CUNTURING *** BEGIN MESSAGE 55 *** SERIAL=MINSK1220-92 UDN=V05(4718) CLASS=CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL NSA3562 MINSK 01220 01 OF 02 041830Z PAGE 01 ACTION EUR-01 ANHR-O1 CISA-02 DS-00 CIAE-00 C-01 INFO LOG-00 FBIE-00 INRE-00 INR-01 JUSE-00 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 ASDS-01 PM-02 P-01 /013W ----- 041608Z /43 0 041421Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY MINSK TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0885 BT CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF OF NINSK CO1220 SERIAL: MINSK 01220-92 DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PINR, BO, US SUBJECT: THE OSWALD FILES REF: A) STATE 353053, B) MINSK 703 1. C - ENTIRE TEXT. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A NINETY-MINUTE 2. MEETING NOVEMBER 4 AT THE KGB HEADQUARTERS IN MINSK (OTHER ISSUES REPORTED SEPTEL), AMBASSADOR MADE REF A DEMARCHE, REQUESTING ACCESS TO THE KGE'S FILES ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD. BELARUSIAN KGE CHIEF EDUARD SHIRKOVSKIY, WHILE EXPRESSING A WILLINGNESS "TO MAKE THINGS MORE TRANSPARENT" TO THE U.S., SAID HE COULD NOT SIMPLY HAND OVER THE DOCUMENTS INASMUCH AS KGB METHODS OF OPERATION WOULD ALSO BE REVEALED. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD OPEN HIMSELF UP TO ALL SORTS OF ACCUSATIONS IF HE ACTED WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT. 3. SHIRKOVSKIY SUGGESTED AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, ADDING THAT BELARUS HAD MANY LINGERING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO SENT OSWALD TO THE FORMER USSR AND FOR WHAT FURPOSE. HE EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT OSWALD HAD NOT ACTED ALONE; OSWALD, HE SAID, WAS INCAPABLE OF SHOOTING PRESIDENT KENNEDY WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM SOMEBODY. SHIRKOVSKIY PROPOSED THAT THE FBI SUBHIT A LIST OF POINTED QUESTIONS WHICH THE KGB WOULD SEEK TO ANSWER. UPON RECEIPT AND INITIAL RESEARCH OF THE OUESTIONS, SHIRKOVSKIY SUGGESTED U.S. EXPERTS MIGHT VISIT MINSK TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORKING GROUP. SHIRKOVSKIY UNDERSCORED THAT SUCH A CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT SHOULD BE HANDLED QUIETLY. END SUMMARY.

4. AMEASSADOR SWARTZ AND POL/ECON CHIEF MET NOVEMBER 4 FOR NINETY MINUTES WITH NGE CHIEF EDUARD SHIRKOVSKIY AT THE NGE HEADQUARTERS IN MINSK. (OTHER TOPICS REPORTED SEPTEL.) SHIRKOVSKIY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTETAKER AND "OSWALD EXPERT" GENNADIY SEMYONOVICH

NARKEVICH. REFERRING TO SHIRKOVSKIY'S AUGUST 4 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B), IN WHICH SHIRKOVSKIY HAD MENTIONED THE EXISTENCE OF SIX VOLUMES OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AMBASSADOR WENT OVER THE POINTS IN REF A, REQUESTING FBI ACCESS TO THOSE DOCUMENTS. ACCESS IS NOT SO SIMPLE

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5. SHIRKOVSKIY REPLIED THAT THE DOCUMENTS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN IN THE ARCHIVES IN MOSCOW AND THAT RUSSIAN KGE CHIEF BAGATIN HAD OFFERED TO GIVE U.S. OFFICIALS ACCESS TO THEM. SINCE MANY OF THE EVENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN MINSK, HOWEVER, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE BELARUSIAN KGB SHOULD REVIEW THE DOCUMENTS.

6. SHIRKOVSKIY SAID HE HAD RECEIVED MANY REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO THE FILES -- FROM THE LIKES OF MOVIE PRODUCERS AND THE WRITER NORMAN MAILER. ON A PREVIOUS VISIT TO MINSK, MAILER HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO CERTAIN PEOPLE, NOW RETIRED, WHO KNEW OSWALD. MOREOVER, MAILER HAD BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF "BASIC DOCUMENTS," THE AUTHENTICITY OF WHICH THE KGB WAS WILLING TO PERMIT TO HAVE VERIFIED BY WESTERN EXPERTS.

