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MYTEL NO 1701: RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: CONFLICT IN MOSCOW

LATEST REPORTS ARE OF CONTINUED FIGHTING AROUND THE TV/RADIO
 STATION AND OF FIGHTING NOW ALSO IN THE WHITE HOUSE, WHICH UNITS
 LOYAL TO YELTSIN HAVE ATTACKED. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE
 OUTCOME.

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RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: THE BATTLE FOR MOSCOW CONTINUES

SUMMARY

1. TV CENTRE UNDER FIRM GOVERNMENT CONTROL - OVER TWENTY DEAD. TV NOW BROADCASTING VEHEMENT ANTI-PARLIAMENT STATEMENTS. TROOPS MOVING INTO CITY CENTRE. PRO-YELTSIN DEMONSTRATIONS. YELTSIN TO ADDRESS THE NATION LATER TODAY. REGIONS SO FAR SUPPORTIVE. FIERCE BATTLE HAS BROKEN OUT AT WHITE HOUSE.
2. AFTER FIERCE FIGHTING LASTING IN TOTAL SOME SIX HOURS LAST NIGHT GOVERNMENT FORCES RETOOK THE OSTANKINO TV STATION AT ABOUT 0130 LOCAL THIS MORNING. ALTHOUGH SPORADIC GUNFIRE WAS HEARD FOR A FURTHER HOUR. AT LEAST 21 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED - SOME ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS OLD. AT LEAST TWO POLICEMEN DIED EARLIER AT THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING. THE TELEVISION STATION ABRUPTLY WENT OFF THE AIR DURING THE FIRST ATTACK BY THE DEMONSTRATORS BUT CAME BACK ON AIR FROM A MAKESHIFT (AND UNDISCLOSED) STUDIO AT APPROX 2300.
3. PRO DEMOCRACY FIGURES (INCLUDING YAVLINSKY, EX-DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SHELOV-KOBEDAYEV, WELL-KNOWN TV PRESENTER KISELEV AND PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN KOSTIKOV) HAVE APPEARED ON TELEVISION THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT DAMNING THE RUMP PARLIAMENT, CALLING FOR DECISIVE ACTION FROM THE PRESIDENT AND URGING THE POPULATION TO REMAIN CALM. MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING GAIDAR, CHERNOMYRDIN AND STANKEVICH (YELTSIN POLITICAL ADVISER) ALSO HAVE BROADCAST APPEALS FOR CALM. THE CATEGORICAL SUPPORT FOR YELTSIN FROM YAVLINSKY (FORMERLY GORBACHEV'S CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER AND NOW TOUTED IN MOSCOW AS A CREDIBLE CENTRIST CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT) WILL HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY WELCOME TO THE GOVERNMENT.
4. LOYAL TROOPS ARRIVED IN MOSCOW FROM 0230 LOCAL AND SET UP GUARD

AROUND STRATEGIC GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. PARACHUTE TROOPS WERE EXPECTED IN MOSCOW FROM 0400. TROOPS LOYAL TO YELTSIN HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF ACCESS TO ROADS LEADING TO THE KREMLIN. VICE PREMIER SOSKOVETS HAS MET WITH SOME REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EX-PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS TERMS FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE WHITE HOUSE WHERE RUTSKOI'S SUPPORTERS HAVE RE-ERECTED BARRICADES IN ANTICIPATION OF ACTION BY GOVERNMENT FORCES TO CLEAR THE BUILDING.

5. FOLLOWING A TELEVISED APPEAL BY GAIDAR, PRO-YELTSIN DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE THE MOSCOW CITY COUNCIL BUILDING RAPIDLY REACHED PERHAPS 10,000 LAST NIGHT, WITH HIS SUPPORTERS ERECTING BARRICADES TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF OPPOSITION FORCES REACHING THE KREMLIN. YELTSIN IS EXPECTED TO ADDRESS THE NATION LATER TODAY.

6. BELARUS AND UKRAINE HAVE BOTH SUPPORTED YELTSIN. SUPPORT HAS ALSO COME FROM SOME OF THE REGIONS, INCLUDING THE REPUBLIC OF SAKHA(YAKUTIA), TOMSK, NOVOSIBIRSK, NIZHNY NOVGOROD AND THE PRIMORSKIY KRAI REGION. SOME DEMOCRATS HAVE CRITICISED YELTSIN FOR NOT HAVING BEEN DECISIVE ENOUGH BEFORE THE VIOLENCE ERUPTED. ALL AGREE THAT THE FALL OF THE OSTANKINO BROADCASTING CENTRE INTO ANTI-GOVERNMENT HANDS WOULD HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS.

7. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT WAS READ OUT IN FULL ON RUSSIAN TELEVISION AT 0240 LOCAL. GERMAN, FRENCH, SWEDISH, SPANISH MESSAGES OF SUPPORT AND THE COMMENTS OF NATO SECRETARY GENERAL WOERNER WERE ALSO MENTIONED.

8. AT 0700 APPROX GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTACKED THE WHITE HOUSE. EXPLOSIONS CAN BE HEARD NOW FROM HERE IN THE EMBASSY. TANKS AND APCs ARE IN THE VICINITY OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

9. NO (NO) REPORT OF ANY INJURIES TO BRITISH CITIZENS. ALL EMBASSY PERSONNEL SAFE.

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RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

1. TOO EARLY TO JUDGE FINAL OUTCOME OF FIGHTING IN MOSCOW, BUT IT IS NOW LOCALISED AT THE WHITE HOUSE. NO (NO) REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES ELSEWHERE IN MOSCOW OR ACROSS RUSSIA. POST-MORTEMS IN SLOWER TIME, BUT QUITE CLEAR THAT RUTSKOI PERSONALLY ESCALATED THE VIOLENCE. YELTSIN LIKELY TO BE CRITICISED BY DEMOCRATS FOR EXERCISING TOO MUCH RESTRAINT RATHER THAN TOO LITTLE.

DETAIL

2. A FIERCE BATTLE AT THE WHITE HOUSE BROKE OUT AT 0700 HRS (LOCAL) THIS MORNING AND IS CONTINUING. THERE IS NO FIGHTING AT THE MAIN MOSCOW TV STATION (OSTANKINO), WHICH GOVERNMENT FORCES SECURED EARLY THIS MORNING. THE REST OF MOSCOW IS CALM WITH PEOPLE STARTING TO GO TO WORK. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES ELSEWHERE IN RUSSIA.

3. IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE FIGHTING AT THE WHITE HOUSE, ALTHOUGH AT THIS STAGE MILITARY FORCES LOYAL TO PRESIDENT YELTSIN HAVE THE UPPER HAND, IF ONLY BY FORCE OF NUMBERS. IF THINGS GO AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED, PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES WILL RAPIDLY RE-ESTABLISH NORMAL BROADCASTING FROM OSTANKINO AND SHORTLY QUELL ANY RESISTANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE ITSELF. BUT THERE WILL HAVE BEEN MANY CASUALTIES.

4. POLITICAL POST-MORTEMS WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN SLOWER TIME. BUT IT IS CLEAR BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT THE DRAMATIC VIOLENCE OF THE LAST 24 HOURS WAS INSTIGATED BY EXTREMIST ANTI-YELTSIN FORCES, WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF AN ABRUPT COLLAPSE BY THE SECURITY FORCES AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE TO TRY TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE BY STORMING FIRST

THE NEARBY MAYOR'S OFFICE AND THEN THE MAIN RADIO/TV STATION FURTHER OUT OF TOWN. IT TOOK TIME FOR THE NECESSARY MILITARY FORCES TO BE DEPLOYED AT THE TV STATION YESTERDAY EVENING TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, BUT ONCE THEY HAD DONE SO THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD PREVAIL. RUTSKOI'S OWN ROLE HAS BEEN PERNICIOUS - HE APPEARED ON THE WHITE HOUSE BALCONY EARLY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND INCITED THE CROWD TO ATTACK OTHER BUILDINGS. AT ONE STAGE THE DEMONSTRATORS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN HOSTAGES.

5. YELTSIN UNLIKELY TO BE CRITICISED HERE BY THE BROAD SPREAD OF DEMOCRATIC OPINION (INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO BASICALLY DISAPPROVE OF HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES) FOR OVER-REACTING TO THE SITUATION BY SENDING IN THE ARMY. ON THE CONTRARY, PEOPLE WILL BE DEMANDING TO KNOW HOW SUCH A SMALL GROUP OF EXTREMISTS MANAGED TO RUN OUT OF CONTROL AND POSE SUCH A THREAT.

