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\*\*\* BEGIN MESSAGE 14 \*\*\*

SERIAL=WA0501074091 UDN=W(3883)

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SERIAL: WA0501074091

PASS: ATTN BBC USSR  
ONLY [REDACTED]

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2--FOREIGN PRESS NOTE--FB PN 91-003--USSR

SOURCE: FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE PROD GROUP

TEXT:

USSR: UFO SIGHTINGS NO. 3 -- DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE INTERVIEW

LEADING SOVIET NEWSPAPERS HAVE INCREASED THEIR REPORTING ON UFO SIGHTINGS IN RECENT MONTHS. ONE PARTICULAR HIGHLIGHT WAS A LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE IVAN TRETYAK IN THE 9 NOVEMBER LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, A LARGE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH NATIONAL CIRCULATION. TRETYAK, WHO ALSO HOLDS THE POSITIONS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES AND GENERAL OF THE ARMY, CONFIRMED THAT FIGHTER-INTERCEPTORS HAD ENCOUNTERED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS IN SOVIET AIR SPACE. HE SAID THAT ONE 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING MACHINE' HAD BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED BY INTERCEPTOR PILOTS AND THAT OPTICAL AND THERMAL SIGNALS FROM IT HAD BEEN DETECTED ON THE PILOTS' TARGET SCREENS, ALTHOUGH SOME 'STEALTH-LIKE' CAPACITY PREVENTED THE RECORDING OF RADAR SIGNALS.

LITERATURNAYA GAZETA COLUMNIST O. MOROZ ASKED TRETYAK IF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES REGARD THE FLIGHT OF UFOS IN SOVIET AIR SPACE AS A 'VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE USSR.' TRETYAK REPLIED THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO SEE THE UFOS AS A THREAT TO SOVIET SECURITY OR SOVEREIGNTY BECAUSE ALTHOUGH PILOT REPORTS INDICATED THE UFOS APPEARED TO BE OF ARTIFICIAL ORIGIN, THEIR REAL NATURE HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. OBSERVING THAT MOST PREVIOUS UFO SIGHTINGS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED AS NATURAL PHENOMENA OR AS A MISINTERPRETATION OF OPTICAL PHENOMENA ASSOCIATED WITH ROCKET LAUNCHES OR THE ARTIFICIAL DEBRIS THAT IS CONGESTING SPACE NEAR EARTH, TRETYAK ADDED: 'MANY OF THE PHENOMENA TAKEN FOR UFOS ARE CAUSED BY THE PENETRATION OF COSMIC RAYS THROUGH OZONE HOLES WHICH ARE FORMED DURING ROCKET LAUNCHES.' HE REVEALED THAT THE MILITARY KNEW SOME OF THE FAMOUS UFO SIGHTINGS IN THE LATE 1970S COULD HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED BY MAKING THIS EFFECT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE BUT THAT 'FOR SECURITY REASONS, NOTHING WAS WRITTEN ABOUT THIS AT THAT TIME.'

GENERAL TRETYAK REPLIED NEGATIVELY WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES HAD DETECTED ANY OF THE UFOS CITED IN FIVE RECENT CASES OF MASS OBSERVATION. AS AN EXAMPLE OF A CASE OF 'MASS' OBSERVATION OF A UFO -- IN THIS CASE BY THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES -- TRETYAK CITED AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING VEHICLE APPARAT THAT WAS REPORTED BY HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL GENERAL MALTSEV, IN MARCH 1990 (SEE FOREIGN PRESS NOTE FB PN 90-123, 22 MAY 90, 'USSR: UFO SIGHTINGS NO. 2 -- GENERAL MALTSEV COMMENTS'). TRETYAK STATED THAT ONE PARTICULAR UFO HAD BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED, AND OPTICAL AND THERMAL SIGNALS FROM IT HAD SHOWN UP ON THE TARGET SCREENS OF THE INTERCEPTORS. IN THE WORDS OF TRETYAK: 'FOR QUITE A LONG TIME, FROM 2000 TO 2330, IN THE REGION NORTHEAST OF MOSCOW (PERESLAVLZALESSKIY, ZAGORSK, FRYAZINO, KIRZACH), TWO PULSATING

