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SECTION 01 OF 04 MOSCOW 13508

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/B

E.O. 12356: DECL

TAGS: PGOV, UR, PARM, MCAP, SENV, ZU, SF, SCUL, PINS, PINR

SUBJECT: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY

1. [REDACTED] -- ENTIRE TEXT

SUMMARY

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2. WHAT DO SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES DO WHEN THEY ARE NOT ON THE FLOOR OF THE SUPREME SOVIET? TO FIND OUT, EMBOFF SPENT A DAY WITH USSR SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY OLZHAS SULEYMENOV AND HIS ASSISTANT ALMAZ YESTEKOV

[REDACTED] BOTH ARE NATIVE KAZAKHS AND MUSLIMS. THEY FERVENTLY SUPPORT KAZAKH POLITICAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND OPPOSE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING IN KAZAKHSTAN. THE DAY INCLUDED A CONFRONTATION WITH USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OFFICIALS OVER THE CLOSING OF THE SEMIPALATINSK NUCLEAR TESTING SITE, A SUPREME SOVIET COMMITTEE MEETING ON ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, AN ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR A TELETHON AT THE SOVIET PEACE FUND, A MEETING AT THE SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE ON AN UPCOMING VISIT WITH NELSON

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MANDELA IN LONDON, AND DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A TELEVISION INTERVIEW. THE DAY ENDED WITH DINNER AT A LOCAL MAFIA-RUN RESTAURANT, WHERE TWO THUGS PULLED

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GUNS ON YESTEKOV AFTER A CONFRONTATION WITH AN  
INTOXICATED MAFIA MEMBER. END SUMMARY.

## INTRODUCTION

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3. OLZHAS SULEYMENOV, A 54-YEAR OLD KAZAKH WRITER AND PRACTICING MUSLIM, IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS OUTSPOKEN VIEWS AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING IN KAZAKHSTAN. HE HAS ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTED PUBLISHING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE STALINIST PURGES AND VIGOROUSLY PROMOTED KAZAKHSTAN'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AUTONOMY. SULEYMENOV IS A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME SOVIET COMMISSIONS ON LEGISLATION AND LEGALITY, ON ECOLOGY AND THE RATIONAL USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ON INTERETHNIC RELATIONS. HE IS ALSO AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE.

4. HIS KAZAKH ASSISTANT, ALMAZ YESTEKOV, IS A VERY ENERGETIC OPERATOR WHO SEEMS TO KNOW EVERYONE AND IS INVOLVED IN COUNTLESS ETHNIC CAUSES, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF MUSLIM GROUPS. YESTEKOV CUTS AN UNUSUAL FIGURE IN MOSCOW WITH HIS LONG BLACK HAIR AND BEARD, ASIAN FEATURES, HEIGHT (ABOUT 6'6"), AND CONSTANT GESTICULATING. HE TALKS A MILE A MINUTE AND WILL OCCASIONALLY BREAK INTO A RECITATION OF THE KORAN AT UNEXPECTED MOMENTS. YESTEKOV WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING CARS, ARRANGING MEETINGS, AND GENERALLY SMOOTHING SULEYMENOV'S PROGRESS THROUGH HIS BUSY

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SCHEDULE.

SMOKE-FILLED ROOMS AND POLITICAL CONFRONTATION

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5. EMBOFF BEGAN THE DAY (APRIL 12) AT THE SUPREME SOVIET COMMISSION BUILDING IN A SMOKE-FILLED ROOM WHERE SULEYMENOV WAS MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF ATOMIC POWER AND INDUSTRY ABOUT NUCLEAR TESTING AT THE SEMIPALATINSK SITE. A HEATED DEBATE ENSUED WITH SULEYMENOV CHARGING THAT THESE MEN WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ILLNESS AND DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF HIS CONSTITUENTS WHO LIVED NEAR

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SEMIPALATINSK. THE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUED TO CITE "ALL-UNION PRIORITIES" AND "NATIONAL INTERESTS" AND ONE IN PARTICULAR REDDENED WITH ANGER WHEN SULEYMENOV REFUSED TO ACCEPT A TWO-YEAR PHASEOUT OF THE SEMIPALATINSK SITE. THE MAN PRACTICALLY SHOUTED THAT THIS WAS A CONSIDERABLE CONCESSION FROM THE PREVIOUS OFFER BY MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE END OF FEBRUARY TO END TESTING AT THE SITE IN THREE YEARS. (THE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES WERE UNAWARE OF EMBOFF'S IDENTITY BECAUSE NO INTRODUCTIONS WERE MADE.)

