

DEFENSE and SECURITY

September 20, 2004

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IVASHOV: WE LACK THE RESOURCES FOR PREEMPTIVE STRIKES AT TERRORISTS

Nezavisimoe Voennoe Obozrenie, September 17, 2004, EV, Igor Plugatarev

Question: How realistic are the statements made by the chief of the General Staff and the defense minister?

Leonid Ivashov: I'd say the statements made by Baluyevsky and Ivanov bear signs of panic. If Russia is at war, the roots of this war should be sought in the foreign and domestic policies implemented by the authorities.

It is clear to me that these policies have led the armed forces and security structures to deteriorate to the point where they cannot ensure security for our society, let alone individual security for citizens. The terrorist attacks of the last several years and the tragedy in Beslan confirm this.

Baluyevsky knows the countries where terrorists can be found... What does that mean? Foreign countries may project the threats on themselves. After Beslan and the threats of preemptive strikes, I can imagine the condition, say, of the authorities of Syria when its citizens were discovered among terrorists. Or the condition of the Kazakhstan authorities because there were allegedly some Kazakhs among terrorists.

We begin to follow the American strategy, the one we tentatively condemned until now. Statements like the ones made by Baluyevsky and Ivanov do not add to Russia's prestige or security.

In fact, statements like that actually corrode the level of national security. Russia with statements like that has already made other countries wary. Proclaiming our right - illegitimate, that is - to strike at other countries, we give them the right - legitimate - to strike back.

Moreover, these statements are probably what ideologists of terrorism need. They may actually become a kernel of a Wahhabi, shakhid, or terrorist mechanism. After all, we do know that terrorist organizations are full of the people who do not know the first thing about politics.

Question: But the statements were made. They imply that Russia has the means for these preemptive strikes. What are they?

Leonid Ivashov: From the military point of view, it will be long-range aviation. After all, we cannot launch guided missiles from submarine at terrorists, can we? Particularly because it will be impossible to deliver a precise strike at some "command post" or whatever. A whole area will have to be covered. We do not have technical capacities to destroy a gang of terrorists somewhere, say, a thousand kilometers from the Russian borders.

Question: How much will establishment of these means cost?

Leonid Ivashov: Americans pump millions into their ability to track objects in the world. If we do discover a

gang somewhere, it will certainly take time to prepare the strike, and the gunmen may move out before we are ready. Finally, before striking at some point, we must be stone-cold confident that it is terrorists there and not noncombatants.

Question: In other words, the program of preemptive strikes is something beyond Russia's capacities nowadays?

Leonid Ivashov: In my view, we had better concentrate on design and manufacture of the means needed by our units that deal with gangs nowadays. Elementary things are lacking and therefore needed. Individual armor or protection means, for starters. Nightsopes and sights, modern ones. These days, our soldiers are blind at night. First and foremost, all this should be sent to the units we have in Chechnya. Some of these means are also necessary on the state borders.

Take, for example, all-weather helicopters capable of operating round the clock. We do not have the money to equip with them the Air Force units that support our special forces that usually operate at night. In the meantime, there is always money for all sorts of jubilees and celebrations.

Question: Do you think the experience accumulated in the course of the counter-terrorism operation in Chechnya may help our military leadership in the preemptive strike planning?

Leonid Ivashov: This experience shows that our units wield the weapons and military hardware typical of classic wars only. The tactic, military art, and even combat training follow the principles of classic wars. It is probably all right because the army is not the police or a secret service.

In the meantime, a lot of our failures are ascribed to the fact that the army performs the functions it is not supposed to be performing. I'm talking about dealing with illegal armed formations, particularly small ones.

The armed forces are supposed to protect Russia from external aggression on a major scale. In Russia, however, the armed forces are used as a substitute for law enforcement agencies because the state doesn't trust the latter.

Of course, units of the regular army should have some counter-terrorism training, but basic training will do. Moreover, this training should be augmented by appropriate weapons and equipment. Only then may some effect be expected.

We haven't succeeded in discovering the whereabouts of Basayev and Maskhadov for five years. It doesn't take field agents to discover an enemy headquarters; technical

means will do. We used to have them, and they were not that expensive.

Question: Perhaps the West will help us. After all, we are partners in the war on terrorism.

Leonid Ivashov: I'd say that Baluyevsky's statement is a corollary of our sloppy cooperation in this counter-terrorism coalition. It was probably made on the Americans' request. I don't rule out the possibility that this outburst from the General Staff is needed by President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They needed it to show America and Britain that Bush was right to make war on Iraq and that even Moscow supports him now.

As for the West's help in the war on terrorism, here is a vivid example. As soon as separatist ideologist Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev was terminated, the CIA immediately fingered our agents to the Arab police. Not one country of the counter-terrorism coalition spoke up in defense of our men. Russia itself mumbled something, and that was all. Here is cooperation for you.

Question: Is everything so bad? Numerous joint counter-terrorism exercises and drills - is all this in vain?

Leonid Ivashov: To tell the truth, all these "war on terrorism" games have little to do with reality.

They are mostly needed for their political effect to show that we stand together, that we pool our efforts, etc. That is all. Russia is a member of a broad international coalition - cooperation with the United States and NATO, the CIS Counter-Terrorism Center, and a bunch of other structures. Show me at least one rank gunman detained in the course of this cooperation, will you? Chechen emissaries roam the world raising money for more terrorist attacks.

This cooperation merely distracts the national command and leadership from the actual state of affairs in the country. The tragedy in Beslan confirms it. Even the Security Council did not meet in its wake. Instead, we heard these populist statements from the chief of the General Staff and defense minister.

Translated by A. Ignatkin

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BRIBES REEKING OF EXPLOSIVES

Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov: Where the terrorist tracks lead

Rossiiskaya Gazeta, September 16, 2004, pp. 1-2, Boris Yamshanov

Question: The Beslan tragedy has sparked speculations about a need to amend legislation. Do you prefer tougher legislation?

Vladimir Ustinov: First and foremost, I prefer observance of the law... For example, we ran a check of observance of anti-corruption legislation in the regions. This is really something, I'm telling you. State officials are involved in commerce always everywhere, they run all sorts of commercial structures and benefit from their positions in dozens or hundreds of ways.

Our inspectors found 22,000 violations (incidents of bribery included) within six months.

Question: What about the latest terrorist attacks?

Vladimir Ustinov: The investigation into the TU-134 and TU-154 crashes established that a certain official from Sibir Airlines (the one in charge of passenger registration) got a terrorist aboard in exchange for a bribe, in defiance of all rules and regulations. Two minutes before the registration deadline, a certain Arutyunjan (a profiteer dealing in plane tickets) gave this official a ticket in the name of Dzhebirkhanova for a flight the following morning, along with 1,000 rubles. The official got her on board.

In fact, it had been possible to avert the disaster even before that - but dereliction of duty interfered once again. Nagayeva and Dzhebirkhanova, accompanied by two other Chechens, arrived from Makhachkala at 7:45 p.m. Airport police asked them to step aside, confiscated their passports, and turned them over to a police captain

who was supposed to search their luggage. But the police captain couldn't be bothered to do so, and the released terrorists rushed off to get tickets. It was Arutyunjan who "helped" them - for 2,000 and 3,000 rubles. And he passed 1,000 rubles of that to the Sibir Airlines official.

Question: Will any top officials be prosecuted for all this, including the tragedy in Beslan?

Vladimir Ustinov: Where Beslan is concerned, a special investigation team is working to reconstruct the picture down to the last detail: who the criminals were, where they came from, how they avoided detection, whether or not they had accomplices, and so on. If there is evidence of someone's guilt, measures will be taken.

Question: Has the investigation drawn any conclusions already - say, on the numbers of victims, casualties, identification?

Vladimir Ustinov: As things stand, we know there were over 1,156 hostages. I'm not being more precise because along with 242 identified and 84 so far unidentified bodies, we also have 88 fragments of bodies. Besides, we are still looking for some children who have not been accounted for at hospitals or among casualties. Unfortunately, the numbers are only growing.

