SUBJECT: BELARUS KGB -- "A KINDER, GENTLER SECURITY APPARATUS"

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN AN AUGUST 4 PRESS CONFERENCE AT KGB HEADQUARTERS, BELARUS' KGB CHIEF EDUARD SHERKOVSKIY ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING JULY 31 OF A MUTUAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BELARUSIAN AND UKRAINIAN KGB'S IN THE AREAS OF INTELLIGENCE, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE, ORGANIZED CRIME AND DRUGS. IN ADDITION TO OPERATIONAL COOPERATION, THE TWO STATE SECURITY ORGS WILL ASSIST EACH OTHER "TECHNICALLY AND THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION." SHERKOVSKIY UNDERSCORED THAT BELARUSIAN AGREEMENTS WITH RUSSIA, KAZAKHSTAN, AND NOW UKRAINE DID NOT SIGNIFY A REUNIFICATION OF SECURITY SERVICES -- SECRET INFORMATION OF ONE STATE WOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH ANOTHER.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SHERKOVSKIY ALLEGED THAT THE KGB WAS ORGANIZED TO FIGHT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND SHOULD Cooper WITH FOREIGN SECURITY ORGS. HE Claimed THE KGB DID NOT TAP GOVERNMENT TELEPHONES AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE KGB SHOULD BE SUBORDINATED TO THE SUPREME SOVET, RATHER THAN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. SHERKOVSKIY SAID THE BELARUS KGB HAD SIX
THE AGREEMENT

6. HE BEGAN THE CONFERENCE WITH A PREPARED
STATEMENT REGARDING THE JULY 31, 1992,
SIGNING IN KIEV OF A MUTUAL COOPERATION
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BELARUS KGB AND THE
UKRAINIAN KGB WHICH HE EMPHASIZED WAS AN
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REUNIFICATION OF SECURITY SERVICES,
SHERKOVSKIY SAID; SECRET MATERIALS OF ONE
STATE ARE NOT TO BE SHARED WITH ANOTHER. IN
ADDITION TO OPERATIONAL COOPERATION, THE TWO
STATE SECURITY ORGANS WILL ASSIST EACH OTHER
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10. Sherkovskiy reported that his organization has some information on corruption in the ruling circles in Belarus. He said one case had resulted in the arrest of a judge for trying to sell three kilos of gold abroad on false documentation.

Cooperation with foreign intelligence services

11. Sherkovskiy restated the Belarusian national policy of being a non-nuclear, neutral state, but warned that the Belarusian KGB is organized not only to fight crime, but international terrorism and other threats to national security. He asked rhetorically why Belarus should not cooperate with foreign security organizations -- French, Italian and British.

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WHAT WAS IMPORTANT NOW WAS STABILITY.

15. IN RESPONSE TO A FINAL (SEEKINGLY PLANTED FOR OUR BENEFIT) QUESTION FROM REPORTERS, SHERKOVSKIY SAID THE BELARUSIAN KGB HAS SIX VOLUMES OF FILES ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

SHERKOVSKIY SAID THAT HE HAS TALKED WITH NUMEROUS REPORTERS AND AUTHORS FROM THE US AND THE FORERUNNER OF THE US AND OFFERED TO SHOW THEM THE RECORDS WHICH HE SAID PROVE THAT OSWALD WAS NOT A KGB AGENT. HE SAID THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WENT TO EXTREME LENGTHS TO DETERMINE IF OSWALD WAS A CIA AGENT, AND IS CONVINCED THAT HE WAS NOT. OSWALD, HE SAID, WAS MENTALLY UNBALANCED; AND HE, FOR ONE, WAS GLAD WHEN THE MAN LEFT BELARUS. AS A POLICEMAN, SHERKOVSKIY SAID, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE SKILL AT MARKSMANSHIP ALLEGED OF OSWALD. SHERKOVSKIY SAID THE KGB HAD FOLLOWED OSWALD EVERYWHERE HE WENT, GIVEN THE INTELLIGENCE INTEREST HE GENERATED. WHEN OSWALD WAS GIVEN ACCESS TO A GUN AND PERMITTED TO GO HUNTING "HE COULDN'T HIT A CROWD."

16. THE BELARUS KGB CHIEF CLOSED WITH A WARNING AGAINST PRESS SENSATIONALISM. "THERE'S A GOOD DEAL MORE INTEREST IN THE KGB NOWAYS," HE SAID. "WE'RE CHANGING. ONLY

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