6. SULEYMENOV QUIETLY STOOD HIS GROUND AND CONTINUED TO INSIST ON AN EARLIER CLOSING DATE. ON APRIL 10, IGOR BELOUSOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION, TOLD SULEYMENOV THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CLOSE THE SEMIPALATINSK TESTING SITE IN TWO YEARS. SULEYMENOV TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE

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CONSIDERED THE CLOSING OF THE TEST SITE HIS MOST  
IMPORTANT MANDATE AND MORAL DUTY.

HEARTY GREETINGS AND HEAVY POLITICKING

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7. AFTER THIS MEETING, SULEYMENOV ENTERED THE  
HALLWAY, WHICH WAS CROWDED WITH DEPUTIES WHO WERE  
RELAXING BETWEEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS. DEPENDING ON  
THEIR ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS AND THE DEGREE OF THEIR  
FRIENDSHIPS, THE DEPUTIES GREETED EACH OTHER WITH THE  
TRADITIONAL CENTRAL ASIAN GREETING PLACING HAND OVER  
HEART, A KISS ON BOTH CHEEKS, AN EMBRACE, OR A HEARTY  
HANDSHAKE. SULEYMENOV APPEARED TO BE POPULAR WITH  
DEPUTIES OF ALL NATIONALITIES. SEVERAL DEPUTIES WERE  
LOBBYING FOR DRAFT LEGISLATION THEY HAD WRITTEN OR  
FOR A PARTICULAR CAUSE SUCH AS AID FOR CHERNOBYL'  
VICTIMS.

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8. AFTER THE BREAK, SULEYMENOV ATTENDED A MEETING OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY AND THE RATIONAL USE OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES. ON THE AGENDA WERE A NUMBER OF  
TOPICS INCLUDING HOW NATURAL RESOURCES COULD BE  
DIVIDED ACCORDING TO THE NEW AUTONOMY MANY OF THE  
REPUBLICS WERE SEEKING. DURING THE MEETING, SEVERAL  
DEPUTIES AND THEIR STAFF WERE RUNNING IN AND OUT OF  
THE AUDITORIUM CONSULTING WITH EACH OTHER. OUTSIDE  
IN THE HALLWAY, SOVIET JOURNALISTS WERE CONDUCTING  
RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL DEPUTIES.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN -- FOR CHERNOBYL' AND MANDELA

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9. SULEYMENOV HAD TO LEAVE THE MEETING EARLY TO PICK

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UP SOME DOCUMENTS AT THE SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE (AASC). HE CALLED FOR ONE OF THE VOLGAS WHICH FERRY THE DEPUTIES AROUND MOSCOW AND ARE NOT ALWAYS EASY TO GET OR DEPENDABLE, ACCORDING TO SULEYMENOV. ON THE WAY, HE DROPPED IN ON A MEETING HELD AT THE SOVIET PEACE FUND. THE FUND WAS ORGANIZING A TELETHON TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHERNOBYL' VICTIMS. AFTER SULEYMENOV QUIETLY CONSULTED WITH ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS IN THE HALLWAY, HE WALKED OVER TO THE AASC WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE SAME BUILDING.