7. THE PROBLEM, SAID SHIRKOVSKIY, WAS THAT THE DOCUMENTS AS A WHOLE--WHICH SHIRKOVSKIY CLAIMED WERE KEPT IN A SPECIAL SAFE, TO WHICH NO ONE HAD ACCESS--REVEALED KGB METHODOLOGIES AND REFERRED TO PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM WERE STILL ALIVE. SHIRKOVSKIY COULD NOT SIMPLY HAND OVER THE FILES TO THE FBI OR CIA (HE ADDED THE LATTER ACRONYM). IF HE DID SO, HE WOULD BE SKEWERED BY PARLIAMENT AND ACCUSED OF BEING A TRAITOR AND WORSE. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. ITSELF HAD STILL NOT DECLASSIFIED PORTIONS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION. BUT WE WANT TO COOPERATE

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S. SHIRKOVSKIY NEVERTHELESS SAID THE KGB WOULD BE WILLING "TO MAKE THINGS MORE BT CUNTERENSS NNNN NNN SERIAL=MINSK1220-92 UDN=V05(4719) CLASS=CONFIDENCIAL CENTIONELAL MEA 3560 MINSK 01220 02 OF 02 041530Z PAGE Ol ACTION EUR-01 CIAE-00 C-01 ANHR-01 CISA-02 DS-00 FBIE-00 INFO LOG-OC INRE-OC INR-O1 JUSE-OO L-O3 ADS-OO NSAE-OO NSCE-OO SP-00 SSC-00 SS-00 ASDS-01 /013₩ P-01 PM-02 0 0414212 NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY MINSK TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0886 ST CONTIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 MINSK 001220 SERIAL: MINSK 01220-92 DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PINR, BO, US SUBJECT: THE OSWALD FILES TRANSPARENT" TO THE U.S. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WAS POSSIBLE, WITH THE KGS AND CIA HANDING OVER ITS INFORMATION AND THE KGB GIVING THEM INFORMATION FROM ITS FILES. SHIRKOVSKIY SAID THE KGB HAD MANY LINGERING QUESTIONS ABOUT OSWALD, WHO SENT HIM AND WHY -- THE CIA, THE MAFIA, WHO? 9. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT THE U.S. WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND IF THE KGB HELD US AT ARMS LENGTH WHILE PERMITTING NORMAN MAILER ACCESS TO THE FILES. SHERKOVSKIY REITERATED THAT MAILER HAD BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO "BASIC DOCUMENTS" ONLY AND SAID THEY HAD BEEN PROVIDED IN THE HOPE THAT AN OBJECTIVE OBSERVER AND WRITER COULD MAKE THE U.S. PUELIC AND GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND THAT THE ENIGMA OF OSWALD AND THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY LAY IN THE U.S. OSWALD 10. SHIRKOVSKIY SAID THE KGB HAD ORIGINALLY . THOUGHT OSWALD WAS A CIA PLANT, BUT HAD

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REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE KGE REALIZED OSWALD WAS OF NO USE TO IT AND THANKED ITS LUCKY STARS WHEN HE FINALLY LEFT THE USSR. SHIRKOVSKIY EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT OSWALD COULD NOT HAVE ACTED ALONE WHEN HE SHOT PRESIDENT KENNEDY; HE WAS SIMPLY INCAPABLE OF THIS, BEING UNSTABLE IN THE EXTREME. HE REFERRED TO OSWALD'S ATTEMPT TO SLASH HIS WRISTS AS EVIDENCE OF THIS INSTABILITY. NEXT STEPS

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11. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S PRODDING

ON HOW NEXT TO PROCEED, SHIRKOVSKIY SUGGESTED THAT THE FBI PUT TOGETHER A LIST OF DETAILED, FOCUSSED QUESTIONS, WHICH KGB EXPERTS ON OSWALD WOULD SEEK TO RESEARCH AND ANSWER. THEN PERHAPS, U.S. EXPERTS COULD QUIETLY COME TO MINSK TO MEET WITH KGB EXPERTS. SHIRKOVSKIY UNDERSCORED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO GET IN THE MIDDLE OF POLITICS OR POSTURING. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO GET AT THE TRUTH. HE STRESSED THAT THE BELARUSIANS WOULD HAVE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS FOR U.S. EXPERTS AS WELL.

12. SHIRKOVSKIY SAID THAT WHEN AND IF THE EMEASSY RECEIVED A LIST OF FOCUSSED QUESTIONS THEY SHOULD BE PASSED TO HIM OR TO GENNADIY NARKEVICH, WHOM HE INTRODUCED AS THE PREEMINENT EXPERT ON OSWALD IN BELARUS. NARKEVICH PROMISED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EMEASSY TO PROVIDE A NUMBER AT WHICH HE COULD BE REACHED. SWARTZ

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