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SECTION 1 OF 3

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SERIAL: (U)(b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

PASS: (b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c)

COUNTRY: (U) RUSSIA (RUS); NORWAY (NOR).

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 WEEKLY NEWS UPDATES FROM MURMANSK OBLAST AND ARKHANGELSK OBLAST - WEEK 38-39, 2011 (U//~~FOUO~~).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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SOURCE:

(b)(1),(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i),1.4 (c),1.4 (d)

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1, BELOW.

TEXT: 1. (U//~~FOUO~~) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. THE REPORT PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF **ACTIVITY** FROM OPEN SOURCES IN THE MURMANSK OBLAST AND ARKHANGELSK OBLAST FROM SEPTEMBER 14 - 26, 2011

2. (U//~~FOUO~~) MILITARY

MASSIVE RENOVATION OF THREE OLD NUCLEAR-POWERED CRUISERS.

THREE NUCLEAR POWERED CRUISERS, ADMIRAL NAKHIMOV, ADMIRAL LAZAREV AND ADMIRAL USHAKOV ARE TO UNDERGO AN EXTENSIVE OVERHAUL. THE THREE CRUISERS HAVE BEEN LAID UP FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS. NEW RADARS AND RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED ON THE VESSELS, AND

THE HULLS AND NUCLEAR REACTORS WILL BE REPAIRED. THE WEAPONRY WILL BE UPGRADED WITH UNIVERSAL LAUNCH SYSTEMS AND THE NUMBER OF CRUISE MISSILES WILL INCREASE FROM 20 TO 80. TWO OF THE CRUISERS WILL PROBABLY BE WITH THE PACIFIC FLEET. AFTER THE OVERHAUL, THE CRUISERS WILL BE OPERATIONAL UNTIL 2030-2040.

BARENTOBSERVER.COM 22 SEPTEMBER

HELICOPTER KA-52 "ALLIGATOR" ADAPTED TO MARITIME CLIMATE.

DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER THE ATTACK HELICOPTER KA-52 CONDUCTED LANDING OPERATIONS ON THE VITSE ADMIRAL KULAKOV ASW DESTROYER IN ORDER TO ADAPT TO A MARITIME CLIMATE. ACCORDING TO NORTH FLEET EXPERTS, THE ADAPTATION WAS SUCCESSFUL. THE KA-52 HELICOPTER IS INTENDED FOR THE NEW AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIPS MISTRAL, BUT THE TRAINING SHOWED THAT IT IS CAPABLE OF LANDING ON ANY LARGE-DISPLACEMENT WARSHIP.

TV21 15 SEPTEMBER

CREWMEMBERS FOR THE VIKRAMADITYA AIRCRAFT CARRIER UNDERGO TRAINING AT SEVMASH.

THE FIRST GROUP OF 152 INDIAN CREWMEMBERS WHO WILL HANDLE THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER VIKRAMADITYA HAS FINISHED TRAINING IN SEVMASH. THE SECOND GROUP OF 112 IS NOW UNDERGOING THE THEORETICAL COURSE IN ST. PETERSBURG BEFORE ARRIVING AT SEVMASH IN EARLY NOVEMBER FOR PRACTICAL TRAINING. RUSSIA PLANS TO OFFER TRAINING TO MORE THAN 1000 SERVICEMEN BEFORE THE END OF 2012.

INTERFAX 16 SEPTEMBER

RUSSIA AND NORWAY TO DISCUSS FURTHER BORDER CONTROL COOPERATION. A NORWEGIAN DELEGATION OF COAST GUARD AND BORDER GUARD REPRESENTATIVES LED BY HEAD OF THE NORWEGIAN ARMED FORCES' OPERATIVE COMMAND VICE ADMIRAL HAAKON BRUUN-HANSSSEN HAS VISITED MURMANSK. JOINT RESCUE OPERATIONS AT SEA AND VIOLATIONS OF THE FISHING REGULATIONS IN THE BARENTS SEA WERE TWO OF THE ISSUES UP FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE NORWEGIANS' RUSSIAN COUNTERPARTS.

BARENTOBSERVER.COM 20 SEPTEMBER

3. (U//~~FOUO~~) POLITICS AND SOCIETY

LEADERS OF NORTH-WEST RUSSIA POSITIVE TO VLADIMIR PUTIN AS PRESIDENT. ARKHANGELSK GOVERNOR ILYA MIKHALKOV, MURMANSK GOVERNOR DMITRIY DMITRIYENKO AND SPEAKER IN THE MURMANSK REGIONAL DUMA YEVGENIY NIKORA HAVE ALL WELCOMED THE NEWS OF VLADIMIR PUTIN'S CANDIDATURE IN THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. THEY ALL STRESS THAT IT IS THE BEST POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR THE COUNTRY.

