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*** BEGIN MESSAGE 40 ***

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 RUDMNOP/NAVOPINTCEN SUITLAND MD
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SERIAL: WA1907184591
 PASS: ATTN BBC PRESS
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COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJ: TAKE 3 OF 3--SIGNS OF RECOVERY SEEN IN PARTY, SOCIETY
 REF: 91US0647A MOSCOW SELSKAYA ZHIZN IN RUSSIAN 17 JUL 91 P 2
 ///FROM DOING NOTHING."

SOURCE: MOSCOW SELSKAYA ZHIZN IN RUSSIAN 17 JUL 91 P 2

TEXT:

A. MUTALIBOV SEES THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AZERBAIJAN AS THE PARTY OF REFORMERS AND NATIONAL HARMONY. SOLID STEPS ARE ALREADY BEING TAKEN ALONG THIS PATH. THE PARTY UNDOUBTEDLY SCORED A NUMBER OF POINTS WHEN IT BECAME THE INITIATOR OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REINFORCEMENT OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RESTORATION OF THE REPUBLIC'S HISTORICAL NAMES AND FLAG. DETAILED PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING MARKET ARE UNDERWAY. UNLIKE THE OTHER TRANSCAUCASIAN REPUBLICS, AZERBAIJAN FIRMLY STATED IN THE REFERENDUM THAT IT ASPIRES TO BUILD ITS FUTURE SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT STATE AS A PART OF THE UNION. FORTUNATELY, EVEN EXTREMISTS OF THE PEOPLE'S FRONT DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE SLOGAN "AZERBAIJAN--ONLY FOR AZERIS," GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING POPULATION HAVE BEEN RESTORED IN PRACTICE, AND FEWER OF THEM ARE LEAVING.

BUT STILL, AS BEFORE, WE HAVE A LARGE GROUP OF PROBLEMS, WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE SOLVED BY THE PARTY AND ALL OF SOCIETY. THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONCENTRATING ON A SINGLE CROP IN AGRICULTURE--COTTON--ARE BEING OVERCOME WITH DIFFICULTY. UNDER THE NOISE OF THE CONFLICT, THE PERCENTAGE OF MIDDLE MANAGERS HAS INCREASED UNJUSTIFIABLY. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT DURING THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS THE NUMBER OF KOLKHOZES AND SOVKHOZES IN THE REPUBLIC HAS ALMOST DOUBLED. I KNOW OF FARMS WHICH LITERALLY HAVE 50 COWS AND 200 HECTARES OF LAND. AND YET THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH OFFICES FOR THE LEADERS.

PEOPLE COMPLAIN THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY

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RELAXED THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL KINDS OF VIOLATIONS, THEFT, AND SPECULATION. UNDERSTANDABLY, A GOOD DEAL OF TIME AND ATTENTION ARE TAKEN UP BY NAGORNO-KARABAKH, BUT IS IT RIGHT WHEN AT THE BAZAAR STATE BUTTER IS SOLD AT 50 RUBLES PER KILOGRAM AND DISABLED WAR AND LABOR VETERANS CANNOT USE THEIR COUPONS IN THE STORES FOR MONTHS AT A TIME?

NO, SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, ONLY SOME PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT COULD BE AN INCORRIGIBLE OPTIMIST IN AZERBAIJAN TODAY. THE INFLAMMATION CAUSED BY THE KARABAKH CONFLICT HAS SPREAD TOO DEEP. PERHAPS THIS IS WHY EACH PROMISING LITTLE STEP TOWARD EMERGENCE FROM THE CRISIS IS PERCEIVED HERE AS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN A MUSTY DUNGEON. THAT SAME R. GUSEYNOV TALKED AS IF THERE HAD BEEN A SENSATION: RESIDENTS OF AN AZERI VILLAGE HAD DECIDED TO REPAIR THE NEGLECTED HIGHWAY THAT RUNS TO THE ARMENIAN VILLAGE OF ARTSBASHEN (FORMERLY BASHKEND). THEY ORGANIZED A WORK SATURDAY AND SHOWED UP WITH THEIR SHOVELS. THEY HAD JUST STARTED TO WORK WHEN THEY SAW THREE BULLDOZERS COMING TOWARD THEM FROM THE DIRECTION OF THEIR NEIGHBORS; THEIR DRIVERS BEGAN TO LEVEL THE ROAD WHICH HAD UNITED THEM AT ONE TIME. THEY WORKED LIKE THIS ALL DAY WITHOUT ANY EXTRA WORDS. LIKE IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

THIS IS AN EPISODE WHICH IN OTHER, CALM AND PEACEFUL TIMES WOULD SEEM INSIGNIFICANT. BUT HERE THE WOMEN HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT WHEN THEY GET WATER AT THE SPRINGS, THE MEN HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT IN EVERY TEA HOUSE, AS THOUGH IT WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWS. AND EYEWITNESS DISCUSSIONS OF UFO LANDINGS PALE BY COMPARISON. SAD... BECAUSE I TOO PLACED A CAUTIOUS QUESTION MARK AT THE END OF THE HEADING FOR THESE REMARKS. IN THE HOPE THAT TIME WOULD REPLACE IT WITH AN EXCLAMATION POINT.

(ENDALL) ██████████ 18/1600Z JUL

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