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United Nations Appeals for the Release of Arjan Erkel

On 12 August 2003, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Russian Federation distributed the following statement on behalf of the United Nations in the Russian Federation:

“A year has passed since the abduction in Dagestan on 12 August 2002 of Arjan Erkel, Head of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) mission in the republic. On this sad occasion, the United Nations would like to reiterate its appeal for his safe and immediate release. The United Nations also wishes to once again express solidarity with Mr Erkel’s family and MSF, the non-government organisation for which Mr Erkel worked and which has been efficiently and closely working with the UN to provide assistance to people in need in the North Caucasus.

The United Nations is deeply concerned about the fate of Mr Arjan Erkel, which to date remains unknown. In the past few months, the United Nations has welcomed the news from investigators that Mr Erkel is alive, as well as President Putin’s public assurances that the Russian law enforcement bodies will continue searching for Arjan Erkel. From 11–12 August, a delegation, including representatives of the United Nations and donor countries, is visiting the North Caucasus and will raise the issue of Arjan Erkel’s fate in meetings with the local authorities there.

The UN condemns Mr Erkel’s abduction and wishes to underscore once again that such actions undermine the effective provision of humanitarian assistance to the thousands of civilians in need in the North Caucasus. It also



reiterates its solidarity with the hundreds of civilians abducted in the North Caucasus in recent years and calls on those responsible to ensure their safe return”.

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In Memory of Victims



Staff of UN Country Team in the Russian Federation: UNFPA, UNDP, UNODC and WHO observes the minute of silence in memory of the victims

The UN community in Russia mourns its friends and colleagues who were murdered during the terrible bomb blast in Baghdad on 19 August 2003. In memory of victims, a minute of silence was observed at UN premises in Moscow, as well as a letter of condolences was sent to the UN Headquarters in New York. On behalf of the UN Country Team in the Russian Federation, Dr. Mikko Viennon, the UN Resident Coordinator a.i., signed the book of condolences established at the Brazilian Embassy in Moscow in remembrance of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy in Iraq. Numerous messages of condolences were received by individual UN Agencies from the Government of the Russian Federation as well as various partners and governments of other countries represented in Russia.

Below is the speech of the UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan following the bomb attack on the United Nations Mission in Iraq:

Dear colleagues, Dear friends,

Many of us will remember the 19th of August 2003 as the darkest day in our lives at the United Nations. We have lost irreplaceable colleagues, who went to Iraq with no other mission than to help the people of that country regain their full sovereignty and independence, under leaders of their own choosing. Those colleagues have been murdered, for reasons we will never understand. Sergio Vieira de Mello and those with him have been taken from us, and from the people they were working to assist, by an act so savage and senseless that we can hardly believe it really happened. It feels like a nightmare, from which we are still hoping to wake. If only it were.

Today, our thoughts and prayers go to the loved ones of those who have perished. They go to our colleagues in Baghdad who are wounded, or who have survived only to grapple with a trauma few of us can fully imagine. We pay homage to all of them for the courageous and committed way they have been doing their jobs over the past weeks and months. We pay tribute to all those still working there, in spite of all the difficulties – and dangers.

How can we thank our lost colleagues for their life's contribution? Only by vowing to work on, every day, to complete the work that they began. So let me send this message to all of you, dear colleagues, as well as to the people of Iraq: We will not be deterred. We will go on doing whatever we can to help build a better future for the Iraqi people.

Those extremists who target innocent civilians in this kind of attack are not doing anything for Iraq or its people. They have committed an unspeakable crime, not only against the United Nations, but against Iraq itself.

Only by carrying on with our mission can we begin to do justice to the memory of our slain colleagues. May God bless them. May their souls rest in peace. Thank you very much.

The UN in Russia highly respects the Secretary General's firm position that the UN shall continue its mission in Iraq to help the people work towards stability and that the organization will remain steadfast in its commitment to the ideals of peace, security and development for all.

Conserving the Biological Diversity of Kamchatka

*By 2015 all United Nations Member States have pledged to ensure environmental sustainability
(from UN Millennium Development Goals)*

The 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee for the UNDP/GEF Project “Demonstrating sustainable conservation of biological diversity in four protected areas of Russia’s Kamchatka Oblast” was held on August 25, 2003, in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.



The project, which commenced one year ago covers the Kronotsky biosphere reserve (zapovednik), Yuzhno-Kamchatsky zakaznik, and the “Nalychevo” and “Bystrinsky” nature parks. The meeting was well received and attended by various sectors including representatives from the Kamchatka Oblast Administration and the federal Ministry of Natural Resources. International interest groups including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also participated as well as the core UNDP/GEF Project staff and nature protected areas management teams and various media outlets. A delegation from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), joined to discuss the first results of project implementation.

A clear outcome of the meeting as indicated by the participants is that project’s main objective, which is to demonstrate sustainable biodiversity conservation, is being implemented successfully within the scope of the project. The project is proceed-



ing on schedule with certain milestones being achieved such as the development of management plans for the nature protected areas and the hosting of training programmes on protected area (PA) management. The project has also contributed to the establishment of an inspection system within the PAs, and the establishment of a fund for small-scale business support coupled with a small grant programme accessible by local communities. In consultation at the local level, the legal framework for biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development is being revised and improved. Project outreach activities have resulted in environmental education programmes, the publication of the “Zapovednaya territoriya” bulletin and continued cleaning efforts in areas polluted by municipal wastes.

