

MOSCOW, NOVEMBER 11, 2008. PIR PRESS – New volume of the *Security Index* journal comes out in late November.

Issue No. 1 (Winter 2008/2009) opens up the 15th volume of the *Security Index* journal. Its major focus is on weapons. We speak about arms sales and armed forces, disarmament and the future of the nuclear weapons, new treaties and prevention of arms race in outer space – the range is broad.

The issue opens up with the interview with Chair of the Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee Konstantin **Kosachev** who speaks about Russia's role in the world today and its search for adequate identity. "As far as the national idea is concerned, it is important for Russia to be a successful nation. We are yet to achieve the status of a competitive country, to become a nation that exists not only because of huge natural resources, but a nation that can be more capable intellectually than any other state," he maintains.

This topic is further elaborated in Vladimir **Orlov's** Q&A session with the U.S. media, in which he discusses the future of the strategic dialogue between Moscow and Washington and sets forth some ideas about the potential domains for pragmatic interaction, notably in the area of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Space Agency Sergey **Ponomarev** presents his views on the development of the Russian space program, prospects of the industry and competitive advantages on the global market of navigation systems.

The "Analyses" section contains a detailed piece by Anatoly **Diakov** and Yevgeny **Miasnikov** on new strategic arms reduction and limitation initiatives and the potential problems of the regime in 2009, as START I expires. Pavel **Luzin** in his article concerning outer space, on the contrary, maintains that international legal regimes may be irrelevant in this particular sphere and will hardly stop the arms race in outer space.

All this is followed by heated polemics on the future of the Russian Armed Forces conducted by Alexander **Khramchikin** and Vitaly **Shlykov**, two renowned military experts. However, both of them eventually agree that the situation is far from rosy and there is a lack of strategic insight with respect to the future development of the Russian Army, even though some measures undertaken by Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov may be praised. At another round table Alexander **Saveliev**, Roland **Timerbaev** and Yevgeny **Maslin** discuss the nuclear disarmament initiatives and the prospects of nuclear weapons in 25 years.

The "Commentary" section comprises an article by Vadim **Kozyulin** on small arms and light weapons and international control mechanisms. He suggests four scenarios for the Arms Trade Treaty and pays particular attention to the changes in the position of Russia, which is one of the largest world arms dealers.

The issue also contains book reviews on Iran and Pakistan, historical deliberations by Alexey **Obukhov** on the disarmament process and our quarterly reviews of world events based on the fluctuations of the *iSi* index.

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