BARENTOBSERVER.COM 26 SEPTEMBER

4. (U//~~FOUO~~) FISHERY

AUCTION FOR SHARES IN MURMANSK FISHING PORT CANCELLED.

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THE FEDERAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AGENCY INFORMS THAT THE SCHEDULED AUCTION FOR THE SHARES IN MURMANSK FISHING PORT 30 SEPTEMBER IS CANCELLED.

B-PORT.COM 21 SEPTEMBER

5. (~~U//FOUO~~) OIL AND GAS

GAZPROM TO INVEST IN MURMANSK OIL REFINERY.

GAZPROM PLANS TO INVEST USD 3-7 BILLION IN AN OIL REFINERY ON THE WESTERN COAST OF THE **KOLA** PENINSULA. THE REFINERY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH OIL FROM THE MAJOR FIELDS IN THE TIMANO-PECHORA BASIN AND THE SHTOKMAN FIELD, AND IN THE FUTURE MAYBE ALSO FROM THE FIELDS ON THE YAMAL PENINSULA. ACCORDING TO GENERAL DIRECTOR OF GAZPROM NEFT SHELF, ALEKSANDR MANDEL, THE REFINERY WILL BE ABLE TO DELIVER OIL PRODUCTS DIRECTLY TO CUSTOMERS. RIA NOVOSTI 14 SEPTEMBER, BARENTSOBSERVER.COM 15 SEPTEMBER

AGREEMENT ON SHTOKMAN FINANCING TO BE REACHED IN DECEMBER.

ACCORDING TO THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS IN SHTOKMAN DEVELOPMENT AG (SDAG), TIMUR SABERZANOV, THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF THE SHTOKMAN PROJECT WILL BE PRESENTED IN OCTOBER. HE EXPECTS THAT A FINAL AGREEMENT ON FINANCING THE PROJECT WILL BE REACHED IN DECEMBER.

B-PORT.COM 14 SEPTEMBER

PRODUCTION ON PRIRAZLOMNAYA TO START IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2012.

FIRST DEPUTY OF OAO GAZPROM'S DEPARTMENT FOR GAS, GAS CONDENSATE AND OIL EXTRACTION NIKOLAY KABANOV HAS SAID THAT THE PRODUCTION START ON THE PRIRAZLOMNOYE FIELD HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM SEPTEMBER 2011 TO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2012. THE PRIRAZLOMNAYA PLATFORM WAS OFFICIALLY PUT INTO OPERATION BY VLADIMIR PUTIN ON 22 SEPTEMBER.

B-PORT.COM 14 AND 22 SEPTEMBER, INTERFAX 22 SEPTEMBER

6. (~~U//FOUO~~) INDUSTRY

CONSTRUCTION OF MURMANSK TRANSPORT HUB TO BEGIN IN 2013.

THE MURMANSK TRANSPORT HUB PROJECT WILL COST AN APPROXIMATED AMOUNT OF RUB 120 BILLION. THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY LAST YEAR, THE CURRENT STAGE WILL BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR, AND THE CONSTRUCTION ITSELF WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 2013 TO 2020. MURMANSK OBLAST GOVERNOR DMITRIY DMITRIYENKO STATES THAT MURMANSK WILL BECOME A MAIN BASE ALONG THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE AND ESSENTIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARCTIC.

TV21 23 SEPTEMBER

MALFUNCTION IN REACTOR NO. 4 AT **KOLA** NPP.

REACTOR NO. 4 AT THE **KOLA** NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WAS SHUT DOWN ON 22 SEPTEMBER DUE TO MALFUNCTION. BY THE NEXT MORNING THE MALFUNCTION WAS FIXED AND THE REACTOR RESUMED OPERATION WITH NORMAL RADIATION LEVELS.

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A WEEK EARLIER A DELEGATION FROM THE RADIATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY OF FINLAND VISITED THE POWER PLANT TO DISCUSS SAFETY MEASURES.

TV21 16 SEPTEMBER, INTERFAX 23 SEPTEMBER

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IVANOV ARGUES THE IMPORTANCE OF A NEW PORT IN **KOLA** BAY.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IVANOV SAYS IT IS NECESSARY TO START BUILDING A NEW ICE FREE, DEEP-WATER PORT IN THE **KOLA** BAY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN RUSSIA WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO BUILD SUCH A PORT WITH ACCESS TO THE OCEAN. A NEW PORT IS IMPORTANT FOR RUSSIA'S FUTURE SHIPPING IN THE NORTH AND ALSO WITH REGARD TO OIL TRANSPORT. ACCORDING TO IVANOV, THE PORT SHOULD BE BUILT BY A JOINT GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE COMPANY.

