REECAS NEWSLETTER

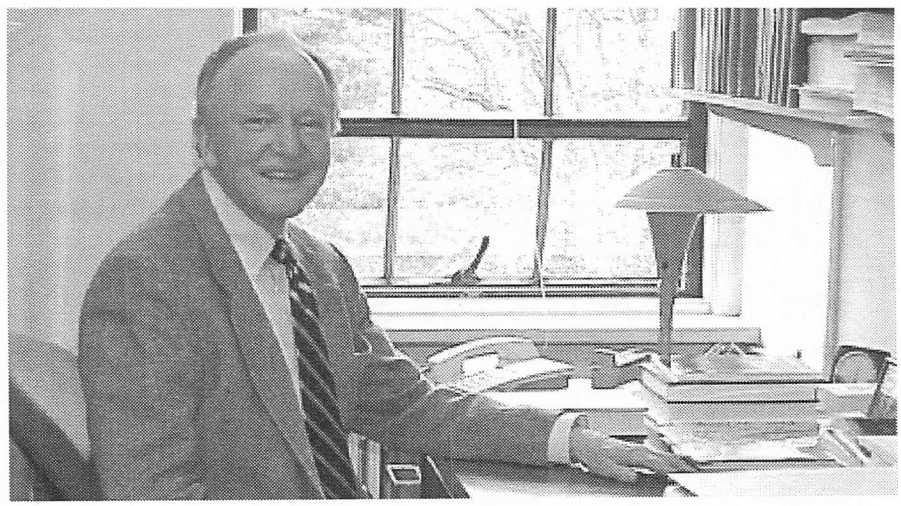
RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SPRING/SUMMER 2002

Professor Herbert Ellison's Outstanding Contributions to Eurasian and International Affairs

BY STEPHEN E. HANSON, REECAS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

After thirty-four years of distinguished service to the University of Washington, and nearly a half century as one of the leading figures in the field of Soviet and post-Soviet studies, Professor Herbert J. Ellison has announced his retirement as of June 2002. It is very hard to put into words what Dr. Ellison has meant to this institution, and to our program in Russian studies in particular. Suffice it to say that the current national and international reputation of both the REECAS program and the Jackson School as a whole can be traced in large measure to Ellison's vision, leadership and tireless enthusiasm for teaching and research in Eurasian and international affairs.



Herb Ellison

Born in Portland, Oregon, Ellison received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from the University of Washington. He wrote his doctoral dissertation while on a Fulbright fellowship at the University of London, under the supervision of the eminent historian Hugh Seton-Watson. He held faculty positions at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Kansas before returning to the UW in 1968. Since then, he has held a variety of important administrative positions, serving as Director of the Jackson School of International Studies, Director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Vice President of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Research and Exchanges (IREX) Board of Washington, D.C. and Director of Eurasian Research for the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) in Seattle. He was also a key player in the creation of the Russian language program in the Soviet Union organized by the Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE)—the program through which I (along with a group of students that also included REECAS faculty member Glennys Young) first visited the USSR as a graduate student in 1986. Indeed, it seems that Ellison has played a central role in just about every major organization in Soviet and Russian studies.

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He has done so, moreover, while continuing to produce a stream of enlightening publications on diverse aspects of Soviet history and post-Soviet international relations, including important works on such topics as Soviet foreign policy toward Western Europe, Sino-Soviet relations, the nature of Gorbachev's *perestroika* and the role of post-Soviet Russia in the changing international arena of Northeast Asia. He has also served as Executive Producer and Chief Consultant for the highly-regarded PBS/BBC tele-vision series *Messengers from Moscow* on the history of the Cold War and the PBS documentary *Yeltsin,* which was nominated for an Emmy award.

Along with Ellison's remarkable record of scholarship, he has long been one of the most beloved teachers at the University of Washington. His undergraduate courses on the history of communism and on Soviet and Russian history have been perennial favorites, and many of his graduate students have gone on to distinguished academic careers of their own. Fortunately, future generations of students in REECAS and other UW programs will continue to benefit from Ellison's wit and wisdom: after taking next academic year off to complete his current book project on the Yeltsin era, Ellison plans to teach two courses per year for us from that point forward.

On a personal note, I'd like to say that having Herb Ellison as a senior colleague has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my own work here at the University of Washington. He has been a mentor, an inspiration and a cherished friend. I hope that in my own work as REECAS Director I can continue, in some small way, the great tradition in Russian and Eurasian studies that he has done so much to build. ◆

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES

Ten Years After the Soviet Union

The REECAS program and the counterpart Russian and East European Studies Center at the University of Oregon hosted the 8th annual REECAS Northwest Regional Conference on Saturday, April 27 in Eugene. Numerous scholars and students presented their research on a variety of topics, ranging from religion to economic transition to urban planning in Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Several REECAS students, faculty and affiliated scholars from the University of Washington were on hand to give presentations. M.A. candidate **Biljana Bijelic** discussed the creation of negative stereotypes in the West toward societies in the former Yugoslavia and how these discourses affect the attribution of responsibility for violence perpetrated in the recent conflicts. First year M.A. student **Justin Odum** discussed the mass deportation of the Meskhetian Turks under Stalin and the hurdles to returning to their Georgian homeland. M.A. candidate **Zulfiya Lafi** analyzed the new geopolitical realities in Central Asia as a result of the US war on terrorism and increased US presence in the region. M.A. candidate **Autumn Lerner** presented her research on the history and politics of stifling sex education in Russian society.

Other UW affiliated speakers were:

Josette Baer, visiting Swiss scholar: *Boxing and Politics in Slovakia – Meciarism's Roots, Theory, Praxis*

Margarit Mamikonyan, visiting Armenian Scholar: *Establishing Equilibrium Exchange Rate Policy in Armenia and the CIS*

William Richardson, Professor in Interdisciplinary Arts and Science, UW Tacoma: *Bolshoi Vladivostok: Architecture and Urban Planning in the Stalinist Era*

George Rueckert, Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature: *The New Developments at the Tartu School of Semiotics: Peeter Torop's Totalnii Perevod*

Tsvetanka Spassova-Stoyanova, Law Student: *Bulgaria During the Years of Transformation – Legal Aspects*

Nathaniel Trumbull, Ph.D. candidate in Geography: *Transportation, Urban Form and the Environment in St. Petersburg: Challenges and Opportunities*

Tanya Wanchek, Ph.D. candidate in Economics: *Property Rights, Trade and Investment: Exploring the Assumptions in Transition Economies*

George Wright, Professor in Family Medicine: *Economic Performance among Central Asia's New Nations – False Starts or Promising Beginnings*

UW's REECAS Program Director **Stephen Hanson** and UW Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization **Ilse Cirtautas** joined visiting Treadgold Lecturer Janusz Bugajski from the Center for Strategic International Studies in addressing the conference in a plenary session on the theme, "Ten Years After the Soviet Union." ◆

Sponsors included the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program (REECAS) at the University of Washington and the Russian and East European Studies Center (REESC), Comparative Literature and the Oregon Humanities Center at the University of Oregon.

REECAS Welcomes Our New Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator

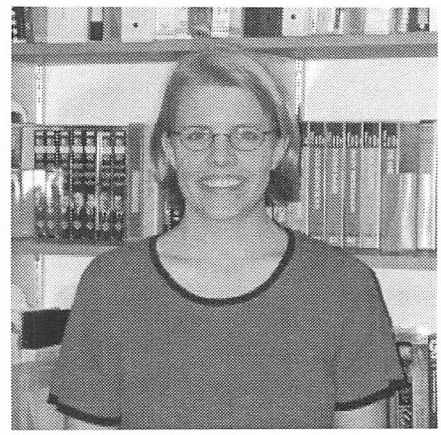
REECAS was pleased to welcome Marta Mikkelsen as Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator in January. Marta brings to this position a wide variety of analytical, policy and management experience focused particularly on the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Marta came directly from Washington, D.C., where she served as Program Officer for Eurasia with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), specializing in the Caucasus and Central Asia. She also served as a Resident Manager for NDI in Tbilisi, Georgia during Spring and Summer 2001, helping local civic groups advocate for legislative reform, monitoring elections—and learning Georgian. Her Master's degree in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies provided a good basis for her work with NDI. She applied her concentration in conflict management and development economics, concentrating on the Caucasus and Central Asia, to help manage NDI's programs in the region.

Her policy background includes an internship at the US Department of State in 1999, analyzing relevant legislation's impact on the Newly Independent States. She also gained other policy-related experience in the Washington, D.C. area, including a position as legislative correspondent for foreign affairs for US Senator Dianne Feinstein from 1996 to 1998, covering topics from Afghan women's rights to the trafficking of drugs, weapons and persons.

Coming to UW after five years in the Washington, D.C. area and undergraduate study on the East Coast is a welcome homecoming for the Seattle-area native. Her family had provided the original impetus for her Eurasian interests, particularly stories from her Polish father of her grandfather's experiences in the Danish Red Cross in the Russian Civil War and its aftermath. These influences led to her study of German and Russian and exploration of both Central Europe and areas further east.

Since her arrival, Marta has participated in several REECAS events, including co-leading a session on Georgia and the Georgian language for World Languages Day at the UW on March 8. She and Jim McKinney, a REECAS M.A. student under the Foreign Area Officer program, who also served in Georgia, highlighted the country's deeply entrenched corruption, recent civil wars and energy crisis, which present enormous challenges for establishing democracy and genuine economic development. She has also been active with Jackson School outreach programs, and she served as a session chair for a panel on transition economies at the REECAS Northwest 8th Annual Conference at the University of Oregon in Eugene in April. One of Marta's goals



Marta Mikkelsen with Outreach Collection

is to continue developing alumni contacts and career planning opportunities for REECAS students.

Her graduate focus on ethnic conflict will serve as a basis for her course in Summer 2002, EURO 490: Post-Soviet Politics & Society. The course will examine and compare the different paths of independence and transition taken by the 15 former Soviet republics as well as focus on ethnic tension and conflict that have emerged in several of these countries.

Our transition during the past few months has been highly successful and we look forward to continued growth, taking advantage of Marta's unique perspective and enthusiasm for developing the REECAS program. ◆

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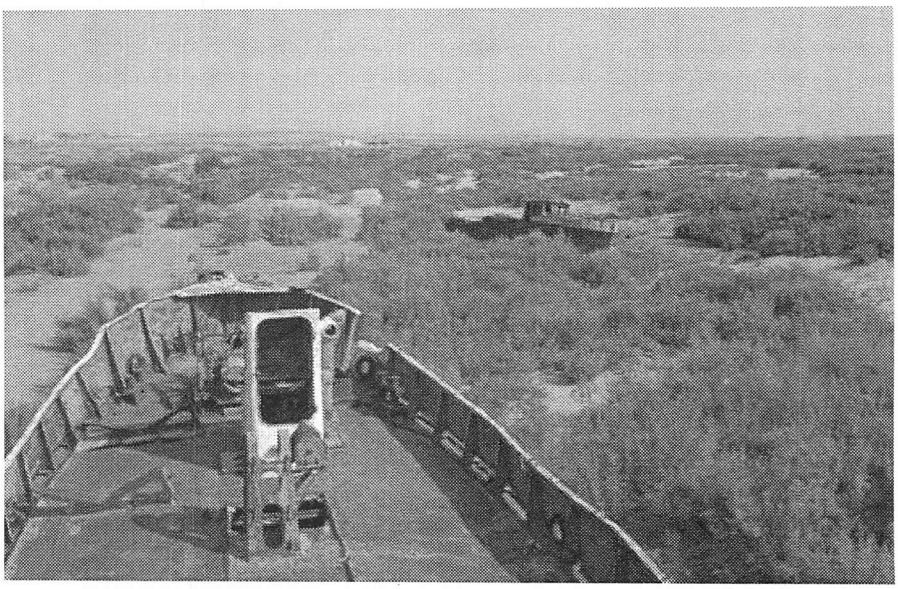
Medical Assistance in Uzbekistan

BY MARY E. DIRKSEN

When I first learned of my assignment with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, aka Doctors Without Borders) in Uzbekistan, no clear picture came to mind of what to expect. Like many westerners, my knowledge of Central Asia was limited—former Soviet states, Muslim republics, transition countries with many health and social needs. My location assignment—Karakalpakstan—brought more confusion. Wasn't I going to Uzbekistan? All my uncertainties would be answered with time and experience.

