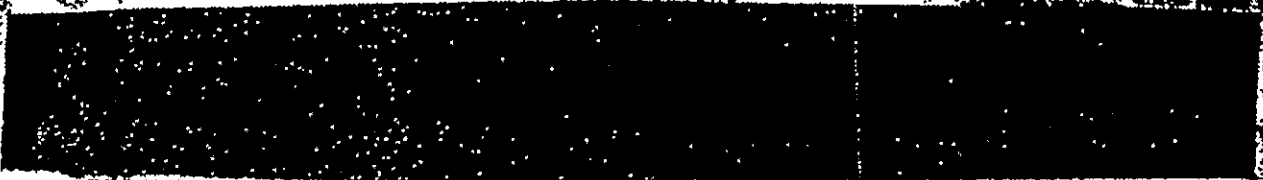


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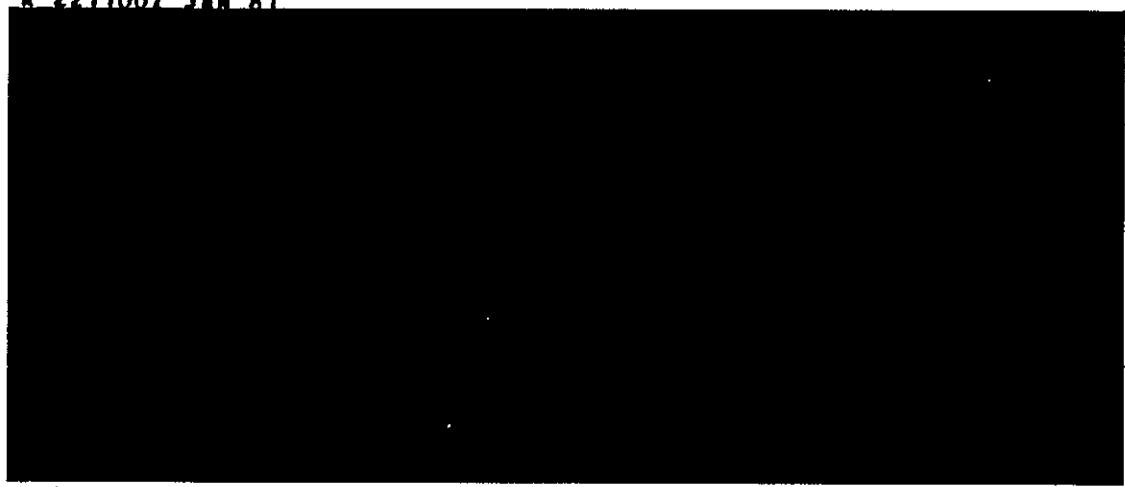
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SUBJ: IR [REDACTED] (U)

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THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

- 1. (U) CTRY: SOVIET UNION (UR)
- 2. (U) TITLE: SVERDLOVSK [REDACTED] BIOLOGICAL ACCIDENT (U)
- 3. (U) DATE OF INFO: 790430

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7. (U) SUMMARY: THIS REPORT CONTAINS INFO ON THE OUTBREAK OF A MISTERIOUS DISEASE (CALLED "ANTRAKS" OR "SIBERIAN ULCER") IN SVERDLOVSK [REDACTED] DURING APR/MAY 1979.

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8A. (C) DETAILS:

(b)(2)

(1) AN OUTBREAK OF A MISTERIOUS DISEASE HAD OCCURRED IN SVERDLOVSK [REDACTED] IN APR/MAY 1979 DURING WHICH SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK HAD DIED. THE DISEASE WAS CALLED BY LOCAL POPULATION "ANTRAKS" OR "SIBERIAN ULCER" (SIBIRSKAYA YAZVA). IT BROKE OUT IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF SVERDLOVSK, CHKALOVSKIY CITY DISTRICT (CHKALOVSKIY RAYON) [REDACTED]

A FEW, ISOLATED DEATHS WERE RUMORED IN THE LENINSKIY CITY DISTRICT [REDACTED] APPROX 10 KM DISTANCE FROM CHKALOVSKIY DISTRICT. THE DISEASE OUTBREAK, ALSO CALLED "EPIDEMIC", LASTED UNTIL MID-SUMMER 1979.