After reviewing result to date, the Steering Committee meeting approved and adopted the project workplan for the year 2004. The focus will be on improving the quality and promoting the sustainable use of the landscape and values associated with it, and the development of replicable models for ecotourism, and to develop the capacity for alternative livelihoods for local residents in protected and adjacent areas.



The 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee for the UNDP/GEF Project “Demonstrating sustainable conservation of biological diversity in four protected areas of Russia’s Kamchatka Oblast”

Gender Equality: the Key to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

By 2015 all United Nations Member States have pledged to promote gender equality and empower women (from UN Millennium Development Goals)

On 7 July 2003, the UN Resident Coordinator Office in the Russian Federation, the UN Inter-Agency Ad Hoc Working Group on Gender organized, in conjunction with the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Development, a seminar on "International Legislation and Gender Equality, UN Millennium Declaration, Declared Goals and Ways of Implementation".

The objective of the seminar was to present a draft version of the report on the relevance of the Millennium Development Goal No. 3 on empowering women and promoting gender equality in the Russian Federation. The seminar attracted numerous ex-

dress considered empowering women as the key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. He in particular reminded the participants of the statement of Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations: "In our work to reach those objectives, as the Millennium Declaration made clear, gender equality is not only a goal in its own right; it is critical to our ability to reach all the others. Study after study has shown that there is no effective development strategy in which women do not play a central role".

During the seminar, Mr Eric Brunat agreed to answer some questions



Mr Eric Brunat, UN Development Programme Deputy Resident Representative



Seminar on "International Legislation and Gender Equality, UN Millennium Declaration, Declared Goals and Ways of Implementation"

perts from UN Agencies working in Russia, representatives of interested Russian Ministries (such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, etc.), and non-governmental organizations. The participants were welcomed by the new Deputy Minister of Labour Mrs M.Malysheva.

Mr Eric Brunat, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, in his ad-

dress considered empowering women as the key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. He in particular reminded the participants of the statement of Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations: "In our work to reach those objectives, as the Millennium Declaration made clear, gender equality is not only a goal in its own right; it is critical to our ability to reach all the others. Study after study has shown that there is no effective development strategy in which women do not play a central role".

– How do the UN experts estimate the progress towards gender equality worldwide?

– There have been profound changes in the status and role of women around the globe over the past two decades. Thus, women have entered

the labour force in unprecedented numbers, increasing their potential participation in decision – making at various levels. Gender gaps have narrowed significantly in many countries in the areas of education and health. At the same time, this progress has still been slow and uneven. Women, especially in developing countries, bear an unequal share of the burden of poverty. It is generally thought that the majority of the world's poor are women (60 to 70%). Of the nearly 1 billion adults in the world who cannot read, two thirds are female. Women comprise half of the 40 million people infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide. 95% out of them live in developing countries. More than seven million agricultural workers, overwhelmingly women, have already lost their lives to the AIDS pandemic over the last decade in Africa. To date, out of 189 UN member states, only four countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Norway) have achieved a combination of approximate gender equality in secondary school enrolment; at least a 30% share for women of seats in parliaments or legislatures; and an approximate 50% share of paid employment in non-agricultural activities.

– *How does the UN Country Team in Russia contribute to promoting the Millennium Development Goals, in particular gender equality?*

– In November 2002, the UN Country Team in the Russian Federation launched the Millennium Development Goals Promotion Campaign with the objective to generate a public debate on the MDGs in Russia. Since then, 6 *ad hoc* Working Groups

composed of core UN Agencies and representatives of technical Ministries and covering all MDGs have been created.

The MDG Working Group on Gender has been actively functioning since February 2003. Within its framework, a number of very fruitful discussions have taken place aimed *inter alia* at contributing towards the assessment carried out by

the UN expert Mr. Sergei Roschin. Today, the Working Group has the pleasure of presenting this report for the participants' attention and to discuss in more detail the situation of women in the Russian Federation in the light of the requirements of the UN Millennium Development Goals. This report will serve as an important background for the preparation of a strategic outline for the development of Russia up to 2015.

Developing Russian Farm Entrepreneurs

On July 22, 2003 the seminar "Russian Farm Entrepreneurs Development Programme in the Russian Federation" on agricultural cooperatives was conducted in the Bobininsky rayon, Kaluga region.

Representatives of the region and rayon administration, UNDP, ILO experts, farmers and owners of small individual households (SIH) from 5 rayons of Kaluga region took part in the conference work.

The main purpose of the seminar was to inform the farmers and the owners of SIH of the experience of production cooperatives in Russia and of the project of the organisation of a model cooperative in Kaluga region.

The first part of the seminar took place in the rayon administration, the second part in the farm of A. Davydov, the best farm of beef meat production in Russia.

ILO experts prepared a presentation on the organization and the activities

of the most successful cooperatives in Russia. The declaration of V. Krutikov, Head of Bobininsky rayon administration, on the work of the rayon credit cooperative, was listened with great interest.

