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SOVIET INTERNAL: 14 MAY RE-RUN ELECTIONS

SUMMARY

1. A POPULAR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATE WINS A REMARKABLE VICTORY IN LENINGRAD AFTER PUBLICLY LINKING LIGACHEV WITH ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION. KOROTICH ELECTED.

DETAIL

*who interviewed you for Ogonyok.*

2. RE-RUN ELECTIONS TO FILL THE REMAINING 198 SEATS IN THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLES DEPUTIES WERE HELD ON 14 MAY. FULL RESULTS ARE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. FROM THE PRELIMINARY REPORTS SO FAR PUBLISHED IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MOST DRAMATIC AND POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT RESULT IS THE VICTORY IN LENINGRAD OF NIKOLAI IVANOV, A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING HIGH LEVEL CORRUPTION. IN THE LENINGRAD NATIONAL-TERRITORIAL DISTRICT HE WAS ONE OF 28 CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT BUT STILL WON AN OUTRIGHT VICTORY IN THE FIRST ROUND WITH MORE THAN 60% OF THE VOTE. TO HAVE DONE THIS AGAINST SO LARGE A FIELD IS REMARKABLE.

3. IVANOV, TOGETHER WITH HIS WELL-KNOWN FELLOW PROSECUTOR, GDLYAN, HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO HIGH LEVEL PUBLIC CRITICISM IN THE PAST WEEKS FOR THE ALLEGED USE OF ILLEGAL METHODS IN PURSUING THEIR INVESTIGATIONS. IN A LIVE DISCUSSION PROGRAMME ON LENINGRAD TELEVISION ON 12 MAY IVANOV SAID THAT LIGACHEV'S NAME WAS AMONG THOSE WHICH FIGURED IN HIS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE LENINGRAD MAFIA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT LIGACHEV WAS CONSOLIDATING HIS POWER BASE IN MOSCOW IN WHAT HE SAW AS A SHIFT TO THE RIGHT IN PARTY POLICY. HE CLAIMED ALSO THAT IT WAS NOW OFFICIAL POLICY TO HOLD BACK ON THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE MAFIA. ON 13 MAY THE CENTRAL PRESS CARRIED A REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM CRITICISING STATEMENTS MADE BY GDLYAN AND IVANOV ABOUT SUPPOSED INFRINGEMENTS OF LEGALITY COMMITTED BY UNNAMED POLITICAL LEADERS. THE REPORT REVEALED THAT A SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE PRESIDUM WAS LOOKING INTO THE

## COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE TWO PROSECUTORS.

4. IN MANY WAYS, IVANOV'S VICTORY IN LENINGRAD IS AS REMARKABLE AS THAT OF ELTSIN IN MOSCOW ON 26 MARCH. WE KNOW OF NO EVIDENCE THAT LIGACHEV WAS ORCHESTRATING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST IVANOV AND GDLYAN. NEVERTHELESS, AS WITH ELTSIN, THE MASSIVE VOTE FOR IVANOV REPRESENTS A RESOUNDING POPULAR SNUB FOR LIGACHEV. ONCE AGAIN, OFFICIAL ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT A CANDIDATE SEEMS TO HAVE BACKFIRED BADLY. THE RESULT ALSO EMPHASISES AGAIN THE EXTENT TO WHICH PARTY PRIVILEGE AND CORRUPTION IS AN EMOTIVE ISSUE FOR THE MAN IN THE STREET AT A TIME WHEN HIS OWN STANDARD OF LIVING IS UNDER PRESSURE. IVANOV AND GDLYAN (WHO ALSO WON AN IMPRESSIVE ELECTORAL VICTORY IN MOSCOW ON 26 MARCH) ARE REHORTEDLY CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF ELTSIN. THERE WILL BE MANY IN THE PARTY BECOMING INCREASINGLY WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THESE THREE WILL FORM THE NUCLEUS FOR A POPULIST CAMPAIGN WITHIN THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLES DEPUTIES AND ELSEWHERE AGAINST PARTY PRIVILEGE.

5. KOROTICH, EDITOR OF OGONEYK, WHO WITHDREW FROM A MOSCOW CONSTITUENCY IN MARCH BECAUSE OF ATTEMPTS TO OBSTRUCT HIS CAMPAIGN, HAS BEEN ELECTED WITH 80% OF THE VOTE IN KHARKOV IN THE UKRAINE. YEVTUSHENKO HAS BEEN ELECTED FROM ANOTHER KHARKOV CONSTITUENCY. THESE WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN THE LIBERAL WING IN THE NEW CONGRESS.

6. BUT THERE ARE ALSO ONE OR TWO EYE-OPENING RESULTS WHICH SEEM CERTAIN TO PRODUCE ALLEGATIONS OF MALPRACTICE. THE PARTY FIRST SECRETARY IN DUSHANBE (TADZHIKSTAN) WHO, STANDING UNOPPOSED, GOT ONLY 28% OF THE VOTE ON 26 MARCH, HAS JUST BEEN ELECTED, AGAIN UNOPPOSED, WITH 82% OF THE VOTE. THE FIRST SECRETARY OF PSKOV OBKOM WHO ALSO FAILED TO ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY 50% IN A CONTESTED ELECTION ON 26 MARCH, HAS JUST RECEIVED 73% OF THE VOTE THIS TIME - THIS TIME UNOPPOSED, IN A CONTEST IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE WHO WAS AHEAD OF HIM ON THE PREVIOUS ROUND, AND ALL OTHER POTENTIAL OPPONENTS, HAD BEEN ELIMINATED BY THE LOCAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

7. BUT SINCE A MAJORITY OF THESE LAST 198 SEATS WERE CONTESTED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES, WITHOUT A DECISIVE OUTCOME, RUN-OFFS WILL BE NECESSARY IN THE MAJORITY OF CONSTITUENCIES INCLUDING IN MOSCOW. THESE WILL TAKE PLACE ON 21 MAY SO THAT ALL THE CONSTITUENCIES SHOULD BE FILLED BY THE TIME OF THE CONGRESS MEETS ON 25 MAY.

BRAITHWAITE

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