The disappearance of the Aral Sea, which resulted from a series of poor agricultural decisions, has essentially destroyed the primary sources of livelihood for an entire population. Combined with the breakup of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of former social and health infrastructures, the health of the Aral Sea Area population has become increasingly fragile. Nearly 5 million people in the area—which includes all of Karakalpakstan, an autonomous region in western Uzbekistan, western Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan—are struggling for survival. Unfortunately, the international community has neglected this serious health situation. Although such agencies as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program have carried out extensive assessments, no effective long-term development programs are in place.

In 1997, MSF sent an exploratory team to investigate the health effects of the disappearing Aral Sea and to determine what could be done in response. Many of the identified problems, including widespread poverty, corrupt bureaucracies, a lack of safe water and myriad chronic diseases, are beyond its scope as a medical emergency aid organization. However, in recent years, MSF has determined that the impact of some disease epidemics are of such import that they should be considered chronic emergencies. Tuberculosis (TB) is one such disease and it is within this framework that MSF developed its Aral Sea Area Programme. While TB rates throughout the former Soviet Union countries surpass the World Health Organization's (WHO) standard for epidemic status, TB rates in the Aral Sea area are among the highest in the world outside of sub-Saharan Africa. Left untreated or improperly treated, entire villages can become infected.



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Graveyard of ships near Muynak, which was formerly a busy fishing port and is now more than 130 km from the sea.

MSF chose to focus this program on tuberculosis, not because it is more important than any other health problem in the region, but because we thought we could do something about it on several levels. First, TB is curable, and we use a proven treatment strategy endorsed by the WHO. Second, the strategy emphasizes early case detection, which can dramatically prevent the spread of infection. Finally, the goal of encouraging the Ministry of Health to adopt this strategy into its National TB Health Policy is crawling towards realization.

The Aral Sea Area Programme began in Muynak and Kungrad, two particularly economically distressed *raions* (regions) in Karakalpakstan, the most economically depressed part of Uzbekistan. TB project sites have since been added in Khorezm Oblast in Uzbekistan and Dashaguz Oblast in Turkmenistan. The goal of the program is that all *raions* in these regions will have a functional TB program by the projected end of the mission in early 2004.

The cornerstone of the program is educating and training local health workers on identification and appropriate treatment of tuberculosis. Ultimately, our goal is to assist in the development of a national TB program that is sustainable long after MSF departs. We provide local, regional and national health care workers, laboratory technicians, and Ministry of Health officials with information and training and travel throughout the *raions* to ensure adherence to the program standards. A Regional Training Center was established in Nukus, which is now completely managed locally. We also are trying to increase awareness that TB is curable and to decrease the stigma associated with the disease through health promotion activities in community bazaars, factories and schools and radio and television public service announcements. We also sought to utilize the most effective drugs by conducting a Drug Sensitivity Testing study in 2001 to determine the level of resistance to first-line anti-TB drugs in the region and are now planning to explore the possibility of implementing the more costly, but less resistant, use of second-line drugs.

TB Treatment and Education Efforts

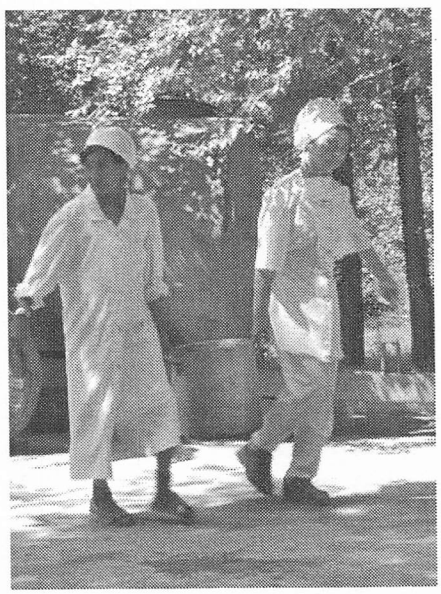
In implementing this program, we are constantly challenged to figure out systems that are contextually reasonable, that are safe for staff, patients and the environment, and that will also be sustainable after MSF leaves. At the same time, we have tried to raise the standards of patient care and working conditions. The Central Asian Republics have not always been an impoverished region. A functioning social and health infrastructure once existed, but we have encountered physical disrepair of medical facilities, lack of basic medical and sanitation supplies, lack of motivation among health workers and officials and the continued Soviet-era practices of bribery and corruption.

Conditions in most of the TB dispensaries (hospitals) are abysmal. The Republican TB Dispensary in Nukus, a 500-bed facility, has been sitting on a sewage leak for years. The sludge in the basement is not pumped out as often as necessary due to high cost. It has literally turned into a bio-hazardous mosquito breeding swamp. The TB respirator masks, hot as they are in summer, at least protect that part of my face from the mosquitoes, though they do not lessen the stench, which is often overwhelming. Patients sometimes refuse treatment rather than endure the conditions at this particular facility.

The lack of money has resulted in a scarcity of supplies and building maintenance, inadequate heat and lighting and various health and safety hazards. Bed frames are available in the dispensaries, but in some cases, patients need to bring their own mattresses. In almost all facilities, patients bring their own bed linens. Food prepared in dispensary kitchens is low in calories and protein; patients' families bring food from home if they have any to spare.

The preparation process for opening the TB program in a *raion* almost always includes rehabilitation of existing facilities, although it is often not possible to upgrade to the degree we would like since the costs are shared by MSF and the impovershed *raion*. In an effort to improve sanitation and waste management at the dispensaries, we are constructing secured waste compounds. These include an incinerator, a sharps pit for disposal of needles, vials, and other sharp or non-burnable waste and a soak-away pit for liquid waste. The previous waste management system was to dump the refuse in an unsecured manner on the compound and periodically set it on fire, which generally only smoldered and did not completely reduce all waste to ash. In particular, needles and vials remained intact. Alternatively, waste was periodically trucked to the desert and dumped.

I have found no TB dispensary or polyclinic with indoor running water or indoor toilets. The plumbing is leftover from the Soviet era, but water no longer flows to the buildings either because of the regional lack of water or the disrepair of the pipes. Current sources of water vary among facilities. At some, an outdoor pipe sticks out of the ground, either on the compound or a few hundred meters away, and may or may not have a shut-off valve. Nurses or cleaners fetch water during the hours when water is flowing. In other facilities, a tanker brings water to the compound and nurses or cleaners haul it into the building in buckets. At the Muynak dispensary, there were two wells on the compound, both of which contained salty and brownish water. By November, even this supply had dried up.



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With no running water at the Kungrad TB hospital, a tanker must daily bring water for the nurses to tote into the hospital.

The TB treatment regimen involves two to three months of in-patient treatment and five to six months of outpatient treatment at an ambulatory clinic. Successful treatment outcome depends on the direct observation of pill taking in the ambulatory phase of the treatment. There are quite a lot of outpatient clinics —many of them are so far out in the rural areas that it takes a 4-wheel drive vehicle to do our supervision visits. The idea, of course, is to have the health points close to the patients because most of them do not have cars. The health workers from these rural health points are supposed to follow-up with patients at their homes if, for example, patients do not show up at the clinic for their pills. That is also problematic because most of the health workers do not have cars and some patients truly live in very remote areas. The Minister of Health has stipulated that transportation for rural health workers is to be provided in the form of free bus passes. Even if this did happen, which health workers tell us is not the case, it does not solve the problem of reaching the most remote patients. Health workers have suggested they use bicycles, if available, but apparently they are too expensive for either individuals or even the cities to buy. In one *raion,* the health workers are making their rounds on horses and donkeys, but that is partly because the population for which they are responsible is nomadic.

This TB treatment program is completely cost-free to patients. One of the struggles is to ensure that all health workers understand they are not to sell the drugs or to accept bribes for treatment. Pills, syringes and treatments are not the only items at risk for profit-seeking. We have found our latex medical gloves in the bazaar and in hair salons and our TB respirator masks on construction workers. One of the challenges in getting newly diagnosed patients to go to dispensary for their two month intensive treatment phase is to convince them that they will not have to pay for it.

Lack of motivation is another particularly frustrating problem. The entire

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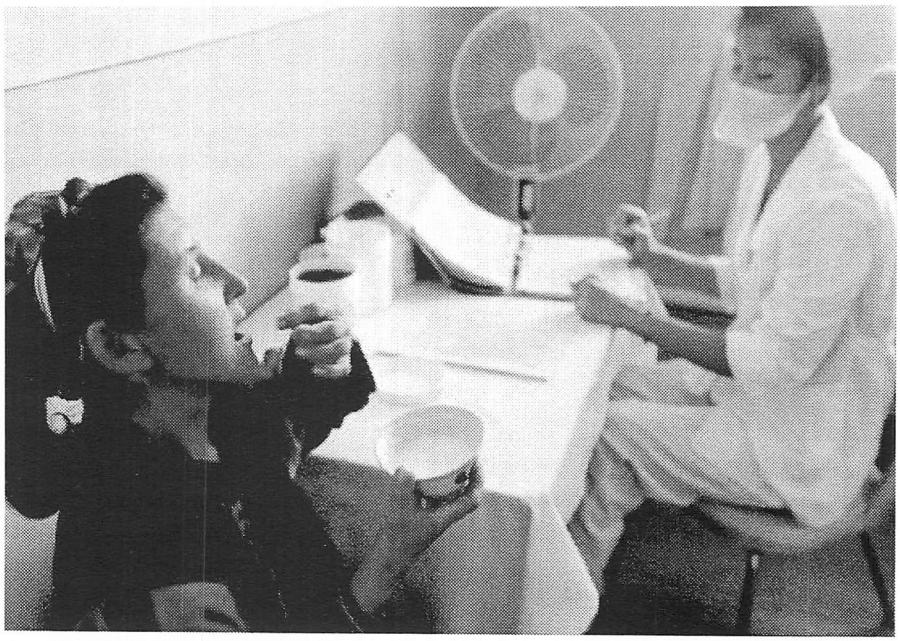
health care system has been deteriorating for quite some time and health workers have become resigned to not being able to offer much relief to patients and possibly even to working below their capability. The implementation of our TB program represents additional work for no additional pay. In one example, approximately half the workers at one TB dispensary were resisting the move to a newer and much superior facility because the old facility, by far the worst in the region, was within walking distance of most of their homes.