In the farm of A. Davydov a discussion was organized with the farmers and owners of SIH on the possible organization of a production cooperative of beef meat production. The work of the farmer A. Davydov was presented to the participants of the seminar, who were also given a consultation by the experts of the project.

As a result of the seminar, 12 farmers and owners of SIH of Bobininsky, Baryatinsky and Medinsky rayons took the decision to organize a model production cooperative of beef meat production. The working group of the cooperative, dealing



As a result of the seminar, 12 farmers and owners of small individual households from three rayons of Kaluga region took the decision to organize a model cooperative of beef meat production

with documents forming was elected. The rayon administration will assist in the registration of the cooperative and in the location of the cooperative office. The project will secure to the cooperative members a technical assistance for the organization of the cooperative activities and its access to long-term leasing for cattle Charolais.

For Juvenile Justice

The inter-regional seminar on juvenile justice issues was organized by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kabardino-Balkaria on June 17-19. Taking part were the project partners from Rostov, Saratov, Kabardino-Balkaria, Ingushetia and North Ossetia as well as international experts from the Ministry of Justice of France. This event has been conducted in close collaboration with Judicial Department and Supreme Court of Kabardino-Balkaria.

The primary aim of this seminar was the development of socio-educational service at court in new pilot sites allowing the possibility to use of alternatives with reference to relevant judicial practices in France as well as the accumulated experiences in Rostov and Saratov.

The participants to the seminar in particular proposed to organize special study session for judicial staff focusing on development of con-

structive alternatives to custodial sentences as well as sharing of practical juvenile justice experiences from other countries. They also emphasized a growing understanding that the creation of a specialized juvenile justice system is needed. Therefore, the conduction of training programmes and the dissemination of pilot-projects in other cities of the country might constitute a successful strategy for the improvement of a juvenile justice system in Russia.



Human Development Report 2003

While much of the world experienced sustained economic growth in the 1990s, 54 developing countries suffered average income declines over the course of the decade, reveals the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2003.

The Human Development Report 2003 argues that to reverse declines, development strategies must focus not only on economic growth, but also on more equitable distribution of wealth and services.

The Report introduces the new Millennium Development Compact, which proposes new global and regional policies to kick-start growth and reduce poverty. The Millennium Development Goals are based on the premise that economic growth alone will not rescue the world from the poverty that entraps more than one billion people. Without addressing issues like malnutrition and illiteracy that are both causes and symptoms of poverty, the Goals will not be met. The statistics today are shaming: More than 13 million children have died through diarrhea disease in the past decade. Each year, over half a million women, one for every minute of the day, die in pregnancy and childbirth. More than 800 million suffer from malnutrition.

The Report argues that investment in industries and businesses that create jobs, such as manufacturing and textiles, are more important for human development than industries that require large amounts of capital, such as oil exploration and production. The Report also calls for special initiatives to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in developing countries.

UNESCO
UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural
Organization



Appointment

Philippe Quéau Appointed New UNESCO Representative

Mr Philippe Quéau (France) was appointed a new UNESCO Representative for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Russian Federation in July 2003.

Before joining UNESCO, Philippe Quéau was a specialist of information and communication technologies (ICT), with a particular interest for computer graphics, virtual reality, televirtuality and cyber-communities.

He was instrumental in founding the International Forum on New Images of Monte-Carlo, which became IMAGINA, an important European event devoted to computer graphics, virtual reality, special effects.

He founded the Image Research Group of the French National Audiovisual Institute (INA), which was instrumental in supporting the Image Research Plan of the French government, in the 80's.

He founded in 1994 the INA's MediaPort, giving on-line access to numerous audiovisual data, sounds, images from French public television archives.

Philippe Quéau has been regularly called for expertise on behalf of the European Communities Commission.

From July 1996 to June 2003, Philippe Quéau was responsible of UNESCO's activities in the area of information society, information technologies, libraries, archives and public documentation, within UNESCO Communication and Information Sector. He also dealt with ethical, legal and societal aspects of cyberspace. He was the Secretary of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Programme "Information For All". Mr Quéau supervised the programme "Memory of the World" set up to safeguard the world documentary heritage, and the programme INFOYOUTH.



He also was the Secretary of the Information Society Task Force set up to organize UNESCO's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society.

Philippe Quéau wrote several books on the political and philosophical impact of the Information Society, and on the evolution and implications of computer imaging, artificial intelligence and virtual reality.



WFP Partnership with Humanitarian Organizations

Since January 2000, WFP has been carrying out its humanitarian activities in Russia in close partnership with various humanitarian organizations, such as several international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the North Caucasus, and UNCT group in Moscow. EMERCOM of Russia, which since 2000 has been acting as an official consignee to WFP imported food commodities in Russia as per the governmental temporary order, is WFP's major partner among other governmental structures.

WFP major NGO implementing partners are Danish Refugee Council (Denmark), Islamic Relief (UK) and People in Need Foundation (Czech Republic) which distribute WFP basic food commodities in Ingushetia and Chechnya within the framework of relief distribution and school feeding programme.

