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ENVELOPE

RTAUZYUW RUEKJCS9766 1511336-UUUU--RUEALGX.

ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R
 301336Z MAY 00
 FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
 INFO RUEALGX/SAFE
 R
 301327Z MAY 00
 FM FBIS RESTON VA

TO RUQVKEW/AFIWC KELLY AFB TX//OSKC//
 RUDKPN/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN//FOR REGIONAL AFFAIRS//
 RUEPPOG/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
 RUEPPOG/CDR4THPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AOCF-POG-SB//
 RUEOAYA/CDRNGIC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
 RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASHINGTON DC//DIS//
 RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2//
 RUCXGRD/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
 RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J-2//
 RUWGTCG/COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PI//
 RUEPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
 RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC//DASG-MIR//
 RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
 RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC//IN-1//
 RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC//S-60//
 RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
 RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
 RAYWBBK/DIO CANBERRA AS
 RUANJTF/DIRJIATF EAST//J2//
 RUCXNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINVSERV WASHINGTON DC
 RUEPMA/GISA FT BRAGG NC
 RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
 RHHJJAA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
 RHEFJWC/JWAC DAHLGREN VA
 RUCXQAN/MARCORINTACT QUANTICO VA
 RUEDAEEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH
 RULSADT/NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER JOHNSTOWN PA
 RUETIAA/NSACSS FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
 RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
 RHDLONR/ONREUR LONDON UK
 RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR//
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//PASS TO AID FOR DAVID DALTON//
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//STR//

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RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
RUDKKC/TASHKENTBETA
RUFTAKC/UDITDUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
RHFJUSC/US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHINGTON DC
RUFQBBA/US SURVEY DIV SHAPE BE
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAIHINGEN GE
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RHFJUSI/USCS AIU LONG BEACH CA
RHFJUSE/USCS FIU SE MIAMI FL
RHFJUSH/USCS TIC BAY ST LOUIS MS
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RHFPAAA/UT AIS RAMSTEIN AB GE//INOW//
ACCT FBWA-EWDK
BT

CONTROLS

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WARNING: UNIQUE_ID: CEP20000530000152

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH,
TECHNOLOGY, TERRORISM

SERIAL: CE0005300152

BODY

COUNTRY: RUSSIA, UNITED STATES
SUBJ: US Invests in Guarding 'Dangerous' Russian Virus Stocks
SOURCE: Moscow Izvestiya in Russian 27 May 00 P 2
TEXT:

Report by Sergey Leskov: "Vivarium Is Lure for Terrorist. United States Allocates Money To Guard Strains of Dangerous Infections Kept in Russian Laboratories"

FBIS Translated Text The State Scientific Center for Applied Microbiology in Obolensk has signed a contract with U.S. partners worth a total of \$1.2 million, the lion's share of which will be spent on creating a security system for the Russian collection of strains of particularly dangerous viruses. "The Americans fear terrorists," Vladimir Volkov, the center's deputy director, told Izvestiya.

Bacteriological weapons are the most mysterious of all the types of weapons of mass destruction. International agreements,

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starting with the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological Weapons, prohibit their development. But research of a defensive nature is permitted. This is an axiom of medicine: In order to test a vaccine, first it is necessary to produce harmful agents. Unlike the agreements on nuclear weapons, none of the documents relating to bacteriological weapons mentions the exact criteria for the quantities that may be produced in laboratories and not violate the convention....

The State Scientific Center for Applied Microbiology was founded in 1975, at the time of so-called "detente." The center is situated next to the ancestral estate of the Princes Obolenskiy, hence the name of the new city. The secret installation was part of the Biopreparat Association, which had plants and proving grounds all over the country. The center at Obolensk was entrusted with producing the strains of plague and anthrax needed for experiments. The most scandalous officially registered incident in the history of bacteriological weapons was associated precisely with anthrax. In 1979 a virus of this disease was released from a military laboratory in Sverdlovsk, with the result that 69 people died within a matter of hours. Incidentally, Obolensk is on the territory of the Oka National Park, in one of the most densely populated rayons of Moscow Oblast.

Some 40 tonnes of dry biological preparations a year are now produced in Obolensk, and they meet 50 percent of the requirements of the Russian State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision. Research is conducted into pathogens of anthrax, plague, glanders, Legionnaires' disease, and, particularly actively, tuberculosis.

Like all our centers, the formerly supersecret Obolensk has acquired partners in the West in recent years. Its scientific potential is such that clients were not slow to make themselves known. A recent example is provided by its \$350,000 April contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to create a vaccine against the mysterious "campylobacteriosis" disease, which cuts down broiler chicks.

But Obolensk had not had million-dollar contracts before. The underlying reason for the agreement is instructive. Some \$310,000 has been allocated to the creation of a vaccine against "hog black ear" disease, which U.S. virologists are unable to decipher. The darkening of the ears is an outward sign: The disease strikes the animal's internal organs, and the meat ends up being poisonous. But far more -- \$950,000 -- has been allocated to creating a physical and biological security system, which will guarantee against the penetration of collections of strains of infectious diseases by undesirable elements.

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Vladimir Volkov, deputy director of the State Scientific Center for Applied Microbiology, told Izvestiya that the system will be built according to the banking principle with safe locks, video recording, and magnetic access to the vivarium. The question of why such a need has arisen and whether there are grounds to fear a biological Chernobyl went unanswered.

Apart from the tragedy at Sverdlovsk, several other instances of bacteriological accidents are known. In 1982, following a release of brucellosis bacteria from a Moscow Veterinary Institute laboratory, 15 people were admitted to intensive care. In 1968 6,400 sheep died as the result of a leak of toxins at Dugway Proving Ground (United States). In the fifties instances of lethal infection of personnel with anthrax were recorded at the U.S. Fort Detrick base. Tests of biological weapons on Gruinard Island Scotland rendered it uninhabitable for 45 years. In areas adjacent to the Soviet proving ground on Vozrozhdeniya Island in the Aral Sea mass pestilence among fish and murrain among saiga antelopes were noted for decades. Ecologists still regard those places as unsuitable for grazing sheep.

Description of Source: One of Russia's most prominent dailies, now controlled by Vladimir Potanin's Oneksimbank.

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