Nevertheless, some individuals are truly committed to their job and to the public health. These people are as frustrated as we are at the status quo, the lack of money for basic supplies and the lip service given to the program by their superiors. The chief doctor of the TB Sanatorium in Kizkitken required that his chief nurse, who has no car, pay her own way to the central pharmacy in Nukus to fetch the monthly supplies. This trip cost her nearly half of her monthly salary of 8,000 sums (about $5.50 in December 2001). While the chief doctor repeatedly agreed to remove that require-ment and always expressed complete support for the program, each supervisory visit brought the same report from the nurse.

Even those people in the *raion* dispensaries and clinics who are motivated and committed to making improvements demonstrate a lack of ability to think ahead to prevent inevitable problems. This seems quite reminiscent to us of the central planning system of the Soviet regime. Amongst our national staff and professional counterparts, many of whom will be instrumental in sustaining the program after MSF's departure, there seems to be some difficulty in adjusting to a new way of thinking that involves independent decision-making and planning ahead.

The rules and regulations of the Sanitation and Epidemiology Service (SES) are another example of lingering Soviet mentalities. Many of these regulations do not make sense and are not based in science, but they carry the weight of law and penalty for infractions. Some of the rules require the use of disinfectants, which are chronically in short supply for items that would be adequately cleansed simply with detergent. Other rules seem to reveal a lack of awareness of how TB is transmitted. Even penalties are illogical—usually levied against individuals in the form of salary reduction, rather than at the institutional level where systematic and structural changes could more effectively be made.



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Patient taking TB medication (usually taken with yogurt).

The training program involves nearly as much "unlearning" as new learning, which continues during the supervision visits. One of the reeducation issues is the widespread belief that any treatment involving an injection is more effective than oral medication. We encounter reluctance from both patients and staff to our phasing out of streptomycin, an injectable medication. Even more basic, the training program also addresses such issues as how to interact with patients in a manner that demonstrates concern and empathy, rather than relying on power and scolding.

Among the more unusual practices I have encountered, I learned that the dogs at the dispensary compounds were not there to keep the patients company, but to be eaten because dog fat is widely believed to cure many ailments, including tuberculosis. In fact, small bottles of dog fat can be found at the bazaar. Drinking the urine of a virgin will also reportedly cure TB, although as far as I can tell this is not available at the bazaar. And finally, TB is considered a disease of an empty stomach, since it is most vicious in the poorest areas, where food is scarce.

While the general population of Karakalpakstan is struggling to survive, we continue to struggle with the limitations of our mission, corrupt and/or drunken officials and dysfunctional systems. Clearly, development assistance is needed; MSF's role, as in other missions where we provide medical aid, is that of advocacy. We hope that, by raising awareness of the needs, development and financial organizations will join the cause. In this regard, I am optimistic about the progress of our project, and its associated goal of drawing the attention of other NGOs to the need for economic and development assistance. Despite the daily difficulties, I must also state that the past nine months working in Karakalpakstan have provided a personal and professional experience that I would never trade. ◆

Mary E. Dirksen, M.N., is an infectious disease and occupational safety specialist with Médecins Sans Frontières (aka Doctors Without Borders), an international humanitarian NGO. She was assigned to MSF's Aral Sea Area Programme in Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan from May 2001 to April 2002 and will soon be re-assigned to a new mission site. Email questions to: mdirksen@hotmail.com.

The Health Care System in Bosnia: The Seeds of Dissolution

BY CHARLES HOBSON

The socialist era of Yugoslavia was born in the midst of World War II; it ended, along with the state itself, in the recent wars of division. The health care system in Yugoslavia, like the economy as a whole, was battered in the financial crisis of the 1980s and then devastated in the recent wars. The Bosnian health care system, a microcosm of the pattern of urban and rural economic development throughout socialist Yugoslavia, provided a dramatic leap forward in health status for many Bosnians in the decades after World War II. Yet, it also contributed to both the social breakdown and economic crisis that led eventually to war.

Before the recent war, Bosnia was the most ethnically mixed of the republics of Yugoslavia. The population of the ethnic groups was, despite a few communities with a large plurality of one group, remarkably intermingled throughout the republic. Intermarriage between ethnic groups was very common, especially in the cities. In spite of the ethnic mix, the population was rather dramatically divided, literally and in the public consciousness, into a cosmopolitan urban sector situated in the river valleys and a rural peasantry in the mountains. This division originated during the Ottoman era. The urban centers were the centers of Turkish administration and those Bosnians living there tended to convert to Islam; the rural peasantry were relatively isolated from the Turkish influence and tended to stay Orthodox or Catholic.

Economic History

Josip Broz Tito initially tried to establish a strongly centralized economy, emphasizing rapid industrialization, nationalization of capital and the collectivization of agriculture. Later, he forged a path towards the uniquely Yugoslav socialism known as worker self-management or self-managing socialism, which devolved decisions to the republican and commune (roughly analogous to county) levels. Enterprises, including health care institutions, were to gain autonomy and to be managed by workers' councils.

During this period, the split between city and countryside continued to widen. The government's emphasis on rapid expansion of the economy through the development of urban-based industry and the relative neglect of agriculture was especially pronounced in Bosnia, where heavy industry was dominant. Peasants were enticed to leave the farm and to join the workforce through a pervasive differential in the social benefits allotted to workers over farmers. The social infrastructure, including health care facilities, was built by the government and situated in urban centers or often within industrial facilities themselves. As central control devolved to local entities, the local bureaucracy was given wider latitude in establishing programs beneficial to the urban worker. The result was a reduction in capital and other resources available for rural care. Party members were concentrated in the cities and they also tended to make decisions that favored the cities over rural areas. Combined with the differential in benefits (farmers were not included in the health insurance program at all until the 1960s, and then had only restricted benefits compared to workers), the tendency to favor the urban worker over the rural farmer exacerbated an already stark division in Yugoslav society.

Yugoslavia's economic crisis in the 1980s was marked by a progressive drop in productivity as in most socialist economies, a dramatic rise in foreign debt (due to the oil crisis and persistent trade deficits) and unemployment that reached 14 percent in the late 1980s. The return of Yugoslav guest workers, who had participated in the booming economies of Western Europe in the 1970s, exacerbated unemployment. They had provided badly needed foreign capital through remittances, and their departure from Yugoslavia in the 1970s had helped to hide the nascent unemployment. This

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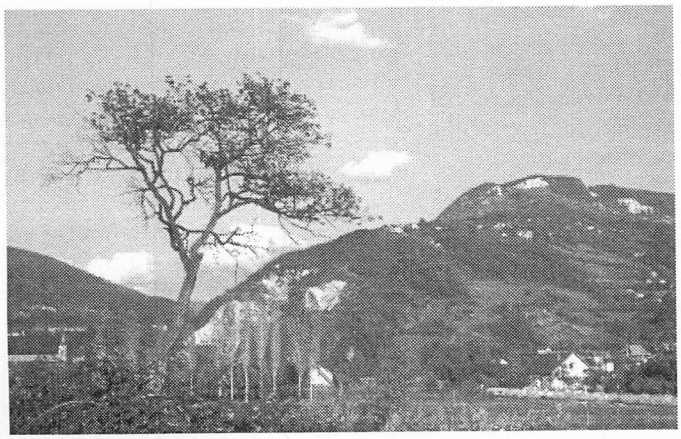
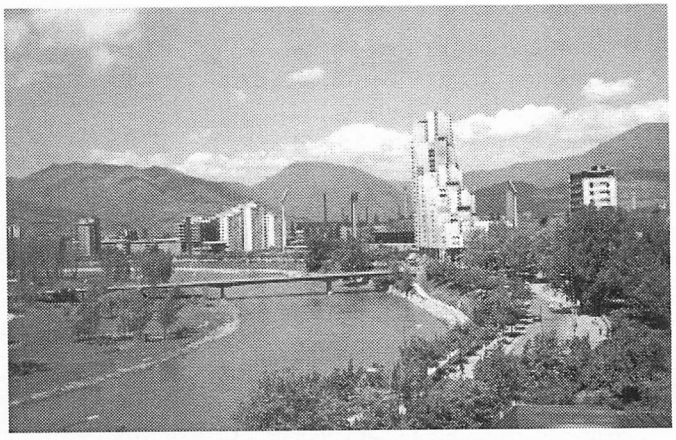


Rural Bosnia near Zenica.



The River Bosna and Zenica steel factory.

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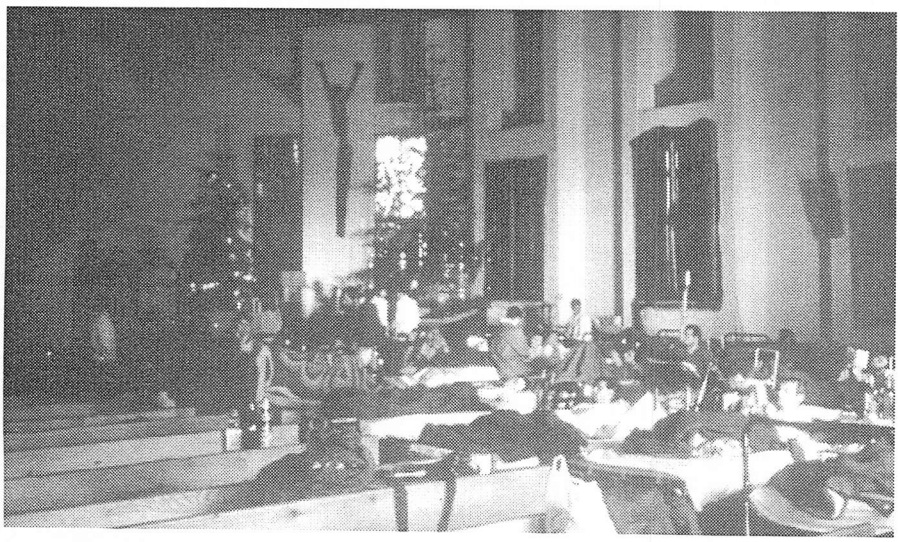
financial crisis put stress on all aspects of society, including the health care system.

Health Care System

After World War I, a system of some 240 hospitals and health centers had been established in Yugoslavia by the royal government under the direction of Andrija Štampar. These facilities were the nucleus for the modern Yugoslav medical system. Between 1945 and 1953, all health institutions were nationalized and developed into a Soviet-style central health system; a program of rapid health care construction was begun. The medical care system was developed to benefit the rapidly growing worker population to the relative neglect of those in rural areas and farmers did not receive the social insurance benefits established for workers.

Primary care was delivered by salaried general practitioners, who did not have admitting privileges and worked in community health centers. Primary care was hurried, averaging five minutes per visit, and generally lacked prestige for the practitioner. General practitioners were not comfortable with much more than the most basic problems, due to limited training and opportunities for continuing education. In addition, the system provided an incentive for the general practitioner to refer, since neither the quality nor quantity of care provided had any influence on salary. This resulted in general practitioners being known as "dispatchers" to their patients. Specialists' salaries were only marginally greater that those of the general practitioners, but specialists derived power and status as well as the opportunity for extra income from their positions in the hospital. Gifts and/or bribes were common extra incentives used by patients to gain access to highly-regarded specialists or to expedite care. This "gray" income was only available to physicians in the big urban hospitals, thus providing another incentive for physicians to stay in the cities.