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RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: THIS MORNING'S TV ADDRESS BY YELTSIN

SUMMARY

1. YELTSIN GOES ON TV FOR FIRST TIME SINCE VIOLENCE. INSISTS THAT VIOLENCE INITIATED BY OPPOSITION FORCES. RUSSIA DID NOT WANT WAR, GOVERNMENT FORCES WOULD PROTECT INNOCENT CITIZENS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE TO BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY.

DETAIL

2. AT 0900 LOCAL TIME TODAY (4 OCTOBER), YELTSIN MADE HIS FIRST TV APPEARANCE SINCE THE VIOLENCE BEGAN. HE LOOKED TIRED BUT SPOKE CLEARLY AND FIRMLY, STRUGGLING TO CONTROL HIS ANGER. HE REITERATED THE MESSAGE IN HIS APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE BROADCAST LAST NIGHT AND THAT PUT ACROSS BY HIS SUPPORTERS AND SPOKESMEN SINCE THEN. UNLIKE HIS EARLIER STATEMENT IN WHICH HE RELIEVED RUTSKOI OF HIS MILITARY POSITION, HE DID NOT MENTION ANY INDIVIDUALS BY NAME BUT LAID THE BLAME FIRMLY AT THE DOOR OF THE SUPREME SOVIET.

3. MAIN POINTS OF HIS ADDRESS WERE:

- THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE WERE FASCISTS, CRIMINALS AND BANDITS:
- WHILE NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THEY HAD BEEN GROUPING FORCES AND DELIBERATELY PLANNING THEIR ASSAULT:
- THEY WERE TRYING TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL BY FORCE ON THE WHOLE COUNTRY AND WERE PREPARED TO SEE BLOOD OF INNOCENT CITIZENS SHED:

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- THEIR VIOLENCE WAS INDISCRIMINATE AGAINST PEACEFUL CITIZENS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN:
- RUSSIA HAD BEEN DIMINISHED BY THIS OUTRAGEOUS ACTION: RUSSIA DID NOT NEED OR WANT CIVIL WAR:
- TROOPS LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT WERE NOW IN MOSCOW TO LIBERATE SITES OCCUPIED BY THE BANDITS. THEIR MAIN TASK WAS TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY'S CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE.
- THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS NEEDED THE PEOPLE'S MORAL SUPPORT. THE GOVERNMENT OFFERED THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAD ALREADY SHED BLOOD, WHO WANTED PEACE AND ORDER AND OPPOSED WAR.
- IN THE CENTRE OF MOSCOW TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAD ALREADY RISKED THEIR LIVES TO TURN OUT IN SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPON.
- A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER OUTLAWING THE REBELS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WAS ALREADY SIGNED AND IN PLACE. THOSE RESPONSIBLE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT AND DEALT WITH SEVERELY.

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LUXEMBOURG (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY)

RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: NORMAL WORKING IN MOSCOW

SUMMARY

1. WHILE LOCALISED FIGHTING CONTINUES AT THE WHITE HOUSE, MOST ACTIVITY IN MOSCOW CONTINUES AS USUAL EXCEPT FOR THE MANY CITIZENS WATCHING LIVE TV COVERAGE OF THE DEVELOPING SIEGE.

DETAIL

2. THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN MOSCOW AT 040800Z APPEARS NORMAL APART FROM THE AREA AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE.

3. CENTRAL BANK OF RUSSIA (CBR): WORKING AS NORMAL. AN ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN KHANDRUEV TOLD US THAT GUARDS OUTSIDE THE BUILDING HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED (COMMENT: ON THE MORNING OF 2 OCTOBER THERE WERE NO GUARDS VISIBLE OUTSIDE THE CBR HEADQUARTERS IN NEGLINNAYA) BUT THAT THE SITUATION WAS 'ABSOLUTELY CALM'. SITNIN (CBR PRESS SECRETARY) NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD OUTLAWED ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE REBELS (OUR TELNO 1705) AND SAID HE ASSUMED THAT THE CBR WAS ACTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S ORDERS TO FREEZE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED. ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN MOSCOW MORE GENERALLY, SITNIN SAID THE PRESIDENT'S DECISIVE ACTION WAS LIKELY TO LEAD TO AN INTENSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BY UNBLOCKING THE CONSTITUTIONAL IMPASSE THAT HAD BEEN OBSTRUCTING ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING THROUGHOUT 1993.