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LIGHTS WERE OBSERVED IN THE SKY, MOVING AS IF THEY WERE FIXED IN POSITION IN RELATION TO EACH OTHER, LIKE THE SIDE LIGHTS OF AN AIRPLANE. BUT THIS WAS NOT AN AIRPLANE. WE HAVE WRITTEN TESTIMONY FROM EYEWITNESSES AND PHOTOGRAPHS. SOME OBSERVERS WERE EVEN CONVINCED THAT THE SPEED OF THE OBJECT DEPENDED ON THE FREQUENCY OF THE PULSATION OF THE LIGHTS.' TRETYAK NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE OBJECT COULD BE OBSERVED ON A RADAR SCREEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED, IT COULD NOT BE REGISTERED BY ON-BOARD RADAR RECORDING EQUIPMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE 'THREE SIGNALS WHICH COME IN FROM A TARGET -- THE RADAR SIGNAL, THE OPTICAL SIGNAL, AND THE THERMAL SIGNAL -- ALL SHOW UP ON THE SCREEN OF THE SIGHT. IT IS AS IF THEY DUPLICATE EACH OTHER, BUT THE RECORDING DEVICE REGISTERS ONLY THE RADAR SIGNAL. AND, IN THIS 2 MARCH CASE, THERE WAS NONE.' TRETYAK SAID HE BELIEVES THAT THE UFO CANNOT BE RECORDED ON RADAR BECAUSE IT IS NOT AN ORDINARY FLYING MACHINE WHICH CAN BE RECORDED ON THE RELATIVELY NARROW BAND ON WHICH AIR DEFENSE FORCES RADARS OPERATE.

TRETYAK FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE UFO APPEARED TO HAVE 'STEALTHLIKE' CHARACTERISTICS. STATING HIS HOPE THAT TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO WIDEN THE CAPABILITY OF RADARS TO COUNTERACT 'STEALTH' FEATURES, TRETYAK SAID: 'IT IS KNOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MATERIALS AND SHAPES WHICH SHARPLY LOWER THE RADAR AND OPTICAL PROFILE OF AN OBJECT... THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT IS BEING ACHIEVED IN THE AMERICAN 'STEALTH' PROGRAM... I ADMIT THAT THE MEASURES AIMED AT COUNTERING THIS PROGRAM, WHICH WE ARE NOW TAKING, WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY PROMOTE THE SOLUTION OF THE UFO RIDDLE.' TRETYAK SUGGESTED THAT 'IF SPECIAL OBSERVATION POSTS WERE ORGANIZED AND THE FREQUENCIES ON WHICH RADARS OPERATE WERE EXPANDED...WE MOST LIKELY WOULD SEE MORE. FOR THIS, HOWEVER, VERY GREAT RESOURCES ARE NECESSARY. THE GROUND RADARS OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES ALSO DID NOT RECORD THE UFO TARGET.'

WHEN ASKED WHY HE, AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES, DID NOT ORDER THE UFO SHOT DOWN, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS PREDECESSOR IN THE POST OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AS WELL AS THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITIONS WHEN THEY WERE UNABLE TO PREVENT A 'FLIGHT OVER OUR TERRITORY AND A LANDING IN MOSCOW OF THE INOFFENSIVE SPORTS PLANE THAT WAS FLOWN BY RUST,' TRETYAK POINTED OUT THAT THE UFOS ENCOUNTERED THUS FAR BY HIS PILOTS HAVE APPEARED TO POSE NO EXTRATERRESTRIAL THREAT AND THAT THERE IS STILL NO PROOF THE UFOS ARE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGIN OR FLOWN BY INTELLIGENT BEINGS. MOREOVER, HE WARNED, IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO LAUNCH AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK AGAINST AN OBJECT THAT MAY POSSESS FORMIDABLE CAPACITIES FOR RETALIATION. HE SAID THAT EVEN IF IT IS PROVEN SOME OF THE UFOS ARE 'A PRODUCT OF A HIGHLY ORGANIZED INTELLIGENCE FROM A SIGNIFICANTLY MORE DEVELOPED CIVILIZATION THAN OUR OWN...ANY FIGHT WITH SUCH OBJECTS AND THEIR CREWS -- BEFORE A CLARIFICATION OF THEIR INTENTIONS -- WOULD BE FUTILE....'

