

RUSSIAN EMBASSY

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AMBASSADOR OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

MS C.ZAMPATTI, AM
CHAIRMAN
SBS BOARD.
LOCKED BAG 028
CROWS NEST, NSW 2065

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RECEIVED
23 MAY 2003
HEAD OF TELEVISION

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22 MAY 2003
SBS CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

22 May, 2003

Dear Ms Zampatti,

I am writing to you to express my profound astonishment and disbelief. Until yesterday I always thought SBS journalists were highly professional people immune to ideological stereotypes. Unfortunately your yesterday's Dateline program "Crimes of the Kremlin" shattered my believe that SBS is promoting understanding between countries and nationalities. In fact, it smacks of the worst Cold War era cliches. It is indeed one of the most blatantly biased and unbalanced piece of propaganda I've ever seen in recent years. Certainly, I've never expected to see anything like this in Australia.

After viewing this stuff I want to ask a very simple question. What or who stimulated SBS interest in the conspiracy theory which had long lost any appeal to anybody? And why have you stopped short of accusing the Kremlin of organizing the hostage drama in the Moscow theatre last October? Such an accusation would have been absolutely in line with the logic of other stories in your report.

And one last question. Why had the journalist omitted several very crucial moments in his depiction of Mr. Berezovsky's crusade against President Putin? To name just a few: it was worth mentioning the oligarch's close financial ties with Chechen bandits and Mr. Berezovsky's intention to finance the Communist Party of Russia in coming elections. And one more interesting point - the leader of the Liberal Russia Party Mr. Youshenkov was assassinated only days after the party leaders had expelled Mr Berezovsky from the party. I think Australian viewers of your program would have loved such details.

My best regards and congratulations with a work well done!

Leonid P. Moiseev
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