

SEVERAL COMPANIES HAVE MENTIONED THAT ARRANGING FOR ARMED ESCORTS FOR VALUABLE SHIPMENTS IS ADVISABLE. ONE COMPANY WENT SO FAR AS TO ALSO PURCHASE THEIR OWN SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND WELD THEM SHUT. UNFORTUNATELY, CUTTING TORCHES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CIS.

- SEEK THE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE OF A WESTERN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY OR FREIGHT FORWARDER WITH AN OFFICE AND THEIR OWN PEOPLE IN MOSCOW SO THAT YOU CAN ENJOY RESTFUL SLEEP AT NIGHT (MAYBE). THEY SHOULD HAVE INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF PORTS, LOADING RATES, STORAGE FACILITIES, ANY LOADING BACKLOGS AND THE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THESE.
- DESPITE CLAIMS FROM RUSSIAN TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES CONTAINERS DO GO MISSING AND DELAYS IN INTERMODAL CONNECTIONS ARE THE NORM.
- BREAK BULK SHIPMENT BY OCEAN FREIGHT IS NOT RECOMMENDED AND IS AN INVITATION TO PILFERAGE AND THEFT - ONE TRADER RECENTLY SHIPPED 50 CARS ONLY TO HAVE TO BUY THE BATTERIES BACK ON THE WHARF.
- TRUCKING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE VIA ANTWERP.
- LACK OF SHIPPING MATERIALS, CONTAINERS AND STORAGE FACILITIES IS ALSO PROBLEMATIC - ONE COMPANY RECENTLY PURCHASED AN ELECTRON MICROSCOPE WHICH WAS CRATED IN A REGULAR WOODEN BOX AND LEFT ON A DOCK FOR A MONTH. IT ARRIVED RUSTED AND THE COMPANY WAS FORCED TO PURCHASE ANOTHER UNIT AND AIR FREIGHT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS REPUTATION WITH THE BUYER.
- WESTERN SHIPPING COMPANIES ARE LOATH TO SEND THEIR OWN CONTAINERS INTO THE CIS AS THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO RECOVER, PARTICULARLY REEFER UNITS AS REFRIGERATION IS IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THE FORMER USSR. THIS IS FORCING COMPANIES TO CONSIDER BUYING THEIR OWN USED CONTAINERS TO LEAVE WITH THE CLIENT FOR STORAGE, ETC. USED 20 FT CONTAINERS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR \$2,200 AND 40 FT FOR \$3,000.00.