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SUMMARY

1. THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET IS NOW DISCUSSING THE DRAFT LAW TO ESTABLISH AN EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY. THE DRAFT PROVIDES FOR A PRESIDENT TO BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE EVERY 5 YEARS. BUT THE FIRST PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED FOR 4 YEARS BY THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES. IT PROPOSES ESTABLISHING TWO NEW BODIES - A PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL TO OVERSEE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY AND A FEDERAL COUNCIL TO RUN NATIONALITIES POLICY.

DETAIL

2. THE DRAFT LAW ESTABLISHING AN EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY WAS PUT TO THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET THIS MORNING 27 FEBRUARY AND IS NOW BEING DEBATED. WE HAVE OBTAINED A TEXT. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN PROPOSALS.

3. A NEW POST OF 'PRESIDENT OF THE USSR' IS ESTABLISHED. THE PRESIDENT WILL BE HEAD OF STATE.

4. THE PRESIDENT IS TO BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE BY DIRECT AND SECRET VOTE FOR A TERM OF 5 YEARS. THE FIRST PRESIDENT HOWEVER WILL BE ELECTED BY THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS. THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE MUST GET MORE THAN 50% OF THE VOTES, IF NECESSARY AFTER A RUN-OFF.

5. THE PROPOSED POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT INCLUDE:

- A) EXERCISING GENERAL CONTROL OVER THE OBSERVANCE OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF SOVIET CITIZENS, OF THE CONSTITUTION AND SOVIET LAW, AND OVER THE SOVEREIGNTY, SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY
- B) TAKING DECISIONS AFFECTING THE STATE STRUCTURE OF THE USSR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOVIET FEDERATION.
- C) CO-ORDINATING THE ACTIONS OF THE SUPREME BODIES OF STATE POWER.
- D) REPRESENTING THE USSR WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
- E) BEING COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CO-ORDINATING

- THE ACTIVITIES OF STATE BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUNTRY'S DEFENCE.
- F) PROPOSING TO THE SUPREME SOVIET, CANDIDATES FOR THE POSTS OF CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COURT AND OTHER SENIOR LEGAL FUNCTIONARIES: PROPOSING THEIR REMOVAL.
- G) **SIGNING USSR LAWS.** THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE A RIGHT TO RETURN A LAW WITH HIS COMMENTS TO THE SUPREME SOVIET FOR A SECOND DISCUSSION AND VOTE. IF THE SUPREME SOVIET, ON A SECOND VOTE, CONFIRMS ITS EARLIER DECISION, THE PRESIDENT CAN STILL SIGN THE LAW OR APPEAL TO THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES OR CALL A REFERENDUM.
- H) **SIGNING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**
- I) DECLARING WAR IN THE CASE OF AN ATTACK ON THE USSR: DECLARING GENERAL OR PARTIAL MOBILISATION.
- J) DECLARING STATES OF EMERGENCY IN SPECIFIC REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY AFTER COMPULSORY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE APPROPRIATE REPUBLIC. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL RULE CAN BE INTRODUCED.
6. TWO NEW STATE BODIES ARE ESTABLISHED:
- A FEDERAL COUNCIL, CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT AND INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET (NOW A SEPARATE POST), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 2 CHAMBERS OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNION REPUBLICS. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSES AND TAKES DECISIONS ON NATIONALITIES POLICY AND THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE OF THE USSR.
 - A PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING DECISIONS ON THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF INTERNAL AND FOREIGN POLICY AND ENSURING THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY. THE FOLLOWING ARE INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL: CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET, CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE, INTERNAL AFFAIRS, JUSTICE, CHAIRMAN OF THE KGB. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL CAN BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO ISSUE DECREES (UKAZY) ON MATTERS WITHIN HIS COMPETENCE WHICH HAVE BINDING FORCE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OF THE COUNTRY.
7. **THE PRESIDENT CAN BE REMOVED FROM HIS POST IN CASES WHERE HE INFRINGES THE USSR CONSTITUTION. THIS REQUIRES A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES.**
8. THE PRESIDENT CAN AUTHORISE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT SOME OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. IF THE PRESIDENT CAN NOT FULFIL HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ANY REASON, HIS POWERS ARE TRANSFERRED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET IN THE FIRST

INSTANCE AND THEN TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS UNTIL A NEW ELECTION WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

9. FULL TEXT BY BAG TO DEPARTMENT.

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