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*** BEGIN MESSAGE 1 ***

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SERIAL: PM2709094590

PASS: COPY TO [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 8 -- ABALKIN CONDEMNS '500 DAYS' RECOVERY PROGRAM

REF: PM2709094390 MOSCOW SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA RUSSIAN 23

SEP///VERY NEAR FUTURE.

TEXT:

((TEXT)) THE NEXT DIFFERENCE CONCERNS THE VIEW OF THE FATE OF THE UNION. YES, OF COURSE, THE DEFORMATIONS WHICH HAVE ACCUMULATED IN INTERETHNIC RELATIONS OVER THE DECADES AND THE INFRINGEMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONS, ETHNIC GROUPS, REPUBLICS, AND REGIONS ARE REALITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED, BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO OVERCOME THEM AND PRESERVE THE UNION STATE. IT IS A SUBJECT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, A GREAT POWER, A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, A POWER WHICH HAS SIGNED MANY POSTWAR AGREEMENTS. AND, ACCORDINGLY, IT IS A STATE WHICH MUST POSSESS ALL THE NECESSARY ATTRIBUTES IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE TOO, HAVE A UNIFIED BORDER, A UNIFIED CUSTOM HOUSE AND TERRITORY, AND A UNIFIED MONETARY SYSTEM, AND HAVE AT ITS DISPOSAL THE USSR CENTRAL STATE BANK FULFILLING FUNCTIONS APPROXIMATING TO THOSE FULFILLED IN SIMILAR STATES BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM, AS IN THE UNITED STATES, OR BY THE DEUTSCHE BUNDESBANK IN THE FRG. ACCORDINGLY, NOT ONLY DOES EACH REPUBLIC POSSESS SOVEREIGNTY BUT THE USSR ALSO HAS ITS OWN SOVEREIGNTY AS A STATE. YES, THE POWERS AND THE BORDERS OF SOVEREIGNTY ARE DETERMINED BY TREATY, BUT THIS IS ALL TO COME AND DOES NOT YET EXIST, AND WE ARE ACCUSTOMING OURSELVES TO LIVING IN A RULE-OF-LAW STATE AND WE RESPECT AND OBSERVE THE LAWS. THE CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS OF THE UNION EXTEND THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. THE RUSSIAN SOVIET FEDERATED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC SUPREME SOVIET HAS ADOPTED A CONCEPT AND A PROGRAM WHICH ESSENTIALLY PROCEEDS FROM RECOGNITION OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE USSR AS A STATE. THIS UNION IS ALSO SUPPLANTED BY A UNION, BUT AN ECONOMIC ONE, BY SOME INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH IS SAID EVEN TO BE CLOSE TO THE EC. IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND A MORE ACCURATE DEFINITION -- THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, OR MAYBE AN EVEN MORE ACCURATE ONE: THE OLD CEMA WITH ALL ITS FLAWS.

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 UPHEAVALS, WITHOUT A DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS, WITHOUT A RISE IN PRICES...

YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED THAT IN SUCH CRISIS SITUATIONS THERE

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Approved for Release

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BEGINS 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 CONTRADICTIONS 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.

(MORE) 23 SEP [REDACTED] 27/1034Z SEP

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