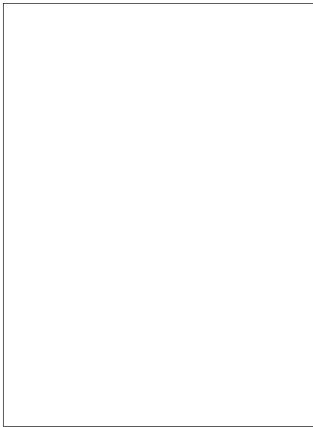


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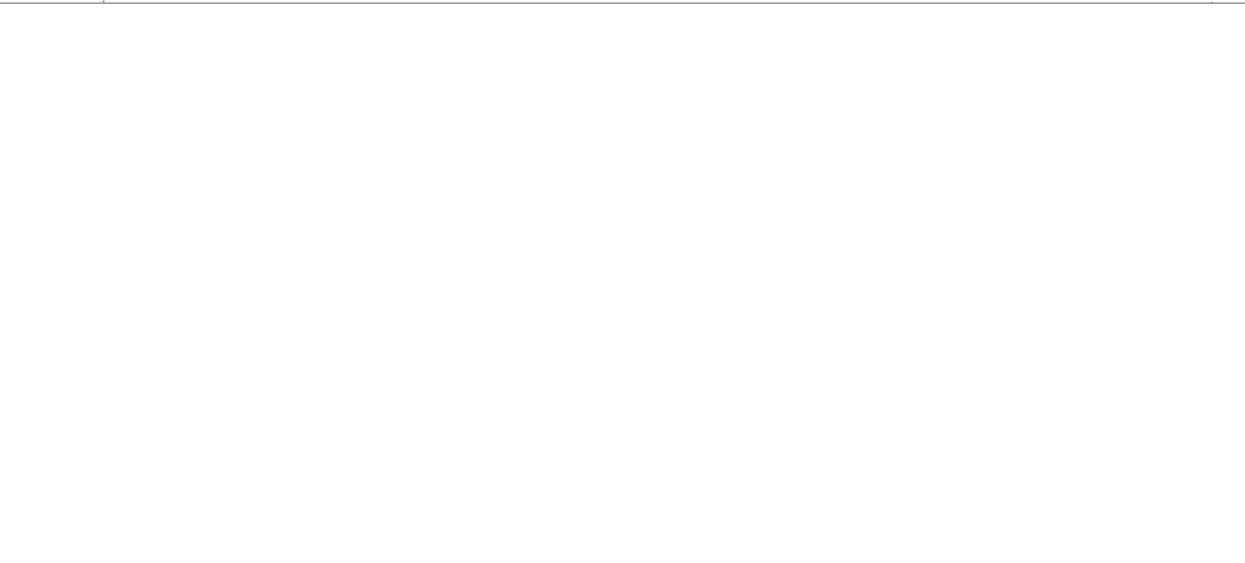
TITLE: RUSSIA: REACTION OF RUSSIAN MEDIA OFFICIALS TO PUTIN'S APPOINTMENT AS PREMIER
ABSTRACT: REACTION OF RUSSIAN MEDIA OFFICIALS TO PUTIN'S APPOINTMENT AS PREMIER
COUNTRY: RUSSIA

PUBTYPE: INFORMATION REPORT
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DIST: 13 AUGUST 1999

COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJ: REACTION OF RUSSIAN MEDIA OFFICIALS TO PUTIN'S
APPOINTMENT AS PREMIER

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(b)(3)

DOI: [Redacted]

SOURCE: [Redacted]

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SUMMARY: NONE.