10. HE SPENT ABOUT FORTY MINUTES IN THE OFFICE OF DMITRIY ZAVGORODNIY, SECRETARY OF THE AASC, WHO WAS MAKING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SULEYMENOV'S TRIP TO LONDON FOR A MEETING WITH NELSON MANDELA. ZAVGORODNIY HAD MET MANDELA LAST FEBRUARY WHEN MANDELA TOOK HIS FIRST TRIP OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON. SULEYMENOV SAID HE LOOKED

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[REDACTED]

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FORWARD TO MEETING MANDELA AND DESCRIBED OTHER TRIPS HE HAD MADE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE DEPUTY HAD ORGANIZED MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST WRITERS' UNION WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL MEMBERS OF MOZAMBIQUE'S LEADERSHIP. SULEYMENOV HAD ALSO TRAVELLED TO NAMIBIA AND AGOLA IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

11. THE GROUP THEN DISCUSSED ARABIC CULTURE AND ISLAM WHICH PROMPTED YESTEKOV TO TAKE OUT HIS KORAN AND BEGIN SINGING VERSES. AFTER SULEYMENOV RECEIVED THE DOCUMENTS FOR HIS TRIP TO LONDON, HE DEPARTED FOR A MEETING WITH A KAZAKH TELEVISION REPRESENTATIVE WHO WANTED TO INTERVIEW HIM ABOUT HIS WORK AT THE SUPREME SOVIET. YESTEKOV OPTED TO GET A TAXI SINCE THE SUPREME SOVIET VOLGA HAD DISAPPEARED. YESTEKOV AND EMBOFF WAITED IN THE CAR WHILE SULEYMENOV ARRANGED TO MEET THE TELEVISION INTERVIEWER LATER IN THE EVENING.

CENTRAL ASIAN FOOD WITH A MAFIA TOUCH

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12. SULEYMENOV SOON RETURNED TO THE CAR AND WITH EMBOFF, MADE HIS WAY TO THE UZBEKISTAN RESTAURANT WHERE, ACCORDING TO YESTEKOV, YOU CAN GET "REAL



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CENTRAL ASIAN FOOD." AT THE RESTAURANT, SULEYMENOV  
AND EMBOFF WAITED IN THE TAXI WHILE YESTEKOV WENT  
INSIDE TO "MAKE ARRANGEMENTS" -- WHICH ESSENTIALLY  
MEANT MAKING THE BRIBES NECESSARY TO GET A GOOD  
TABLE. AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES, YESTEKOV REAPPEARED  
AND USHERED SULEYMENOV AND EMBOFF INTO THE RESTAURANT

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TO A LARGE SEMI-PRIVATE ROOM RESERVED FOR "SPECIAL  
GUESTS." SEVERAL RATHER RUGGED LOOKING INDIVIDUALS  
(MEMBERS OF THE RESTAURANT MAFIA, ACCORDING TO

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YESTEKOV) WERE JUST FINISHING THEIR MEAL. YESTEKOV, ALWAYS MINDFUL OF PAYING THE PROPER RESPECTS TO SULEYMENOV, INSISTED THAT THE TABLECLOTH BE CHANGED, THE CHAIRS BRUSHED OFF, AND THE TABLE MADE LARGER.

13. WHILE WAITING FOR DINNER TO BE SERVED, SULEYMENOV AND YESTEKOV DISCUSSED KAZAKH CULTURE AND ISLAM. AT ONE POINT, YESTEKOV AGAIN BURST INTO SONG, RECITING THE KORAN WITH OBVIOUS JOY. SULEYMENOV CLEARLY ENJOYED YESTEKOV'S ENTHUSIASM. DURING DINNER, SULEYMENOV DESCRIBED HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND (SEE SEPTTEL) AND DISCUSSED THE ISSUES HE PLANNED TO CONCENTRATE ON DURING HIS TENURE AS SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY. THESE INCLUDED THE CLOSING OF THE SEMIPALATINSK NUCLEAR TESTING SITE AND PUSHING FOR KAZAKHSTAN'S AUTONOMY THROUGH FAVORABLE NEGOTIATION

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OF A NEW TREATY OF THE UNION AND A NEW USSR CONSTITUTION.