Quality assurance was relatively underdeveloped in the Yugoslav health care system compared to western systems. No formal accreditation of either hospitals or medical schools was in place, although republic governments were expected to provide oversight for the institutions under their control. Little attention was paid to other quality of care indices; a review in 1977 noted only the occasional hospital-based pathology conference and a mandatory review of any patient whose care required a hospital stay of greater than 30 days. Continuing education was limited to the hospital-based providers for whom it was an explicit right and expectation. Malpractice lawsuits *did* exist, however; the hospital covered the charges for a negligent physician, who could then expect regular salary deductions for a certain period of time.



Nova Bila Franciscan Monastery serving as a war hospital early in the war.

State of Public Health

Immediately after World War II, the primary disease problems were infectious: malaria, typhus, diphtheria and tuberculosis. By the common crude indicators of health, the Yugoslav system achieved significant improvements in the post-war era. From 1950 to 1991, life expectancy grew from 36 to 64 years, while infant mortality dropped from 116/1000 to 27/1000 and infectious diseases were virtually eliminated.

Prior to the recent war, the disease profile had progressed to that typical of developed nations with cardiovascular disease, cancer and accidents topping the list. After the war, many of these advances were lost. A dramatic rise in infectious disease occurred: In the Zenica commune, with over 200,000 refugees in 1993 compared to a pre-war population of 60,000, the incidence of hepatitis A increased by 1200%. In the Sarajevo commune, the incidence of dysentery increased by 1300%. Child mortality rates and complications at childbirth increased by 50-100%. Tularemia, hemorrhagic fever and other diseases transmitted by rodents appeared as epidemics. The incidence of stroke and heart attack at the Zenica Regional Hospital increased several fold in 1993 and 1994 compared to the pre-war period. Stress, a lack of medication, the disruption of the health care system and an acute rise in tobacco consumption are all believed to have contributed. Little data is available on the health status in Bosnia since the end of the war in 1995.

Conclusions

The war in Bosnia from 1992-1995 had a subtle and extraordinarily destructive dimension: the conflict between village and city. In particular, the massive and senseless destruction of Sarajevo in the early stages of the war reflected a long simmering antagonism, between a neglected peasantry and a favored urban and industrial society, which erupted into an explosion of revenge. Symbols of city life with no military importance, like the headquarters of the newspaper Oslobođenje and the Bosnian National Library, were deliberately targeted and destroyed early in the war. The contribution of the health care system in Yugosla-

via to the division between city and village may explain why, contrary to the Geneva Convention, hospitals were particular targets of destruction throughout the war.

In the years after World War II, Bosnia made a leap into the ranks of the developed world. The Bosnian health care system was an integral part of that development. Yet despite these advances, Bosnia, along with all of Yugoslavia, descended into economic crisis and eventually into war. Through exacerbating the antagonism and divisions between the largely undeveloped rural areas and the cosmopolitan urban areas, the Yugoslav leadership aggravated the ethnic tensions that they had sought to quell after the Second World War. As the socialist economy failed, those tensions ignited into conflagration. The development of the health care system in Bosnia during the Communist era both reflected, and worsened, that division between city and country. ◆

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Russia's Unprecedented Health Crisis

BY DAVID M. PASCHANE AND NATHANIEL S. TRUMBULL

Russia's health statistics have been stunning in the last decade. Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union have set repeated records in declining average life expectancy. The deterioration of the health of the former Soviet Union's population has been unprecedented for an industrialized society outside of conditions of war. Russia also experienced the largest disparity between male and female life expectancy in an industrialized nation, a difference of 13.5 years more for females in 1994.[i] Murray Feshbach, a well-known demographer and author of several books on Russia, has characterized this situation as the "depopulation" of the Newly Independent States.[ii] Russia's life expectancy statistics are striking, but at the same time difficult to interpret.

The single most important factor in the crisis in Russia's recent demographic trends has been an increase in rates of mortality, which were particularly dramatic among working-age men in the early 1990s. One recent source reports that overall mortality has risen 40% between 1987 and 1994[iii] and the first half of 1998 shows that crude death rates are still 30% higher than they were in the final years of Soviet rule.[iv] All age-cohorts have faced unprecedented mortality increases, most notably among men. For example, between 1990 and 1995, the mortality for men aged 40 to 49 climbed by 77%.[v] The second most important factor in Russia's demographic projections has been the decline in birth rates in the early and mid-1990s.

Compared to the European average, Russia's male death rate is almost three times higher and for women, it is one and a half times higher.[vi] The same source reports that the 1996 death rates for men in Russia and the United States were 15.1 and 8.8 per 1,000, respectively. Although old age may account for a great deal of the mortality faced by other industrial countries, an estimated one third of Russian's mortality is among working-aged adults. The World Health Organization standardizes mortality data to control for population aging. Their findings suggest that Russia's excess mortality between 1992 and 1995 amounted to nearly 1.8 million.[vii]

A variety of causes may explain the increased mortality rate for males in Russia. Infectious and parasitic diseases and diseases of the circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems contribute. Cardiovascular diseases, and especially heart attacks and strokes, are also significant. The standardized death rate attributed to cardiovascular disease in Russia is significantly higher than the death rate in the United States.[viii] Smoking, alcohol, obesity, poor diet and largely untreated forms of psychological illnesses are likely determinant factors in high rates of cardiovascular disease. Cancer, another source of high mortality rates, developed through heavy smoking and contact with toxic emissions and chemicals in soil, food, and water, are likely contributing factors.

Morbidity rates in Russia have also been equally stunning in the past decade. Russia has experienced recent widespread outbreaks of tuberculosis, with a prevalence more than 10 times that in the United States (Among Russian prisoners, the reported case rate is 50 times the civilian rate). In 1995, the Russian health system was overwhelmed by the return of such epidemic diseases as cholera and typhoid fever, as it faced chronic staff and equipment shortages. In the winter of 1995-96, Russia suffered its most severe epidemic of influenza in decades. An estimated one million people were infected in Moscow alone. Schools and public institutions were closed to prevent the spread of the disease. Experts attributed the epidemic to the generally low level of resistance of much of the Russian population, poor overall health care and stressful economic conditions. Another cause was attributed, despite the availability of influenza shots, to the population's general belief that injections enhance rather than decrease an individual's chances of becoming ill.

Another cause for the high rate of morbidity is that Soviet-era supplies of materials and drugs have been depleted and are not being adequately replenished. The shortage of medicines in Russia has become chronic. Domestic production has dropped because of the obsolescence of pharmaceutical factories and shortages

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of raw materials; many of the items produced are also ineffective. Some of the country's public health crisis may also stem from lack of exercise and other organized health-promoting activities. Preventive medicine and wellness programs are virtually nonexistent, as are programs to educate the public about personal sanitation, proper diet and vitamins. One scholar has argued that medical practitioners are poorly trained, in addition to lacking modern equipment; half of medical school graduates cannot read an electrocardiogram when they enter into practice.[ix] But, it is difficult to generalize about average levels of medical knowledge.

The role of agriculture, food and diet in shaping the health of the Soviet Union and Russia has been marked by more confusion and misinformation than by accuracy and understanding. Agriculture in the Soviet Union and Russia has been a politicized affair, perhaps to a greater degree than in any other country. Doomsayers have portrayed a bleak situation of food supplies and diet in post-Soviet Russia. Feshbach wrote in 1996 of the Russian diet: "Much of the available food either is not fit for consumption or tends to produce detrimental health effects."[x] Feshbach cites the highly respected Alexey Yablokov, who served as advisor to Yeltsin in the early 1990s. Yablokov estimated that 30 percent of all food in Russia was contaminated in 1990, with 10% actually toxic to the consumer. Feshbach adds: "...approximately 40% of all baby food is contaminated with pesticides, herbicides, and especially nitrates." Still, other experts take a less dire view of Russian agriculture's contributions to the state of health.

Violent death has been another significant cause of mortality in the former Soviet Union. Men are the greatest victims of higher early mortality rates in Russia and alcohol appears commonly to play a central role in these types of deaths. Fatal alcohol poisoning is particularly common among Russians (Russia had 35,000 cases in 1996; the United States, with a population size twice that of Russia, has about 350 cases a year). Russia's rates of homicide and suicide are now among the highest in the world and are often alcohol-related. Unfortunately, public attitudes toward healthy behavior have not changed significantly during the post-Soviet period. It is unclear how the Russian male's traditional affinity for high alcohol usage could be reduced in the near future. The highly unpopular nature of Gorbachev's failed prohibition campaign for vodka in the early 1980s is still well remembered by Russian politicians.

The rampant economic and political corruption that has crippled the Russian social service infrastructure over the last decade also played a role in health-related behavioral decisions. The behavioral and attitudinal risk factors such as excessive alcohol consumption, heavy smoking and obesity, combined with the stress and anxiety of an economically disrupted society, may explain why Russia has the highest cardiovascular-related mortality among industrialized countries.

Fatal injuries are the biggest cause of mortality in Russia after cardiovascular disease. Many of these injuries are attributable to worksite accidents; a small but significant number of injuries and deaths also result from criminal and other lawless activity, though perhaps not in the sharp numbers that either the Russian or Western press might suggest. Homicide rates in most US cities continue to surpass rates in Russian cities.

The Russian mortality rates are even more distressing when suicide is considered. In 1993, the number of suicides was estimated at 56,000 and 67,000 in 1995.[xi] Many may view the decaying social structure as providing little alternative beyond suicide. As these data demonstrate, Russia's unprecedented crisis can be characterized by a prevalence of early death, violence and deleterious lifestyle decisions. The transition of the Russian population from its current state of health deterioration to health improvement is likely to be a long and slow affair.

An explanation of the severity of population decline in Russia is incomplete without considering Russia's low fertility and birthrates. Those rates are heavily influenced by high incidences of infant morbidity and mortality. Poor hospital conditions also result in long-lasting health complications for the mother and fewer overall births.[xii] Prolonged low birthrates are particularly important factors in determining future population as a whole.[xiii]

A conclusive analysis of the causes of the sharp decline in the health of residents of the former Soviet Union in the past decade may be premature. The challenges of isolating variables as important causal factors remain significant. We might instead conclude tentatively that an array of complex problems are determinant: Russia's combination of high mortality and low fertility together have resulted in a sudden and sustained negative population growth. Moreover, a deteriorating health service infrastructure, an increase in barriers to receiving primary aid and continuing negligent personal behavior are together at the root of the unprecedented trend in the former Soviet Union. Deaths continue to exceed births by well over half.[xiv] The total socio-economic and psychological effect of those problems may indeed be more detrimental than the sum of its individual parts. ◆

David M. Paschane and Nathaniel S. Trumbull are Ph.D. candidates in UW's Department of Geography. Paschane has written several publications related to medical geography and Trumbull researches Russian environmental issues.

