

Digest
of the *Nonproliferation Journal*

Yaderny Kontrol
Nonproliferation
Export Controls
Nuclear Safety
Nuclear Strategy
Chemical Weapons
Biological Weapons
Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones

*Survey on Problems of
Weapons of Mass Destruction
in Russia and the NIS*

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Editorial

CAN THERE BE A BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY INTERESTS AND DEMANDS FOR TRANSPARENCY?

We say, yes.

We are researchers at the Center for Policy Studies in Russia (PIR Center), a non-governmental, non-profit organization that publishes the *YADERNY KONTROL* journal. This is the very journal that you are reading now. This is the journal that has been appearing on a monthly basis for two years and that informs its readers on problems regarding weapons of mass destruction in Russia and the other ex-Soviet states, suggests subjects for discussion, focuses on some of them, and publishes unabridged documents of Russian and international legislation.

YADERNY KONTROL is an independent publication, although not in every way. There is one thing we are all dependent upon: our principles. Our principles consist of those materials published by the journal, even those that do not reflect our editorial viewpoint. Our goals are first to respond to Russian and international security interests and, second, to meet the public's and experts' demands for transparent, accessible, and reliable information. We are sure that, despite all of the understandable difficulties accompanying studies in such sensitive areas as those of nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, missile delivery systems, and their production technologies, these principles can be and must be compatible. But given one essential condition — one should not outweigh the other. Security interests and the demand for transparency should be well-balanced.

At the same time we realize that the very notions "security" and "transparency" require further explanation. How can we understand these terms without the context of a political situation? To what degree do national security interests and international security interests coincide and where do they conflict? How strong is this conflict of interests? What are the limits of "transparency" and "openness" of information? How can one remain within these limits without reducing transparency to the level of blindly optimistic official reports? It would be an exaggeration to flatly assert that we know the answers to these questions. That is why we believe that you will help us answer them, once you join our discussions and share your own thoughts.

YADERNY KONTROL is a publication primarily for specialists — those who make political and military decisions and those who carry out scientific analysis. You may see *YADERNY KONTROL* on the tables of officials of the Presidential Administration and in the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Minatom, Gosatomnadzor, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Defense. It is also read by the newly elected deputies of the State Duma. It goes to the state's largest scientific libraries. We cannot, however, call our journal a strictly specialized one. We strive to reach everyone interested in its subjects, including journalists and students who have just begun their research.

It would not be correct to think that Moscow is the only place where *YADERNY KONTROL* is read. Name any "closed city" from Snezhinsk to Seversk — they also constitute our audience. *YADERNY KONTROL* is a journal ON RUSSIA and FOR RUSSIA. It is neither an "export" nor an "import" informational product, but rather a journal primarily for the domestic reader and with domestic authors. Its readers live in Minsk, Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Tashkent, and Bishkek. However, we do not suffer from a disease of "informational xenophobia" and are not going to reduce the problem of weapons of mass destruction to a solely Russian one. Take, for example, the problem of diversions of nuclear material. Of course, we write much on Russian cases. But is it only a Russian problem? Of course not. This consideration relates to many other important issues, foremost of which is the area of nuclear nonproliferation.

Though the journal is entitled *YADERNY KONTROL*, it is not only pure problems of the nuclear-weapons complex that are addressed in the journal. We write on problems of export control, missiles and missile technologies. We do not avoid issues connected with chemical weapons. The Center PIR will soon develop this subject in a separate journal *CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND PROBLEMS OF THEIR DESTRUCTION*. We intend to raise issues regarding other types of weapons of mass destruction, as well as those weapons whose performance is very close to those of weapons of mass destruction. Finally, problems of international security and the maintenance of strategic stability also lie in our sphere of interest.

In 1995 many of our readers became our regular contributors. We believe that *YADERNY KONTROL* and its readers will reach a new level of dialogue in 1996. We invite you to join the journal's discussions of the most serious issues, to take part in workshops, roundtables, conferences, and e-mail correspondence — in short all those scientific activities that are conducted by the Center PIR.

Vladimir A. Orlov.