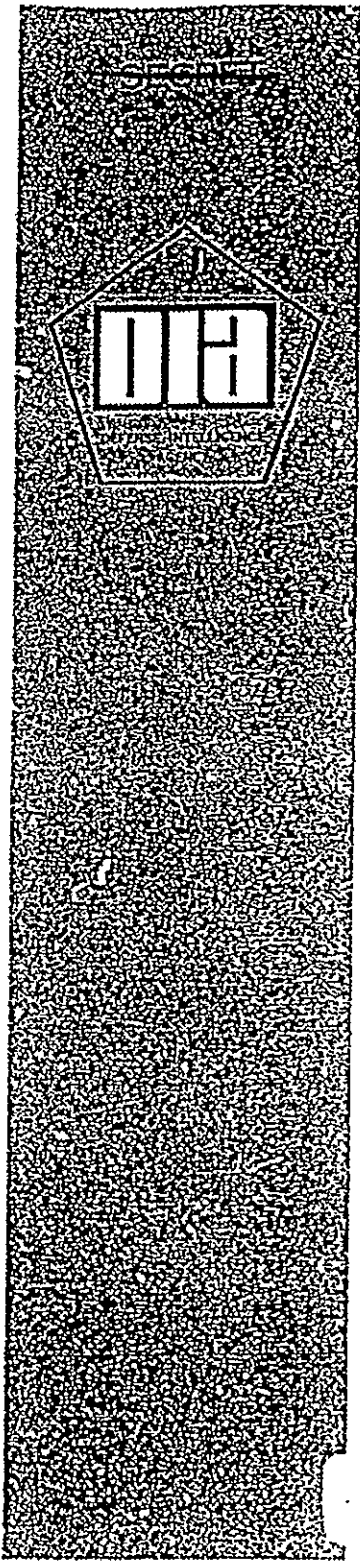


DIAWIS 45-79



MICROFILMED

Weekly
 Intelligence
 Summary (U)

9 NOVEMBER 1979

~~NOFORN
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 NOFORN, INTEL
 SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Weekly
Intelligence
Summary (U)

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~~Not Releasable To Foreign Nationals~~

WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources and
Methods Involved

~~Not Releasable to Contractors
or Contractor Consultants~~

Caution-Proprietary
Information Involved

~~CLASSIFIED BY VIL/RESOURCES
REVIEW ON 15 OCTOBER 2009~~

9 NOVEMBER 1979

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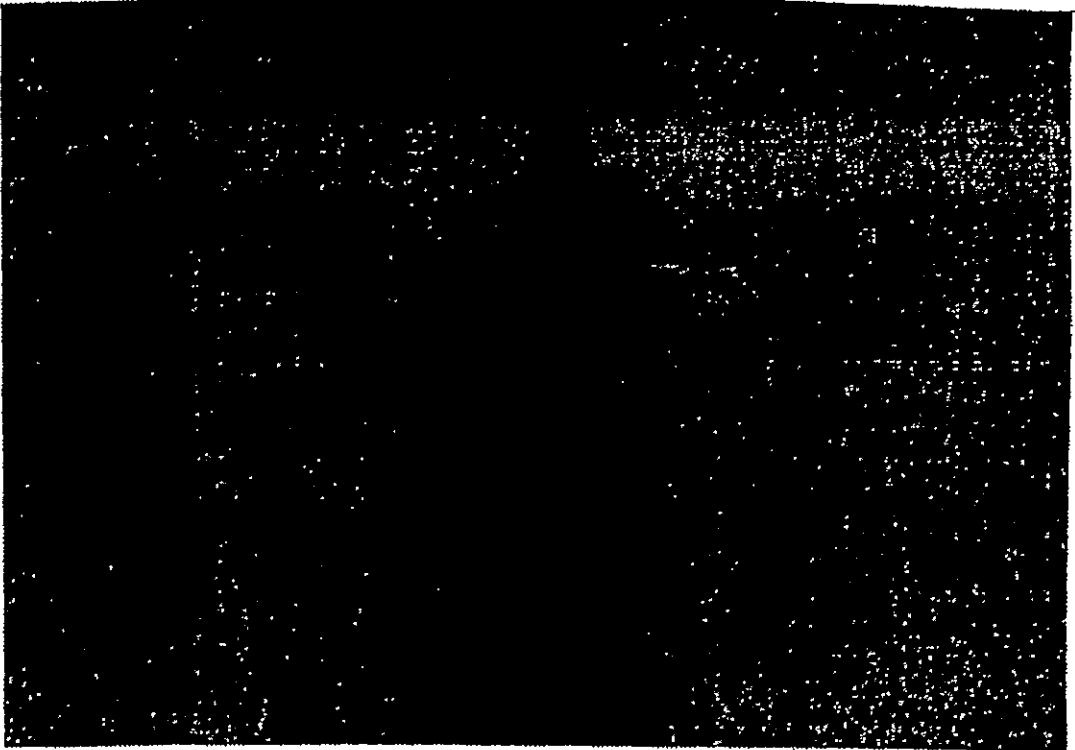
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(b)(1)



SOVIET BIOLOGICAL ACCIDENT RUMORED ~~(S)~~

~~(S)~~ An accident at a biological warfare (BW) institute in Sverdlovsk that resulted in 40 to 60 deaths may have occurred in May 1979. A Soviet emigre reported hearing of the incident on separate occasions from three close friends. Other sources also have heard rumors of such an accident. However, the specific nature of

the accident is not yet determined, and the alleged number of deaths varies from 40 to 300.

~~(S)~~ The allegation that numerous deaths resulted from an accident at the unnamed BW institute in Sverdlovsk remains speculation and constitutes only one possible explanation of

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such reports. If exposure to a biological agent occurred, the Soviets could be expected to respond with timely and effective treatment, unless the agent was a fast-acting biological toxin. Although a toxin cannot be ruled out as the causative agent, two versions of the accident suggested a disease that also affects cattle. The bacterial agent anthrax was identified as a possible cause.

(C) An installation in Sverdlovsk is suspected to be concerned with biological warfare. However, whether this facility is the site of the alleged accident remains undetermined. Despite the proliferation of rumors concerning a BW-related accident, insufficient evidence exists to attribute these purported deaths to the unlawful storage of a BW agent. (Classified by multiple sources; review on 17 Oct 2009)

(b)(3) [REDACTED]

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