Danish Refugee Council is in charge of logistics facilitation of WFP commodities distribution in both republics.

Islamic Relief is actively involved in implementation of sweet buns component of school feeding programme in Chechnya.

People in Need Foundation distributes WFP food among relief beneficiaries, provides hot meal component for school feeding programme in children centres and kindergartens, and carries out food-for-work programme in 3 districts of Grozny.

Other implementing partners, namely Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development (UK) and a local NGO Chechen Refugee and Displaced People's Council are involved in school feeding implementation in Achkoi-Martan and Sun-

zha districts of Chechnya, providing hot meals and sweet buns respectively. Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development also actively participates in bread-baking programme supporting vulnerable persons in Sunzha district of Chechnya.

Caritas Internationalis (Czech Republic) provides hot meals to several day care children centres and kindergartens in Grozny within the framework of school feeding programme. Saudi Red Crescent Society (Saudi Arabia) delivers WFP monthly food rations to IDPs in Satsita camp, Ingushetia. A local NGO, "Vesta", has been responsible for monitoring WFP relief distribution, school feeding and food-for-work activities in Chechnya since 2001.



Participants of WFP Workshop on School Feeding Programme in Chechnya. May 2003, Nazran, Ingushetia

Since January 2000 WFP has been operating in the North Caucasus in partnership with other UN agencies, for instance UNESCO has provided cooking stoves and UNICEF is responsible for potable water supplies to schools where WFP's school feeding programme is implemented. UNHCR distributes non-food items to IDPs returning to Chechnya, and ICRC provides complementary food parcels to WFP beneficiaries in Ingushetia and Chechnya.

World Food Programme (WFP) Mission Statement

WFP provides emergency food assistance:

- to save lives of people in refugee and other emergency situations;
- to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times of their lives;
- to help build assets and promote self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive works.

For more information on WFP and its activities,
visit our web site at www.wfp.org,
or contact WFP, Russia,
Tel: (7-095) 956-49-68, Fax: (7-095) 956-49-89



Jolie at Bella tented camp, which houses some 1,000 displaced Chechens

On August 25, the UN refugee agency's Goodwill Ambassador, Angelina Jolie, has concluded her four-day mission to the Russian Federation by calling for all options to be kept open for displaced Chechens who do not wish to return to Chechnya at this stage.

"I frankly cannot see how the situation in Chechnya has changed to the extent that it now is safe for all IDPs to return", said Jolie at a press conference in Moscow Sunday. "I am grateful for the hospitality that the Republic of Ingushetia has extended to internally displaced persons, and I warmly welcome the assurances by President M. Zyazikov that no displaced persons will be returned to Chechnya against their will".

The Goodwill Ambassador travelled to the North Caucasus from last Thursday to Sunday to learn about all aspects of UNHCR's operations in the region.

In Ingushetia, a republic bordering Chechnya, she visited Bella and Sputnik camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), meeting with displaced Chechens and visiting them in their tent homes. She paid particular attention to their worries about the security situation in

Keep Options Open for Displaced Chechens, Urges UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

Chechnya and their fears that they would have to go back there without being given an alternative option of continued accommodation in Ingushetia.

There are some 80,000 IDPs from Chechnya in Ingushetia. About 12,000 of them have been living in tented camps for the last four years.

On August 15, UNHCR reported that local authorities in Ingushetia were putting pressure on some Chechen IDPs to return to Chechnya. At the same time, the refugee agency expressed concern about the lack of alternative housing for those IDPs who do not wish to return to Chechnya at this time. In a statement issued at its Geneva headquarters, UNHCR stressed that returns to Chechnya can only be considered voluntary if the displaced persons are fully informed about conditions for

return and if they have a genuine alternative available to allow them to remain in Ingushetia.

In North Ossetia, a republic bordering Georgia, Jolie visited the Gizel collective centre in Vladikavkaz, as well as a housing project for refugees in Komsomolskoe. She congratulated Prime Minister Mikhail Shatalov for the good co-operation between the North Ossetian authorities and UNHCR in the efforts to create durable solutions for some 30,000 refugees from Georgia in the republic. She also expressed her appreciation for what the North Ossetian government has done and is doing to help refugees integrate and start new lives.

UNHCR has launched a three-year integration programme to improve the situation of 7,000 refugees in North Ossetia who are living in ap-



In Moscow, Angelina Jolie paid a visit to the Morozov children's hospital and donated \$20,000 to the hospital.

**UNHCR****United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UN in RUSSIA

palling living conditions in 71 collective centres. Over the last two years, 140 one-family houses were constructed and another 70 will be completed this year. The housing project is being complemented by legal, medical and psychological counselling as well as community-oriented activities implemented by local non-governmental organisations.

In Moscow, Jolie met several families of asylum seekers. She also paid a visit to the Morozov children's hospital and donated \$20,000 to the hospital.

During her visit to the Russian Federation, the UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador met with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Yuri Fedotov, President of the Republic of Ingushetia Murat Zyazikov, and Prime Minister of the Republic of North Ossetia Mikhail Shatalov.