4. A CONTACT AT MOSBUSINESSBANK, ONE OF THE FOUR LARGEST COMMERCIAL BANKS IN RUSSIA, TOLD US THAT MOST OF THE BANK'S EMPLOYEES HAD COME INTO WORK AS USUAL. THE BANK WAS WORKING

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NORMALLY, EVERYTHING WAS QUIET (COMMENT: THE HEADQUARTERS OF MOSBUSINESSBANK IS IN KUZNETSKY MOST, A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE LUBLYANKA AND SOME DISTANCE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE). EVERYONE WAS NOW HOPING THAT FIGHTING WOULD END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THINGS COULD GET BACK TO NORMAL.

5. THE HEAD OF THE PARTY OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM, KONSTANTIN BOROVOI, APPEARED ON TV AT 3 AM LAST NIGHT TO CONDEMN THE 'ARMED FASCIST PUTSCH' AND CALL FOR ITS EARLY OVERTHROW. THIS MORNING, MEMBERS OF HIS OFFICE TOLD US THEY WERE GLUED TO THE TELEVISION WATCHING LIVE COVERAGE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT MATTERS MIGHT BE DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

COMMENT

6. THESE COMMENTS FROM AROUND THE CITY SUPPORT OUR ASSESSMENT THAT FIGHTING IN MOSCOW IS VERY LOCALISED, WITH ACTIVITY IN THE REST OF THE CITY CARRYING ON AS NORMAL. THE MAIN IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC EFFECT OF THE WEEKEND'S DISTURBANCES WILL BE THE FACT THAT MANY MUSCOVITES ARE WATCHING IN FASCINATION LIVE TV COVERAGE ON THE MAIN RUSSIAN CHANNELS OF THE STORMING OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

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LUXEMBOURG FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY

MOSCOW TELNO 1703:
RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: BATTLE FOR MOSCOW: RESPONSE OF
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES

SUMMARY

1. DEMOCRATIC CAMP SCENTING VICTORY.

DETAIL

2. TUR REPORTED THE LIVE BROADCAST BY FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER GAIDAR (MADE FROM THE RUSSIAN TELEVISION STUDIO WHICH MANAGED TO STAY ON THE AIR DURING THE MOST DANGEROUS HOURS FOR YELTSIN), IN WHICH HE APPEALED TO MUSCOVITE DEMOCRATS TO ASSEMBLE DURING THE NIGHT AT THE MOSCOW CITY COUNCIL (MOSSOVIET) BUILDING. BY MIDNIGHT WE SAW STREAMS OF PRO-YELTSIN DEMONSTRATORS ARRIVING ONTO THE MAIN CENTRAL STREET (TVERSKAYA) AND RED SQUARE. THE DEMONSTRATION PEAKED AT ABOUT 0200 LOCAL WITH ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE. BARRICADES HAVE BEEN ERECTED AT EITHER END OF TVERSKAYA.

3. AT 0830 LOCAL THIS MORNING WE SAW ABOUT 1500 PEOPLE WHO HAD REMAINED IN FRONT OF THE MOSSOVIET THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. THEY WERE ADDRESSED BY THE 'DEMOCRATIC RUSSIA' LEADER YAKUNIN, WHO CALLED FOR A GIANT 'VICTORY DEMONSTRATION' TO MARCH DOWN TO RED SQUARE THIS AFTERNOON AND 'CAST THAT DOLL LENIN OUT OF THE MAUSOLEUM' (COMMENT: THIS PROJECT IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO PARALLEL THE TOPPLING OF THE DZERZHINSKY STATUE OUTSIDE THE KGB LUBYANKA HEAD QUARTERS TO CELEBRATE THE AUGUST 1991 VICTORY).

4. AS YAKUNIN WAS SPEAKING, SEVERAL THOUSANDS MORE WERE ARRIVING TO REPLENISH THE DEMONSTRATION, STROLLING CHEERFULLY IN THE SUN

WITH THE SOUNDS OF THE TANK BATTLE AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE BOOMING IN THE BACKGROUND.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR YELTSIN FROM THE LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC-CENTRIST PARTIES (UNSYMPATHETIC TO YELTSIN'S REFORM POLICIES AS SUCH). YAVLINSKY HAS CALLED FOR MAXIMUM FIRMNESS AND TOUGHNESS TO SUPPRESS THE 'FASCIST EXTREMIST BANDITS'. HIS SENTIMENTS HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY TRAVKIN (LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF RUSSIA), WHO SAID THAT THE FEDERATION COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONVENED IMMEDIATELY TO ENDORSE THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS AND PROPOSED ELECTORAL PROCESS: ANY UNCOOPERATIVE REGIONAL SOVIETS SHOULD BE DISSOLVED.