TEXT: 1. [Redacted]

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(b)(3)

[Redacted] MANY RUSSIAN MEDIA OFFICIALS
STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH PRESIDENT BORIS ((YEL'TSIN))'S 9 AUGUST
DECISION TO NOMINATE FORMER FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE (FSB)
DIRECTOR VLADIMIR ((PUTIN)) AS PREMIER OF ALL RUSSIA. [Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[Redacted] NOVOSTI DIRECTOR ALEKSEY ((VOLIN)) WAS
PARTICULARLY ANGRY WITH YEL'TSIN FOR FIRING PREMIER SERGEY
((STEPASHIN)) AND INSTALLING PUTIN AS ACTING PREMIER. [Redacted]

(b)(1)
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[Redacted] VOLIN ASSESSED THE KREMLIN'S LATEST SHAKEUP TO BE
A STUPID MOVE, GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S ALREADY UNSTABLE POLITICAL AND

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FINANCIAL SITUATION. [REDACTED] VOLIN PERSONALLY LIKED STEPASHIN AND HAD WANTED HIM TO BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PROSPER IN THE POSITION. VOLIN, HOWEVER, ALSO PREDICTED THE RUBLE WOULD FALL AGAIN BY THE END OF AUGUST. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[REDACTED] VOLIN HAD MENTIONED THAT STEPASHIN'S OUSTER MIGHT HAVE SAVED HIM FROM BEING BLAMED FOR ANOTHER FINANCIAL CRISIS, SUCH AS FORMER PREMIER SERGEY ((KIRIYENKO)) WAS BLAMED FOR THE AUGUST 1998 FINANCIAL COLLAPSE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] MOST RUSSIAN JOURNALISTS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS DISLIKE AND DISTRUST PUTIN. IN FACT, THE NOVOSTI EMPLOYEES BECAME SO UPSET ABOUT STEPASHIN'S DISMISSAL THAT NEW MASS MEDIA MINISTER MIKHAIL ((LESIN)) HAD TO MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP TO NOVOSTI HEADQUARTERS ON 9 AUGUST TO CALM DOWN HIS EMPLOYEES. LESIN GATHERED TOGETHER HIS MINIONS LATE ON 9 AUGUST AND REASSURED THEM ABOUT THE CONTINUITY OF THEIR JOBS AND THE REGIME. LESIN ASKED HIS PEOPLE TO RESPECT PUTIN AND NOT TO BLAME HIM FOR THE KREMLIN'S INDECISIVENESS. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[REDACTED] LESIN ALSO TOLD THE NOVOSTI STAFF NOT TO VIEW THIS LEADERSHIP CHANGE AS OUT OF THE ORDINARY OR WORRISOME. LESIN THEN JOKINGLY PREDICTED THAT YEL'TSIN WOULD PROBABLY APPOINT TWO OR THREE MORE "SUCCESSORS" BY THE TIME HE LEAVES OFFICE IN 2000. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[REDACTED] THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF LESIN AND HIS EMPLOYEES WAS THAT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR YEL'TSIN TO TRANSFORM PUTIN INTO A SERIOUS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

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3. [REDACTED]

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4. [REDACTED]

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POC: [REDACTED] COMMENTS, EVALUATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS WELCOME.

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ACQ: [REDACTED]

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DISSEM: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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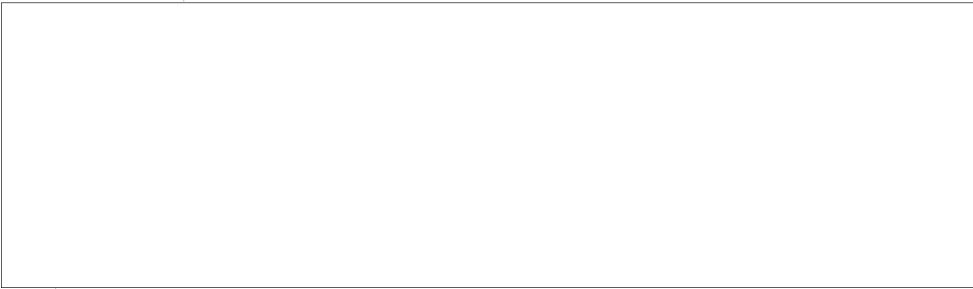
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