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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF OCPAS-EUR 89-082 FOR 10 APRIL 1989.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

CONTENTS

1. USSR: VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN GEORGIAN REPUBLIC [REDACTED]

1. USSR: DEMONSTRATIONS TURN VIOLENT IN GEORGIA [REDACTED]

SIXTEEN CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND NEARLY 200 CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED BEFORE DAWN YESTERDAY WHEN SOVIET TROOPS ATTACKED ABOUT 8,000 DEMONSTRATORS IN THE GEORGIAN CAPITAL OF TBILISI; SEVERAL GEORGIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS WERE ARRESTED. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DEMONSTRATORS DISPERSED AFTER THE ATTACK, WHICH RESULTED IN THE HIGHEST CASUALTY RATE IN A SINGLE DAY FROM CLASHES BETWEEN TROOPS AND DEMONSTRATORS ANYWHERE IN THE USSR IN AT LEAST THE PAST TWO YEARS. A CURFEW REPORTEDLY IS IN PLACE, AND A GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY SPOKESMEN SAID YESTERDAY THAT TBILISI WAS

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[REDACTED]

QUIET BUT THAT TROOPS WERE PATROLLING THE STREETS. [REDACTED]

THE USSR CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM, AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THEIR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, ALTHOUGH TASS REPORTS BLAME THE DEATHS ON ACTIONS BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. THE GEORGIAN PARTY LEADERSHIP CONVENED YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION, ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN. [REDACTED]

A DEMONSTRATION IN THE ABKHAZIAN CAPITAL YESTERDAY BY 7,000 GEORGIANS--MANY OF WHOM HAD COME FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE REPUBLIC--DISPERSED ON LEARNING OF THE DEATHS IN TBILISI. AN ABKHAZIAN NATIONALIST GROUP HAD ALREADY CALLED OFF A RIVAL DEMONSTRATION FOR FEAR OF CLASHES WITH THE GEORGIANS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY'S SHOW OF FORCE MAY HAVE BROKEN THE CYCLE OF DEMONSTRATIONS FOR NOW, IT WILL MAKE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON GEORGIANS, WHO UP TO NOW HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY MODERATE IN THEIR NATIONALIST ASPIRATIONS. PRESSURE IS LIKELY TO BUILD FOR THE OUSTER OF REPUBLIC LEADER DZHUMBER PATIASHVILI. THE VIOLENCE IS LIKELY TO RADICALIZE THE ORGANIZED GEORGIAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, WHICH, ALTHOUGH STILL RELATIVELY NEW AND SMALL, HAS BEEN GROWING OVER THE PAST YEAR. [REDACTED]

THE GEORGIAN LEADERSHIP, IN ADDITION TO ADDING ITS CONDOLENCES, PROBABLY WILL REAFFIRM ITS OPPOSITION TO AN ABKHAZIAN SECESSION, A GESTURE THAT WILL DO LITTLE TO MOLLIFY GEORGIAN NATIONALISTS--THE ABKHAZIAN ISSUE HAS BECOME A RATIONALE FOR EXPRESSING ANTIREGIME ACTIVITY--BUT THAT WILL REASSURE THE MORE THAN 200,000 GEORGIANS LIVING IN THE ABKHAZIAN ASSR. [REDACTED]

