

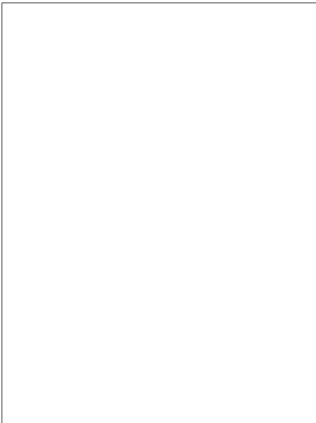
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TITLE: RUSSIA: RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF MARTIAL LAW

ABSTRACT: RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF MARTIAL LAW

COUNTRY: RUSSIA

PUBTYPE: INFORMATION REPORT

ADDENDUM: NONE IDENTIFIED

UPDATEDATE: 19990812

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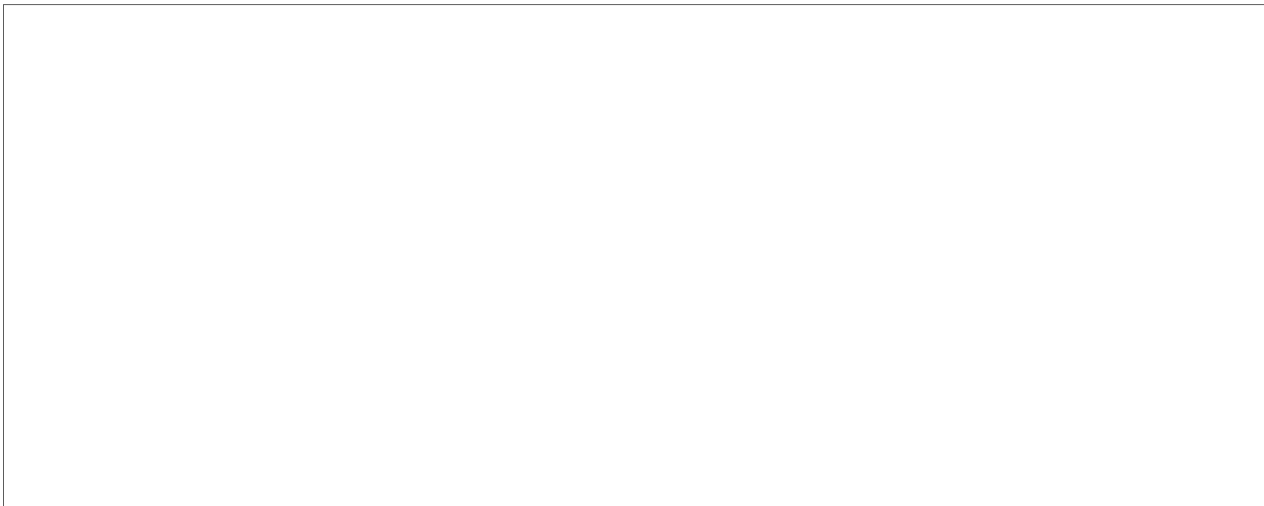
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIST: 9 AUGUST 1999

COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJ: RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING  
POSSIBILITY OF MARTIAL LAW

DOI: [Redacted]  
SOURCE: [Redacted]

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SUMMARY: NONE.

TEXT: 1. [Redacted] RUSSIAN  
PRESS, TELEVISION, AND RADIO BROADCASTING AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS  
MEDIA MINISTER MIKHAIL ((LESIN)) SAID THAT BORIS ((YEL'TSIN))'S  
PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION (PA) WAS CONSIDERING THE IMPOSITION OF

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MARTIAL LAW AS ONE SOLUTION TO THE GROWING INSTABILITY IN RUSSIAN POLITICS. ACCORDING TO LESIN, PA HEAD MIKHAIL ((VOLOSHIN)) HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY PARANOID ABOUT YEL'TSIN'S DECLINING POPULARITY, THE GROWING POPULARITY OF MOSCOW MAYOR YURIY ((LUZHKOV)), AND THE UNREST IN CHECHNYA. LESIN DESCRIBED VOLOSHIN AS DESPERATE ENOUGH TO TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES LIKE MARTIAL LAW IN ORDER TO KEEP YEL'TSIN AND HIS REGIME IN OFFICE.

2. IN ADDITION, LESIN SAID THAT VOLOSHIN AND YEL'TSIN WANTED TO PUSH OUT PREMIER SERGEY ((STEPASHIN)) IN FAVOR OF FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE (FSB) DIRECTOR AND SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARY VLADIMIR ((PUTIN)). [REDACTED] COMMENT: ON 9 AUGUST 1999, YEL'TSIN INDEED FIRED STEPASHIN AS PREMIER AND REPLACED HIM WITH PUTIN.) ACCORDING TO LESIN, THE PA RECENTLY DECIDED THAT FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER NIKOLAY ((AKSENENKO)) HAD TOO MANY ODD IDEAS TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT AND BEGAN CONSIDERING PUTIN FOR THE PREMIER'S JOB.

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3. LESIN SAID THAT STEPASHIN WAS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE PRECARIOUSNESS OF HIS POSITION. LESIN ADDED THAT STEPASHIN HAS EVEN TALKED WITH LUZHKOV ABOUT A POSITION ON THE FATHERLAND TICKET SHOULD YEL'TSIN REPLACE HIM WITH PUTIN. CLEARLY AGITATED, LESIN SAID THAT IF THE KREMLIN CONTINUED MAKING STUPID MOVES LIKE THE CONSIDERATION OF MARTIAL LAW, THEN HE WOULD ALSO JOIN LUZHKOV'S FATHERLAND PARTY. LESIN COMPLAINED THAT THE KREMLIN HAS NOT SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT REPLACING VOLOSHIN WITH SOMEONE MORE REASONABLE.

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

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ACQ: [REDACTED]

DISSEM: [REDACTED]

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WASHINGTON DISSEM:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF

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OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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