Question: So how could the authorities speak of 354 hostages? Were they deliberately trying to downplay the scope of the tragedy?

Vladimir Ustinov: This particular figure was quoted the morning after the siege began. No one knew the actual

situation then, even though the headquarters had spent the previous night talking to relatives, compiling lists, and so on. That was the figure we were certain of at the time. New information started pouring in during the day. The terrorists themselves said they had 920 hostages. When they executed 10 men (probably afraid that these men might cause trouble), they made contact and said they had 910 hostages.

Question: How many terrorists there were? There were rumors at some point that some of them escaped.

Vladimir Ustinov: According to Kulayev, there were 32. Former hostages have been questioned (we questioned 338 people) - and they either confirm this estimate or say there were "no more than 32." The estimates add up. We have 30 bodies of the terrorists, one was taken alive, and one other was torn into pieces by the crowd. As for "escaping," I don't think it was possible. They could slip through special forces and OMON commandos, but not through the local residents. Moreover, the whole town was cordoned off along the perimeter.

Question: Is there any exact information on the composition of the gang or on the ringleader?

Vladimir Ustinov: Fourteen terrorists have been identified so far. Their ringleader, known as the Colonel, has been identified too but we need a signed identification certificate, so we're still saying that the process is still under way. We are working with families and relatives of the terrorists. We have also established that seven Kalashnikov assault rifles and three handguns used by the terrorists had been stolen during the raid into Ingushetia on June 22.

Question: Did the criminals bring the weapons with them or had they been smuggled into the school in advance?

Vladimir Ustinov: There was such a theory at first, but the investigation failed to find any confirmation.

This is the gist of what Kulayev is saying. He was in his village; some guerrillas he knew in the past turned up, asked him where his brother was, and said they had "a job" that would earn them \$200 to \$300 each. Weapons, ammunition, and explosives were loaded into the GAZ-66 truck that belonged to Tsechoyev (one of the killed and identified terrorists). Not all of them knew that children were to be taken hostage. When one of the guerrillas - after they reached the school - came up with some objection, the ringleader shot him right then and there.

Question: Do you trust Kulayev's testimony?

Vladimir Ustinov: Of course, he is not telling us everything. He is trying to extricate himself. On the other hand, some of the things he is telling us are confirmed by ex-hostages. For example, the terrorists knew it was a suicide mission, that they wouldn't leave the school alive. They told the hostages that they had rations for three days only, and this was how long all of them had.

Question: Does this mean any negotiations were

doomed even before they actually began?

Vladimir Ustinov: It was the only option, because an assault would have meant the deaths of very many - if not all - hostages.

Question: Was that why the special forces commandos were killed? Because the assault had not been prepared?

Vladimir Ustinov: They are special forces because they are supposed to be ready to act at any time. Unfortunately, there was this unpredictable explosion, hostages began rushing out, and the guerrillas opened fire. Our servicemen essentially formed a human shield between the terrorists and children. This is not something that can ever be forgotten.

Question: Would you say that the authorities as such and upper echelons of the FSB did everything possible under the circumstances?

Vladimir Ustinov: I wouldn't draw any conclusions or make any estimates like some "voices" are doing now. Because I saw with my own eyes the unbelievable efforts that were made to avert the tragedy.

I'm telling you right here and now that President Putin, FSB Director Nikolai Patrushev, and Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev didn't sleep at all throughout these three days. The president said openly in his address to the nation that we have serious problems. Russia and its law enforcement agencies proved unprepared for the mass attack launched by international terrorism that has declared war on Russia. Some conclusions must be drawn, and the system must be reorganized.

By the way, the FSB is really working, believe me. We judge it by these disasters - while in fact it does prevent the majority of terrorist attacks. Here are several figures: there were 561 crimes of this nature last year, and over 7,800 terrorist crimes were solved (including 24 incidents with hostages and 267 incidents concerning organization of illegal armed formations).

Question: Why can't we set up an effective counter-terrorism system?

Vladimir Ustinov: The roots of terrorism run deep. They are political, economic, and moral. Incidents of extremism, chauvinism, and illegal immigration nourish terrorism. I mentioned Kulayev's testimony: criminals get \$200 to \$300 for "a job." The same sums were mentioned by the guerrillas arrested after the Ingushetian raid. In my view, terrorism will become less and less possible as Russia becomes more stable. Still, we can't just sit around waiting for that to happen.

Translated by A. Ignatkin

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ASLAN MASKHADOV REPORTED ON BEHALF OF TERRORISTS FROM BESLAN

Kommersant, September 17, 2004, p. 5, Olga Allenova

Aslan Maskhadov, leader of the Chechen separatists, made a statement regarding the school siege in Beslan on Radio Liberty. Mr. Maskhadov said that he has nothing to do with this terrible terrorist act. He called terrorists who seized the school "a radical part of the Chechen resistance". Maskhadov noted that the Russian authorities can stop terror only through negotiations. In the meantime, the Chechen Interior Ministry is sure that the terrorist act was organized by Shamil Basaev and probably Aslan Maskhadov.

Buvadi Dakhiyev, chief of the staff of the Chechen special police unit, said: "An investigating bureau inquires into the Beslan tragedy. The investigation is secret. All I know is that the bureau is checking the village of Engenoi from which the terrorists came. We know that two terrorists - the Kulayev brothers - were members of Basaev's gang. Khanpashi Kulayev previously sided with Khattab, and moved to Basaev after his death. His brother Nurpashi was Basaev's accomplice. He stayed alive - he can tell a lot to the special services. We are sure that the terrorist act was organized by Basaev. Too many terrorists involved in the school siege were members of his gang."

In addition to the Kulayev brothers, two more terrorists identified in Beslan were members of Basaev's gang. Mairbek Shaibekhanov lived in the village of Novy Engenoi until 1997; he moved to the Nozhai-Yurt district after Basaev's attack on Gudermes in 2002. Khizir-Ali Akhmedov was Basaev's relative; his older brother Umar-Ali, who was killed in 2001, was married to Shamil Basaev's sister-in-law. Akhmedov's two brothers still fight for Shamil Basaev's gang. Terrorists Iznor Kodzoyev, Issa Torshkhoyev, Bei-Ala Cechoyev, Musa Cechoyev and Magomed Khachubarov also participated in Basaev's raids. These people have been wanted by the special services since Shamil Basaev's raid to Ingushetia on June 22, 2004.

The Chechen Interior Ministry stated: "We cannot say yet who organized the terrorist act. (...) It's obvious that

precisely Basaev and Maskhadov needed this terrorist act. You see that this tragedy shocked the world, and everyone states that Russia must change its policy in Chechnya."

In the meantime, Radio Liberty received Aslan Maskhadov's message in which he comments on the tragedy in Beslan. (...) The radio station broadcast parts of his speech on September 16 evening.

Aslan Maskhadov denied his responsibility for the terrorist act. At the same time, he understands why the terrorists did this: "The Chechen resistance movement has radical people who think that it's useless to fight Russia using civilized methods. These people think that blasts in subways, trains and jetliners, and taking of hostages in theaters and schools can make Putin stop this war... The main argument of these people is that Putin, his generals and the special services allegedly will not give orders to open fire at children or poison their citizens. This is a mistake. People who seized the school probably did not think that Russia would venture to storm the building; I am sure that these terrorists did not shoot children."

Aslan Maskhadov offers his solution to the problem of terrorism in Russia. He is sure that only negotiations can stop the terror. He stated: "Two presidents could meet and stop this bloodshed during 30 minutes. My arguments boil down to only one thing: security guarantees to the Chechen people. I am prepared for making concessions to Russia in other things. However, I'd like to repeat that there is not international terrorism; there is no intervention. All this is a lie."

