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Tensions in the Green Sea Region

By Evan Lawson

NOVIGRAD, May 15 1994 (AP) - Only two years have passed since the collapse of the *Soviet Union*, and tensions are already brewing between the newly independent nations of Eastern Europe. While the Union's former constituent republics are taking their first steps as independent nations, forging their own paths in foreign affairs, certain officials in the Kremlin are lamenting at their loss of influence in what they consider their backyard.

Among these new nations is the *Republic of Chernarus* which, since independence, has pursued a pro-western orientation, and whose political leadership recently invited the *United States* to participate in joint military drills with their newly established military, the *Chernarussian Defence Force*.

The *Russian Federation* is in the meanwhile undergoing a tumultuous period, suffering from economic woes and civil strife alike, and Moscow's control over its still vast armed forces inherited from the Soviet times is said to be, according to western military experts, tenuous at best.

Of particular concern for Chernarus and their new American allies is the ruthless hardliner serving as the head of the Southern Military District, Colonel-General Vladimir Yakimov, who recently led the suppression of a rebellion in neighboring *Chechnya*. General Yakimov's announcement of the immediate deployment of a motor rifle regiment to the Black Mountains, near Chernarus' northern frontier, significantly raised tensions in the region despite assurances from the Kremlin that their troops are merely conducting a 'routine exercise'.

As the CDF and US forces begin their military exercise in South Zagoria, the northeastern province of Chernarus, a cautious watch is maintained northward, to the Black Mountains.