On August 22, President Murat Zyazikov of Ingushetia awarded Jolie with the highest order of the republic, the Order for Merits, for her outstanding services to the cause of humanity, specifically in aiding refugees and displaced persons.

The Goodwill Ambassador's concerns however, did not stop at people uprooted by war and persecution. While on mission, she expressed "outrage and shock" at recent bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

"I am joining all UN staff in mourning and extending my deeply felt sympathies to the families and colleagues of the victims", she said.

"Such senseless attacks, directed against those who are dedicating their lives to the service of people in need, are unfortunately not a new phenomenon", she added, noting that in the region of North Caucasus alone, 117 attacks against aid workers took place between 1995 and 2002, killing 11 people.



© UNHCR/T. Makeeva

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie with displaced Chechens in Bella camp, Ingushetia

She made a personal plea for the release of Arjan Erkel, the Head of Mission of Médecins Sans Frontières, who was kidnapped a year ago in Daghestan and has not been heard from since.

"I urge the people who are holding him to let him go immediately and return him unharmed to his family and friends", said Jolie. "I also appeal to

all those with influence in the Russian Federation and the international community to do everything they possibly can to secure his release".

This was Jolie's first visit to the Russian Federation in her capacity as UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. She has previously visited the agency's operations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Balkans.

For your UN file



International Days

8 September

16 September

3rd Tuesday of September

Last week of September

1st of October

1st Monday of October

2nd Wednesday of October

9 October

16 October

17 October

24 October

24-30 October

International Literacy Day

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

International Day of Peace

World Maritime Day

International Day of Older Persons

World Habitat Day

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

World Post Day

World Food Day

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

United Nations Day

Disarmament Week

Scoring Points for Education

*By 2015 all United Nations Member States have pledged to achieve universal primary education
(from UN Millennium Development Goals)*

Photo by Andrei Rudakov, Capital's Eye Agency



This year, the simplest, most popular, and most accessible kind of sport united youngsters around the idea of popularizing accessible, quality education for all boys and girls. In the last few years, the number of teens leaving school early has increased significantly. In rural communities, a large number of schools have been closing due to a lack of pupils and teachers. The seemingly solid system of public, universal primary and secondary education is starting to break down, which could lead to considerable problems in the future.

The children at Star City signed a petition that said:

With the support of UNICEF, the International Football Tournament between Boys and Girls Aged Thirteen and Under has been held in Russia for the first time. Prizes were provided by the children's TV channel Fox Kids and the Sporting Russia volunteer sports association. In accordance with the aims and tasks of the United Nations Children's Fund for the next few years, the main goal of the tournament was to draw the attention of the public at large and the youngsters themselves to the problem of getting and providing a quality education.

The competition took place in ten of Russia's federal districts. Football teams organized by apartment blocks, schools, cities and regions battled one another for the prizes.

In Chechnya, a football team made up of disabled children – victims of mines and UXO – took part in the games. In the Grozny team, organized with support from UNICEF, boys train and play with artificial limbs made especially for them by the Prosthetic and Orthopedic Workshop in Vladikavkaz. The youngest of its eleven players is eight years old. The children practise long and hard, and travel to Vladikavkaz twice a month for joint training with professional football players. The team already

has several major victories to its credit. However, in this specific instance, the most important of these is not winning but *playing*, and recognizing and being sure of their own strengths and possibilities.

In May, 250 of the best players arrived at the tournament finals in Star City, just outside of Moscow. For sure, the boys' and girls' teams pulled out all the stops in their battles against one another. In post-Soviet Russia, such massive football matches have not been held in what is probably a very long time, while the Fox Kids Children's Football Tournament has become a regular and popular feature in many countries around the world.

“Forward, boys and girls! Join with people around the planet and support the millions of girls (and boys, too) who do not have the opportunity to go to school.”

“All children have the right to an education. More than 120 million children, most of whom are girls, do not have the opportunity to go to school. Education gives a person more opportunities in life. This is why UNICEF, the TV channel Fox Kids, and millions of ordinary people are trying hard to help as many girls as possible go to school. We want as many girls as possible to be attending school by the year 2005.”



Photo by Andrei Rudakov, Capital's Eye Agency

"You can help them too! Speak up! Add your voice to thousands of others all over the planet!"

"Your words will show to the leaders of your country, and to the world, that you do care, and that you want them to help see that all children can go to school. Speak up now! Together we can change the world!"

"I am in favour of every child on the planet being able to get a quality education. Educated, we can change the world together!"

More than 60,000 Russian young people signed this petition. The winners from Russia represented their country in Rotterdam, where at the end of June, the finals were held between teams from 20 countries, including France, Spain, Great Britain, Brazil, and Mexico.

At the start of the tournament, the girls' team from Omsk Public School 58, led by Captain Kristina Chekhova, beat Argentina with a score of 5:0, while the boys lost to Argentina. They then played against the teams from France, but the French

girls won. As a result, the boys' team from Vladimir took third place on the winner's stand, and returned home with gifts and bronze medals.

"In the fight for education, a lot of different methods are good," believe Kristina Chekhova and Sergei Endoltsev, the captain of the Vladimir boy's team. "How can somebody *not* be able to go to school? Of course, we don't like all subjects the same, but you still have to learn them! These days, you can't survive without an education. All children should have the same opportunities."

