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ITILE= U-S / K-G-B

BYLINE= ANDRE DE NESNERA

DATELINE= WASHINGTON

CONTENT=

VOICED AT:

INTRO: U-S DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, ARE PRESSING RUSSIA FOR ACCESS TO A K-G-B DOCUMENT WHICH MAY SHED LIGHT ON THE FATE OF THOUSANDS OF MISSING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. V-O-A'S ANDRE DE NESNERA REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON.

TEXT: U-S DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS BECAME AWARE OF THE DOCUMENT WHEN RESEARCHERS AT THE PENTAGON READ THE MEMOIRS OF THE LATE RUSSIAN GENERAL DMITRI VOLKOGONOV.

A RESPECTED HISTORIAN, GENERAL VOLKOGONOV HAD ACCESS TO PREVIOUSLY CLASSIFIED MOSCOW ARCHIVES IN WRITING BIOGRAPHIES OF FORMER SOVIET LEADERS INCLUDING VLADIMIR LENIN AND JOSEPH STALIN. GENERAL VOLKOGONOV -- WHO DIED IN 1995 -- WAS ALSO THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF A U-S/RUSSIAN COMMISSION ON PRISONERS OF WAR AND SERVICEMEN MISSING IN ACTION.

JIM MACDOUGALL IS AN OFFICIAL AT THE U-S DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DEALING WITH THE PRISONERS OF WAR ISSUE. HE DESCRIBES WHAT IS KNOWN OF THE DOCUMENT, FIRST MENTIONED IN GENERAL VOLKOGONOV'S BOOK.

// MACDOUGALL ACT //

HE SAID THERE WAS ONE PARTICULAR ISSUE THAT TROUBLED HIM  
-- AND THAT WAS THE FACT THAT AT ONE POINT, HE HAD  
UNCOVERED A DOCUMENT WHICH STATED THAT IN THE LATE  
1960'S THE K-G-B (SOVIET SECRET POLICE) RECEIVED THE  
TASK -- AND I QUOTE -- 'TO DELIVER KNOWLEDGEABLE  
AMERICANS TO THE U-S-S-R FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES.'

// END ACT //

NEITHER MR. MACDOUGALL NOR GENERAL VOLKOGONOV INDICATED WHAT WAS  
MEANT BY KNOWLEDGEABLE AMERICANS.

BUT THE RUSSIAN GENERAL TRIED TO LOCATE THE SPECIFIC DOCUMENT BY  
CONTACTING IN THE EARLY 1990'S YEVGENY PRIMAKOV -- THEN HEAD OF  
RUSSIAN FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE -- AND NOW RUSSIA'S PRIME MINISTER.  
IN HIS MEMOIRS, THE RUSSIAN GENERAL SAID THE K-G-B DOCUMENT WAS  
LOCATED -- BUT NEVER RELEASED TO HIM.

SENATOR BOB SMITH IS A MEMBER OF THE U-S/RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION  
ON PRISONERS OF WAR. HE SAYS SINCE THE DOCUMENT DATES FROM THE  
LATE 1960'S, IT COULD SHED LIGHT ON THE FATE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS  
MISSING IN ACTION -- ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM  
WAR. MORE THAN 2,000 VIETNAM-ERA SOLDIERS ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR.

SENATOR SMITH JUST RETURNED FROM MOSCOW WHERE HE ATTENDED A  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION. HE ALSO TOOK PART IN INTERVIEWING A  
MAN WHO COULD SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE AFFAIR -- FORMER K-G-B  
CHAIRMAN VLADIMIR SEMICHASTNY.

// SMITH ACT //

MR. SEMICHASTNY TOLD US THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A PLAN.  
BUT HE SAID HE DID NOT SIGN ANY SUCH PLAN, HAD NO  
DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH PLAN -- BUT THERE MAY HAVE  
BEEN ONE. THE REASON SEMICHASTNY'S NAME CAME UP IS

BECAUSE (GENERAL) VOLKOGONOV IN HIS BOOK SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SEMICHASTNY WHO HAD SIGNED IT -- BUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN. SO THAT IS UP TO CONJECTURE. WE JUST DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THAT. // OPT // HE SAID HE DID NOT SIGN IT OR DID NOT RECALL SIGNING IT. HE WAS VAGUE ABOUT IT. HE SAID : 'MAYBE I DID, MAYBE I DID NOT. I DO NOT REMEMBER IT.' SO WE JUST HAVE TO PROCEED FROM THERE. // END OPT // BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS I BELIEVE VOLKOGONOV. I THINK VOLKOGONOV IS TELLING THE TRUTH -- AND I THINK THAT MR. PRIMAKOV IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REALLY STEP UP TO PLATE (COME OUT OPENLY) AND RESPOND AND GIVE US THE TRUTH AS TO WHETHER SUCH A PLAN DID EXIST.

// END ACT //

SENATOR SMITH REALIZES THE RUSSIANS MAY BE SENSITIVE ABOUT SUCH INFORMATION.

// 2ND SMITH ACT //

WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR STATE SECRETS OF THE OLD SOVIET UNION. ALL WE ARE ASKING FOR IS ACCESS TO THE DOCUMENTS THAT MAY HELP US TO IDENTIFY OR OTHERWISE FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO AMERICAN P-O-W'S OR PEOPLE WHO WERE LOST SINCE WORLD WAR TWO TO THE PRESENT. THAT IS WHAT WE WANT.

// END ACT //

SENATOR BOB SMITH SAYS THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN RESOLVING ISSUES SURROUNDING THE COLD WAR AND THE KOREAN CONFLICT. BUT THEY REMAIN RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE K-G-B DOCUMENT NOTED IN GENERAL VOLKOGONOV'S BOOK. AND SENATOR SMITH SAYS PRESIDENT CLINTON MAY HAVE TO GET INVOLVED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE AFFAIR.

(SIGNED)

NEB/ADEN/JO

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