

FINLAND/USSR - RETRIEVAL OF SOVIET MISSILE WHICH  
LANDED IN FINNISH WATERS 28 DECEMBER 1984\*

Inofficial translation

Ministry of the Interior  
Headquarters of the Frontier Guard

Helsinki, January 3, 1985

To the Press

According to the observations of the air space surveillance network at 14.30 hours on December 28, 1984 an unidentified object approached the Finnish air space from the east and to the east of the Lake Inari at an altitude of several thousand meters and at a great speed. The object disappeared at the latitude of the Lake Inari. At the same time Mr. and Mrs. Valle, who live at Hietikkolahti in Tsumnuvuono, heard a loud bang. There were no other observations. The Finnish Air Force made immediately a recognizance flight over the region, no findings were made. The Lapland Frontier Guard began immediate investigation of the flight. This investigation continues. Weather at the time of the incident: overcast, south wind approximately 3 m/s, altitude of clouds approximately 300 meters, dark.

Head of Information

Major

Kari Saksela

JANUARY 4th 1985

## COMMUNIQUE BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The relevant authorities continue the investigations concerning the flying object which on December 28, 1984 approached the Finnish air space from the East through Norwegian territory on the Eastern side of Lake Inari. Additional information on the incident has been requested from Norway. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland has today also requested the Soviet Union through its Embassy in Helsinki a report on this matter.

JANUARY 4th 1985

## COMMUNIQUE BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Early this evening the ambassador of the Soviet Union Mr. V.M. Sobolev upon his request called on Mr. Paavo Väyrynen, minister of Foreign Affairs. He then presented that on December 28, 1984 during a shooting practice at the Barents sea a flying target, as a result of a technical failure, deviated from its given course. Ambassador Sobolev stated that the flying target then might have violated the Finnish air space.

Ambassador Sobolev expressed his governments regrets because of the incident.

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\* [These documents were provided by the Finnish Ambassador Mr Osmo Lares, Canberra, who advises;

"There has been no correspondence published relating to an agreement concerning this matter. It was a de facto agreement as such concerning the retrieval of the missile, and the USSR paid the sum of FM560,000 as compensation for the cost of hoisting the missile from the lake, and transportation costs back to the USSR".)