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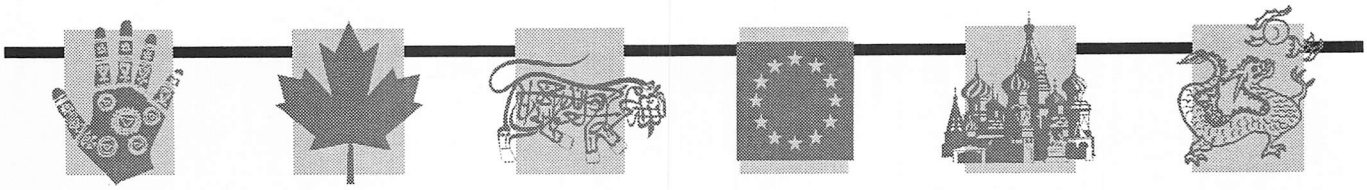

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Catholics and Communists in Post-War Slovakia

BY JAMES R. FELAK

Communism, as an atheistic ideology, has historically had a troubled relationship with Christianity and the Christian churches. East Central Europe is no exception in this respect. On the one hand, the Marxist ideology regards religion as a phenomenon destined to disappear when the masses develop a socialist consciousness and come to view religion as a means employed by the feudal lords, or the bourgeoisie, to keep people's minds focused on the afterlife rather than on working to transform their present miserable condition. On the other hand, religion did not always wither away once Marxists came to power and, in some cases, even grew stronger under Communism than it was in the West. Churches could serve as repositories of the national culture, bastions of a traditional morality and proponents of an alternative world view, all making them rivals to Communist attempts at total domination of the cultural and social spheres. Communists could not afford to give the churches free rein in society, lest they undermine Communist pretensions that the Party had society's complete loyalty. At the same time, Communists learned from past errors that an open assault on religion could alienate many of their subjects and impede Communist attempts to take over and to control a particular state and society.

As a major dimension of my study of Slovakia in the aftermath of the Second World War, I have chosen to examine the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Communist Party from 1945 to 1948. Slovakia, as part of the then newly reconstituted Czechoslovak Republic, presents a particularly interesting case. Between the end of the Nazi occupation in Spring 1945 to the Communist coup d'etat in February 1948, Czechoslovakia enjoyed a period of relative freedom and independence, a window of opportunity when Czechs and Slovaks were free to shape their own destiny. Five political parties were permitted to operate, two of which were allowed in Slovakia, and elections were free and fair. The Soviet Red Army, along with American forces, had left the country by December 1945. This put the Communists in a dilemma. They could not rely on the Soviet Army, nor on an undemocratic political structure, in order to achieve complete control of the state. To enhance their position in the republic, they actually had to win elections while competing on a level playing field with the non-Communist parties. They were able to do this in the Czech lands, drawing 38% of the vote in a four party race, one of the best showings ever anywhere for the radical left in a free election. Slovakia, however, was another story.

Andrej Hlinka

Religion, particularly Roman Catholicism, was deeply rooted in Slovakia. Czech insensitivity to Slovak Catholicism had been one of the causes of tension between Slovaks and Czechs in the 1920s and 1930s and helped lead to the growth of a strong Slovak nationalist movement under the leadership of the Slovak People's Party, led by the fiery Catholic priest Andrej Hlinka. In 1938 and 1939, Hlinka's party, now led by another Catholic priest, his successor Jozef Tiso, achieved autonomy and then independence for Slovakia in conjunction with Nazi Germany's dismemberment and destruction of Czechoslovakia. The Slovak nationalists had their own state, but one that was a gift from Adolf Hitler. That state, led by a Catholic priest, achieved notoriety for fighting as a German ally in the Second World War, and for deporting tens of thousands of its Jewish population to Nazi death camps. When the Third Reich collapsed, so did the Slovak state, and Slovakia was reincorporated into Czechoslovakia. The Slovak People's Party was outlawed, Tiso was arrested as a war criminal and only two political parties were permitted in Slovakia—the Communists and the Democrats. The latter was a new party, led by Lutherans (who made up around 15% of Slovakia's population), and founded by those non-Communists who fought alongside the Communists in the wartime Resistance movement.

In the spring of 1945, the Communist Party of Slovakia (KSS) was faced with a dilemma. Seventy percent of Slovakia's population was Roman Catholic, yet Catholics had only an atheistic or a Lutheran party from which to choose. The Communists realized that if they wanted to compete effectively with the Democrats, and become the dominant force in Slovakia, they would have to woo Catholic voters into their camp or at least keep them out of the Democratic camp. But along with wooing Catholics, the Communists wanted to weaken the influence of the Catholic Church in society. This was a tricky game, especially since the Democrats were willing and able to head off Communist flirting with Catholics with offers of their own.

For those inclined to believe that Communism always treated Catholicism with open hostility, the Communist maneuvers and tactics of the post-war period are eye-opening. Already in March 1945, Communist leaders expected that the Catholic clergy might be inclined towards the Communists on account of the Lutheran character of the Democratic Party. This led the KSS to make contacts with certain Catholic leaders and to sound out the possibility of collaboration. The Communists agreed to the establishment of a Catholic weekly newspaper, the appointment of several Catholics to the republic's provisional parliament and the instruction of Catholic catechism in public schools. As a way to split Slovakia's non-Communist forces, Communists actively encouraged Catholic intellectuals and politicians to

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establish a separate Catholic party. When the state began to hold official All-Slavic Day celebrations in early July, the Communists consciously sought to attract Catholics to the events and to the Pan-Slavic movement in general.

Most striking, however, is the way Catholicism and the Catholic Church were covered in the Communist press. *Pravda,* the KSS's daily newspaper, and *Nové slovo,* the weekly revue for Communist intellectuals, dealt with Church-related questions rather frequently. On their pages, one can find dozens of articles aimed at winning Catholics over to the Communist camp. The Communist relation to Catholicism was developed along at least four lines in the Communist press—(1) that neither the KSS, nor the Soviet Union, nor Communism in general, are enemies of Christianity, but rather defenders of its freedom; (2) that Christianity was a positive historical force, both for Slovakia and for Europe and the world; (3) that most Slovak Catholics were good people, with nothing in common with the wartime Tiso regime and its abuses; and (4) that Tiso and his supporters were actually bad Catholics, harming the Church and pursuing policies condemned by church leaders, including the Pope, in the service of anti-Catholic Nazism.

In asserting the Christian-friendly nature of Communism, the Communist press carried articles praising the Soviet Union for its alleged religious freedom at home, as well as for its service in defending the Catholic Church abroad. One article, entitled "Red Army Returns Religious Freedom to Poland," argued that the Soviets saved Polish churches and cultural monuments from the vandalism of "neo-pagan" Nazism, and pointed out how Catholic organizations, seminaries, press and the Catholic University in Lublin were all reactivated under Soviet occupation.

The Communist press also praised the historical contributions of Christianity, and Catholicism specifically, to Slovakia, Europe and the world. Gustáv Husák, a former Catholic and top Communist leader who became head of the Czechoslovak Communist Party from 1969 to 1988, not uncommonly made religious references in his speeches and articles. In his Christmas message of 1945 in Nové

Jozef Tiso

slovo (Yes, Communist newspapers had Christmas issues, along with Easter and Pentecost issues), he quoted St. Luke, the Old Testament, St. Francis of Assisi and Dante. In line with the Communist interpretation of the past, Husák praised the progressive character of early Christianity, with its concepts of love and justice, attacked "pagan values," called for cooperation between Communists and Catholics and branded opponents of progress as "false prophets."

In appealing to Catholics, Communist propaganda was careful not to identify the Tiso regime with Catholics or Catholicism. In fact, in a series of articles in December 1945, the Communist press went to pains to dissociate Tiso from Catholicism. Frontpage lead headlines, with titles such as "The Protest of the Vatican Against Tiso's Policy," "The Vatican Against Tiso," "Tiso Betrayed Even Catholicism," drove home the point. These articles, interesting in light of current controversies over the role of Pius XII during the Holocaust, asserted that Tiso disregarded Vatican protests against his racist policies and the persecution and deportation of Jews because, for Tiso, "the authority of Hitler was higher than the authority of the head of the Catholic Church."

In seeking to discredit Tiso in the eyes of Slovakia's Catholics, Communist rhetoric also stressed the anti-Catholic and anti-Christian character of Nazism, which was labeled as "neopagan," or even "satanic," and pilloried as a persecutor of Catholics and Christians in general. In contrast to Tiso and his supporters were the good clergy, those who remained loyal to the Czechoslovak Republic and were sympathetic to the Slovak wartime resistance.

Communist propaganda tried to show that Communism and Christianity were compatible, or even made for each other. In May 1946, for example, Pravda's regular featured column for working women was entitled "I am a Catholic and a Communist." It consisted of an account by a Slovak Catholic woman who, impressed by the respect a Communist speaker showed her faith, joined the KSS. She writes, "Hearing her words I felt: I can be a sincere Catholic; and if I want, in accordance with my faith, to live to help people, as my mother taught me, it would be good to join the Communists, who are helping people. I applied to the party and they accepted me. I am therefore a Catholic and a Communist, and thus, I can serve my family, the working people and God."

While no bishops and very few priests were open to collaboration with the Communists, a handful of clergy were found who were willing to actively serve Communist interests. The most prominent of these was Jozef Straka, a Catholic priest who joined the Communist party during World War II and emerged after the war as the Party's chief spokesman on religious affairs as well as head of the religious affairs department in Slovakia's Department of Education. During the May 1946 election campaign, Straka wrote in *Pravda* that the KSS was "for the support of the fulfillment of the mission of the Roman Catholic Church" (!!!).

Of course, Communist efforts at wooing Catholics were a shameless attempt to deprive the Democratic Party of Catholic votes and to enable the Communists to achieve electoral dominance in Slovakia. To this end, however, the Communists ran into some formidable obstacles. First, the Church's leadership was not swayed by Communist propaganda, and judged the party by its past and present treatment of the Church, not by its current propaganda line and token gestures. Church leaders balked at the state's refusal to allow the existence of Catholic youth organizations, parochial schools and Catholic dormitories, and the severe limitations on the number of Catholic periodicals permitted. It was clear that Communists were proponents of these restrictions. Catholic leaders also resented the internment of clergy and lay

Catholics for alleged collaboration with the wartime regime, pointing out that the charges against them were often vague, exaggerated or unfounded. Secondly, the Democrats did not sit back while the Communists wooed Catholic voters. The Democrat Party, in the advent of the May 1946 parliamentary elections, concluded a power-sharing arrangement with leading Catholics that led Slovakia's Catholic population to vote overwhelmingly for the Democrats. This reality prompted a change in Communist policy. Before the April Agreement, the Communists had been courting particular Catholic intellectuals and activists as good patriots and lamenting that they were not given proportionate influence in the Democratic Party. After the April Agreement, these very same Catholics were pilloried by the Communists as reactionaries, harbored by a Democratic Party that was allegedly bordering on seditious. From June 1946, the Communists undertook a sustained and aggressive attack on the Democratic Party, eventually implicating several of its leading Catholic members on trumped-up charges of conspiracy against the Czechoslovak people's democratic regime. All the while, the Communists were careful to present their attacks as targeting not Catholicism, the Catholic Church or Catholics, but rather those bad Catholics who were hiding their reactionary goals behind their religion.

