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RHFJUSC/US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHINGTON DC

RHFJUSE/USCS FIU SE MIAMI FL

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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR//

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RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

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RUEPMAA/GISA FT BRAGG NC

RUEPPOG/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//

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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, LEADER, MEDIA, MILITARY, TERRORISM

SERI SERIAL: CEP20011015000163

COUN COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJ*SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2--Rumors About Gazprom-Media, Kursk, Anthrax Sources, Others Cited

SOUR SOURCE: Moscow Moskovskiy Komsomolets In Russian 15 Oct 81 P 2

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TEXT TEXT:

["Rumors Rated" feature compiled by Inara Filatova, Marina Romanova, and Yekaterina Deyeva]
 [FBIS Translated Text] One Large TV Channel Instead of Two Small Ones; Rumor from Ostankino [subhead]

The most implausible rumors emerged last week in the corridors of Ostankino. First, there was a discussion of Gazprom's intention to get rid of the television channels under its control. TNT workers were particularly concerned: Kokh, so the rumor makers claim, has only just said that he has gotten more money for the channel before resigning from Gazprom-media. Now a very gloomy mood prevails at TNT: They are saying that journalists have little hope of getting their salaries in the immediate future and their long-term prospects are not clear at all. A second rumor is that the authorities intend to attack TV-6 -- they allegedly intend to close the channel using the strategy with which we are already familiar. But who will get this frequency is so far unclear to the rumor makers too. And, finally, the most "global rumor" -- they say the Kremlin has decided to merge ORT and RTR -- and almost in time for the New Year there will be one big channel instead of two.

The Kursk Will Never Be Raised; Rumors from Roslyakovo [subhead]

It has been announced officially that the delivery of the Kursk to the Roslyakovo floating dock is being postponed for a week. But according to rumors from Roslyakovo itself the submarine will never be raised at all.

The reason is allegedly the cracks in the nuclear reactor formed when the torpedo exploded. While the submarine was lying on the sea bed under the water pressure the reactor remained hermetically sealed and the radiation did not "leak" from it. If the Kursk is raised then in the specialists' opinion the cracks will spread and radiation pollution will not be avoided. Another story is that at least two missile containers close to the blast in the first compartment were damaged.

The reason for the rumors is the lack of any visible reasons for delaying the final stage of the operation -- the weather in the region of Roslyakovo is normal and the equipment is operating without a hitch. Why then are the salvage operators being dilatory? According to other rumors this is being done to give time for the divers to work as they are now secretly seeking the ship's log in the submarine hull -- you never know what may be written there about the causes of the tragedy... And the most improbable rumor is that the Northern Fleet is already preparing to transport the Kursk inside the Arctic Circle and to encase it in concrete and sink it to a great depth.

You can understand the outspoken rumor-makers: After all, the longer the powers conceal the truth about the submarine, the more fantastic the stories become....

* Taliban Helped by Ordinary Americans; Florida Rumor [subhead]

* The events in Florida, where several people have been infected with anthrax, have shaken the whole world. It is still unclear how this could have happened. After all, as we know, only a few states have anthrax strains and the bacilli are carefully kept in closed laboratories and people cannot gain access to them from the street. How did the terrorists -- if they are to blame -- get to the lethal bacteria? The rumor makers have their theories.

According to one theory the Islamic terrorists were helped by ordinary Americans. Or to be more precise by members of local American extremist groupings. There are quite a few of these in the United States. For instance the "Branch Davidians," the "Texas separatists," the "Militia...." They are all dissatisfied with the country's official authorities and are not averse to scheming against them.

According to the rumors, an activist from one of these sects happened to be working in a top-secret American biological laboratory. The rest was a mere technical matter -- the Taliban found the man they needed, he stole the test tubes they wanted for work and the result is several Americans infected with anthrax. The rumor "carriers" say that the anthrax bacilli were of a specific kind like the strains "cultivated" in America....

Kremlin Has Acquired New Berezovskiy; Kremlin Corridors [subhead]

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Nature abhors a vacuum. Especially in the case of the Kremlin. Rumor has it that new "eminences grises" are taking over from the former ones. Rumor has it that the Presidential Staff is calling a representative of the new generation of oligarchs -- one Mr Pugachev -- nothing less than the second Berezovskiy. Apart from the fact that this gentleman has become a frequent visitor to Putin's reception area and is making friends with the most influential Kremlin officials, so far little is known about him. He is the owner of a large Moscow bank managing a small Moscow television channel. It is also known that the newfound banker's power is based on his close relationship to Aleksandr Voloshin.

The rumors that Pugachev has become definitively established on the political Olympus, overtaking another contender -- the banker Kogan -- in the desperate race to become Berezovskiy's successor began to spread after the insignificant Moscow channel began to gain an entree to film all major events involving the

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