B-PORT.COM 20 SEPTEMBER, TV21 20 SEPTEMBER

7. (~~U//FOUO~~) SHIPPING

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE OPENED FOR LARGER VESSELS ON NORTHERN SEA ROUTE
LARGE TANKERS SAILING THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE NOW HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO CHOOSE AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE, TELLS FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NOVATEK, MIKHAIL POPOV. THE VESSELS CAN NOW SAIL NORTH OF THE NEW SIBERIAN ISLANDS. THIS ENABLES VESSELS WITH A DRAFT OF UP TO 12 METRES TO PASS, AND ENHANCES SECURITY, ADDS POPOV. UNTIL THIS YEAR, VESSELS HAD TO SAIL SOUTH OF THE ISLANDS THROUGH THE SHALLOW SANNIKOV STRAIT, WHICH LIMITED BOTH SPEED AND SIZE OF THE VESSELS.

MBNEWS.RU 26 SEPTEMBER

NSR ADMINISTRATION CENTRES TO BE FOUND IN MURMANSK, MOSCOW AND PEVEK. DURING THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM IN ARKHANGELSK DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SERGEY IVANOV COMMENTED ON THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE (NSR). HE STATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEAD QUARTERS FOR THE NSR WILL BE SITUATED IN MOSCOW AND IS TO HAVE A STAFF OF FIVE TO SEVEN PEOPLE. THE TWO REGIONAL CENTRES IN MURMANSK AND IN PEVEK WILL EMPLOY TEN PEOPLE EACH. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO RAISE THE PRICE FOR ICEBREAKER ESCORT ALONG THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE.

INTERFAX 22 SEPTEMBER

TEN RESCUE CENTRES TO BE BUILT ALONG NORTHERN SEA ROUTE.

SPEAKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM IN ARKHANGELSK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERCOM'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT IGOR VESELOV SAID THAT TEN RESCUE CENTRES ARE TO BE BUILT ALONG THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE UNTIL 2015. ACCORDING TO VESELOV, THE RESCUE CENTRES WILL BE SITUATED IN ARKHANGELSK, NARYAN-MAR, MURMANSK, VORKUTA, NADYM, DUDINKA, TIKSI, PEVEK, ANADYR AND PROVIDENIYA.

INTERFAX 23 SEPTEMBER

LAW DRAFT ON NORTHERN SEA ROUTE SENT TO STATE DUMA FOR APPROVAL. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SENT A LAW DRAFT REGARDING THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE TO THE STATE DUMA FOR APPROVAL. AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM IN ARKHANGELSK, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT IGOR LEVITIN SAID THAT HE EXPECTS THE LAW TO BE PASSED BY THE END OF 2011.

TV21 22 SEPTEMBER

SHTOKMAN DEVELOPMENT AG AND SOVKOMFLOT SIGNED AGREEMENT. SOVKOMFLOT AND SHTOKMAN DEVELOPMENT AG HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION. THE AGREEMENT STATES THAT THEY WILL COOPERATE AND CONSULT EACH OTHER WITH REGARD TO SUPPLY SHIPS, SECURE LOGISTICS FOR MARINE TRANSPORT AND TRANSHIPMENT OF LIQUID HYDROCARBONS.

B-PORT.COM 20 SEPTEMBER

8. (U//~~FOUO~~) THE ARCTIC

DEEP-SUBMERGENCE VEHICLES TO PROVE RUSSIA'S RIGHT TO ARCTIC SHELF THE RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY WILL ASSIGN ITS DEEP-SUBMERGENCE VEHICLES RUS AND KONSUL TO STUDY THE ARCTIC SHELF IN SUPPORT OF RUSSIA'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. VICE ADMIRAL ALEXEI BURILICHEV, HEAD OF THE MINISTRY'S MAIN DEPARTMENT FOR DEEPWATER STUDIES, SAYS BOTH PERSONNEL AND MACHINES ARE ENGAGED IN THE STUDY. RUS AND KONSUL ARE ABLE TO DIVE DOWN TO 6000 METERS AND ARE EQUIPPED WITH LIGHT ROBOTIC ARMS, TRAYS AND VIDEO CAMERAS.

INTERFAX 26 SEPTEMBER

COMMENTS: (b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(1),(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i),1.4 (c)