The Communists' goal was a decapitated Catholicism whose rank-and-file adherents would accept Communist rule without question. This remained the Communist goal after the February 1948 coup through the end of their regime in 1989. Though many Catholics refused to give their ultimate loyalty to the Communists, and a number suffered persecution for that, the regime never had trouble finding at least some Catholic leaders willing to cooperate with it. In March 1988, during the famous Good Friday demonstration for religious liberty in Bratislava organized by Catholic activists, the regime was able to put the canon of St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava on television. He warned Catholics against participating in the demonstration and accused its organizers of trying to disrupt the good relations between Church and State in Communist Czechoslovakia. This was the final serious manifestation of the Communist attempt to differentiate between what it deemed as the good docile Catholic in the pews and the evil Catholic who was politically engaged in issues of justice and freedom. It was a policy that had guided Czechoslovakia's Communists since 1945, with a goal that plenty of regimes around the world would, then and now, have regarded as desirable. It was also a policy that could only be realized if Catholics identified less with their own Church than with its oppressors. ◆

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Armenian Connectivity: A Jumpstart to Modernity

BY PAMELA STRONG

In Armenia, a poor country facing a major brain drain, corruption, lack of a social safety net and deteriorating health services, Internet technology is helping to improve the lives of Armenians by providing new educational opportunities and global access to schools and communities.

Through its Armenia Connectivity 2000 (AC2K) program, funded by the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Project Harmony provides Internet Computer Centers (ICCs) to schools in Armenia. Schools are selected through an open competition. Each ICC has two site staff with basic computer and Internet training, including web design and network administration. Each school then creates its own website. Some 'connectivity only' schools, which had received computer centers from other organizations whose funding evaporated, just receive connectivity and training activities for the schools and staff.

The program also facilitates exchanges. A three-phase exchange component brought five US educators to Armenia in July 2001 to create Internet-based lessons linked to Armenian-language online resources. In January 2002, 11 Armenian educators spent three weeks in the US learning about educational uses of technology, the relationship of schools with their communities and civic education. These educators had home-stays in communities where students and teachers are engaged in a partnered online project with Armenian schools and then returned home to share their insights and experiences. The final phase of the exchange will take place in July 2002, when five US educators return to Armenia to further develop online education at the grassroots level.

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ICC opening in Meghri (city of honey), Armenia, on the Iranian border.

Why IT Development?

Armenia's economic problems have stemmed from its transition to independence after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 and a major earthquake in 1988. In addition, the war over Nagorno-Karabakh, a primarily ethnic-Armenian autonomous region of Azerbaijan, took the lives of 30,000 and drained valuable resources from both Armenia and Azerbaijan. An economic blockade by both Turkey and Azerbaijan keeps prices in Armenia very high and energy sources minimal. Despite a 1994 cease-fire, a political settlement has not been found and the two countries live in a state of "no peace, no war." Armenia has survived this past decade's difficulties with the help of outside assistance, including US governmental assistance secured by the Armenian-American lobby, support directly from the Armenian Diaspora and from development organizations throughout the world and remittances from Armenians working abroad, primarily in Russia.

Given these circumstances, the juxtaposition of putting computers in schools where the average teacher's salary is about US $15 per month, books are scarce and heat is rare in winter, raises questions about IT's appropriateness. But in fact, IT offers opportunities for Armenia to gain valuable technical knowledge and is necessary to facilitate participation and competitiveness in the global economy. The AC2K program offers Armenian schools a technological jump, by providing a cutting-edge computer center. The AC2K program equips each ICC with six Pentium 3 or Pentium 4 computers (one of which is a server), a scanner and digital camera (for website creation and online school exchanges and projects) and a printer. Each of the 11 regions of Armenia also has a Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) projector for use in computer and PowerPoint presentations.

Project Harmony prioritizes cooperation with local institutions. We work closely with state and local government to ensure support (whether moral or financial) at the top for our programs. Our partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and with the Center for Educational Reform enables the program to impact school participation, cooperation, support and curriculum development at the national level. Project Harmony does not develop curricula for Armenia, but works with the Center for Educational Reform on improving existing curricula, especially in civics, gender and computers, to provide wider curricula availability and optional web-based teacher's guides, worksheets and exercises. Furthermore, the AC2K program has had a great impact on physical infrastructure in Armenia, which will positively affect the market for Internet Service Providers and access for citizens everywhere in the country. In our efforts to build an Armenian Intranet, we are working with a local provider in laying the first E1 fiber optic cables in the rural regions of Armenia—throughout the southern *marz* (region) of Syunik, bordering Iran, and in Shirak *marz*, the center of the 1988 earthquake in Northwest Armenia. In most other sites, we use radio modem

lines and radio bridges, which extend the short range of radio modems.

Second, AC2K provides training and capacity-building at the grassroots to compliment our work at the policy level. Educators in transition countries are amazing individuals, who have achieved a lot with few resources. Often, we hire as site staff the "Informatics" teacher, who has been teaching computers in a purely theoretical manner. This is useful, in fact, if teaching a group of future programmers, whose main contact with computers is as non-technical users. AC2K connects theoretical training with tangible practice at ICC centers.

Giving technology skills to site staff, who in turn train students, teachers and community members, empowers the communities with knowledge, information and opportunities. It provides tools to communities to become civically active. Government sites are slowly appearing, providing greater transparency and accountability; citizens' groups have greater outreach through growing Internet access; and effective collaboration between government and the non-profit/civic sector come together in the ICC. For example, in Shahumyan, the village head *(gughapet)* is featured on the school website along with his email address. The AC2K program also works on 'secondary projects' in which program coordinators manage online projects in spheres such as the environment (specifically deforestation and water issues), refugee access to ICCs, youth leadership and civic education. In a country where most "of the best and the brainiest and the technologically potent"[i] have left for more economically prosperous countries, the AC2K program is providing user skills to groups of all ages across all regions of the country.

Armenia Connectivity 2000

I entered the Armenia Connectivity program after it was well underway. The program had already grown from a $1 million grant for internet-connection in about 30 schools to a $4 million program aiming to help over 100 schools by the end of 2002. I missed the rough beginnings, when Project Harmony hammered out a system of selecting and remodeling schools. My job has been to systemize these lessons for opening schools by creating checklists and deadlines and completing or revising contracts.

Starting with low-level cultural exchanges 15 years ago, Project Harmony has always been committed to a grassroots development process. It is difficult, however, to reconcile grassroots philosophy with donor demands for cost-efficient, yet quantitative, results. The value of periodic face-to-face meetings and the cultural importance of fostering relationships are not deemed acceptable justifications for costly site visits. Understandably, donors would also like to know how many people are using ICCs that cost over $17,000 to remodel, to equip and to staff. Getting this imperative across to local users and staff is more difficult, however. Both as a Soviet legacy and as a trait resulting from the current authoritarian state, many users are uncomfortable writing their full names or their occupation in our ICC logs. This interferes with the accuracy of our studies on user numbers, interests and uses of the ICC.

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Students are introduced to their ICC.

Sustainability

The sustainability of this project is one of the program's concerns. The top-quality connections that allow for faster downloads, more web-posting space and video are impressive, but expensive, and cost more than dial-up phone line connections which some centers used previously. The AC2K program is designed to address the long-term sustainability issue, which these costs raise. Each ICC is obligated to offer two hours in the evening for community, fee-based use and services. In some cases, barter and other accommodations have allowed the center to provide access to community members in return for gifts of paper, ink cartridges and heating fuel or organizing presentations or events for students. For example, a legal NGO may use the center for a total of 14 hours in exchange for offering presentations and lessons on the law in Armenia. Periodic opportunities for site staff and regional coordinators to share experiences related to their centers' community outreach help fulfill this goal. For some centers, this means offering internet access at a minimal fee. Other centers have targeted local businesses and NGOs in order to offer computer literacy classes that bring in higher fees. ICCs have assisted several communities by providing computer training to specific groups, such as the disabled and unemployed.

Potential sustainability is an important criterion in choosing schools. Applications are reviewed and then selections are made for site visits. While the strongest applications are chosen by school

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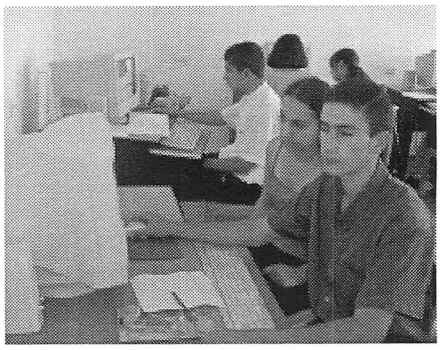
initiative and plans for the ICC, the size of the village and of the surrounding communities are also factors determining sustainability. One of the strongest applications was from a village school in Syunik. The staff and students were active in extracurricular activities and community projects and they had a clear concept of how to use an ICC. However, the school had a total of only 20 students and the surrounding community reflected similar low numbers, as most employable residents had moved away in search of better opportunities. The school in Syunik did not receive funding, but it did provide impetus for continuing the dialogue on creating a mobile lab, a truck with five workstations that would travel to different towns, to serve a greater number of communities—an idea still being developed.

Our sustainability workshops for school administrators, scheduled for summer and fall 2002, will address fund-raising skills and community outreach, both new concepts in Armenia and essential for sustainability. Educational exchanges, such as the program that brought 11 administrators to the US, are another strategy.

Impact

The AC2K project is creating a viable infrastructure and fee-based services for ICCs that will sustain the program long into the future. Armenia is being equipped with computer resources and expertise: Armenia now has over 60 schools connected to the Internet and 120 site staff with extensive training in computers, Internet and educational uses of technology, who have trained numerous students and teachers. Our exchange programs have given 11 Armenians exposure to US computer-based educational programs and the charge to share this knowledge. Well over 50 Armenians are trained and engaged in online conferencing techniques and regularly use online workspaces for meetings or postings, such as provided at the *Webcrossing.com* site. The number of Armenians with greater technological know-how is continually growing—and we actively mix new and experienced educators in our activities. These figures do not even reflect the students in 60 schools (potentially over 6,000 students) that now have greater and more marketable skills, such as word processing, Internet, AutoCad and web design. On top of all this, our efforts at the policy level may have an even bigger impact on curriculum development. Expanding the skills of education ministry staff and working in partnership on online class materials will also sustain the program's development.

Success comes in smaller forms too, such as a Yerevan student who created his father's resume at school and found him an architectural position through a job-site on the Internet. Another success story occurred at Vanadzor College #1, where a community training initiative for



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Students completing a project in an ICC.

Vanadzor accountants prompted many of the accountants to improve their computer skills. They are now using the ICC's resources as community members. The ICC staff also organized computer training for Vanadzor Orphanage staff members.

These uses of Internet technology, alongside Project Harmony's strategies for addressing the program's long-term impact and sustainability, give me confidence that AC2K is providing Armenia with a technological bridge to Armenian educational advancement and to the global economy now and in the future. ◆

Pamela Strong is a graduate of the REECAS program (M.A., 2001). She has served as Deputy Director of Project Harmony's Armenian Connectivity Program (AC2K) since Fall 2001. See Project Harmony's websites to learn more about the program: *www.projectharmony.org* or *www.projectharmony.am*.

i MtFNet: Ctrlaltesc.org – *www.ctrlaltesc.org/index.pl?section=it4thirdworld.*

The Global Internet Policy Initiative in Ukraine

BY DOUGLAS CARMAN

The democratizing potential of the Internet is well known, but realizing the promises of this global, decentralized medium in the countries of the former Soviet Union can be frustrated by the pace and direction of reform efforts in these transitional societies. The most obvious problem is that many of these countries have very poor communications networks and a serious lack of resources to modernize their underlying telecommunications infrastructure. A host of other economic problems contribute directly or indirectly to the unavailability of Internet service in countries undergoing economic transition. Political and legal inconsistencies aggravate existent economic problems and pose new challenges as well. A number of public interest organizations are working to bridge the digital divide by providing consultation in their respective fields of expertise.