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APOCALYPSE

The US national anti-missile system may prove to be a bluff

Vremya Novostei, September 17, 2004, p. 4, Nikilai Poroskov

The US recently postponed the key test of the national anti-missile system. Judging from official explanations, the anti-missile was not tested properly on the ground after making amendments to its construction. In addition, the computer of the anti-missile has bugs. Tests were postponed to late November. Some experts link this decision with an impending presidential election in November: George W. Bush would lose many voters if tests failed.

It should be noted that two first anti-missiles have already been installed in missile silos in Fort Greely in Alaska. There are plans to increase this arsenal to six missiles. Four anti-missiles will be deployed at the Vandenberg base in California until the end of the year. In

the meantime, many experts in the Pentagon think that these plans are not realistic. In all eight flight tests of anti-missiles were conducted; the latest test took place two years ago. Only several launches were successful. The new carrier created a year ago did not fly at all. The Pentagon states that the efficiency of this system does not exceed 20%. At the same time, the US anti-missile agency states that the creation of new complexes and modernization of anti-missiles will continue. A high-ranking general in the Russian Strategic Missile Force acknowledged that the agency's promises are an attempt to justify George W. Bush's promise to deploy the first line of the anti-missile system until the end of 2004. In reality, the anti-missile program is a smoke screen, which covers Washington's

actual intention to deploy military bases in post-Soviet republics. The Russian general is sure that the first line of the anti-missile system will be created on the basis of these bases; US anti-missiles will be able to intercept Russian ballistic missiles in the active sector of their trajectory (right after launching).

Even amateurs understand the advantages of this approach. Ballistic missiles have big dimensions in this sector because its stages have not separated yet and the warhead has not split to MIRVs. The body of the missile and its boosters are more vulnerable than small warheads, which the enemy would have to intercept over its territory.

All this combined with low flight speed and a huge high-temperature profile of the booster de-camouflage the missile. Anti-missiles can be guided to ballistic missiles' thermal emission. If a missile is intercepted at the active phase of the trajectory its nuclear warhead blows up over Russia. The impact would be multiplied by a nuclear fall-out. It should be noted that this solution does not necessitate creating a very expensive anti-missile system consisting of several defense lines.

(...) The US Defense Department concluded a contract with Northrop Grumman (\$4.5 billion) to create an anti-missile system capable of intercepting ballistic missiles in the active sector of the trajectory in 2010-12. There are two possible options: to launch lasers to space or deploy anti-missile complexes near the enemy's launch positions (in other words, near Russian missile bases). For instance, the US could deploy such systems in Central-Asian republics and Kazakhstan. Anti-missiles can also be mounted on fighters stationed in these republics. Such bases already function near the Orenburg and Omsk missile armies. A base in Kazakhstan, which may be created in the near future, would be able to intercept missiles launched by the Tatishev missile unit stationed in the Saratov region.

It's not ruled out that anti-missile systems will be deployed in space. However, to all appearances the US will rely on lasers mounted on airplanes. The problem of creating a powerful laser with a focusing system would be solved by a short distance to targets. The US has been developing this project since 1996. Airborne laser systems can detect a launching from an altitude of ten kilometers and destroy the missile at a range to 500 kilometers. Such laser complex can intercept several scores of ballistic missiles. The US plans to test such laser system in 2007. Washington plans that two or three such airplanes will be on duty starting from 2005. Several such planes can blockade any missile threat to the US.

The US and NATO are deploying powerful radio-locating stations near the Russian border in the Baltic States, Norway and Greenland as elements of their anti-missile system. The Russian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly sent notes of protest against NATO's intention to deploy elements of the anti-missile system in Eastern Europe. In the prospects the US will probably use ultrahigh frequency emission and orbital interceptors as anti-missile weapons. Meanwhile, the head of the US anti-missile agency stated in March that the US must test ground-based anti-missile systems capable of destroying missiles in the active sector of the trajectory before deploying anti-missile systems in space. Judging from this statement, anti-missile systems must be deployed 500 kilometers from launching sites.

Specialists state that no anti-missile system can be efficient if it cannot intercept missiles after launching of ballistic missiles. The authors of the report on the interception system in the active sector of the trajectory state that at present it's impossible to intercept missiles launched from central parts of Russia and China. The US understood that the national anti-missile system has no prospects, which is why it decided to deploy only the first line. Japan, South Korea, Israel and Australia, which are creating a joint anti-missile system in cooperation with the US have already felt this intention.

Unfortunately, only a few Russian specialists understand this threat; the Russian military does not do anything in order to prevent such blockade. There are only a few outlines of the plan, which can minimize this threat. In particular, Russia plans to cut the duration of the active flight by means of replacing liquid-fuel boosters with solid-fuel boosters. In addition, ballistic missiles must be able to maneuver after launching. Perhaps this is what Vladimir Putin meant when speaking about a principally new weapon, which makes the creation of an anti-missile system senseless. By the way, the Topol-M missile can maneuver in the vertical and horizontal planes. Other ideas boil down to launching false missiles and making ballistic missiles rotate during their flight. However, it's not clear what "asymmetric" answer Russia will use.

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SHAMIL BASAEV CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TERRORIST ACT IN BESLAN

Shamil Basaev has claimed responsibility for the terrorist act in Beslan, and blasts in Russian jetliners and near the Rizhskaya subway station. According to him, the destruction of the jetliners cost \$4,000; the blasts on the Kashira road and near the subway station cost \$7,000; the hostage siege in Beslan cost 8,000 euros. All this is

indicated in his online letter on the Kavkaz-Center site.

According to Basaev, 33 guerrillas, including two women, participated in the school siege. The group consisted of 12 Chechens, two Chechen women, nine residents of Ingushetia, three Russians, two Arabs, two people originally from Ossetia, one person from Tatarstan,

one from Kabardino-Balkaria and one representative of the Iranian speaking nation living in the Pamirs. Basaev stated in his message that the group was commanded by Colonel Orstkhoyev.

Basaev stated that the terrorists demanded that Russian President Vladimir Putin immediately start withdrawing troops from Chechnya or resign. Judging from the message, the terrorists intended to release hostages during the withdrawal of Russian troops, and release all children if Putin resigned.

Ilya Shabalkin, a representative of the regional operational staff for controlling the anti-terrorist operation

in the North Caucasus, stated that "it's not new for the Russian special services". He said: "We always stated that all loud terrorist acts in Russia are organized by the leaders of the Chechen separatists, including Basaev."

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THE STATE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE CRASH OF THE TU-154 AND TU-134 JETLINERS HAS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED THAT THE JETLINERS CRASHED AS A RESULT OF TERRORIST ACTS

Russian Transportation Minister Igor Levitin, head of the state commission, stated at a press conference on September 15: "The Tu-154 and Tu-134 jetliners crashed on August 24, 2004 as a result of explosions in passenger compartments." According to him, the General Prosecutor's Office started a criminal case regarding terrorism. The criminal case is investigated by the special department of the General Prosecutor's Office.

(...)

Levitin said that data received from flight recorders testify that both jetliners were damaged by identical blasts inside the fuselages near the right side. The epicenters of the explosions were in the 25th row in Tu-14 and in the

19th row in Tu-134. The transportation minister noted that depressurizing of the fuselages happened during one second. He noted: "After that elements of the construction fell to ruin under the impact of overload and speed."

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi

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MILITARY AND SOCIETY

LAST CONSCRIPTION

Noviye Izvestia, September 17, 2004, p. 4, Alexander Kolesnichenko

(...) Union of Committees of Soldiers' Mothers and liberal parties intend to hold a referendum on transition to the professional army this autumn. In opinion of experts, Russia has money for this reform.

The referendum on abolition of the conscription and transition to the professional army was initiated by Union of Committees of Soldiers' Mothers, Union of Right Forces, Yabloko and Committee-2008. It is planned to put two questions - about the abolition of the conscription not later than in 2008 and about preservation of all the present privleges till this time - to the vote.