(2) ACCORDING TO RUMORS, THE DISEASE HAD STATED AT UN U/I MIL INSTALLATION (VOYENNY GORODOK) IN CHKALOVSKIY DISTRICT. AN U/I CONSTR UNIT WAS ALSO STATIONED AT THE ABOVE INSTL. A CIVILIAN FEMALE COOK, AND AN UNK NUMBER OF OFF AND EM HAD DIED WITHIN FEW HOURS AT THE ABOVE MIL INSTL ALLEGEDLY FROM MEAT POISONING. NFI. IT WAS RUMORED THAT THE ABOVE MIL INSTL WAS TO BE CLOSED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BUT AS OF SEP 1980 [REDACTED]

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THE MIL INSTL WAS STILL BEING USED. ANOTHER RUMOR WAS THAT A CONTAMINATED COW WAS INADVERTENTLY EXCAVATED BY THE CONSTR UNIT AND CAUSED THE EPIDEMIC.

(3) AN UNK NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT A CERAMIC PLANT, LOCATED APPROX 1-2 KM FROM THE MIL INSTL, HAD ALSO DIED FROM THE SAME DISEASE. THE PLANT WAS IMMEDIATELY CLOSED. NFI.

(4) THE SYMPTOMS OF THE MISTERIOUS DISEASE WERE AS FOLLOWS: HEART FAILURE, RESPIRATORY FAILURE, OR DIARRHEA. ALLEGEDLY VICTIMS HAD DIED WITHIN A FEW HOURS, SOME HAD DIED WITHIN 6 HOURS FROM ONE OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS. THE SICK WERE PLACED IN QUARANTINE WARDS THROUGHOUT THE CITY HOSPITALS. [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANYONE HAD RECOVERED FROM THE DISEASE. [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW ANYONE PERSONALLY WHO HAD THE DISEASE. NFI.

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(5) THE RESIDENTS OF CHKALOVSKIY DISTRICT, AGES 20 YRS AND OVER, WERE VACCINATED (FREE OF CHARGE) WITH AN UNKNOWN VACCINE, USING AIR GUN. CHILDREN AND PERSONNEL UNDER 20 YRS OF AGE WERE NOT VACCINATED. EACH INDIVIDUAL WAS VACCINATED THREE TIMES, SOURCE DID NOT KNOW AT WHAT INTERVALS. SOME INDIVIDUALS REACTED TO THE VACCINE WITH HIGH FEVER AND SOME HAD DIED. NFI. ALLEGEDLY THE VACCINE WAS "VERY EXPENSIVE" AND WAS IMPORTED FROM THE WESTERN EUROPE AND USA. NFI.

(6) CHKALOVSKIY DISTRICT AUTHORITIES TOOK THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO CONTROL THE DISEASE OUTBREAK: LOCAL POLICE CONFISCATED PRIVATE MEAT AND DIARY PRODUCTS SUPPLIES THROUGH DOOR-TO-DOOR SEARCH AND BURNED THE PRODUCTS. PRIVATE LIVE STOCK, SUCH AS CATTLE AND PIGS WERE ORDERED TO BE SLAUGHTERED, THE CARCASSES WERE ALSO BURNED BY THE POLICE. ALL HOUSES WERE DESINFECTED. THE SVERDLOVSK CITY WATER HAD A VERY STRONG CLORINETASTE. THE TREES AND GRASS WERE SPRAYED WITH UNKNOWN LIQUID FROM HELICOPTERS AT NIGHT FOR A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS. THE POPULATION WAS ORDER TO STAY INDOORS AT NIGHT. THE LEAVES ON THE TREES WERE COVERED WITH A THIN WHITE COAT OF UNK SUBSTANCE BUT DID NOT DAMAGE THE LEAVES. ALL DITCHES AND GRASS PATCHES IN CHKALOVSKIY DISTRICT WERE COVERED WITH A LAYER OF CEMENT, PURPOSE UNKNOWN. BUSES, PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES AND PEDESTRIANS ENTERING AND LEAVING CHKALOVSKIY DISTRICT WERE SEARCHED AND MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS WERE CONFISCATED. HOWEVER, RR TRAINS PASSING THROUGH THE

DISTRICT WERE NOT SEARCHED. THERE WAS A PANIC AMONG SVERCLOVSK POPULATION BUT NOTHING WAS OFFICAILLY EXPLAINED TO THE POPULATION THROUGH NEWS MEDIA. THE EPIDEMIC DID NOT SPREAD TO OTHER CITY DISTRICTS, EXCEPT A FEW DEATHS IN LEWINSKIY CITY DISTRICT. MFI.

[REDACTED]

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10. (U) COLL MGMT CODES: NONE

[REDACTED]

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15. (U) ENCL: NONE

[REDACTED]

(b)(2)

DECL: ~~22 JANUARY 2001~~

MMDD

NNNN