6. AN INITIATIVE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY 16 SMALL BUT RESPECTABLE PARTIES TO FORM A CONCERTED OPPOSITION BLOC WHICH WOULD CONTEST THE DECEMBER ELECTION TO THE DUMA. THE MOVEMENT'S SPOKESMAN (GOLOV, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY) HAS SAID THAT THE BLOC WILL OPPOSE GAIDAR'S 'RUSSIA'S CHOICE' FORMATION, BUT MIGHT CONSIDER A COALITION IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

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RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: THE REGIONS

SUMMARY

1. REGIONS REMAIN CALM. CHERNOMYRDIN SUMMONS REGIONAL HEADS OF ADMINISTRATION TO MOSCOW. STRONG PRO-YELTSIN STATEMENTS FROM INDIVIDUAL REGIONS. COUNCIL OF FEDERATION TO MEET ON 9 OCTOBER.

DETAIL

2. THE RUSSIAN REGIONS REMAIN CALM WITH NO REPORTS OF LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR OR AGAINST YELTSIN, ALTHOUGH PRO-YELTSIN RALLIES ARE PLANNED IN SOME REGIONS LATER TODAY.

3. PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN HAS CALLED ALL REGIONAL HEADS OF ADMINISTRATION AND PRIME MINISTERS (THE EXECUTIVE) TO MOSCOW FOR A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. THIS FOLLOWS SEPARATE VISITS TO THE PROVINCES BY YELTSIN'S TEAM OVER THE WEEKEND TO ARGUE YELTSIN'S CASE TO THE EIGHT INTER-REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS (WHOSE MEMBERS COMPRISE THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE HEADS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL REGION).

4. INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL LEADERS ISSUED STRONG STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR YELTSIN ON 3 OCTOBER. THE PRESIDENT OF SAKHA-YAKUTIA, NIKOLAEV, REFERRED TO THE PARLIAMENT'S SUPPORTERS AS 'POLITICAL ADVENTURERS' AND SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT YELTSIN'S RESOLUTE STEPS TO RESTORE ORDER. THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION IN IRKUTSK, NOZHIKOV, DENOUNCED THE 'ORGANISED CRIMINAL ACTION' OF YELTSIN'S OPPONENTS AND ASKED YELTSIN TO TAKE ACTION TO RESTORE ORDER.

5. OTHER REGIONS HAVE RESTRICTED THEMSELVES TO CALLS FOR LOCAL CALM. THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION IN KHABAROVSK, ISHAEV, HAS SAID

[REDACTED]

THE SITUATION THERE WAS QUIET AND REGRETTED THAT 'OUR LEADERS IN MOSCOW' WERE NOT WISE ENOUGH TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHOUT BLOODSHED. NAZDRATENKO, THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION IN PRIMORSKI KRAI, ALSO CALLED FOR CALM, STRESSING THAT HE RECOGNISED ONLY THE AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT YELTSIN AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

6. IN KALININGRAD THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION, YURI MATOCHKIN, WENT ON THE LOCAL RADIO THIS MORNING TO CALL FOR CALM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PRO-YELTSIN FORCES ARE DUE TO RALLY IN THE MAIN SQUARE LATER TODAY. MATOCHKIN IS IN CONTINUAL CONTACT WITH THE HEAD OF THE BALTIC FLEET, THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TROOPS AND POLICE, WHO ARE ALL WORKING NORMALLY TO MATOCHKIN. THE LOCAL, PRO-KHASBULATOV SOVIET HAVE NOT ATTRACTED WIDE LOCAL SUPPORT, BUT MATOCHKIN HAS DECIDED TO REMAIN IN KALININGRAD AND SEND HIS DEPUTY TO CHERNOMYRDIN'S MEETING OF REGIONAL HEADS OF ADMINISTRATION IN MOSCOW.