NAN Urges to Talk about Drugs

According to some expert estimates, around 200 million people around the world are drug addicts. This is 4.7% of the planet's population over the age of 14. In Russia, the real number of drug addicts could be as high as around 4 million, while the number of children and adolescents who use drugs and alcohol, or who sniff glue, grows every day.

Alcohol and drug use, tobacco smoking, and glue sniffing are all just the tip of an enormous iceberg called the "social and psychological disadaptation of minors" – so say the workers at the Say "No" to Alcoholism and Narcotics Foundation (NAN), an old and trusted partner of UNICEF.

For many years now, the NAN Foundation has been developing social techniques aimed at preventing alcoholism and drug addiction, and at helping people who are already chemically dependent. The foundation also puts together and implements comprehensive programmes for helping children in crisis situations, and promotes the principles of a healthy lifestyle.

"A child cannot deal with the problems of alcoholism and drug addiction all on his own," believes the President of NAN Oleg Zykov. "That's why one important line of our work is creating a comprehensive rehabilitation facility for children and adolescents. We offer treatment and rehabilitation targeted at the medical, psychological, and social aspects of the illness."

At the foundation's newly-opened Kvartal facility, teens are offered a comprehensive programme based on one and a half to two months of intensive rehabilitation. The foundation's specialists provide medical assistance, individual and group therapy, art therapy and theatre classes, classes in bodybuilding and computers, psychological testing and job counseling, and individual sessions with a corrective speech therapist. The Kvartal centre can handle 25 teens at any one time.

June 26 is the International Day of the Fight against Drug Abuse and the Illegal Drug Trade. This year, the day's slogan was the challenge "Let's Talk about Drugs". As UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in his address for the day, "The slogan 'Let's Talk about Drugs' emphasizes the need to recognize that the problem exists, and to summon the courage to do something to solve the problem. As practice shows, support from parents who care and are sensitive to the child's problems are one of the most important factors protecting our children from drug addiction. All of us assume

special responsibility for the many young people who do not have such caring support inside their families".

RF Vice Premier Galina Karelova went to the Kvartal centre to discuss the problems of preventing drug addiction and rehabilitating young people. Taking part in the discussions were Oleg Zykov, President of the NAN Foundation, and workers from the centre. Also present were Rosemary McCreery, UNICEF's Representative in the Russian Federation and Belarus, and Ella Pamfilova, Head of the Civil Society for the Children of Russia nationwide union of non-governmental organizations and Chairperson of the RF Presidential Commission on Human Rights. The discussion was both open and constructive.



Vice Premier of the Government of the Russian Federation Galina Karelova during her visit to the Kvartal centre

VII Russian Congress of Phthisiatricians

VII Russian Congress of Phthisiatricians took place in Moscow on 3-5 June 2003 where 1003 delegates participated representing TB services of all the subjects of the Russian Federation, medical services of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Emergency,

and the Federal Security Service as well as representatives from the USA, India, Belgium, the Great Britain, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan.

Special Representative of the WHO Director-General in Russia Dr Mikko Vienonen, Regional Adviser for TB of the Regional WHO Office for

Europe Dr. Richard Zaleskis and WHO TB Control Programme Co-ordinator in Russia Dr. Wieslaw Jakubowiak took part in the Congress.

The aim of the Congress was to summarize results of TB control activities during the last years and to set up prospects for the development of TB care in Russia. Common position of the national TB specialists in terms of TB detection, diagnostics, treatment, and TB patients' rehabilitation was agreed upon.

The scientific programme of the Congress had more than 200 reports which demonstrated latest achievements of the national and international science in TB prevention, detection, diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation of TB patients. A book of the Congress materials was published including more than 800 abstracts of the scientific papers.

Participants of the Congress adopted the Declaration addressed to the Russian society and appealing to join efforts in fighting TB - for the welfare of Russian people and all mankind.



The participants of VII Russian Congress of Phthisiatricians listen to a greeting speech made by Dr Mikko Vienonen, Special Representative of the WHO Director-General in Russia

Declaration of VII Russian Congress of Phthisiatricians 5 June 2003, Moscow

Hereby the participants of the Congress representing public professional union of the TB services workers announce:

Russian society and the government should recognize that tuberculosis (TB) is a heavy burden the mankind has been carrying for millennia. TB is not only an infectious disease but also a complicated biological and social phenomenon. Spread of TB is the best evidence of the social difficulties, low living standards and neglect of the public health interests.

Drastic social and economic recession and weakening of the government support of the TB services at the early 90s of XX century resulted in the natural deterioration of the TB epidemiological situation. It was taken as a great concern not only by the health care workers but the Russian society as a whole, the government, and attracted attention of the international community. TB problem became a priority again and was ranked as important issue in security provision of the Russian citizens.

Spread of TB can be prevented only through the complex of social, economic and medical activities under unified public policy and strategic planning at the national level.