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SERIAL=WA0501074191 UDN=W(4030)  
 CLASS=UNCLAS /LD PMU  
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 SERIAL: WA0501074191  
 PASS: ATTN BBC USSR  
 ONLY [REDACTED]  
 SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--FOREIGN PRESS NOTE--FB PN 91-003--USSR  
 REF: WA0501074091 FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE PROD  
 GROUP ///WOULD BE FUTILE....'  
 SOURCE: FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE PROD GROUP  
 TEXT:

TRETYAK WAS ASKED HOW HE REACTS TO EACH NEW REPORT OF SIGHTINGS AND WHETHER HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT UFOS ARE FLOWN BY INTELLIGENT BEINGS OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGIN. TRETYAK SAID HE WOULD NOT, AT THIS TIME, TAKE AN OATH ON HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP CARD THAT NONE OF THE UFOS APPEARING OVER SOVIET TERRITORY ARE PILOTED BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS BUT SAID HE BELIEVES 'THE SERIOUS SCIENTISTS WHO MAINTAIN THAT THE APPEARANCE OF EXTRATERRESTRIALS ON EARTH IS EXTREMELY IMPROBABLE. NEVERTHELESS, EACH NEW REPORT ABOUT SUCH AN EVENT EVOKES IN ME, I THINK AS IN MANY OTHERS, A MODERATE CURIOSITY. THIS IS A HUMAN REACTION. BUT THE REACTION OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES IS THE DESIRE TO INVESTIGATE WHAT IS BEHIND ALL OF THESE REPORTS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK OUT ALL OF THESE REPORTS...THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. BUT THIS IS HARDLY NECESSARY. OFTEN, THEY ARE SIMPLY NEWSPAPER 'HOAXES.' RECENTLY, IN RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, A REPORT APPEARED -- SOME KIND OF FLYING VEHICLE APPEARED IN THE KUYBYSHEV DISTRICT AND, WHAT IS MORE, IT DESTROYED OUR RADAR STATION. NATURALLY WE WERE PERPLEXED -- WHY IS THERE NO REPORT? A DESTROYED STATION -- IT IS A MAJOR INCIDENT. EVEN IF IT HAD BEEN HIT BY LIGHTNING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO REPORT THIS IMMEDIATELY. AND HERE WE HAVE AN ATTACK BY A FLYING VEHICLE. BUT IT CAN BE EXPLAINED. RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA TOOK THESE REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICT MILITARY NEWSPAPER ZA RODINU. IT TURNS OUT THE HOAX WAS THOUGHT UP BY A STAFF MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT NEWSPAPER IN ORDER TO ATTRACT READERS. MAYBE, RIGHT NOW, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THIS CAPTAIN IS IN THE OFFICE OF GENERAL MAKASHOV AND THE LATTER IS, AS THEY SAY, FLYING HIM ALIVE. THESE DAYS, ALL THESE RUMORS AND NEWSPAPER 'HOAXES' FALL ON FERTILE SOIL -- EVERYBODY WANTS A MIRACLE. AND WHEN IT IS WANTED -- IT WILL APPEAR.'

TRETYAK ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO ADOPT A CRITICAL AND CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UFO PHENOMENON IN LIGHT OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF HOAXES. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THE UFOS, AS DEMONSTRATED BY EVIDENCE OBTAINED BY HIS INTERCEPTOR PILOTS, ARE REAL. 'AT THE SAME TIME HOAXES ARE BEING PERPETRATED, I REPEAT, THERE REALLY ARE PHENOMENA OF SOME KIND WHICH ARE APPEARING BEFORE US IN THE FORM OF UFOS, THE NATURE OF WHICH WE DO NOT KNOW.'

(FOR FURTHER REPORTING ON THIS TOPIC, SEE THE FBIS FOREIGN PRESS NOTES: FB PN 89-292, 22 NOV 90, 'USSR: MEDIA REPORTS MULTITUDE OF UFO SIGHTINGS' AND FB PN 90-123, 22 MAY 90, 'USSR: UFO SIGHTINGS NO.2. GENERAL MALTSEV COMMENTS')

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