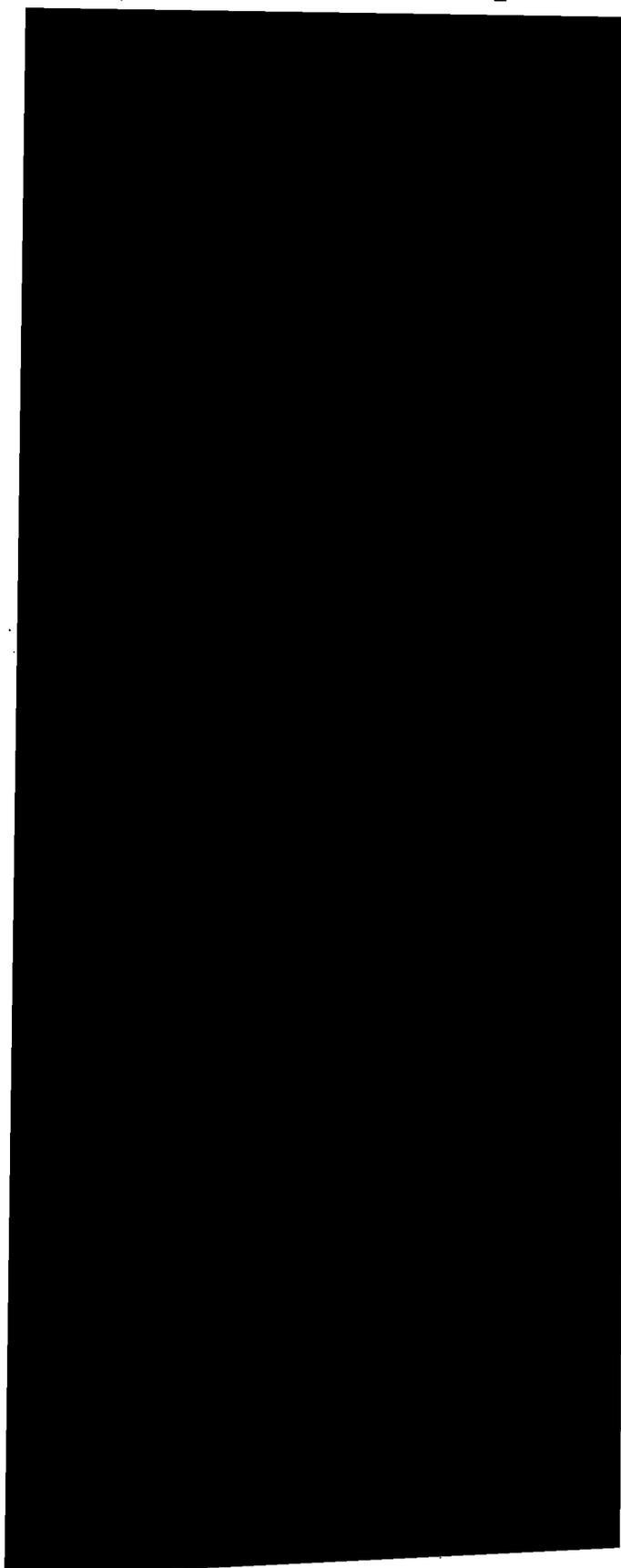


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1. JAPAN-USSR: ESPIONAGE DISCLOSURES

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//THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE IN TOKYO TO PRESS REPORTS OF SOVIET AGENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LOW KEY, ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE PUBLIC REACTION.// (S NF OC)

//JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS, CITING EXTRACTS OF A MANUSCRIPT PREPARED BY KGB DEFECTOR STANISLAV LEVCHENKO, HAVE NAMED EIGHT PROMINENT JAPANESE, INCLUDING A FORMER LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CABINET MINISTER, AS SOVIET AGENTS. THE NEWSPAPERS CLAIMED THE KGB HAD ANOTHER 23 AGENTS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WITHIN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AND AMONG POLITICIANS, ALTHOUGH NO NAMES WERE GIVEN.// (C NF)

//FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT THEIR

PAGE 5 RUEAIIA 9473 [REDACTED] INVESTIGATIONS HAD UNCOVERED NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT LEVCHENKO'S CHARGES. ACCORDING TO OTHER HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, THE INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONTINUING.// [REDACTED]

COMMENT://TOKYO PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE ITS TACTIC OF CASTING DOUBT ON THE CHARGES WHILE SUGGESTING IT IS PUSHING AHEAD WITH AN INVESTIGATION. THE ISSUE, HOWEVER, COULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR ALL THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE CHARGES.// [REDACTED]

//MANY OF THOSE NAMED WERE MEMBERS OF OR CONNECTED TO LEFTWING OPPOSITION PARTIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE RULING PARTY IS ACCUSED OF FORMERLY HAVING HAD A SOVIET AGENT AS A CABINET MINISTER.// [REDACTED]



PAGE 6 RUEAIIA 9473 S E C R E T [REDACTED]

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