One such organization, the Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) in Washington, DC, is a leading advocate for "democratic values and constitutional liberties in the digital age" and has advanced civil liberties issues in the US Congress and the courts for over seven years. CDT has recently joined the international media advocacy group, Internews, in an ambitious project to promote market-driven information

technology policy and to ensure the compatibility of regulatory schemes of countries wishing to participate in economic and political unions. The ultimate goal of their *Global Internet Policy Initiative* (GIPI) is to realize the democratizing potential of the Internet in developing and transitioning countries.

During the past summer, I took advantage of an opportunity to research legal impediments to Internet access in Ukraine for the GIPI project through the University of Washington's Law, Commerce and Technology Center (LCT). GIPI enlisted the support of specialists familiar with the target countries and attorneys interested in providing legal and market analysis of key Internet policy issues. My role was to provide commentary on the viability of particular policies in the unique legal environment and economic conditions of today's Ukraine. I was also given specific assignments to write memos and reports on various aspects in Internet and telecommunications law, according to the immediate needs of GIPI projects around the world. I translated selections of the Ukrainian draft law on telecommunications; translated and commented on published analyses of the draft law by key Ukrainian figures in government and academia; compared the Ukrainian draft laws to international norms (European Union (EU), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and Germany); and researched the historical background of various legal doctrines and policy standards in the telecommunications sector.

One of the central issues of telecommunications policy in developing countries as well as in Western Europe and the United States is establishing a standard for the provision of "universal service." This concept can be defined as a policy "to make available...[to all people]...a rapid, efficient, nation-wide and worldwide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges."[i] The most familiar implementation of this policy in the United States is internal subsidization in the form of local surcharges for customers in urban areas and long-distance charges to support the maintenance of telephone service in rural areas. With the advent of new technologies, however, there have been initiatives to broaden the definition of universal service to include other telecommunications-based services.[ii] The EU, for example, has issued policy statements that define universal service in substantially broader terms than does the United States. [iii]

In light of its intention to join the EU, Ukraine has endeavored to harmonize its laws with the EU whenever possible. In 2001, Ukraine called upon organizations such as GIPI to evaluate its draft law on telecommunications. In order to offer their Ukrainian counterparts a perspective on the viability of the draft law and its compatibility with the EU regulatory framework, GIPI conducted research on established regulatory practices and considered these findings in the Ukrainian context. I researched the evolution of policy standards concerning universal service across various jurisdictions and provided summaries and comparisons. I also offered my perspective on how particular objectives might be realized under the draft law given the economic conditions and legal environment in Ukraine. These findings were incorporated into reports for staff attorneys in the field.

Addressing questions of universal service standards in the context of a country's particular ambitions and limitations, while accounting for the rapid pace of change in technologies, is a challenging task for policymakers. This issue warrants close attention because, rather than merely deciding the allocation of resources for improving telecommunications networks, "defining universal service is, in effect, making choices about the nature of the society itself." [iv]

My work also involved identifying laws that could pose a threat to the free flow of information across the Internet in Ukraine and reporting on the public discourse surrounding the legitimacy of such laws. For example, the 1998 presidential decree "On some measures concerning protection of state interests in the information sphere" drew criticism as a particularly restrictive law that undermined the goal of greater compatibility with European regulatory regimes. This decree mandates that government agencies and any enterprises or organizations that deal with classified information shall access foreign networks only through three state controlled service providers. Virtually all major universities in Ukraine could be subject to this restriction, as many higher education institutions have departments authorized to access certain portions of the broadly defined field of information designated as "state secrets."

The incompatibility of this decree with the objectives of the draft law on telecommunications was openly debated, with government officials and other interested parties, noting that it would likely inhibit specialists from conducting valuable research. Many also pointed out that such restrictive laws would have to be modified to some degree in order to promote the further harmonization of Ukrainian law with European standards. By monitoring the press coverage of the debate on the telecommunications legislation, I was able to report on these issues to the attorneys working on the GIPI project.

My externship with GIPI was an excellent opportunity to learn more about regulatory practices in the telecommunications sector and how organizations such as CDT and Internews provide consultation to Ukraine and other countries for their reform efforts. I hope that our work addressing one facet of overall legal reform in Ukraine will serve to enhance the material, cultural and educational prosperity of its people. ◆

Douglas Carman is concurrently enrolled in the UW School of Law and the REECAS M.A. program. His article, "Translation and Analysis of the Doctrine of Information Security of the Russian Federation: Mass Media and the Politics of Identity," will appear in the Spring 2002 issue of *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal*. Information about the Ukrainian telecommunications project is online: CDT: *www.cdt.org*; Internews: *www.internews.org*; GIPI: *www.gipiproject.org*.

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i *Federal Communications Act of 1934.*

ii Examples include: "distance learning, remote medical diagnostics, voice mail, computer conferencing, and access to public databases." Harmeet Sawhney, *Universal Service: Prosaic Motives and Great Ideals*, Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media (Fall 1994).

iii *Bridging the Digital Divide: Internet Access in Central and Eastern Europe, CDT website* (March 27, 2002).

iv *Critical connections: Communications for the future*, Office of Technology Assessment, OTA-CIT-407 (1990).

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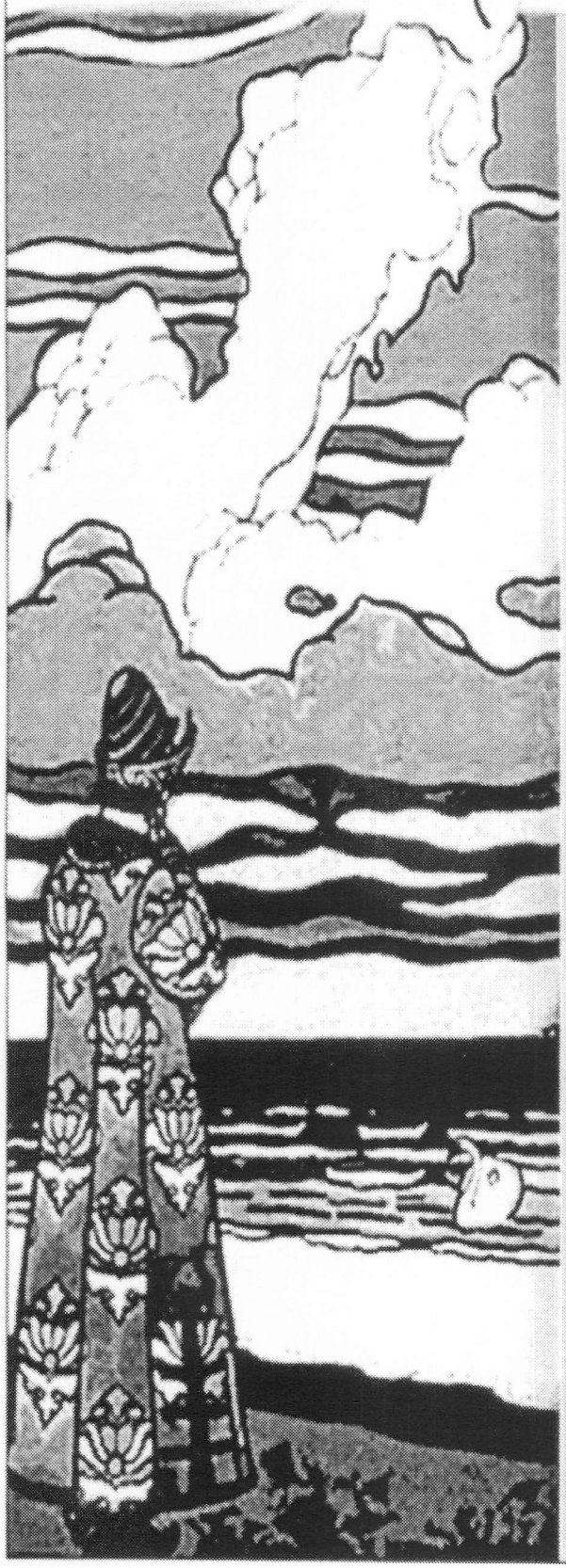

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US Oceanic Policy Toward Russia

BY VLAD M. KACZYNSKI

At this time of important global change and significant evolution in US global policies, we must stress the importance of US international marine relations with other regions and countries. The difficult socio-economic changes many transition countries have undergone in building market systems have resulted in an outright decline in living standards and an economic crisis. This situation has had a serious, negative impact on the marine environment, economic cooperation and oceanic relations among many nations. US interest in successful economic growth and sustainable use of oceanic resources by transition economies are multifaceted, but essentially center around these countries' economic success or failure. How well they perform determines the gains from trade in marine resources and investment in coastal economies, which the US reaps in its relations with these countries. However, the ramifications for the US of good or bad economic performance among the less fortunate countries go beyond direct economic returns.

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Russian ships inactive in Kamchatka ports in 2002 due to the collapse of major marine resources in the Far East.

Marine Ramifications of the Russian State Failure

Economic failure in Russia raises the risk of state failure, as well as the collapse of marine environmental policies and its marine economy. The growth of a marine economy is severely hampered when a state fails to provide basic public goods and services for its population or to secure adequate conditions for sustainable use of natural resources. Potential problems include the mismanagement and degradation of the country's renewable marine resources, lawlessness in the allocation and use of natural resources, international crime, parallel markets, smuggling and pirate sea operations.

Russia's rich Soviet-era maritime legacy has withered under economic collapse and the chaos of transition. Industrial production and performance in the marine and other sectors have been under severe pressure. Some side effects have been nuclear pollution of seawaters, mismanagement and overexploitation of coastal resources—frequently transboundary in nature—and illegal harvest and export of fish and forest resources. In addition, demobilized Russian nuclear submarines are tied up in navy bases of Kola Peninsula, left on beaches of the Far East or disposed together with nuclear waste along the coasts or in the sea. Massive demilitarization, private investment and democratization are necessary to restructure the marine sector. The transition has been slow, however, and high risks deter investment. Regional administrators and local entrepreneurs are trying to escape Moscow's dictate and turning to foreign markets for partnerships, which could mitigate the effects of transition.

If the United States wants to spend less time and effort responding to failed Russian coastal and oceanic policies, it will have to increase investment in helping Russia establish a more pragmatic marine policy and reconstruct its marine capabilities within a free market system. The US has neglected to utilize its international policy instruments—aid programs, foreign investment and regional organizations—to help prevent state-caused distortions or deficiencies in the maritime sector.

