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SPECIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 7, 1992 \$2.95

TIME

CAN **RUSSIA** ESCAPE ITS PAST?



THE WEEK

22



NATION: Why is this man laughing?



WORLD: The circle of hate widens



BUSINESS: Despite farmers' fury, Paris goes along with U.S.-E.C. deal—for the moment



SOCIETY: Halo, goodbye



SCIENCE: Not crystal clear

32 COVER: A Miracle Wrapped in Danger

Democracy, however primitive, has come to Russia. Now its leader is contending with the adversities of nature, economics and politics, and the outcome has immense implications for the world.

36 POLITICS: Holding Russia's Fate in His Hands

In a country that lacks democratic institutions to ensure the future of reforms, the President so dominates the political landscape that as Yeltsin goes, so goes the nation

40 OPPOSITION GROUPS: The Dark Forces

Those who want to turn back the clock are gathering strength

42 POLICY: A \$2 Trillion Wish List

The West can't give Russia all it wants, but could do more

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Chernobyl, radioactive subs and dumps are still ticking

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Conversion of the defense sector is a painful metamorphosis

50 VIEWS: Communism's Shattered Dream

Years of hope end in shabbiness and despair

60 THE ECONOMY: Why It Still Doesn't Work

Sailing between reform and reaction can be perilous

62 FINANCES: Life in the Working Class

How a typical family barely scrapes by

64 THE BALTICS: Cold and Fed Up

Independence brought great expectations, then disillusion

66 CULTURE: A Mind of Their Own

Russians grapple with the mystery of their historic identity



ANTHONY SUJAU—BLACK STAR FOR TIME

Times are hard, and the challenges many, as winter closes in

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COVER: Photograph by Margaret Bourke-White/LIFE of workers at a collective farm near Moscow, taken in 1941 during her third trip to Russia.

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