7. THE SO-CALLED 'COUNCIL OF FEDERATION PARTS' (COMPRISED LARGELY OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM REGIONAL SOVIETS) CONTINUED TO MEET IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT BUILDING IN MOSCOW OVER THE WEEKEND, DEMANDING THAT CHERNOMYRDIN 'IMMEDIATELY RESTORE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THE RUSSIAN SUPREME SOVIET TO RESUME WORK'. THEIR PRO-SOVIET STANCE (MAINTAINED EVEN AFTER THE SERIOUS FIGHTING BEGAN ON 3 OCTOBER) WAS STRONGLY CRITICISED IN A TELEVISION SPEECH BY YELTSIN'S POLITICAL ADVISER STANKEVICH.

8. YELTSIN'S PRESS OFFICE ANNOUNCED ON 2 OCTOBER THAT THE FULL FEDERATION COUNCIL (HEADS OF EXECUTIVES AND LEGISLATURES FROM ALL THE SUBJECTS OF THE FEDERATION) WOULD MEET IN THE KREMLIN ON 9 OCTOBER.

COMMENT

9. THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE GOT ITS MESSAGE ACROSS AT MEETINGS WITH REGIONAL LEADERS IN THE PROVINCES (THROUGH THE EIGHT ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS). BY CALLING REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS TO MOSCOW, CHERNOMYRDIN WILL ADD WEIGHT TO THE STRONG MESSAGES OF SUPPORT COMING IN FROM SOME REGIONAL LEADERS. [REDACTED]

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RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: MOPPING-UP AT WHITE HOUSE

SUMMARY

1. MAIN ATTACK ON WHITE HOUSE LOOKS TO HAVE ENDED - MOPPING-UP CONTINUING. NO NEWS ON FATE OF RUTSKOI AND KHASBULATOV.

DETAIL

2. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHUMEIKO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE DEFENDERS HAVE BEEN URGED TO SURRENDER, FOLLOWING THE HEAVY ASSAULT ON THE BUILDING BY TANKS AND TROOPS THIS MORNING. THE MAIN ATTACK ON THE BUILDING HAS STOPPED BUT SPORADIC GUNFIRE IS STILL BEING HEARD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE IN THE BUILDING AND WORKING THEIR WAY UP THROUGH IT TO QUELL ANY FURTHER RESISTANCE.

3. SHUMEIKO SAID THAT A VARIETY OF PRO-COMMUNIST PARTIES TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE RIOTING: 'THEY SIMPLY WILL NOT EXIST ANY LONGER - WE SHALL NOT ALLOW PARTIES TO EXIST WHICH CALL FOR FASCISM AND SLAUGHTER'. SHUMEIKO SAID THAT 'NORMAL, LEGAL TRIALS' SHOULD BE ORGANISED FOR THOSE WHO HAD UNLEASHED THE MOSCOW BLOODSHED.

4. EARLIER LARGE CROWDS OF SIGHTSEERS GATHERED NEAR THE WHITE HOUSE DESPITE CONTINUING GUNFIRE. NOT SURPRISINGLY SOME HAVE BEEN INJURED.

5. NO REPORTS OF PRECISE WHEREABOUTS OF RUTSKOI AND KHASBULATOV, ALTHOUGH INTERFAX JOURNALISTS INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE DURING THE SIEGE WERE REPORTING THAT THEY WERE IN THE BUILDING. RUTSKOI HAS BEEN DISMISSED FROM HIS POST AS VICE PRESIDENT AND FROM THE ARMY. CHERNOMYRDIN IS NOW CARRYING OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF VICE PRESIDENT.

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INDEX	PA	Action Index

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FM MOSCOW
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1713
OF 041250Z OCTOBER 93
AND TO IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
INFO IMMEDIATE H M TREASURY, BANK OF ENGLAND, CABINET OFFICE
INFO IMMEDIATE DTI, UKDEL IMF/IBRD, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL NATO
INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, BONN, ROME, TOKYO, OTTAWA, MODUK
INFO IMMEDIATE KIEV, MINSK, ACTOR, ST PETERSBURG, PEKING
INFO IMMEDIATE OTHER CSCE POSTS
INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL OECD

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RUSSIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS: BRIEFING BY FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY

1. BRIEFING BY FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ADAMISHIN. ASKS FOR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING FOR DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY. STRESSES ANTI-GOVERNMENT VIOLENCE WAS PRE-PLANNED. RUTSKOI NOW TRYING TO NEGOTIATE BUT ONLY UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER ACCEPTABLE. EMBASSIES SHOULD LIE LOW.