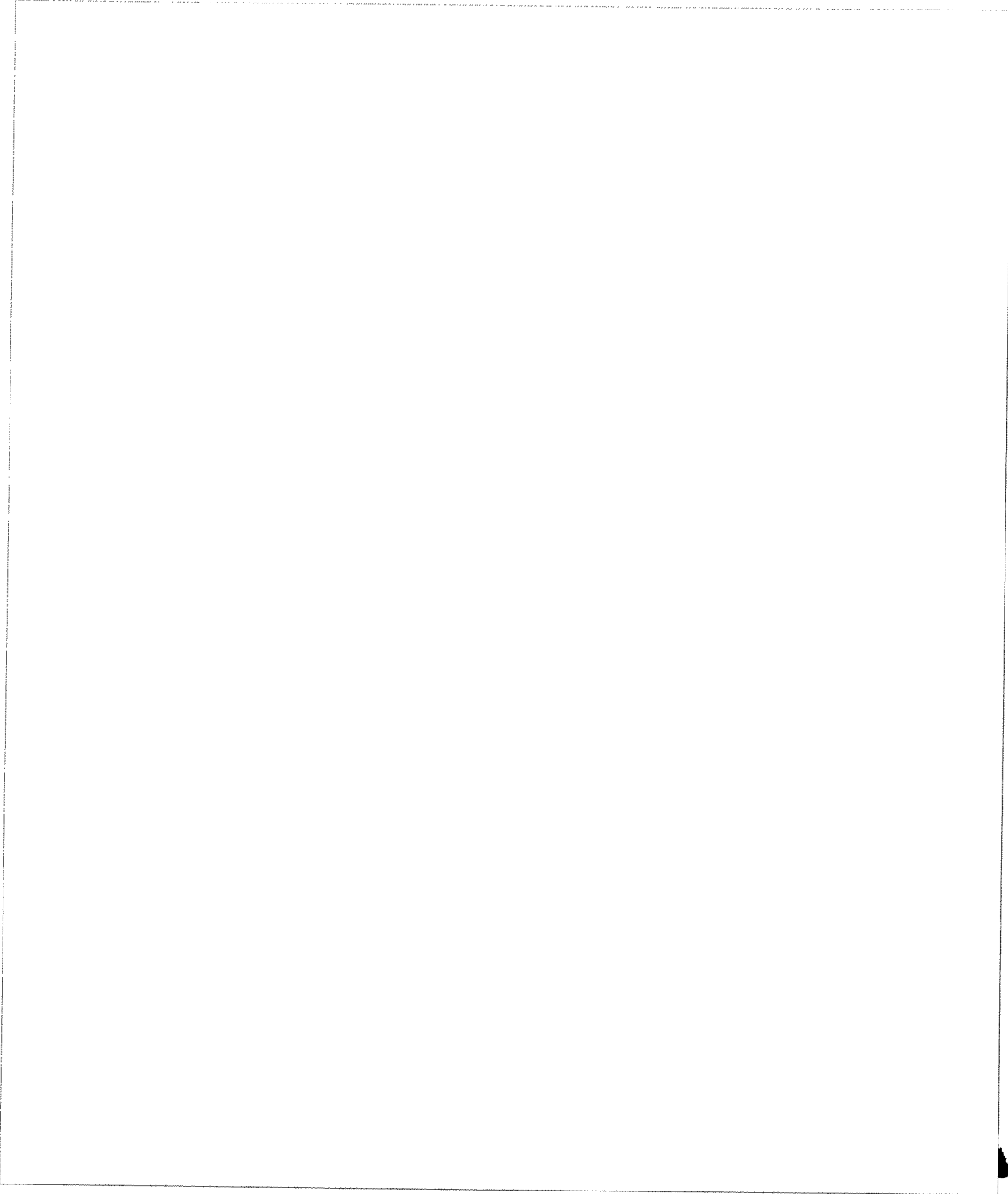
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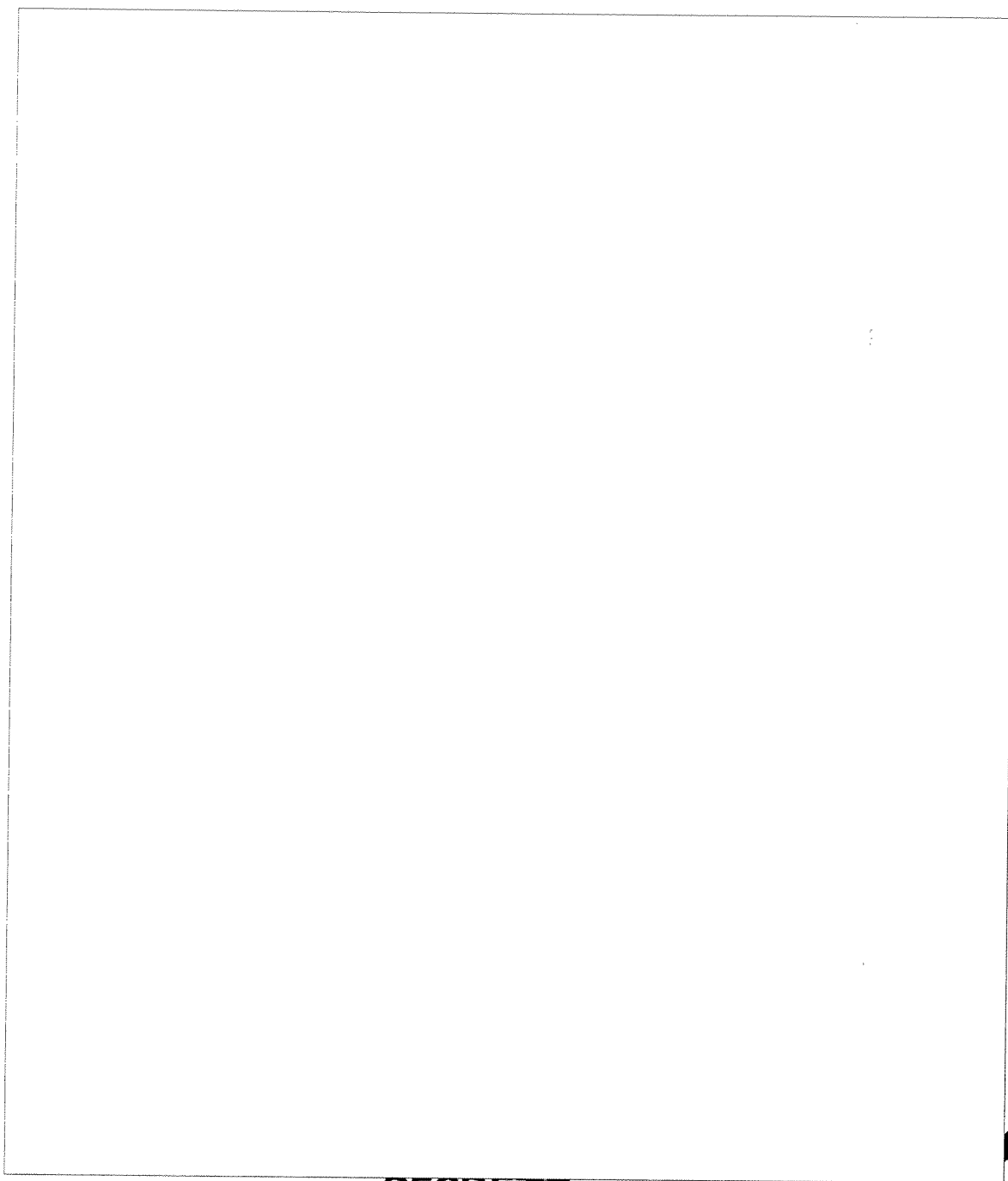
