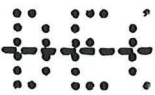


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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0213
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 00297

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: UR, PARM
SUBJECT: SOVIET REPORT OF ANTHRAX INFECTION BY 13-CENTURY
ULD SPORES

1. WE NOTE JANUARY 15 LONDON TIMES REPORT FROM MOSCOW OF A STORY WHICH THE SOVIETS MAY WELL USE TO TRY TO BUTTRESS THEIR CLAIM THAT THE 1979 OUTBREAK OF ANTHRAX IN SVERDLOVSK WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES. AS REPORTED IN SOVIETSKAYA RUSSIA, ACCORDING TO TIMES CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL BINYON, A COW RECENTLY CONTRACTED ANTHRAX IN AN AREA NEAR PERM, NOT FAR FROM SVERDLOVSK, WHERE THE DISEASE HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY DECLARED ERADICATED. IT WAS THEN DISCOVERED THAT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG IN THE AREA LAST SUMMER HAD UNCOVERED EVIDENCE OF A SEVENTH CENTURY EPIDEMIC WHICH HAD KILLED LARGE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS AND HUMANS AND PROMPTED THOSE REMAINING ALIVE TO BURN THEIR HOUSES AND ABANDON THE SITE. THIS DEMONSTRATED THAT SPORES DURMANT FOR CENTURIES COULD STILL CAUSE ANTHRAX

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by Sw/loob DATE 11/17/88

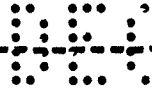
() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
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() DENY () Non-responsive info.
FOI EO or PA exemptions CIA (b)(3)

TS authority to:
() CLASSIFY as _____ OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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INFECTION TODAY. THE TIMES STORY DID NOT SAY WHETHER
THE REPORTED CASE WAS PULMONARY OR INTESTINAL.
LEODGAR

END OF MESSAGE

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