DETAIL

2. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ADAMISHIN CALLED INTO THE MFA G7 PLUS PRESIDENCY AND COMMISSION AMBASSADORS AT 1200 LOCAL. THE US AMBASSADOR WAS ABSENT, HAVING TELEPHONED TO EXCUSE HIMSELF AS TRAVEL FROM HIS EMBASSY, CLOSE TO THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, WAS HAZARDOUS. I GAVE MANNING (EASTERN DEPARTMENT) THE MAIN POINTS BY TELEPHONE TO PASS ON TO YOUR PARTY IN LUXEMBOURG.

3. ADAMISHIN SAID THAT:

- THE GOVERNMENT SOUGHT UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR YELTSIN'S DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MOSCOW. IT WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE FOR ONE WEEK UNTIL 1600 HOURS 10 OCTOBER. THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS ONLY PARTIAL - POLITICAL MEETINGS AND RALLIES WERE BANNED, AS WERE THE (UNSPECIFIED) ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE WEEKEND'S DISTURBANCES. OTHERWISE, PEOPLE WERE MOVING FREELY AROUND MOSCOW:

- RUMOURS OF POLICE AND ARMY UNITS BEING INVOLVED IN THE DEFENCE OF THE WHITE HOUSE WERE 'UNCONFIRMED'. (COMMENT: NO REPEAT OF

[REDACTED]

RYURIKOV'S FORMULA LAST NIGHT TO THE EFFECT THAT SUCH DEFECTIONS HAD BEEN DENIED):

- THE VIOLENT EVENTS OF SUNDAY HAD BEEN AN ARMED REVOLT, PRE-PLANNED WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS MEDIATED BY HIS HOLINESS ALEXEI II HAD BEEN PROCEEDING. IT WAS NOT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CREDIT TO ADMIT 'THE CONSIDERABLE EXTENT' TO WHICH IT HAD BEEN CAUGHT UNPREPARED BUT IT HAD BELIEVED THAT A COMPROMISE COULD BE FOUND. IT HAD NOT EXPECTED 'ACTS OF WAR' OR THE SUDDENNESS WITH WHICH THEY CAME. DURING SUNDAY NIGHT AND THIS (MONDAY) MORNING THE ARMY HAD TAKEN DECISIVE ACTION TO PUT DOWN THE REVOLT WITH MINIMUM DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE. IT HAD ENCOUNTERED VERY FIERCE RESISTANCE, BUT HAD NOT FIRED ON THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING WITH HELICOPTER GUN-SHIPS WHICH WERE, HOWEVER, READY FOR BATTLE:
- RUTSKOI WAS TRYING TO NEGOTIATE BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT ONLY UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. PEOPLE WERE BEING ENCOURAGED TO LEAVE THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING BY A BACK DOOR THAT WAS NOT UNDER FIRE BUT SECURITY GUARANTEES WERE BEING OFFERED ONLY TO THOSE NOT SUSPECTED OF HAVING COMMITTED 'VERY GRAVE CRIMINAL ACTS' (MURDER OR ATTEMPTED MURDER):
- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN MOSCOW SHOULD AVOID UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT ABOUT THE CITY. MANY OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN INJURED HAD BEEN PASSERS-BY CAUGHT IN CROSS-FIRE. EMBASSIES SHOULD BE SATISFIED BY MFA BRIEFINGS AND CNN TELEVISION AND SHOULD NOT RISK 'TOO MUCH':
- HE HAD ONE PRACTICAL REQUEST: FOR BLOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND DOCTORS. (COMMENT: I EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR A RUSSIAN CENTRAL CONTACT POINT, SO THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OUT QUICKLY EXACTLY WHAT WAS NEEDED, WHERE AND WHEN).

