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SENIOR EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF  
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**Ukraine: Stonewalling Plane Crash Investigation**

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*Defense Minister Kuzmuk and other Defense officials refuse to back down from denials that a Ukrainian surface-to-air missile launched during training exercises in Crimea brought down the Russian jetliner last week. President Kuchma is giving the Defense Ministry more time to investigate, indicating that an admission of Ukrainian responsibility may not be imminent.*

-- Speaking to the legislature yesterday, Kuzmuk claimed that the SA-5 missile was tested at a range that was insufficient to reach the Russian plane. The commander in chief of the Ukrainian Air Defense Forces on Monday told journalists that the missile fell 180 km from where the Russian jetliner crashed.

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-- Kuchma on Monday said Ukraine must "dot all the i's" in its investigation but acknowledged that it is theoretically possible that a missile brought down the plane,

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*Pressure from Russia and Israel may prevent Ukraine from dragging this out.*

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[Redacted] Ukrainian, Russian, and Israeli personnel are in Sochi investigating the cause of the crash.

-- Putin yesterday said Russian specialists are not satisfied with the extent or quality of the documents Ukraine has provided on its air defense exercises,

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-- Russian experts on the joint commission investigating the tragedy believe that a Ukrainian SA-5 accidentally downed the plane when its radar locked on to the wrong target,

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