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CLAS UNCLAS 3B/MMU/RUSS 848 864

SERI SERIAL: LD0412214094

COUN COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJ SUBJ: NEW TYPE HEAVY CARGO FLYING MACHINE AT TEST STAGE

SOUR SOURCE: MOSCOW OSTANKINO TELEVISION FIRST CHANNEL NETWORK 1900 GMT
 4 DEC 94

TEXT TEXT:

((FBIS EDITORIAL SUMMARY)) A COMPLETELY NEW FLYING MACHINE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN RUSSIA. CORRESPONDENT SERGEY FATEYEV REPORTS ON *IT FROM THE TYUMEN OBLAST. HE SAYS IT SEEMS LIKE AN UFO BECAUSE OF ITS UNUSUAL APPEARANCE AND NEW CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLES. IT CAN LIFT AND CARRY LOADS UP TO 300 TONNES, WHICH IS CRUCIAL FOR CARRYING SUPPLIES TO THE RUSSIAN NORTH AND TO REMOTE MINING OR DRILLING SITES; CAN HANG IN THE AIR; LAND ON ANY KIND OF TERRAIN IN ANY WEATHER; AND NEEDS 10 TIMES LESS FUEL THAN A HELICOPTER WITH THE SAME FREIGHT-CARRYING CAPACITY. IT HAS BEEN CALLED THE LASAR -- LETATELNY APPARAT S AEROSTATICHESKOY RAZGRUZKOY ((FLYING MACHINE WITH AEROSTATIC UNLOADING)). IT IS NOW UNDERGOING TEST FLIGHTS AND IS EXPECTED TO BE IN GENERAL USE SOON. IT COMBINES THE QUALITIES OF PLANE, HELICOPTER, AND DIRIGIBLE AND RIDES ON AN AIR CUSHION. THE CHIEF DESIGNER IS ALEKSANDR FILIMONOV. HE HAS BEEN INVITED TO SHOW THE MACHINE AT THE LE BOURGET SALON NEXT YEAR.

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