COMMENT

4. THIS WAS JUST ONE OF A SERIES OF DEMARCHES MADE BY ADAMISHIN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE HAD JUST SEEN THE HUNGARIANS (AND PERHAPS OTHERS) BEFORE HE SPOKE TO THE G7 AND THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR WAS ARRIVING JUST AS I LEFT THE MFA. THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THE WIDEST POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

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FM ST PETERSBURG
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 42
OF 041400Z OCTOBER 93
AND TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDEL NATO
INFO IMMEDIATE TOKYO, MODUK, HM TREASURY, CABINET OFFICE
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MY TELNO 42: SITUATION IN ST PETERSBURG

SUMMARY

1. LIFE GOES ON NORMALLY IN ST PETERSBURG. AUTHORITIES CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. VICE MAYOR SHCHERBAKOV USING HIS INFLUENCE WITH ANTI-YELTSIN GROUPS TO AVERT TROUBLE.
2. OTHER PARTS OF NORTH WEST RUSSIA REPORTED CALM.
3. TRAVEL ADVICE.

DETAIL

4. [REDACTED] TO PREVENT TROUBLE SECURITY AT KEY LOCATIONS HAD BEEN REINFORCED, AND A FEW KNOWN EXTREMISTS DETAINED. THE ARMED FORCES WERE STRICTLY OBEYING GRACHEV'S ORDERS TO KEEP OUT OF POLITICS. SHCHERBAKOV (A SERVING ADMIRAL) STRESSED THAT ANY REPORTS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE CONTRARY WERE BASELESS.

5. SHCHERBAKOV, AN ASSOCIATE OF RUTSKOI AND ADVISER TO KHASBULATOV, SAID THAT HE HAD SINCE 21 SEPTEMBER HAD MANY CONVERSATIONS WITH WHITE HOUSE LEADERS, THE LAST BEING ON FRIDAY NIGHT WHEN THEIR TONE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING FOLLOWING THE PATRIARCH'S INVOLVEMENT. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND OR APPROVE OF RUTSKOI'S

CALL TO USE FORCE. RUTSKOI MUST HAVE FALLEN FOR A WELL ORGANISED PROVOCATION. BUT THE GENERAL WOULD NOT NOW GIVE HIMSELF UP.

6. SMALL GROUPS OF ANGRY COMMUNISTS/NATIONALISTS HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATING AT VARIOUS POINTS IN TOWN. BUT WE HAVE SEEN OR HEARD OF NO (NO) SERIOUS TROUBLE. THE POLICE ARE ON HEIGHTENED ALERT. ACCESS TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED. LOCAL TV HAS SHOWN ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS IN THE GROUNDS OF THE TV STATION. BUT THE SECURITY IS REASONABLY DISCREET: MORE INSIDE BUILDINGS, YARDS AND BACKSTREETS THAN ON THE MAIN THOROUGHFARES. ONLY A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE TURNED OUT FOR A PRO-YELTSIN DEMONSTRATION THIS AFTERNOON. PEOPLE HERE ARE FOLLOWING EVENTS IN MOSCOW. SOME ARE SURPRISED OR SHOCKED. SOME HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE EVENTS IN MOSCOW HAVE MADE UP THEIR MINDS TO SUPPORT YELTSIN. BUT MOST SHOW LITTLE INCLINATION TO GET ACTIVELY INVOLVED AND ARE GOING ABOUT THEIR USUAL BUSINESS. THE JAZZ BANDS ARE STILL PLAYING FOR THE BUS LOADS OF TOURISTS ON A FINE LATE AUTUMN DAY.

7. LENINGRAD REGION, ARCHANGEL, PSKOV, MURMANSK, NOVGOROD AND KARELIA ARE ALL REPORTED TO BE CALM.

COMMENT

8. SHCHERBAKOV'S APPEARANCE AT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION BRIEFING FOR CONSULS, AT WHICH HE ACTED AS MAIN SPEAKER, WAS A SURPRISE. HE HAD BEEN SUSPENDED BY SOBCHAK (MY TELNO 37). ON FRIDAY HE HAD JOINED A MEETING WITH CONSULS ORGANISED BY CENTRIST GROUPS ON THE CITY COUNCIL TO PROTEST AT YELTSIN'S ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS AND CENSORSHIP. ON SUNDAY HE SPOKE AT A DEMONSTRATION RUN BY COMMUNISTS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALL MAIN POLITICAL GROUPS IN ST PETERSBURG, INCLUDING POSSIBLY ONE OF THE TWO COMMUNIST PARTIES, SHARED THIS COMMON GOAL, WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. THIS WOULD BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO MOSCOW AND THE REST OF RUSSIA.