Participants of the Congress have to emphasize that the Russian TB School and practice have accumulated an enormous experience in TB control, including treatment of TB in extremely unfavorable social and economic conditions. During the World War II and severe post-war years the national principles of TB



control allowed restraining spread of TB epidemic – mostly through organizational measures. They were based on the wide complex of medical and social activities under public management and regulation. The new stage of TB control was started during the last years. It is connected with return to the fundamentals of government support of all TB control activities nation-wide and fixed in the Federal Law No. 77-FZ, of 18 June 2001, “About prevention of TB spread in the Russian Federation” and Decree of the Russian Government № 892, of 25 December 2001, on implementation of this Federal Law.

Important is re-establishment of our public organization – the Russian Society of Phthisiatricians, conducting Russian Congresses of Phthisiatricians, recommencement of the monthly publication of the Society’s printing department – “Problems of TB and pulmonary diseases” magazine.

Current social and economic conditions, reforms in public health and development of the medical science determine necessity in changing the TB control organization at the new stage. These changes are being implemented taking into consideration the scientific achievements, Russian practice and international experience. The current principles of TB control were widely discussed among professionals and are fixed in the Prikaz of the Russian Ministry of Health No. 109, of 21 March 2003, “On Improvement of the Tuberculosis Services in the Russian Federation”.

The positive tendencies in prevention of TB spread confirm the appropriateness of the chosen policy, though the overall TB epidemic situation in Russia is still tense. Within the next few years in order to provide the stable decrease of detriment from TB in the Russian Federation it is necessary to prioritize and develop the following directions of TB control activities:

– To create the common system of TB state monitoring using modern information technologies;

– To improve detection of the primary TB infection and new cases using immunological, molecular-biological, x-ray and microbiological methods and attracting the doctors of all specialties and departments to this work;

– To take measures on prevention of TB spread as a result of domestic, in-hospital and professional contacts;

– To improve effectiveness and efficiency of TB treatment on the basis of the complex and controlled therapy, usage of the efficient organizational treatment forms and new technologies in surgery treatment;

– To differentiate the bed stock;

– To provide centralized supply of drugs to TB facilities, first of all antituberculosis drugs, vaccines and medical equipment;

– To create the system of TB control activities among HIV-infected persons;

– To organize the complex of activities on social support for TB patients;

– To improve education and training of medical workers and population on TB issues;

– To intensify the scientific fundamental and applied research in order to create the new and to improve the existing principles and methods of TB control.

The indispensable condition of successful TB control is keeping and development of human resources of TB services. In the shortest possible time it is necessary to implement the complex of activities to increase the material provision and social prestige of the staff in TB institutions including surmount of obstacles in the new Labor Legislation.

The Russian Phthisiatricians express their gratitude to the World Health Organization and other international organizations for assistance and support in prevention of TB spread. We will continue active international cooperation and believe that experience of the Russian TB service will continue being demanded outside of our country.

The Congress appeals to all citizens of Russia, legislative, executive authorities and local self-government, medical workers of all specialties, public organizations and mass media to unite the efforts for TB Control – for the welfare of Russian people and all mankind.



More than 1,000 delegates of the VIIth Russian Congress of Phthisiatricians appeal to all citizens of Russia to unite the efforts for TB Control

WHO Blames Violence: 1,650,000 Deaths A Year



Launch of the WHO world report on Violence and Health and an overview of Violence and Health in Russia in ITAR-TASS.

Left to right: Prof Dmitry Veltishev, Dr Ruslan Khalfin, Dr Marc Danzon, Dr Alex Butchart, Dr Mikko Vienonen

Launch of the WHO world report on Violence and Health and an overview of Violence and Health in Russia was organized by the Ministry of Health, Moscow Scientific-Research Institute of Psychiatry, State Scientific Centre for Social and Forensic Psychiatry named after Serbskiy and the World Health Organization on 7 June in ITAR-TASS. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, other ministries, different medical institutions, organizations and mass media participated in the launch. WHO was represented by Dr Marc Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr Nata Menabde, Director, Division of Country Support, WHO/EURO, Dr Alex Butchart, Advisor, WHO/HQ and Dr Mikko Vienonen, Special Representative of the WHO in Russia.

The World report, which is the first comprehensive overview of the issues related to violence and health at the global level, aims at increasing public awareness of this problem and intensification of a wide range of activities for the prevention of violence and the mitigation of its consequences for individuals, families and societies.

Violence is a leading cause of deaths and non-fatal injuries around the world and an essential public health issue for all countries. Globally, the annual total of around 1.65 million deaths due to violence is roughly equal to the number of tuberculosis deaths. According to the World report on Violence and Health, every day over 4 000 people around the world die a violent death, nearly half due to suicide, almost one third due to homicide and one fifth in war-related violence. The problems arising from violence put a considerable burden on the national budget in terms of health care, law enforcement, and lost earnings due to premature death and disability.

Different forms of violence are analyzed in the report: violence among the youth, domestic violence, violence against childhood and elderly people, sexual and collective violence as well as suicidal behaviour. The experience of governmental and non-governmental organizations in prevention of violence and its consequences is described in the report. Besides there is a number of recommendations for the violence prevention which were adopted by the

World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA56.4) in May 2003.

The statistical overview on Violence and Health in the Russian Federation, which was prepared by Professor Dmitry Veltishev was also presented on the launch.

