

AMBASSADEN MOSKVA 1994-09-29

Stockholm 1994-09-29

UD STOCKHOLM

Överlämnas av UD/R 3 till Rätts-
chefen i Kommunikationsdepartementet
för begägen vidare befordran till
Statens Haverikommission.

B R A A D S K A N D E

Lars Andreasson

565. FOER R 3. DELGES POL 1:1. RE-ESTONIA-KATASTROFEN

TASS AATERGØR INTERVJU MED EN RYSK UNDERVATTENSEXPERT, FOERETRAEDARE
FOER EN FABRIK I PETERSBURG SOM TILLVERKAR MILITAERA
UNDERVATTENSFAKOSTER. DENNE HAEVDAR ATT DET KAN FINNAS OEVERLEVANDE
I DET SJUNKNA VRAKET OCH SAEGER VIDARE ATT DET PAA RYSK SIDA FINNS
STOR ERFARENHET OCH UTRUSTNING FOER UNDERVATTENSARBETEN. HAN
UTTRYCKER ENLIGT TASS NOTIS BESVIKELSE OEVER ATT INGEN BEGAERAN
KOMMIT OM HAERGNINGSHJAELP.

TASSOIT:

ST. PETERSBURG SEPTEMBER 29 TASS - BY ITAR-TASS
CORRESPONDENT LEV RUMYANTSEV:

A RUSSIAN UNDERWATER EXPERT BELIEVES PEOPLE MAY STILL BE
ALIVE INSIDE THE +ESTONIA+ FERRY WHICH CAPSIZED IN THE BALTIC
SEA ON WEDNESDAY AND LIES AT A DEPTH OF 80-90 METRES.

+HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE REMAINING INSIDE THE SUNK FERRY CAN BE
SAVED AND SHOULD BE SAVED+, ANATOLY KUTEINIKOV, DESIGNER GENERAL
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG-BASED +MALAKHIT+ COMPANY, TOLD TASS ON
THURSDAY. THE COMPANY IS THE LEADING RUSSIAN DEFENCE ENTERPRISE
PRODUCING UNDERWATER CRAFT.

HE SAID THAT AN +AIR CUSHION+ ALWAYS ACCOMPANIES ANY
SHIPWRECK AND MAY ALLOW THOSE REMAINING INSIDE THE FERRY TO STAY
ALIVE FOR AT LEAST A WEEK.

+ONE SHOULD NOT BE SCARED BY THE EXCESSIVE PRESSURE. 80
METRES ARE NOT TOO DEEP+, KUTEINIKOV SAID.

HE REGRETTED THAT THE FINNISH AND SWEDISH AUTHORITIES HAD
NOT REQUESTED THE RUSSIAN RESCUERS TO HELP WITH THE +ESTONIA+
SHIPWRECK. +WE HAVE A BIG EXPERIENCE IN UNDERWATER WORK, AS WELL
AS GOOD AND MAYBE THE BEST EQUIPMENT. IT IS A PITY THAT WE DID
NOT JOIN EFFORTS. MOREOVER, THERE ARE OUR CITIZENS IN DISTRESS+,
KUTEINIKOV COMPLAINED.

THE CHIEF DESIGNER BELIEVES THAT THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE
DISASTER WAS A POOR TRAINING LEVEL OF THE CREW. BESIDES, IT IS
ALSO CLEAR THAT THE SHIP HAD SOME DESIGN FAULTS. +SHIPS OF THE
+ESTONIA+ CLASS DO NOT SINK IN FIVE MINUTES. THEY CAN OVERTURN,
BUT SHOULD STAY AFLOAT FROM SEVERAL HOURS TO A WHOLE DAY+, HE
SAID.

ITEM ENDS

HIRDMAN

AMBASSADEN MOSKVA/CK

TELEX

TELEX

TELEX

TELEX

TELEX

TELEX

TELEX