

MOSCOW, 19 JUNE 2009. PIR PRESS- The Summer/Fall issue of the Security Index journal comes out of print.

The current issue of the *Security Index* journal focuses on the U.S.-Russian dialogue on strategic offensive arms. We publish the articles by James **Goodby**, a veteran of arms control negotiations, and Edward **Ifft**, a connoisseur of Russia and a renowned arms control expert. Meanwhile, Gennady **Evstafiev** speaks in his short comment about the controversies behind the U.S. initiatives, while Sergey **Smirnov** dwells on the interconnection between offensive and defensive weapons and its impact on the negotiations.

It will be also quite thought-provoking to learn the opinion of the Russian governmental and nongovernmental experts – from Deputy Director of the MFA Department of Security and Disarmament Affairs Sergey **Koshelev** and Advisor to the Chief of the General Staff Alexander **Radchuk** to Vladimir **Dvorkin** and Anatoly **Diakov**, who represent the expert community. The situation changes quickly, so when you read this article, the United States and Russia are at the peak of negotiations. And this will hardly be an easy talk.

We try to look ahead and to see beyond the horizon of decades – this helps to overcome the effect of transitory decisions and conclusions. So in this issue the question that we pose is the future of nuclear arsenals possessed by Russia, the United States, other nuclear-armed nations. Will we be closer to the *nuclear zero*? Or will the next generation of experts make jokes about our naivety? George **Perkovich** in his commentary makes an attempt to suggest some practical solutions, or at least, specific first steps to be taken.

“Russia... will continue to create appropriate conditions providing for the nuclear arms reduction without detriment to international security and strategic stability,” says the National Security Strategy until 2020 approved by the presidential decree on May 12.

At the same time, when one reads it thoroughly, it becomes clear that along with traditional threats Russia starts to pay more attention to new challenges.

What is the role of this or that new challenge? How does it affect the *international security index*? We try to solve this problem without panic or whining. In our previous issue we spoke about water and energy security. This time we attempt to address the matter of food security and start the discussion on this topic, thanks to Alexander **Golikov**.

We also proceed with the polemics on European security. Dmitry **Polikanov** in his article reviews the current state and potential future of the NATO-Russia relations and makes some optimistic policy recommendations on how to improve the relationship. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Duma Defense Committee Victor **Zavarzin** in his interview presents the official Russian point of view and draws much gloomier picture.

We intend to continue the discussion on hopes, not only on threats. Our observer, Dmitry **Evstafiev**, points out that “*hopelessness* is not when everything is bad. *Hopelessness* is when there is no hope.” He assumes that the new intrigue, new *big game* is unfolding in the world – nations strive for global supremacy during some protracted transition period. The winner in this struggle will be the one, who “will give the world a new hope.”

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