Chairperson of Union of Committees of Soldiers' Mothers Valentina Melnikova says that the idea of the referendum appeared as a response to the initiative of Defense Ministry concerning the abolition of some privleges in connection with forthcoming "demographic

pit". The number of conscripts will decrease because of the birth-rate falling in late 80s-early 90s. "We hope that the referendum will become the very depth-charge, which, at last, will breach Defense Ministry," Mrs. Melnikova stated. The referendum can be hold in late autumn or early winter. Its result is obvious. In accordance with some data of sociologists, 60-80% of Russian citizens are against the conscription. The latest poll concerning this topic was carried out by the Analytical Center of Yuri Levada last spring. Then, 72% were for the professional army and only 23% supported the preservation of conscription.

Soldiers' mothers will be the first people, who will test the new law on referendum. This law was passed by the State Duma last summer. Its critics said that, in accordance with this document, it was impossible to hold any referendum, because there were a lot of different

obstacles for organizers. (...)

Valentina Melnikova says that, if the referendum isn't held, the efforts of the organizers will be not lost on them. There will be a cause for appeal to the Constitutional Court for acknowledgement of the fact that the law on referendum practically prohibits any referendums. Thus, it contradicts the Constitution, where is it written that referendum is "the highest expression of power by people".

The introduction of the state of emergency in connection with terrorist acts can become another obstacle for the referendum. In this case, all the elections and referendums should be postponed till better times. The Security Council is being developing a mobilization plan in case of stirring up of the activity of terrorists. According to Chairperson the Security Council Igor Ivanov, the plan will concern the interaction between all the branches and levels of power as well as all the security structures, including Russian Armed Forces. In opinion of Valentina Melnikova, the mobilization plan won't stop the military reform, because "it is impossible to stop a thing, which doesn't exist". Most probably, the struggle against the terrorist threat will become a banal beating out of funds from the budget for requirements of security departments.

Defense Ministry approaches the professional army in its own manner. It plans to recruit 147.5 thousand contract servicemen and to spend 79 billion rubles for it in 2004-2007. Thus, one contract serviceman will cost 540 thousand rubles for Defense Ministry. (...) Major-General Vladimir Dvorkin, head of organization "Officers Are for Military Reform", asserts that Defense Ministry artificially

overstates the expenses on contract servicemen by 100-200%. (...) For comparison, the program of transition of the whole army to the professional basis proposed by Yabloko would cost 65 billion rubles. At that, the wages of contract privates will be 8 thousand rubles. It is more than in the variant of defense Ministry.

Vladimir Dvorkin asserts that no special study for reforming of the Armed Forces was carried out by Defense Ministry. Thus, the generals shouldn't assert that Russia can't allow itself to have a professional army. In opinion of Dvorkin, the country 'became overripe for it'. Valentina Melnikova says that the only criterion of Defense Ministry is well-known: "We have a large border; that's why everybody should serve". Officials of the Military University of Defense Ministry acknowledged that they hadn't carried out any studies for transition of the army to the professional method of recruitment. This topic was touched upon in some studies indirectly but, however, it is impossible to acquaint with them because of their secrecy. Nobody in the Military University answered the following question: what would happen to Russian army in case of abolition of conscription.

(...)

Translated by Gregory Malyutin



MILITARY STATUS

PROBABLE PREVENTIVE STRIKES

Voyenno-Promyshlenniy Kurier, No 35, September 15-21, 2004, p. 1, Mikhail Khodarenok

"As for the preventive strikes to terrorist bases, of course, we will take all measures in order to liquidate terrorist bases in any region of the world," Colonel-General Baluevsky, head of the General Staff of Russian Armed Forces, said after the meeting with Supreme Commander-In-Chief of NATO Forces in Europe James Jones last week.

(...)

Some questions can appear to consider such statements from the military and technical point of view. (...)

Unfortunately, Russia has no "long hand" at the present moment. The domestic Navy has no instruments for delivering of strikes to coast objects of potential enemies. The RK-55 Granat sea-based cruise missile is the only exception. However, it is completed only with the nuclear battle details (basically, Russian submarines are equipped with this sea-based cruise missile).

The long-range aircraft doesn't have enough air-

based cruise missiles (with conventional warheads) and is only able to bombard the enemy (by means of the Tu-22M3 bombers) with bombs of free fall. The missile forces have no missile systems with range of fire of several thousand kilometers and no ballistic missiles equipped with conventional warheads.

At last, the "longest hand" of Russian Armed Forces is the Tu-22M3 bomber equipped with 42 high-explosive air bombs FAB-500. It is able to overcome only 800 km. It is enough to draw a circle with radius of 800 km from Russian air bases of advance deployment (this is Mozdok in south-west strategic direction) and it will become clear which objects of Al-Qaeda can be struck by Russian Air Forces.

At that, Tu-160 and Tu-95MS bombers (they have a longer range than Tu-22M3 has) are designed for participation in the war with use of nuclear weapon. The Air Forces intended to re-equip some Tu-160 aircraft for

conventional bombs but, however, these planes will have no key-role. The massive strike will be impossible in this case.

At last, the whole system of use of armament and hardware is necessary. For example, if the matter concerns some armament with range of 4-5 thousand km, some high-performance reconnaissance facilities will be necessary. Otherwise, the blow will be useless. Moreover, the corresponding control and communication system is necessary too. On the whole, we come to the following conclusion again: Russia needs different Armed Forces for anti-terrorist war. This question should be resolved as soon as possible.

What should one start with? In fact, high-accuracy armament of long range (for example, air-based cruise missiles) takes place in Russian arsenal but, unfortunately, only in the form of experimental specimens. However, the funds, which were appropriated for their development in the 90s, were insignificant and this armament wasn't adopted by Russian Air Forces. Nevertheless, the experimental launches demonstrated that effectiveness of the new armament can be very high. However, as it is known, there is a long distance between experimental specimens and large-scale production. It is necessary to re-consider the state defense order and increase the

financing sector connected with development and large-scale production of air-based and sea-based cruise missiles in order that Russia has its own "long hand".

Besides, it is necessary to make some serious changes in the structure of the Armed Forces. For example, the long-range aircraft of Russian Air Forces has a form of an air army today. In fact, it can be compared with some usual large formation in Voronezh. However, some experts consider this situation to be incorrect at the present moment. Long-range aircraft is an instrument of the Supreme Commander-In-Chief and its transition from the status of "usual" army is necessary.

Thus, it is advisable to do the following. Probably, it is necessary to start with the Long-range Aircraft: to equip it with air-based cruise missiles, re-orient it to use of conventional ammunition etc. After that, Russia will have a smashing "fist". (...)

Translated by Gregory Maluyutin

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LOCAL CONFLICTS

GUERRILLAS GET READY FOR INAUGURATION OF ALKHANOV

Nezavisimaya Gazeta, September 16, 2004, p. 4, Vladimir Mukhin

The activity of guerillas in Chechnya became stronger again. According to Major-General Ilya Shabalkin, official representative of the Regional Operational Staff for control of counter-terrorist operations in the Northern Caucasus, "guerillas managed to realize several large terrorist acts lately".

The matter concerns the death of three policemen from Omsk region in Nozhai-Yurt district, terrorist acts in Shelkovo district and bombardment of units of the federal forces in Vedeno district, near Grozny and other settlements.

Undermining of transport and fire on representatives of security structures take place every day in Chechnya. In accordance with the data of the Regional Operational Staff, 125 criminal offences and 6139 administrative offenses were registered in Interior Ministry of Chechnya last weeks. It means that 15-20 criminal proceedings were instituted per day. Representatives of the law-enforcement bodies of Chechnya assert that the activity of guerillas is connected with the forthcoming inauguration of new President of Chechnya Alu Alkhanov, which should take place on October 5.

