

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva. 28 FEBRUARY 2007 – On February 28, 2007, the Head of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations Ambassador Valery **Loshchinin** and the President of *Centre russe d'études politiques, Genève*, and the *Security Index* editor-in-chief Dr. Vladimir A. **Orlov** presented the first issue of the international edition of *Security Index*, published in English, to public officials, diplomats, representatives of academic and business communities.

Security Index is the only **Russian journal dedicated to international security**. It is published jointly by the Center for Policy Studies in Russia (PIR Center) and the *Centre russe d'études politiques, Genève*, two partner non-governmental organizations. *Centre russe d'études politiques* also represents the Moscow-based PIR Center in Switzerland and in Europe. It assures the distribution of the journal's International Edition throughout the world. With its status as a nonprofit association, *Centre russe d'études politiques, Genève* works on applied research projects, provides consultancy in the field of international security, organizes meetings and conferences meant to contribute to better mutual understanding and development of strategic dialogue between Russia and Europe, Russia and Switzerland.



The first issue of *Security Index*, published in Russian, was presented in Moscow on February 1, 2007, and has already been highly appraised. Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey **Ivanov** noted that «the publication of the first issue of *Security Index*, which is intended as a clear and reliable source of objective information on Russian foreign and defense policy, is no doubt a very necessary and timely event.»

The Russian Foreign Minister Sergei **Lavrov** in his letter addressed to the Centre and publishers of *Security Index* wrote, «Please, accept my congratulations on the launch of the first issue of *Security Index*. It clearly demonstrates that the analysis carried out by your Centre on a wide range of international security issues, including disarmament and nonproliferation, has been of high demand».



«The problems raised in the journal are extensive: they range from traditional threats to international security, such as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and regional conflicts, to new challenges spurred by demography, energy, information technology,» - announced the editor-in-chief of *Security Index* Dr. Vladimir A. Orlov. «Therefore, it draws its readers from the pool of politicians, experts, and representatives of business communities from all over the world, from

Western Europe and North America to East Asia and the Persian (Arab) Gulf. The readers of *Security Index* will be able to look at the current challenges and threats to international security from the perspective of the leading Russian and international analysts and understand both what these threats and challenges mean for Russia, what their implications for Russian foreign and defense policy are, and what Russia's behavior on the world scene will most likely be in a few months or in a few years from now.»

«*Security Index* is unique because it is a result of work of a Russian *non-governmental* research and policy institute, - stated the Head of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations Ambassador Valery Loshchinin. - PIR Center has successfully attracted attention of those audiences who usually do not starve from lack of information or analytical papers: from foreign policy practitioners to business community, from media to legislators. The Center is a most dynamic, creative and thoughtful think tank in Russia. The Center for Policy Studies, dealing a lot with proliferation, has finally become a proliferator itself: It is now proliferating its knowledge, analysis and assessments into Geneva, and through Geneva – to Europe and worldwide.»



Commenting on the foundation of *Centre russe d'études politiques*, Ambassador Loshchinin noted that «today we are witnessing an important step: *Centre russe d'études politiques* has been established in Geneva, as a partner of and a European platform for the Moscow-based PIR Center. It is a bold move by a Russian NGO. And I am glad to see that this move has already been converted, under the energetic leadership of Vladimir Orlov, into a very practical project».

«You choose Geneva for your activities and you choose it *en connaissance de cause*. Geneva is indeed an ideal location with its international organizations, conferences, NGOs, think tanks and other institutes. And this is also a center for humanitarian activities and for human rights, health, environment, commerce, telecommunications research. I am convinced that you will use the platform that constitutes Geneva to a maximum for your work in this endeavor in the interest of peace in the world», - noted in his speech Ambassador Jürg **Streuli**, Permanent representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament.



The Ambassador of Switzerland to the Russian Federation Erwin **Hofer** declared: «We are particularly honored and proud that you chose Geneva not only for the launching of the international edition of your publication but also for the presence of the European branch of the PIR Center, *Centre russe d'études politiques*. Geneva understands itself as a platform for the international community. It is there to serve all of you: individuals, thinkers, organizations and states. We know there was a strong competition from other cities and you have chosen Geneva. Geneva is perfectly neutral. Geneva is perfectly linked to other institutions in modern security». Addressing the publishers of the journal, he continued: «I had the privilege to receive the first issue of *Security Index* just freshly

out of the printing office and I had a look at it. I'm very much impressed by the quality of the authors and by the quality of their analysis. *Security Index* is a most valuable contribution to modern security policy thinking».



In his turn Ambassador M. Jayant **Prasad**, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, commenting on the launch of the journal's International Edition, emphasized that «*Security Index* is going to contribute a great deal in demystifying the foreign policy of one great country – the Russian Federation. It will also make a great contribution for better understanding of the Russian issues among the whole range of people – policy analysts and practitioners among them».

Ambassador Paul **Meyer**, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Conference on Disarmament and to the United Nations Office, noted in particular that «this new publication is to have a pluralistic approach to the thoughts and writings on security issues going beyond traditional views on security drawn from a wide range of contributors both Russians and Non-Russians».



The first issue of the International Edition of the *Security Index* journal, among others, features the following materials: the keynote article on Russia's new priorities by Yury **Baluevsky**, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces; an interview with the former Russian Prime Minister Acad. Yevgeny **Primakov** on the situation in the Middle East; a discussion with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham **Aliiev**; the perspective of Kanwal **Sibal**, Ambassador of India to Russia, on the development of strategic partnership between the two countries; an interview with Samuel **Schmid**, the head of the Swiss Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection, and Sport, on the correlation of terrorist threat and the notion of neutrality; an analysis on Caspian caviar wars; and a debate on Iranian nuclear programme and Russia's policy towards Iran.

The offices of the journal are located in Geneva (Switzerland), Monterey (CA, USA) and Moscow (Russia). The network of journal regional representatives includes London, Stockholm, Vienna, Vladivostok, Bamako, Tokyo, Delhi, and other cities. The journal's International Expert Group that estimates international security index and trends includes representatives from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, France, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and other countries.

For additional information on the *Security Index* journal International Edition, please contact its representative in Geneva Inna Baranova at +41 (79) 475-93-07 or by e-mail at info@crep.ch.

For more information on the Centre russe d'études politiques, please visit its website at www.crep.ch, available in English, French, Russian, Italian and German. For more information on the activities of its partner in Russia, PIR Center, please, visit www.pircenter.org/english

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