TEXT:


AS REGARDS THE NEW UNION TREATY, IN MY VIEW SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL AGREEMENTS WILL MERELY MAKE THE ECONOMIC UNION OFFICIAL, AND THE STATE'S DISINTEGRATION WILL BE A FAIT ACCOMPLI. AND IT IS PROPOSED TO DO THIS WITHOUT BROAD DISCUSSION, IN SECRET...

((GARIFULLINA)) MAYBE THIS IS WHY THERE IS SUCH HASTE...

((ABALKIN)) THE HASTE IS UNDERSTANDABLE TOO. THE THING IS THAT AT FIRST THE "500 DAYS" PROGRAM CONTAINED A KIND OF MYSTERY EFFECT. YOU UNDERSTAND, THEY SUGGEST TO PEOPLE: THERE IS SOME MIRACULOUS MEANS, AND OUR PEOPLE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES OR, AT LEAST, THEY WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A PAINLESS PATH, WITHOUT SACRIFICES AND UPHENAVALS, WITHOUT A DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS, WITHOUT A RISE IN PRICES...

YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED THAT IN SUCH CRISIS SITUATIONS THERE UNCLAS 3M/FAX
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BEGIN S A MASS BELIEF IN ALIENS, UFOs, EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION, AND
MUCH ELSE. THIS IS A SOCIAL PHENOMENON, YOU KNOW. I SPOKE OF THIS
MANY YEARS AGO. THIS SITUATION BEGAN TO BE MANIFESTED CLEARLY IN
THE LATE SEVENTIES AND EARLY EIGHTIES. WAY BACK THEN I USED TO
APPEAR AND SAY HOW SOCIAL COLLISIONS GIVE RISE TO SUCH A BELIEF.
AND SO THE "500 DAYS" PROGRAM ALSO CONTAINED A KIND OF MYSTERY
EFFECT. NO ONE HAD YET SEEN IT, BUT THE IDEA OF ITS
MIRACLE-WORKING PROPERTIES WAS BEING PURPOSEFULLY AND
SYSTEMATICALLY INCULCATED IN THE MASS CONSCIOUSNESS.

BUT WHEN THE PROGRAM IS PLACED ON THE TABLE, WHEN EVERYONE CAN
READ IT, PERCEIVE SOME CONTRADICATIONS AND SHORTCOMINGS, OR, AT ANY
RATE, TAKE A CONSCIOUS AND CRITICAL APPROACH TO ITS CALCULATIONS
AND AUTHENTICITY, THE MYSTERY EFFECT VANISHES. BUT THE TIME WHICH
ELAPSES BEFORE THE DECISION IS ADOPTED IS Destructive. AND So
PEOPLE WANT TO ADOPT THE PROGRAM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, WITHOUT
PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS, ON TRUST ALONE. "LET'S
BELIEVE SUCH NAMES ARE THERE, SUCH HUMANE AIMS ARE PROCLAIMED.
LET'S ADOPT IT, AND THEN WE CAN SEE. WE WILL AMEND IT, FINISH IT
OFF, CORRECT IT, ELABORATE IT. WHY BOTHER WITH TRIFLES NOW? ..."

((Garifullina)) AND, AT THE SAME TIME, BEGIN INTRODUCING THIS
PROGRAM SUPER-PROMPTLY, AS EARLY AS 1 OCTOBER?...

((Abalkin)) THERE IS ANOTHER NUANCE HERE. YES, TIME IS
ALTOGETHER GETTING SHORT. THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IS ALSO SHORT OF
TIME, AND WE MUST NOT DELAY FOR LONG. OCTOBER 1 MARKS THE START OF
THE FOURTH QUARTER -- WE TOO EMPHASIZE THIS IN OUR PROGRAMS. ONLY
THERE THIS DATE IS A ZERO OPTION -- THERE HAS BEEN NO HISTORY, AND
NOTHING AT ALL HAS HAPPENED BEFORE 1 OCTOBER. AND YET THERE IS
HISTORY. THE REFORM IS ALREADY UNDER WAY. THE LAWS ON OWNERSHIP,
LAND, AND LEASING HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED, THE TAX SYSTEM HAS
BEEN ADOPTED, AND THE LAW ON THE POPULATION'S INCOME TAX HAS BEEN
IN EFFECT SINCE 1 JULY.

((Garifullina)) WAS ALL THIS THE PREPARATION?

((Abalkin)) YES, THE PREPARATION, BUT ALSO THE INTRODUCTION OF
THE REFORM. THE RESOLUTION ON JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES WAS ADOPTED SO
AS NOT TO WAIT FOR ANY FURTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTS. THE FIRST
COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED. COMMERCIAL BANKS, WHICH
ARE THE SECOND LEVEL OF THE BANKING SYSTEM -- THERE ARE ALREADY
APPROXIMATELY 300 OF THEM -- ARE PREPARING THE GROUND. THE FIRST
TRADE EXCHANGES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET UP AND ARE BEGINNING TO
FUNCTION. LIFE IS ON THE MOVE THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IS
DEVELOPING TOO.

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