"It's quite possible that guerillas prepare some new large terrorist acts at the territory of the Central Russia for

the nearest future. The fact that Chechen law-enforcement bodies arrested three women-kamikaze some days ago is the evidence of it," Doctor of History Colonel Vladimir Popov, specialist in Caucasian problems, stated.

Though, in opinion of Ilya Shabalkin, there aren't any special bases for training of kamikazes in Chechnya now, their training is possible in many settlements where the influence of Wahhabism is great. That's why the FSB stated yesterday that two Chechen women - Mariam Taburova and Zamani Yasueva -, who had come to Moscow with the terrorists, had blown up two planes and committed a terrorist act near the Rizhskaya subway station, were wanted. In accordance with the operational data of Russian special services, guerillas had trained about 20 women-kamikazes.

Representative of the security departments started an active work for fulfillment of the presidential decree on extraordinary measures for strengthening of the struggle against terrorism. The president ordered the government, Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry, Ministry of Extraordinary and Natural Disasters, Ministry of Justice, FSB and State Department for Control of Drugs to prepare some proposals for creation of a new system of interaction between forces and funds, which participate in the

settlement of the situation in the Northern Caucasus. Our sources in these departments stress that these measures will include development of the joint agents' net among the population of Chechnya and neighboring Russian regions, creation of public structures, which will provide connection between the population and law-enforcement bodies, and creation of additional frontier and police posts along the North Caucasian part of Russian border. All these measures have already been planned in the corrected project of the budget for 2005.

"We proceed to the policy of friendship with the population from the cleanups. Of course, this friendship

isn't based on gratuitous foundation," our source in Russian Interior Ministry commented on the main steps connected with the further consolidation of positions of the siloviks in Chechnya and other regions of the Northern Caucasus.

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SKIRMISH NEAR TSKHINVALI

Nezavisimaya Gazeta, September 16, 2004, p. 5, Yuri Simonyan

At the urgent request of opposition faction The Rights, Georgian parliament will consider the August worsening of the situation in South Ossetia. David Gamkrelidze, leader of The Rights, insisted on carrying out of special parliamentary hearings. He has demanded the distinct report on the events concerning Tskhinvali, actions of Georgian military and prospects of the settlement of South Ossetian problem from Georgian executive power.

There is fire in the conflict zone after two-week lull. Ossetian side fired on Georgian villages Eredvi and Tamarasheni last weekend. As a result, a local resident was wounded. However, on Wednesday, Georgians delivered a blow. According to Chairperson of the Committee on Information of South Ossetia Irina Gagloyeva, Ossetian villages were bombarded from Tamarasheni at dawn. "The bombardment was started at 6.30 a.m. on September 15. The intensive bombardment was carried out along Liakhvi River. Tskhinvali considers it to be continuation of Georgian aggression in form of the psychological pressure," she stated.

This information was acknowledged by Deputy Commander of Combined Peace-Keeping Forces (CPKF) in Zone of Georgian-Ossetian Conflict Colonel Andrei Pryakhin. At that, he stressed that the firing had been two-way. "There aren't any victims. The command of peacekeepers tries to ascertain the causes of the

skirmish," the Russian colonel said.

It is interesting that Georgian Defense Minister Georgy Baramidze visited the zone of the conflict before the skirmish. He met with Commander-In-Chief of the CPKF Major-General Marat Kulakhmetov, who had replaced Major-General Svyatoslav Nabzdorov, in Tamarasheni. Baramidze and Kulakhmetov discussed the operational situation in the conflict zone. According to the press service of Georgian Defense Ministry, Baramidze expressed a protest connected with the fact that Ossetian side had hardware and artillery in the conflict zone. The minister told journalists after the meeting that Tbilisi hoped that the new commander of peacekeeping forces would react adequately to everything and wouldn't support separatists. According to Baramidze, in response, General Kulakhmetov asked some time in order to examine the situation, because he had been appointed to the post of the commander of the CPKF some days ago.

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DEFENSE MINISTER OF SOUTH OSSETIA: "WE ARE BEING FORCED TO DIG TRENCHES "

Vremya Novostei, September 16, 2004, p. 5, Mikhail Vignansky

44-year-old carrier officer of the Soviet and Russian Army Anatoly Barankevich, who had participated in operations in Afghanistan and Chechnya, became the head of Defense Ministry of South Ossetia at the height of Georgian-Ossetian confrontation this summer. Colonel Barankevich, native of Tskhinvali, comments on the situation in the region.

Question: It seemed in the middle of August that the crisis was over. However, there is some information about skirmishes in the conflict zone...

Anatoly Barankevich: Let's take the Tuesday's night for example. Georgian Defense Minister Georgy Baramidze spent it in the conflict zone. To all appearances, somebody decided to demonstrate that we violate something, commence fire. In actual fact, it was fixed by peacekeepers, our positions were bombarded from Tamarasheni (Georgian village, which is situated near Tskhinvali. - editor. note). We observe the agreement; that's why we didn't respond.

Question: Why is it done?

Anatoly Barankevich: In order to show that the situation is difficult and it is necessary to withdraw the additional Georgian contingent. (...) Trenches and blindages are being dug, ammunition is being brought along the perimeter of the borders of South Ossetia. Especially, it is noticeable near Znaurskii district of our republic.

Question: However, the OSCE representatives assert that Ossetian side is being entrenching too.

Anatoly Barankevich: We do everything in order that the situation is calm. However, we shouldn't be sitting on our hands when the aggression against us is being prepared? We have to dig trenches in some directions. As for the OSCE position, in my opinion, its observers in the conflict zone show sympathy for Georgians.

Question: Did volunteers from different republics of the Northern

Caucasus, Abkhazia, Transnistria come to South

Ossetia in summer?

Anatoly Barankevich: There is nobody from outside in South Ossetia. However, they phone and say that they are ready to render their assistance. I would like to thank them. However, we don't need their assistance now. We cope with our tasks.

(...)

Translated by Gregory Malyutin

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CIS DEFENSE

RESULTS OF 38TH CIS SUMMIT

Krasnaya Zvezda, September 17, 2004, p. 1, Vadim Markushin

The 38th CIS summit was held in the capital of Kazakhstan. Struggle against terrorism became one of the main topics of it. As a result, the joint statement was adopted. The leaders of the CIS expressed their solidarity with Russia and conviction of the fact that the consolidation of efforts of the whole humanity can prevent the dissemination of this evil..

Russian President Vladimir Putin stated about the inadmissibility of double standards in the struggle against international terrorism. According to him, the brutality, which took place in Beslan, allows us to assert that the bandits were a part of international terrorism. He reminded that bin Laden had offered to conclude an armistice in exchange for withdrawal of troops from Iraq. However, nobody had even thought about any negotiations with him. "It means that there are some people, whom negotiations aren't carried on with, doesn't it?" Putin stressed. "There can be only one opinion - legality, joining of efforts and firmness," he said.

His Uzbek colleague Islam Karimov offered CIS countries to create a list of extremist organizations, which were outlawed, and personal list of terrorists, who should have been annihilated, in the frames of the struggle against international terrorism. (...)

In his turn, President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akaev supported the strategy of delivering of preventive blows to terrorist bases. "We shouldn't wait till terrorists from Afghanistan or from somewhere else come to us and we have to struggle against them at our territory," he said. Akaev added that the recent CIS maneuvers, where Russian military had used the high-accuracy armament, had demonstrated the possibility of use of preventive

blows for annihilation of terrorists.

President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma, who was the chairman of the forum, dwelled on the problem of exposure and extermination of the nutrient medium of terrorism. Thereupon, he stressed that the struggle against money laundering should have become one of the most important directions in cooperation in the sphere of struggle against terrorism. (...)

It was declared about the forthcoming large-scaled reform of CIS executive structures at the summit. President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev said that CIS leaders had ordered the foreign ministers to consider the proposed items of reorganization and to make the final decision concerning this question. After that, these items will be considered by the heads of the states.

