

*** Document 44 of 25 for FBIS ***

DOCN 000600137

PDTG P 151807Z SEP 95

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 RHEPAA/ACCIS LANGLEY AFB VA
 RHFPAAA/UTAI RAMSTEIN AB GE//INOW//
 RHHMCMY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
 RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUALJDT/JDET YOKOTA AB JA
 RUCBAIC/AIC NORFOLK VA
 RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
 RUCOPKA/COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC//J2//
 RUDKMK/ FBIS LONDON UK//BBC//
 RUDKTA/AMEMBASSY TALLINN
 RUDMONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
 RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC
 RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
 RUEALGX/DEFINTAGNCY WASH DC
 RUEBFGA/VOA WASHINGTON DC
 RUEDADA/AFIA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
 RUEDADA/AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR/CEE//
 RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
 RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK
 RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA
 RUERWAA/DIR OPERATIONS GROUP CARISLE BKS PA
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 RUESFV/FBIS VIENNA AU
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 RUWTNOK/HQ USSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO//POLAD//
 RXDBHW/CINCNORTHWEST//UAJ//
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 RXFPPSH/SHAPE BE//PIO//
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WARN WARNING: GENEVA: POLITICAL SECTION
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2/2010

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

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DOCN 000600384
FBIS FBIS 165SEP15
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SUBJ BELARUS: Findings on Balloon Shootdown (Take 1 of 2)

SERI MM1509190795 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 95 pp
TEXT 1-2

[Report by special correspondent Igor Sinyakevich: "Why Did the People in the Balloon Keep Quiet?" -- first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The remnants of the balloon piloted by 55-year-old Alan Bernard Fraenckel (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 Vasiliy, 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 went to within 100 meters.


The young captain reported that he could see a small balloon 3-4 meters in size [as published] with a closed type of suspended container resembling a freight container. There were no identification marks on the flying machine. The target did not reply to inquiries which were broadcast twice on the international frequency. The helicopter pilot was ordered to open warning fire and, in the absence of any response from the target, to destroy it.

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

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even then the pilot did not see the people.
(more)

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