

UNCLASSIFIED

PTQ7418

RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	MCO-01
	MOFM-04	MOF-03	M-00	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	SA-01	IIP-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	FDIC-01	NFAT-00	SAS-00	((AS-00
	SAS-00	) /023W					

-----468918 011511Z /38

O 262311Z MAR 00

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0051  
INFO MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
CIS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS MOSCOW 007374

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, KDEM, RS  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - SITREP 7,  
FINAL (3:00AM, MARCH 27, MOSCOW TIME)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - TREAT ACCORDINGLY

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1. (SBU) THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION (CEC) CONFIRMED AT 2:20AM (MOSCOW), PRESS REPORTS THAT VLADIMIR PUTIN PASSED THE 50 PERCENT HURDLE IN THE TABULATION OF VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AT APPROXIMATELY 1:45AM, WHEN 46 PERCENT OF THE VOTE HAD BEEN COUNTED. WITH MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE VOTE NOW COUNTED, AND WITH VOTE TOTALS STILL COMING IN FROM AREAS WHERE PUTIN IS STRONG, IT APPEARS MORE AND MORE LIKELY THAT PUTIN WILL REMAIN ABOVE 50 PERCENT AND WIN THIS ELECTION ON THE FIRST BALLOT.

2. (SBU) THE CEC'S REPORTED 2:00AM TALLIES GIVE PUTIN 50.01 PERCENT, ZYUGANOV 30.77 PERCENT, YAVLINSKIY 5.58 PERCENT, TULEYEV 4.19 PERCENT, AND ZHIRINOVSKIY 2.99

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PERCENT: CONTRARY TO SOME EXPECTATIONS, THE FIGURES INDICATE THAT ZYUGANOV REMAINS STRONGER THAN EXPECTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A FORCE FOR PUTIN TO DEAL WITH - PERHAPS A DEVELOPMENT THE KREMLIN WOULD WELCOME SINCE IT MAY MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE KPRF MIGHT DUMP ZYUGANOV AS KPRF LEADER. YAVLINSKIY, ON THE OTHER HAND, PERFORMED MORE POORLY THAN MANY EXPECTED, AND TULEYEV BETTER THAN MOST EXPECTED. ZHIRINOVSKIY APPEARS TO HAVE PERFORMED ABOUT AS EXPECTED AND HOPED.

3. (SBU) FINAL PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE CEC SHOULD COME MID-DAY, MARCH 27. THE CEC IS SCHEDULED TO REPORT ON WHAT IT EXPECTS WILL BE 90 PERCENT OF THE VOTE TALLY BY 10:00AM. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT PUTIN IS PREPARED TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN THE EVENT THE CEC IS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE HIS VICTORY. AFTER THE CEC

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ANNOUNCES ITS PRELIMINARY RESULTS, FORMAL VOTE TALLIES WILL BEGIN, AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AND ANNOUNCED BY APRIL 4. THE CEC INTENDS TO PUBLISH THE FINAL RESULTS ON APRIL 5. THE LAW REQUIRES THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE OFFICE ON THE THIRTIETH DAY AFTER RESULTS ARE PUBLISHED. CEC CHAIRMAN VESHNYAKOV HAS SPECULATED PUBLICLY THAT MAY 5 IS A POSSIBLE INAUGURATION DATE, BUT THAT IT MAY BE MOVED BY TWO OR THREE DAYS (OR PERHAPS MORE IF "TECHNICAL" OR OTHER PROBLEMS PREVENT OFFICIAL RESULTS FROM BE COMPLETED AS SCHEDULED). IF PUTIN DOES NOT MAKE THE 50 PERCENT CUT, RUNOFF WILL TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 16.

COLLINS

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