For example, it is planned to create the CIS Security Council, which will consist of ministers of foreign affairs, defense ministers, heads of frontier services and law-enforcement bodies. At that, the Council of Foreign Ministers, which will control the work of the Security Council, will be preserved. One supposes that the Security Council will be headed by the foreign ministers on the rotary basis. It will work under the control of the Council of CIS heads.

At the same time, the Council of Defense Ministers, Secretariat of the Council of Defense Ministers, Staff for Coordination of Military Cooperation as well as Economic Court and Intergovernmental Statistic Committee will be abolished.

(...)

Translated by Gregory Malyutin

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MILITARY COOPERATION

THE GRANAT COMPLEX FOR AL-QAIDA

Nezavisimaya Gazeta, September 17, 2004, p. 1, Vladimir Mukhin

(...)

An active phase of the Russian-Italian anti-terrorist exercise (IONIEX-2004) begins in the Ionian Sea on September 17. At the same time, the second phase of the naval exercise organized by the Russian Northern Fleet and the French Navy began in the Atlantic Ocean; the maneuvers are aimed at ensuring the security of navigation of submarines. Before Russia and France conducted such exercises in the Norwegian and Barents Seas. It should be noted that this is the first Russian-Italian naval exercise.

(...)

The newspaper's source in zone of the exercise stated that the Russian and Italian military leaderships are discussing the prospects of organizing a similar exercise in the near future. The source stated that warships of the Russian Black Sea will be deployed in the Mediterranean Sea on a permanent basis.

It should be noted that France also welcomes Russia's activities in the world's oceans; Paris agreed to continue joint maneuvers in the Atlantic Ocean with the Vepr nuclear submarine and the Admiral Chabanenko big anti-submarine ship. The Vepr submarine is armed with the Granit cruise missiles. Eduard Baltin, former commander of the Black Sea Fleet who previously commanded a submarine unit of the Northern Fleet, stated that the Vepr submarine can destroy targets at a distance of around 1,000 kilometers. In other words, its missiles can destroy Al-Qaida's underground shelters located in Northern Africa or in the Middle East from the Atlantic Ocean. This information is not secret, and France knows the characteristics of the submarine. However, there is a paradox. As is known, Paris and the EU are concerned about Moscow's intention to deliver preventive strikes on

terrorists. Baltin does not rule out that Russian submarines raiding the Atlantic Ocean are learning to deliver preventive strikes on terrorists' bases. The same concerns the Russian-Italian exercise.

As a result, France is in an embarrassing situation. To all appearances, the French leadership unofficially supports strengthening of Russia's military might, and is concerned about the security of navigation of Russian submarines beyond Russian territorial waters. Military-diplomatic sources state that Paris and Moscow will soon sign the agreement on the security of navigation of submarines beyond territorial waters.

In other words, the Russian military machinery has started gathering pace for the first time over the post-Soviet epoch. The Kremlin has decided to increase the military budget. This will make it possible to strengthen Moscow's positions in strategically important regions in the world. The Central Staff of the Navy stated that the Defense Ministry plans to conduct joint naval exercises with the US Navy in the Atlantic Ocean, and the Japanese Navy in the Pacific Ocean. Moscow seeks to strengthen its military might beyond its border. It should be noted that Moscow succeeds because NATO and its allies are interested in combating international terrorism. However, everyone understands that Russia must protect its security within its national border.

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi

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MILITARY INDUSTRIES & CONVERSION

A JOINT AIRSPACE CORPORATION TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE COMMON ECONOMIC ZONE

Kommersant, September 16, 2004, p. 2, Ivan Safronov

At a meeting of the leaders of member nations of the common economic zone in Astana on September 15, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan proposed to establish a joint airspace corporation. The presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine shared opinions and decided to commission the national governments to consider this issue and prepare their proposals until December 15, 2004. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma stated that the Yuzhnoye design bureau, which creates missiles, and the Yuzhmash enterprise would joint this corporation. He noted that Kazakhstan will let the corporation use the Baikonur space center; Belarus will offer its unique optical systems.

President Putin did not say anything about Russia's contribution to the project. Meanwhile, Kommersant reports that Moscow proposed Kiev to create a modified laboratory module for the International space station on the basis of the FGB-2 unit created by the Khrunichev center. In addition, Russia proposed Ukraine to cooperate

in the Clipper shuttle. It should be noted that the partners dispute over some aspects of the plan to establish the corporation. For instance, Ukraine proposes to launch the Clipper using its Zenith-2 rocket; not Russia's Omega. Kazakhstan intends to launch satellites from the Baiterek complex, which Kazakhstan is building in Baikonur (it's a clone of Russia's Angara complex). In addition, it's not clear how the sides will pay for using Baikonur if they establish the corporation. The point is that rent of the space center is \$115 million a year until 2050.

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi

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MORALE

ONE BILLION RUBLES OUT OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET

...thanks to subordinates of the Air Force second-in-command

Kommersant, September 16, 2004, p. 3, Ivan Safronov, Konstantin Lantratov

Among other things, military prosecutors found their attention drawn to Military Office 1133 of the Defense Ministry, the office that is supposed to exert price control, quality control, and acceptance of end products by the Astrophysics federal state unitary enterprise (Moscow). The Karier company has been the central contractor under the state defense order for years. Moreover, some officers of the military quality control panel sit on the Karier board. In the meantime, the company lacks any labor resources or even industrial capacities for the contracts it supposedly fulfills. Military prosecutors suspect that it is a banal mediator between the Air Force and Astrophysics. In 2001 and 2002, this situation increased the cost of work done within the framework of the state defense order by over 1.1 million rubles.

Damage done to the budget by Military Office 472 of the Defense Ministry exceeds 1.6 million rubles. In Military Quality Control Panel 393, four officers including chief Colonel Sergei Nikolsky are shareholders in Dubna Machinery (Moscow region) whose activities for the Air Force they are supposed to oversee. This is an open violation of the law on the status of military personnel.

In any case, military prosecutors have many questions for the Air Force extra-budget economic assistance fund for development of repair facilities. The structure was established at General Dmitri Morozov's initiative in May 1997 when he himself was chief of the Air Force directorate for capital repairs to military hardware.

The fund is a conglomerate of two state unitary enterprises of the Defense Ministry - aircraft repair Factory 308 (Ivanovo) and Factory 99 (Scherbinka, Moscow region). Twenty-one repair facilities of the Air Force transacted over 100 million rubles worth of subsidies and donations to the fund between 2001 and 2003. In 2003, the fund transacted 79.2 million rubles to the authorized capital stock of Okhotny Ryad private bank - and Morozov's son is one of its founders.

Military prosecutors say that Colonel Vladimir Artemiev (chief of the Air Force directorate for capital repairs to military hardware, and Morozov's deputy) was aware of the violations but did nothing about it - probably because Artemiev himself belonged to the upper echelons of Okhotny Ryad.

There are questions for another of Morozov's deputies, Major General Sergei Dementiev, who is in charge of the directorate of contracts. His activities in this capacity between 2001 and the middle of 2004 cost the military budget over 1 billion rubles.

Sources in the Military Prosecutor General's Office say that the Air Force commander-in-chief was instructed to discuss all these facts at the meeting of the Air Force Military Council and have Morozov see to it that the state is recompensed. Morozov chose to resign.

According to our sources, Morozov's resignation has not been accepted yet, but a replacement for him is being sought.

Translated by A. Ignatkin



ELITE GOODS

Crime groups recruit former troopers of the Task Force

Novye Izvestia, September 16, 2004, p. 7, Valery Gromak

The Kaliningrad territorial court recently resumed the hearing of a criminal case regarding a series of brutal murders. Alexei Spilnik (former trooper of the Task Force) and former paratrooper Pavel Borisenko are the main suspects. Prosecutors started a separate criminal case against their accomplice Artem Sobkovich; at present he is kept in a mental hospital. The hearing is a sensation because all criminals are former servicemen of the elite Task Force unit of the Baltic Fleet, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this autumn.