14. SULEYMENOV ASSERTED THAT KAZAKHSTAN MUST GAIN CONTROL OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES, ENTERPRISES (LOCAL AND ALL-UNION), AND LAND AS PART OF ITS STRUGGLE FOR AUTONOMY. HE SAID THE REPUBLIC SHOULD DEMAND RENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR THE LAND THEY USE FOR MILITARY BASES. THIS LED TO A DISCUSSION OF ETHNIC PROBLEMS THE USSR WAS PRESENTLY FACING. SULEYMENOV TOLD EMBOFF HE BELIEVED THAT GORBACHEV WOULD SOON BE FORCED TO TAKE VERY STRONG MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE UNREST THAT WAS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

15. AFTER THE MEAL, SULEYMENOV ASKED YESTEKOV TO RECITE TRADITIONAL MUSLIM PRAYERS. AS THE GROUP WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE, EMBOFF NOTICED THREE OR FOUR YOUNG TOUGHS AT THE OTHER END OF THE ROOM. YESTEKOV EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE PART OF THE RESTAURANT MAFIA, WHICH WAS COMPRISED MOSTLY OF YOUNG RUSSIAN THUGS. HE SAID THAT IF YOU WANT A GOOD MEAL AT MOST RESTAURANTS IN MOSCOW, YOU MUST PAY NOT THE MANAGER, BUT THE HEAD OF THE RESTAURANT MAFIA. THIS MAFIA ROVED ABOUT THE RESTAURANT AND SURROUNDING AREAS STAKING OUT TERRITORY AND DEFENDING THEIR TURF.

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16. YESTEKOV LEFT A FEW MINUTES EARLY TO PROCURE A TAXI AND INSTRUCTED SULEYMENOV AND EMBOFF TO MEET HIM AT THE FRONT OF THE RESTAURANT. AS EMBOFF AND SULEYMENOV STOOD IN THE POURING RAIN LOOKING FOR YESTEKOV, THEY NOTICED THAT A MAFIA MEMBER HAD YESTEKOV BY THE ARM AND WAS SHOVING AND SHAKING HIM

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[REDACTED]

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WHILE SHOUTING TO SOME OTHER MEN WHO WERE STANDING IN FRONT OF THE RESTAURANT. AS THEY MOVED PASSED EMBOFF, SHE NOTICED THAT TWO MEN WALKING BEHIND YESTEKOV WERE POINTING GUNS AT HIM.

17. THE MAN WHO HELD YESTEKOV WAS CLEARLY INTOXICATED AND LISTING TO ONE SIDE AS HE WALKED. HIS EYES WERE RED AND SWOLLEN AND HE SLURRED HIS SPEECH. EMBOFF HEARD HIM SCREAM, "WHY DOES YOUR DEPUTY NEED TO EAT HERE WHEN HE CAN EAT AT HIS OWN HOTEL, THE MOSKVA?" AT THIS POINT, ABOUT TEN MAFIA MEMBERS HAD GATHERED AND MORE WERE COMING OUT OF THE RESTAURANT TO JOIN THE GROUP. MEANWHILE, YESTEKOV WAS TRYING TO CALM EVERYONE DOWN, ESPECIALLY THE MEN WITH THE GUNS. SEVERAL OF THE GROUP'S MEMBERS APPEARED INTOXICATED AND MANY WERE ARMED WITH GUNS AND KNIVES WHICH WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THEIR BELTS AND JACKETS. AS THE SITUATION BECAME MORE THREATENING, SULEYMENOV WALKED OVER TO THE MAN WHO APPEARED TO BE THE LEADER. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION, THE ENTIRE CROWD LOOKED OVER AT EMBOFF. AFTER THIS, SULEYMENOV WAS ABLE TO EXTRACT YESTEKOV FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE INTOXICATED MAFIOSO. EMBOFF, SULEYMENOV, AND YESTEKOV WASTED NO TIME HAILING A TAXI AND DEPARTING.

18. ON THE WAY BACK TO THE EMBASSY, YESTEKOV WHO WAS QUITE SHAKEN APOLOGIZED FOR THE SCENE. SULEYMENOV SHOOK HIS HEAD AND TOLD YESTEKOV THAT HE "SHOULDN'T ASSOCIATE WITH THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE." THEN A DISCUSSION OF CRIME IN MOSCOW ENSUED WITH THE

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ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION OF THE TAXI DRIVER WHO  
FREQUENTLY CHIMED IN WITH HIS OWN HORROR STORIES.  
AND SO ENDED EMBOFF'S DAY WITH A SUPREME SOVIET  
DEPUTY.

19. LENINGRAD MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MATLOCK

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