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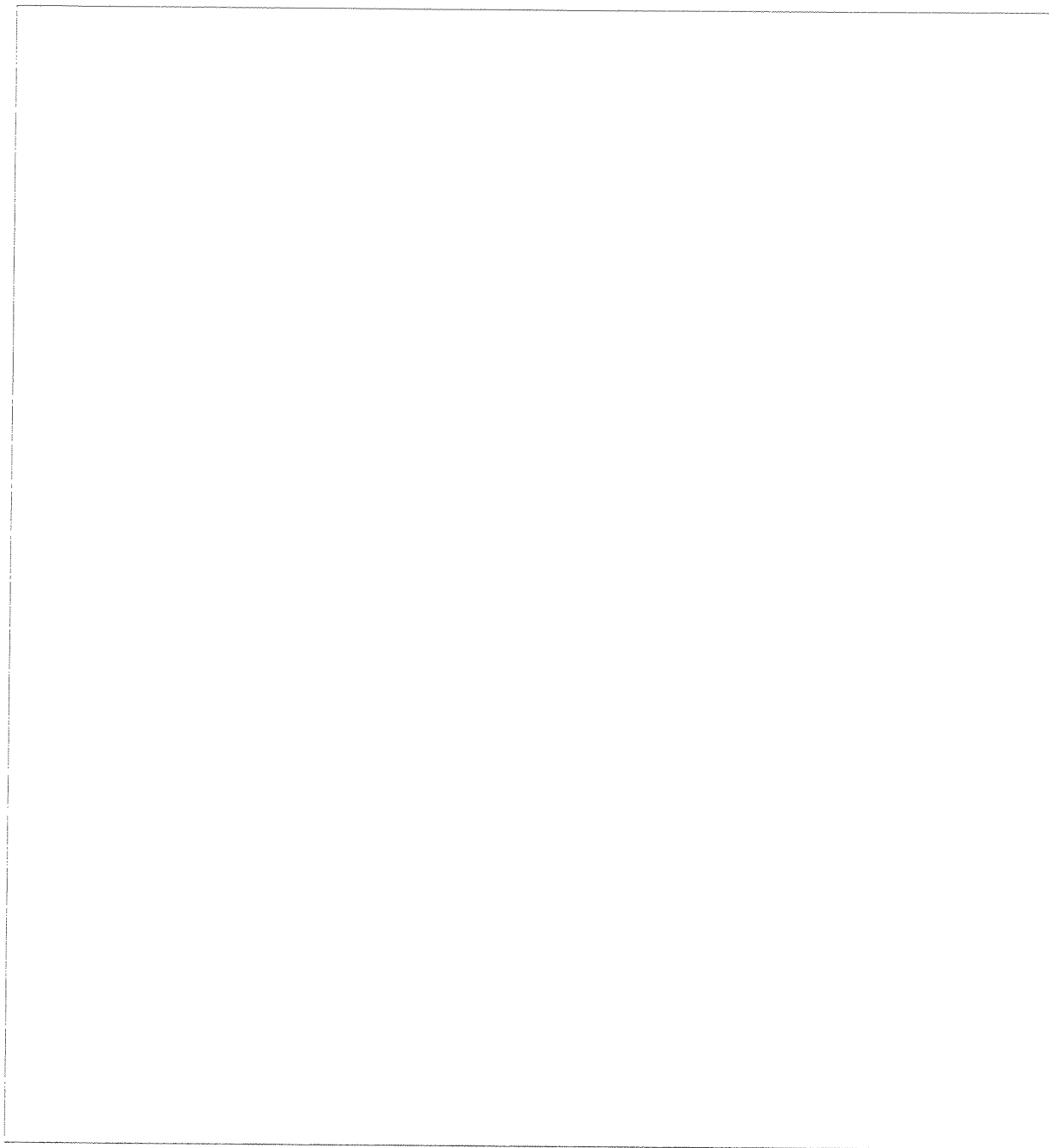
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