The newspaper already reported that Alexei and Pavel, residents of the village of Chkalovsk, were detained three years ago on suspicion of committing a range of murders. (...) In all, they are charged with 12 murders.

(...) The lessons of this criminal case are typical for Russia. Russian special units teach people to kill; meanwhile, psychological training and social adaptation of these "universal soldiers" after dismissal are beyond the Defense Ministry's terms of reference.

Spilnik and Sobkovich served in a special unit of the Baltic Fleet. This unit had been established on October 15, 1954, and takes the leading position among units of the Baltic Fleet. It should be noted that military divers of this unit ensured the security of summits held by the US and Soviet leaders. (...) The majority of officers of this special unit are graduates from the Ryazan airborne school; they

served in Afghanistan, Chechnya and other hot spots. Many of them are masters of sports.

Sobkovich and Spilnik did not have reprimands during military service. They were the best servicemen of the unit. By the way, the unit selects candidates very thoroughly. The investigation of terrible crimes committed by these people show the results of this selection.

Instructors convinced the young men that they are supermen. However, the fatherland forgot about them when they were demobilized from the Army - they did not even manage to find job in special units of the Interior Ministry. All they could do was to use their skills of professional assassins. Before every serviceman of the Task Force of the Baltic Fleet received tempting proposals from the security structures on the eve of their demobilization. However, that system collapsed. Crime groups decided to send their people to special units where they learnt to kill absolutely free.

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi



MILITARY BENEFITS

FIFTY PERCENT OF COMBAT PAY

Participants in the anti-terrorist operation to receive extra money

Rossiiskaya Gazeta, September 16, 2004, p. 9, Yury Gavrilov

Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin explained on September 15 how the government intends to stimulate anti-terrorist activities - servicemen's salaries will go up by 50% in 2005.

At present wages paid to soldiers and officers serving in the North Caucasus include payments for military ranks, military posts, duration of military service, special conditions of military service and so-called combat pay. On the one hand, this is a substantial sum: 20,000 to 25,000

rubles a month to officers, and around 15,000 to ordinary troopers. In reality servicemen receive as much as their colleagues in Pskov and Ryazan. The Finance Ministry's initiative will increase servicemen's salaries to 22,000 to 23,000 rubles a month.

Judging from Alexei Kudrin's statement, money allowances will be increased thanks to the government's decision to increase the military budget by 107 billion rubles next year and allocate 50 billion rubles to counter-

terrorist departments. The minister did not say how this money will be distributed between the security ministries.

In the meantime, Mikhail Surkov, an auditor at the State Auditing Chamber, said that the government plans to repay debt for combat pay since 1994 next year. At the same time, there are some legislative problems. On the one hand, the number of days spent by servicemen in combat missions is determined by orders issued by the commander of the joint group of the federal forces. On the other hand, this indication depends on commanders of military units. Their decisions do not always coincide, and

many servicemen complain to court.

Mikhail Surkov thinks that the Duma will manage to solve this problem next year.

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi

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WHO'S WHO

A ADMIRAL HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A GENERAL

The latter is also an officer of the special services

Kommersant, September 17, 2004, p. 4, Alexei Zheglov

Vladimir Putin appointed FSB General Arkady Yedelev as deputy interior minister and chief of the regional operational staff for controlling the anti-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus on September 16. He replaced Rear Admiral Yury Maltsev, who was dismissed after the school siege in Beslan.

According to Kommersant, Vladimir Putin signed this decree on September 13. meanwhile, there are no official reports on the general's appointment. The public relations department of the Interior Ministry reported: "No one has seen the president's decree. We are waiting. Yedelev has not been introduced to officers yet." Ilya Shabalkin, an official representative of the regional operational staff, said: "Arkady Yedelev has already been introduced to us. He is in Khankala, and has taken up his duties."

Kommersant states that the Kremlin did not announce Arkady Yedelev's appointment because it did not want to draw attention to the dismissal of his predecessor Yury Maltsev. He was appointed as chief of the regional operational staff in July 2003 after the president signed a decree to pass over the control over the anti-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus from the FSB to the Interior Ministry. FSB Director Nikolai Patrushev stated last year: "The FSB has solved the main anti-terrorist task in Chechnya." In reality, Rear Admiral Maltsev was an officer of the FSB. After that the Chechen separatists murdered Chechen President Akhmad Kadyrov, attacked Ingushetia and Grozny, organized terrorist acts in Russian cities, blew up jetliners and seized a school in Beslan. Meanwhile, the Kremlin does not want to acknowledge the failures of its security structures.

Arkady Yedelev served in the Stavropol FSB

department and headed the operational-coordinating department of the FSB in the North Caucasus. He resigned on a pension in early 2004. Arkady Yedelev defended a thesis on criminal responsibility for terrorist crimes at the Institute of the international right and economy in August 2002. He proposed to implement a criminal responsibility for terrorism in transport facilities. His colleagues considered him as a "hawk". He thought that Russia must deliver preventive strikes on terrorists' bases in Georgia.

Arkady Yedelev was involved in a loud scandal in the North Caucasus. Vasily Kuzmenko, director of the Mineralnye Vody gelatin plant, accused Arkady Yedelev for instigating a criminal proceeding against him and took over his business. Mr. Kuzmenko stated that Arkady Yedelev was his close friend and protected his enterprise from racketeers. This is why Mr. Kuzmenko hired the general's wife and appointed her as president of the board of directors. Ivan Mikhailenko, the general's protege, was appointed as the chief of the plant's security service. The latter sent a complaint to the prosecutor's office and stated that Kuzmenko evaded taxes, blackmailed him and threatened the general's wife.

Vasily Kuzmenko was arrested and jailed for five years. Ivan Mikhailenko became director of the plant after Kuzmenko's arrest. The general's wife became his deputy.

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PEACEKEEPERS MEET NEW COMMANDER IN NAGORNY KARABAKH

The new commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping force in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict was appointed at the CIS summit in Astana on September 16. Colonel Alexander Nekrasov, head of the secretariat of the CIS Council of defense ministers, stated: "Major-General Victor Voloshin, a representative of the Russian Armed Forces, has been appointed as commander of the collective peacekeeping force."

He noted that the CIS leaders also decided to expend the contract with General of the Army Vladimir Yakovlev, chief of the staff for coordinating military cooperation within the CIS, until June 1, 2008.

Mr. Voloshin will replace Lieutenant-General Alexander Yevteyev, whose contract expired in July.

Victor Voloshin was born in Dneprodzerzhinsk (Ukraine) in 1951. He graduated from the Moscow military high school (1974), the Frunze Military Academy (1985) and the Academy of the General Staff (1995). He served in the Leningrad and Far Eastern military districts, and as a military advisor in Syria.

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi

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CHRONICLE

SOLOMON PASI, SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, IN MOSCOW

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Solomon Pasi, secretary of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, arrived in Moscow. He was invited by his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. He will discuss issues linked with the OSCE's activities. It should be noted that he will focus on the processes of peaceful settling of conflicts in post-Soviet republics - between South Ossetia and Georgia, Moldavia and the Trans-Dniester territory, and

over Nagorny Karabakh.

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OVER 100,000 SERVICEMEN TO BE DISMISSED FROM THE RUSSIAN ARMY UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2005

As of January 2004, the Russian Army consisted of around 1.2 million servicemen. It is intended that the Army will dismiss servicemen sent to federal government bodies and contract servicemen studying at military faculties of state-owned educational institutions. The number of control structures will be cut by 10%.

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FLIGHT TESTS OF THE MIG-29OVT FIGHTER HAVE RESUMED

Valery Toryanin, general director of the MiG aircraft corporation, stated that flight tests of the MiG-29OVT fighter equipped with two RD-33-10M engines with controllable thrust vector (created by the Klimov plant) resumed. The digital control system makes it possible to deflect the thrust vector by 15 degrees in all planes. Previous tests of the MiG-29OVT have already proven the reliability of all control systems.

