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~~(S//OC/NF)~~ **SUBJ: GROWING KREMLIN INSULARITY AND LACK OF COMPREHENSION OF RUSSIAN POLITICS**

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**Warnings:** ~~(S//OC/NF)~~----- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE -----

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

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~~(S//OC/NF)~~ 1. [Redacted] RUSSIAN PRESS, TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA MINISTER MIKHAIL ((LESIN)) CLAIMED THAT THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION (PA) HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY INSULAR AND CANNOT

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COMPREHEND THE ACTUAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA. LESIN SAID THAT PRESIDENT BORIS ((YEL'TSIN))'S INNER CIRCLE DISTRUSTS ALL BUT ITS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES AND REFUSES TO LISTEN TO THE OPINIONS OF OUTSIDERS. YEL'TSIN HAS REPEATEDLY FIRED SENIOR RUSSIAN OFFICIALS FOR PERCEIVED INSUBORDINATION, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIS "FAMILY." LESIN NOTED THAT YEL'TSIN'S ADVISERS WANT TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL EACH OF HIS SENIOR OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO LESIN, YEL'TSIN'S INSISTENCE ON CONTROLLING HIS PEOPLE WAS THE ONLY REASON WHY THE INCOMPETENT, BUT MALLEABLE, PA DIRECTOR ALEKSANDR ((VOLOSHIN)) HAS NOT BEEN SACKED. AS AN EXAMPLE, LESIN COMPLAINED THAT VOLOSHIN'S PA CONTINUES TO MAKE RIDICULOUS POLITICAL MOVES, SUCH AS THREATENING TO CANCEL THE BROADCASTING LICENSE OF RIVAL MEDIA MOST CHAIRMAN VLADIMIR ((GUSINSKIY))'S INDEPENDENT TELEVISION CHANNEL (NTV).

(S//OC/NF) 2. LESIN SAID THAT HE HAD A SCHEDULED 5 AUGUST MEETING WITH YEL'TSIN THAT WAS TO BE LARGELY A PROTOCOL MEETING TO LAST 45 MINUTES. HOWEVER, GIVEN YEL'TSIN'S UNSPECIFIED POOR HEALTH, LESIN SAID THAT HE ONLY EXPECTED IT TO LAST FIFTEEN MINUTES. LESIN DESCRIBED YEL'TSIN AS INCREASINGLY LESS ABLE TO MAKE INTELLIGENT DECISIONS AND RUN THE COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, LESIN CLAIMED THAT YEL'TSIN NO LONGER RECEIVED TRUTHFUL REPORTS FROM HIS UNDERLINGS ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN RUSSIA. LESIN OPINED THAT THE AILING RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PROBABLY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE ACTUAL SITUATION EVEN IF HIS AIDES GAVE HIM THE FULL STORY.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO ITAR-TASS, YEL'TSIN MET WITH LESIN IN THE KREMLIN ON 5 AUGUST 1999.)

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(S//OC/NF) 3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FORMER PREMIER VIKTOR ((CHERNOMYRDIN)) WAS SHOCKED TO FIND YEL'TSIN SO WOEFULLY UNINFORMED ABOUT RUSSIA'S POLITICAL SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IN LATE JULY, WHEN CHERNOMYRDIN MET WITH YEL'TSIN, THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE "ALL RUSSIA" REGIONAL GOVERNORS MOVEMENT WOULD JOIN FORCES WITH PA CANDIDATES IN THE UPCOMING STATE DUMA ELECTIONS. CHERNOMYRDIN COMMENTED THAT SUBSEQUENTLY THE "ALL RUSSIA" PARTY ALLIED ITSELF WITH MOSCOW MAYOR YURIY ((LUZHKOV))'S "FATHERLAND" PARTY IN EARLY AUGUST. ACCORDING TO CHERNOMYRDIN, THIS EXEMPLIFIED YEL'TSIN'S DISTORTED VIEW OF RUSSIAN POLITICS.

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(S//OC/NF) 4. ACCORDING TO LESIN, THE PA'S AND YEL'TSIN'S NEED TO CONTROL HIS SUBORDINATES LED TO THE FIRING OF PA DEPUTY HEAD AND FORMER GAZPROM EXECUTIVE SERGEY ((ZVEREV)) AS YEL'TSIN'S FAMILY SUSPECTED ZVEREV OF GIVING BUSINESS FAVORS TO GUSINSKIY. IN ADDITION, ZVEREV HAD AN ONGOING DISPUTE WITH PA DEPUTY HEAD DZHOKHAN ((POLLYYEVA)). MOST IMPORTANTLY, LESIN SAID, ZVEREV WAS REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION BECAUSE THE KREMLIN DISLIKED GAZPROM DIRECTOR REM ((VYAKHIREV))'S INCREASING CLOSENESS TO LUZHKOV. THE KREMLIN PARTICULARLY RESENTED GAZPROM'S OWNERSHIP OF 49 PERCENT OF THE MEDIA MOST HOLDING SHARES.

(S//OC/NF) 5. [REDACTED] THE RECENT OUSTER OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE RUSSIAN ARMS EXPORT COMPANY ROSVOORUZHENIYE, GRIGORIY ((RAPOTA)), AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THE PA'S OBSESSION WITH LOYALTY. [REDACTED] RAPOTA LOST HIS JOB BECAUSE OF HIS TIES TO FORMER PREMIER YEVGENIY ((PRIMAKOV)). [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE PA ALSO FEARED THAT RAPOTA MIGHT

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RESIST FORWARDING ROSVOORUZHENIYE'S PROFITS TO THE KREMLIN. THUS, THE FINANCIALLY-STRAPPED PA FIRED RAPOTA AND REPLACED HIM WITH "FAMILY" ASSOCIATE ALEKSEY ((OGAREV)), [REDACTED] OGAREV AS A FRIEND OF YEL'TSIN'S DAUGHTER TAT'YANA ((DYACHENKO)), AND A CLASSMATE OF HER HUSBAND.

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