The idea of looking at the nature of violence and violence prevention from the perspective of public health is rather new for the Russian Federation, and therefore the statistical data is actually not available. The estimated rates of homicides and suicides in the Russian Federation are among the highest in the world. Violence is realized in different forms – from instances of suicide and homicide to humiliation, and could be identified in different social groups: in families, in school, among youth, violence against children, women, elderly people and other vulnerable population categories.

Violent deaths due to homicides and suicides in the Russian Federation



Dr Marc Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe, addresses the participants of the launch of the WHO world report



constitute almost one third of all deaths from external causes, and exceed mortality rates for many other diseases. In 2001, the violent death rate for homicides and suicides combined was 69,5/100,000 residents, being approximately three times higher than the global average rate. In absolute figures, the annual violent death toll in the Russian Federation is about 100,000 persons.

Every year, more than 3,500 adolescents aged 14–17 years die as a result of violence, with 6,000–8,000 being injured. In 2000, 639,900 children were registered under institutionalized care – at orphanages, children's homes, and other types of institutions. Of this number, about 90% are abandoned children and children whose parents have been divested of their parental rights as a result of maltreatment. Every year, more than 1,500 crimes of a sexual nature are committed against the underage, which cause one of the most serious types of psychic trauma affecting children's adaptation in the future life.

The suicide rate in 2001, was 39.7/100,000 residents. The highest suicide rates are observed in the age group 45–54, especially among males. Overall, suicide rates in Russia for males are six times higher compared to those for females. Leading factors provoking the suicidal behavior include alcohol abuse and depressive disorders.

In 2000, there were 135 acts of terrorism, the majority of which (85%) were in the Chechen Republic. During 1994–2001, the number of victims resulting from the Chechnya war (including killed, wounded and missing people) among the civil population and the military reached 61,000–63,000, according to different data sources. In 2000, there were 1,291 cases of taking hostages and 146 assassinations.

The conference adopted the resolution where said that Russian society sustains enormous losses due to the



The participants decided to establish a Special Group of experts to elaborate a National Plan of Actions aimed at ensuring multisectoral approach for violence prevention and improvement of services provided to the victims of violence

prevalence of violence in all its forms. The majority of these losses are currently "invisible" to the health care system due to dominated information on criminal violence. Violence prevention requires consolidation of efforts between the systems of health care, education, justice, interior, social policy, various agencies, associations and public health founda-

tions, as well as non-governmental organizations. The participants took decision to establish a Special Group of experts representing different organizations and institutions to elaborate a National Plan of Actions aimed at ensuring multisectoral approach for violence prevention and improvement of services provided to the victims of violence.

World Health Organization (WHO) works with others to improve the health of population, by helping Member States. WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with 191 Member States. WHO Headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The European Regional Bureau is in Copenhagen, Denmark.

WHO has four main functions:

- to give worldwide guidance in the field of health;
- to set global standards for health;
- to cooperate with governments in strengthening national health programmes;
- to develop and transfer appropriate health technology, information and standards.

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Special Representative of the Director – General in Russia –
Dr. Mikko Vienonen.

Sighting at Small Arms and Light Weapons

On July 17, the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Moscow held a round table, dedicated to prevention and elimination of illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons. "The UN in Russia" correspondent asked Alexandre Gorelik, the UNIC/ Moscow Director, to enlighten this event as well as the issue.



Every hour small arms and light weapons kill 60 human beings worldwide, or half a million life a year. Therefore, small arms and light weapons as a matter of fact are nothing but a weapon of mass destruction.

That is why the UN Department of Public Information instructed UNICs last May to publicize the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

The central element of our promotion campaign was the round table on the outcome of the New York gathering, which the Centre organized on its premises. The meeting required several weeks of intensive preparatory work, involving coordination with the Foreign Ministry and interaction with the UNDP/Moscow Office and the UN Country Team. As a result, the round table, which

Small Arms and Demobilization Unit, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP/Geneva, and his colleague, Ms Kristina Kravtchenko. For the first time ever, a representative of the NATO Liaison Mission Military in Moscow participated in a UNIC-led event. The Russian attendance was also impressive: representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, the State Committee on Military and Technical Cooperation, the expert community and the media have been with the Centre.

Russia's official position, which had been presented during the New York conference, was again outlined in detail in the course of

had been initially conceived as a free and informal exchange, rather than an event "for the record", turned out to be representative enough. The Centre succeeded in securing the attendance of Mr Prosper Bani, Small Arms Specialist,

the discussion. Most importantly, however, the voice of the local expert community, in particular representatives of Centre for Analyses of Strategies and Technologies (CAST) and Russian Institute of Strategic Research, was also well heard. Thus, members of the expert community, in particular M.Pyadushkin from CAST, while heeding Moscow's official stance, warned against skipping a very serious problem - the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons inside the country, especially in view of instability on Russia's southern borders and across the Central Asian and Transcaucasian regions.

In his concluding remarks, the Foreign Ministry representative and deputy head of the Russian delegation to the New York gathering, Vladimir Yermakov, spoke in favour of closer contacts with the civil society in joining efforts to prevent and eliminate the illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons.



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