

~~TOP SECRET//HCS//ORCON/NOFORN~~

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~~(TS//HCS//OG/NF)~~ **SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF CANDIDATES TO HEAD THE NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION**

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(U) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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[Redacted] ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT. END OF MESSAGE TOP SECRET.

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~~(TS//HCS//OG/NF)~~ 1. [Redacted] AS OF MID-APRIL 2000 PRESIDENT-ELECT VLADIMIR ((PUTIN)) HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHO WILL ULTIMATELY HEAD THE NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION (PA). ALTHOUGH PA DEPUTY HEAD DIMITRIY ((MEDVEDEV)) APPEARS TO BE GAINING IN POPULARITY WITH

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PUTIN, PA DEPUTY HEAD VLADISLAV ((SURKOV)) IS ALSO A SERIOUS CANDIDATE. TWO OTHER POTENTIAL CHOICES ARE FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE (FSB) VIKTOR ((CHERKESOV)) AND MEDIA MINISTER MIKHAIL ((LESIN)).

(TS//HCS//OC/NF) 2. [REDACTED] PUTIN MIGHT CHOOSE SURKOV OVER MEDVEDEV BECAUSE SURKOV GAINED MUCH CLOUT VIA HIS CRITICAL ROLE IN ORCHESTRATING THE SUCCESSFUL DECEMBER 1999 UNITY ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SURKOV IS VERY CONFIDENT DUE TO HIS BACKING FROM THE POWERFUL PETR ((AVEN)) AND THE ALFA GROUP. SURKOV HAS DISTANCED HIMSELF FROM FIRST DEPUTY HEAD OF THE PA IGOR ((SHABDURASULOV)) AND RESISTED TAKING MORE MONEY FROM UNPOPULAR OLIGARCH BORIS ((BEREZOVSKIY)). IN THE MEANTIME, SURKOV HAS CULTIVATED A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH SBS-AGRO DIRECTOR ALEKSANDR ((SMOLENSKIY)). SURKOV SEEMS VERY FLEXIBLE IN NEGOTIATING THIS NETWORK OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

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(TS//HCS//OC/NF) 3. [REDACTED] CHERKESOV AND LESIN ARE SECONDARY CHOICES TO HEAD THE PA BECAUSE THEY LACK CONNECTIONS TO THE OLIGARCHS. LESIN HAS RECENTLY TRIED TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH THE ST. PETERSBURG GROUP OF PUTIN CONFIDANTES, BUT CHERKESOV HAS ADDITIONAL INFLUENCE WITH PUTIN DUE TO THEIR MUTUAL INTELLIGENCE AFFILIATION.

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(TS//HCS//OC/NF) 4. CURRENT PA HEAD ALEKSANDR ((VOLOSHIN)) WILL STAY IN HIS POSITION FOR AT LEAST A LITTLE LONGER. [REDACTED] VOLOSHIN AND HIS MENTOR, BEREZOVSKIY, WILL STRONGLY RESIST HIS LEAVING THE PA LEADERSHIP UNTIL HE IS PROMISED ANOTHER KEY JOB. SPECIFICALLY, VOLOSHIN WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE THE PA TO REPLACE ANATOLIY ((CHUBAYS)) AS HEAD OF RAO-UES OR REM ((VYAKHIREV)) AS CHIEF OF GAZPROM. IF VOLOSHIN STAYS ON AS PA HEAD INTO THE SUMMER, HE WOULD FORCE OUT HIS CURRENT NEMESIS, PRESIDENTIAL STAFF DEPUTY CHIEF DZHAKHAN ((POLLYYEVA)). ANOTHER BEREZOVSKIY LOYALIST AND PUTIN ELECTION CAMPAIGN STAFFER, KSENIYA ((PONOMAREVA)), HAS ALSO MANAGED TO REMAIN INFLUENTIAL IN THE CURRENT PUTIN GOVERNMENT AND HOPES TO STAY ON.

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(TS//HCS//OC/NF) 5. [REDACTED] KREMLIN SPOKESMAN SERGEY ((YASTRZHEMBSKIY)) HAS LOST INFLUENCE DUE TO HIS BLATANT ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER THE MEDIA MINISTRY. YASTRZHEMBSKIY MAY LOSE HIS JOB AFTER THE INAUGURATION BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF SUCCESS IN COORDINATING COVERAGE OF THE CHECHNYA CONFLICT WITH THE MILITARY.

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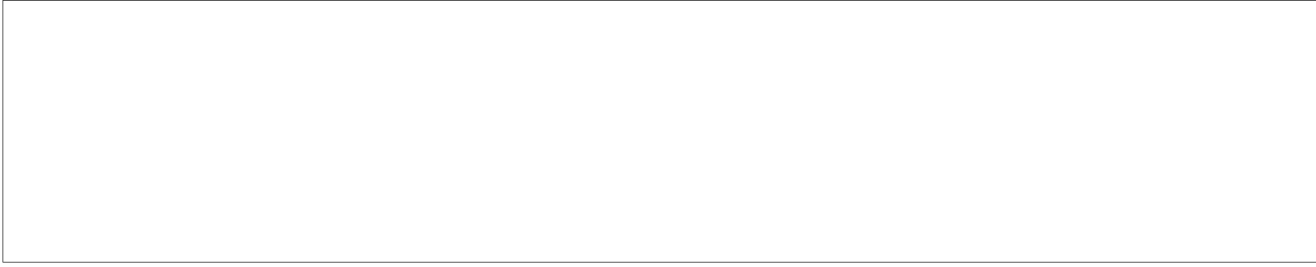
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