THE CREW WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO APPROACH THE OBJECT CLOSER THAN 50 METERS.

AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, THE CHOPPER APPROACHED THE "UFO" AT 100 METERS. THIS TOOK PLACE 4 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM ANOTHER AIRBASE -- ASOWTSY. THE HELICOPTER CREW REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

"WE CAN SEE A SMALL BALLOON OF A 3- OR 4-METER DIAMETER. AN ATTACHMENT RESEMBLING A CLOSED FREIGHT CONTAINER HANGS ON THE ROPE. THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION WEIGHS APPROXIMATELY 1 TONNE. THERE ARE NO IDENTIFICATION SIGNS. NOBODY IS ANSWERING INQUIRIES ON THE 121.5 MHZ INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FREQUENCY. THE OBJECT IS MOVING AT AN ALTITUDE OF 2,300 METERS IN A NORTH-EASTERLY DIRECTION OVER A MILITARY AIRFIELD AND NEAR A DEPLOYMENT SITE OF STRATEGIC MISSILE TROOP UNITS."


SOON AFTER THIS, ANOTHER TWO BALLOONS WERE DETECTED. THEY WERE ALSO WARNED BY A HELICOPTER, BUT IT DID NOT COME TO SHOOTING, SINCE THEIR CREWS RESPONDED TO RADIO INQUIRIES AND IDENTIFIED THEIR NATIONALITY BY DISPLAYING U.S. FLAGS. THE FIRST BALLOON LANDED IN THE VICINITY OF ZELVA AT 1500, AND THE SECOND LANDED NEAR LUNINETS AT 1815, AND SERVICEMEN FROM DAWYD-HARADOK ACCOMMODATED THE CREW IN THEIR BARRACKS.