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VENEZUELA HAS PURCHASED SEVERAL MIG-29 FIGHTERS

Representatives of the US military intelligence service state that the Venezuelan Defense Ministry has purchased several MiG-29 fighters. These fighters periodically perform training flights during which they were detected by the US military. Representatives of the Colombian Defense Ministry also confirm that Venezuela has new fighters.

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AROUND 300 ARAB MERCENARIES OPERATE IN CHECHNYA

Major-General Ilya Shabalkin, an official representative of the regional operational staff for controlling the anti-terrorist operation in the North Caucasus, stated that the number of Arab mercenaries operating in Chechnya amounts to 200 to 300 people. According to the general, the quantity of Arab mercenaries does not change. He said: "The security services periodically neutralize Arab mercenaries but we are in possession of reports that they infiltrate into the republic from abroad in small groups. We do not have reliable information about mercenaries. Our report is based on witness given by detained members of illegal armed groups." He noted that FSB agents detained an Arab

mercenary, who worked for Shamil Basaev, when he tried to cross the Russian border and move to Azerbaijan. The mercenary has been identified. His name is Urakhli Kamal Rabat. He is a citizen of Algeria. He was born in 1958. The mercenary illegally moved to Chechnya in 2001.

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CHECHEN GUERRILLAS HAVE ABDUCTED SIX PEOPLE

The republican Interior Ministry reported that Chechen guerrillas abducted four civilians and two policemen.

A source in the Chechen Interior Ministry said: "Members of illegal armed groups recently kidnapped several civilians and policemen in Chechnya." According to the source, four civilians were abducted in the Urus-Martan and Achkhoy-Martan districts, and two policemen in

the Lenin district in Grozny.

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THE OSCE TO SEND MORE OBSERVERS TO SOUTHERN OSSETIA

Interfax reports that the OSCE will increase the number of its observers in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict from six to 13 people. Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Gomiashvili, stated in Tbilisi on September 16 that this agreement was reached by the OSCE secretary and the Georgian foreign minister. He noted that the observers will not be able to control the Rockskii tunnel "because such agreements have not been reached with Ossetia".

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U.S. DIPLOMAT ROBERT SIMMONS APPOINTED AS NATO'S PLENIPOTENTIARY IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

The US diplomat will retain the post of deputy aide to the NATO secretary-general for political issues and security. Robert Simmons will be in charge of contacts with regional leaders and realizing NATO's tasks in the region. It is intended that the plenipotentiary will continue working in NATO's headquarters in Brussels. Before Robert Simmons worked as a senior aide to the US deputy secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia. The decision to appoint him as a plenipotentiary in this region was made

by the NATO summit in Istanbul in June. (...)



THE INTERIOR TROOPS TO BECOME PART OF THE GEORGIAN ARMY

The process of "demilitarization of Georgian law enforcement agencies" has led to a decision to subordinate the Interior Troops to the Defense Ministry. Interior Minister Iraklii Okruashvili stated that the Interior Ministry had to disarm its units or pass them over to the Defense Ministry. As a result, Georgia listened to international experts' opinion and preferred the latter option. All servicemen, military vehicles and weapons will be controlled by the Defense Ministry. The Task Force of the Interior Troops will remain in the Interior Ministry. The

merger of police and army structures will be accomplished until November 1.



THE GEORGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER HAS DECIDED TO AMNESTY DESERTERS

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili stated that he decided to amnesty all deserters.

He said during his visit to the Mukhrovanskii battalion of the Defense Ministry stationed 20 kilometers from Tbilisi: "All deserters will be released from custody. They will be able to continue military service without persecution."



THE PRESS CENTER OF THE UKRAINIAN SECURITY SERVICE HAS ANNOUNCED SOME RESULTS OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS DEPARTMENT

In particular, four foreigners who committed crimes against Ukraine have been convicted. Three criminal cases regarding the sale of confidential information to foreign special services have been submitted to court. The military intelligence department has prevented over 20 terrorist acts against the Ukrainian contingent abroad.

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi



WPS ANALYSIS

RUSSIA PREPARING FOR NUCLEAR TESTS

Russia's nuclear testing area celebrates its 50th anniversary

WPS, WPS observer

The Central testing area of the Russian Federation in Novaya Zemlya celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 17. It should be noted that 130 nuclear bombs have been blown up in this proving ground (85 in the air, 39 underground, three underwater, two above water and one on the ground). The total power of nuclear bombs tested on this proving ground is around 240 megatons (around 94% of the total quantity of nuclear tests in the USSR). The most powerful hydrogen bomb was tested on this testing area (50 megatons). In other words, the Semipalatinsk proving ground, which remained in Kazakhstan after the break-up of the USSR, accounts for only 6% of all nuclear tests in the Soviet Union. Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov noted in his order No. 260 that the proving ground presents one of the most important elements of the Russian nuclear complex. The question is why does Russia need this proving ground if it assumed obligations not to conduct nuclear tests? Major-General Yury Sokolov, commander of the proving ground, thinks that "at present the Central proving ground is needed for checking the correctness of theoretical suppositions on which the creation of nuclear charges is based, examining the impact of nuclear explosions under different conditions and improving methods of technical and medical protection from the impact of nuclear explosions". In other words, there are no nuclear tests but the proving ground functions and solves defense and security tasks.

Sokolov named tasks, which the proving ground fulfills. According to him, "the main tasks of the proving ground are to retain combat readiness of units in charge of organizing full-scale underground nuclear tests, testing of prospective weapons and military hardware and organizing experiments, which are not banned by international agreements in order to ensure the reliability and safety of nuclear weapons".

Judging from the general's words, Russia is preparing for full-scale nuclear tests. In the meantime, Russia currently conducts local experiments using radioactive substances, without nuclear explosions. Colonel-General Igor Valynkin, chief of the 12th Central department of the Defense Ministry, stated that Russia has been conducting such hydrodynamic (subcritical) experiments for several years. The point is that physical, chemical, tactical and technical features of nuclear charges change as a result of the impact of plutonium or uranium, which may cause an unsanctioned nuclear explosion. Specialists need to know what mechanical units or electronic schemes should be

replaced in order to prolong the lifetime of nuclear charges.

Subcritical experiments are conducted in special hermetic containers; such explosions are not powerful or dangerous.

Representatives of the Defense Ministry have repeatedly stated that there are no nuclear weapons on the proving ground. Meanwhile, Novaya Zemlya receives radioactive substances. Western ecologists and politicians are concerned about the state of the proving ground due to ecological and social reasons.

There are some ecological problems on the testing area, though the military leadership states that the radioactive background in Novaya Zemlya is normal. In the meantime, ecologists state that the rate of liver carcinoma among local residents is ten times as high as in other Russian regions. Officially all aborigines were relocated from the archipelago in 1957. In reality some local residents live on the islands. In addition, officers' families live near the testing area.

Before Russia tested nuclear charges produced 13-14 years ago on the proving ground. Igor Valynkin stated that these charges will be modernized. The general did not say for how long Russia will use these charges. However, he did not rule out that they will be used until 2007 when obsolete missiles will be replaced with new weapons. Russia spends around 40 million rubles a year on experiments in Novaya Zemlya. This is around 2% of the Nuclear Ministry's military expenditure. In other words, the proving ground helps Russia ensure its defense and security in the circumstances of a serious economic crisis.

There is an opinion that Novaya Zemlya has become Russia's nuclear scrap-heap. There are rumors that hundreds of tons of radioactive waste unloaded from warships of the Northern Fleet are buried here. Admiral Oleg Yerofeyev, former commander of the North Fleet, said that this is not true. He noted that a major part of radioactive waste is stored on the Kola peninsula and in the Arkhangelsk region.

Translated by Alexander Dubovoi

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