Russia's Marine Economy and US Interests

Russia's declared interest in greater cooperation and improved relations with the Western World should include more constructive US-Russian maritime relations. Immediate possibilities for the US private sector to take advantage of the improving political climate are slim, however. Russians have mismanaged their marine resources, leaving them severely depleted and impacting some stocks across the border in US waters. Russian marine sectors (shipping, fisheries, shipbuilding, ports and oceanic research capabilities) are undergoing a continual decline, as exemplified by increased unemployment, low productivity and the absence of capital for the reconstruction of aging fleets and land infrastructures. Some Russian policy specialists blame the free market system as a major cause of the crisis and request further subsidies or other governmental interventions. An unrealistic taxation policy, corruption, tensions between federal and provincial governments and distorted private property rights (particularly in vessel ownership) are compounding the situation and making

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any reform programs ineffective.

The Russian marine sector crisis is affecting US interests, because many US companies have lost on their earlier investments, particularly from lack of payment on long-term fishing vessel leases, equipment and supplies for the Russian fishing fleet. Many US companies in the Russian Far East declared bankruptcy as they lost their assets in Russia, reduced their export of marine technology and terminated services for Russian vessel owners in the US. The US, Japanese and Korean importation of seafood from Russia inadvertently supports pirate fishing and illegal export operations in Russia's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, resulting in the massive overexploitation of valuable resources and the flight of Russian capital to overseas banks. With the exception of overseas oil companies, foreign banks and corporations are hesitant to finance any development projects in Russia because of its lack of proper financial laws and insufficient protection of foreign capital.

Missed Opportunities in Assistance Programs

International development organizations have not shown any serious, sustained interest in addressing the marine economy of Russia. In 1998, the World Bank offered a mere US $2,500 and engaged a couple of graduate students to study pirate operations in the Russian seas and illegal exportation of seafood and timber—operations which total approximately US $1.5 billion per year. The World Bank also withdrew its funding from preparation of the Fisheries Development Strategy Project in Russia in 1997, in which the University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs (SMA) had negotiated directly with the Russian Committee on Fisheries to obtain professional support for designing free market reforms in the fishing sector. As a result, Russian experts developed another fisheries development strategy in 1998, *Ryba* (Fish), to rebuild the Russian marine economy and fleet, based on a huge subsidization program, which never materialized. The program turned out to be a complete failure and is still criticized today by Russian strategists. The most recent US technical assistance to support the Russian marine economy in the Far East was organized under the umbrella of Winrock International, a USAID-funded non-profit agricultural development organization utilizing the sporadic expertise of volunteers or retirees lacking the long-term commitment or specialization of highly trained, paid consultants. This is an unrealistic undertaking, as support of Russian marine institutions and initiatives must be based on long-term and systematic efforts. The Eurasia Foundation declined support for a proposed marine sector data and information center in Vladivostok, which would have placated apparatchiks' aversion to data sharing by mandating Russian declassification of public information. Support is also scarce for unique courses to prepare students for future careers in the marine and business environment in Russia and the Newly Independent States.

Change Needed in US – Russian Marine Policy

These circumstances indicate a lack of internationally coordinated involvement and a comprehensive US marine policy toward Russia. Sporadic efforts to address Russian marine problems have been largely ineffective. High-level decisions and agreements between the US and Russian governments are necessary to lead to more energetic, comprehensive aid and collaboration programs addressing Russian handling of its ocean and coastal problems. Without improving Russian resource management and marine policy, there will be little opportunity for trade with this country rich in natural resources, no investment opportunities for US companies, no job creation and no joint conservation measures to assure the sustainability of shared marine resources.

The US, Canada and Russia's Asia-Pacific neighbors have a vital interest in a prosperous, free market-oriented maritime Russia, particularly in the North Pacific, and in the health of its forest and marine resources. As international donors have shown little interest and proved ineffective in supporting reforms in maritime Russia, the US must take the initiative to design an aid program directly with Russia. It should not only consider vital US interests, but also promote a developed and prosperous Russian marine economy that considers the well-being of citizens living in the coastal provinces.

Russia, like almost all transition economies, is extremely uncertain about the future and lacks institutional arrangements to strengthen democracy, to create socio-economic stability and to promote sustainable development and private sector growth. US marine policy toward Russia should first assess what can be accomplished in support of the development of maritime Russia, based on free market principles, and help consolidate economic and political reforms. It should be used to bolster private sector development, to remove impediments to development (such as bias against the private sector, excessive taxation and distorted marine resource-allocation and use policies) and to build a set of long-term marine economic measures promoting participation and expansion of the private sector. The US must assume a leading role in an international effort to help Russia escape distortions from the transition to a free market system that have led to falling living standards and increasing misuse of resources. The economic growth of Russia's marine sectors, sustainable use of marine resources and the fair distribution of the benefits they generate among all groups of Russian society should be vital components of US foreign oceanic policy. ◆

Wlodzimierz Kaczynski is an Associate Professor in the UW School of Marine Affairs and Adjunct Professor in the Jackson School of International Studies. He most recently returned to Kamchatka in the Russian Far East in February 2002 to advise officials on marine economy strategies. For example, he recommended how to utilize Russian fleets in foreign waters, including those around Africa and South America. This article is adapted from his recent recommendations to the US Presidential Ocean Policy Commission.

Urban Form, Transportation and the Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for St. Petersburg

BY NATHANIEL S.TRUMBULL

The origin of the inter-relationship of urban form, transportation and environmental problems in the cities of transition economies is deeply rooted in the centrally planned nature of their former economic and political systems. Centralized urban planning was based not only on ideological principles, but also on extensive optimalization modeling and practical considerations. Planners did their best to reflect official ideology in designing city form, governed by the principle of equal accessibility to goods and services.[i] Highly developed tram and trolleybus routes were common in most Soviet cities and subways were built in all cities of more than one million inhabitants. After the Second World War, the city bus began to play an increasing role. Public transportation in Soviet cities usually provided very good services to all events in large and medium towns, with numerous, high frequency routes and cheap standard fares.[ii]

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Cars at the corner of Gorokhovaia Ulitsa and Malaia Morskaia with the Admiralty to the left.

Transportation's Environmental Impacts

Despite its well-developed public transportation systems, increasing demands on and neglect of that system contributed to environmental degradation. Transportation's impact on the environment in the last decades of the Soviet Union was aggravated by the country's enormous size, industrial base and poor regulation of air and water quality. Transportation-related environmental problems in the Soviet Union contributed significantly to overall environmental damage. Rail and roadway construction, inefficient and poorly adjusted engines, transportation demands over long distances and poor enforcement of pollution standards resulted in environmental degradation and detrimental health conditions. The lack of maintenance and repair facilities meant that Soviet vehicles were poorly tuned and polluted significantly more than their Western counterparts.[iii]

Another problem of Soviet transportation systems was that the quality of public transportation typically did not keep pace with economic development. Thus, private cars were a solution for those with the financial means. In most cases, the urban infrastructure could not be easily changed to provide more roadways for those private automobiles. In St. Petersburg's, the number of automobiles doubled from 1980 to 1990 and again from 1990 to 1996.

By the mid-1990s, the rapid rise of the private automobile was creating over half of the dangerous air pollutants in the largest cities. In fact, the rise in private automobile use has been the sole cause of the rise of air pollution levels, which had fallen during the industrial downturn in the early 1990s. Official Russian environmental norms claim that existing levels of air pollution continue to surpass the allowable levels for all emission substances in St. Petersburg by far.

National regulation continues to have a strong influence on the energy and environmental impact of transportation in St. Petersburg. Low levels of affluency prohibit city residents from buying new cars and have resulted in the importation of less environmentally-friendly cars from the 1970s and 1980s, particularly in the absence of legal restrictions, according to Russia's most recent State of the Environment report in 1997. In fact, the anticipation of a significant increase in import fees on used automobiles increased the rate of purchase of those automobiles in 2001.

St. Petersburg's Urban Design

St. Petersburg (known as Leningrad between 1924 and 1991) largely evolved around Soviet planners' desire to preserve the city's historical center and to provide dense residential microdistricts outside the city center. St. Petersburg's reconstruction after the Second World War continued heavily to favor the development of public transportation infrastructure over road construction. Only six percent of St. Petersburg's land surface came to be developed into roads.[iv]

The first underground metropolitan line opened in 1953 and developed rapidly, as did the above-ground public transportation modes. St. Petersburg today has a well-developed public transportation network by any standards: the city's four metro lines total 90 kilometers in length,

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and 1350 kilometers of surface transport routes include 300 kilometers of tram routes, 340 kilometers of trolleybus routes, 710 kilometers of bus routes and 74 kilometers of electrified railway. Subway passenger levels have fallen off since their peak in 1990, but passenger levels remain robust. Statistics of passenger flows of the public transport system show a decrease in use from 1990 to 1995, with a gradual increase from 1995 to the present day.

Funding from the St. Petersburg city budget continues to compensate for public transportation operating losses, although that funding level has fallen in recent years and led to a sharp reduction in the city's transportation capacity. It is estimated that more than half of the public transportation system's passengers ride free-of-charge due to a wide range of subsidized social categories. The overall lack of city funds to support public transportation has resulted in a sharp deterioration in the quality of public transportation in the city. Metro trains run much less frequently than they did only a few years ago, as do tramways, trolleys and buses. The deterioration of the public transportation system is at least partly responsible for the rise of private automobiles.

St. Petersburg's urban design has also contributed to increased traffic congestion. Its nineteenth-century center of canals, narrow streets and squares meet at a small number of large boulevards and prospects. Their role in focusing automobile traffic toward the city center accounts for much of the city's severe traffic problems today. The absence of a large number of bridges and a completed ring road aggravate this situation, as automobiles crossing the city inevitably pass through the city's historical center. Severe traffic jams are now common during most of the workday on the main thoroughfares of Nevsky, Moscow and Bolshoi Prospects. A drive from one end of Nevsky Prospect to the other, a distance of five kilometers, can take up to thirty minutes. Road resurfacing work and bridge repairs further aggravate traffic problems.

As a consequence of severely restricted traffic routes in the city's center, the air pollution of St. Petersburg is concentrated in the historical center of the city, particularly where the automobile traffic is heaviest. Traffic between the Fontanka and Griboedova Canals accounts for much of the highest levels of air pollution in the city, whereas pollution levels are less severe in the city's residential suburbs. Although the city does have several green areas, including Primorskii and Kamenostrovsky Parks to the north of the city and Park Pobedy to the south, there are no large-sized parks in the city center that serve adequately to absorb or to scrub air pollutants. New parking lots today cover many of the previously open fields around the high-rise apartment buildings. St. Petersburg's steady rise in private automobile ownership levels will eventually lead to heavy air pollution levels beyond the city's center.

St. Petersburg's Strategic Planning

St. Petersburg's Strategic Plan, the first of its kind to be completed in Russia, sought to present the recommendations of city planners in a single, highly visible document approved by the city's administration in December 1997 (See http://stratplan.leontief.ru/). The Strategic Plan recognizes transportation challenges and contains recommendations for both public and private transportation. One of the plan's major goals is to improve the travel time within the city, which is not to exceed 40 minutes per single journey (*SP,* 103). Current travel times from the outskirts of the city are high even by Western commuting standards, in some cases averaging more than 90 minutes. The highest travel times result from the necessity of some residents to transfer one or more times between transportation modes. The plan calls for further development of the city metro, completion of unfinished metro lines, construction of tramway lines to cater to high-speed traffic (including routes in directions not served by the metro system) and expansion of inner-city rail transport (*SP,* 3.3).

The plan details how to improve both quality and quantity of transport. Public transportation is severely overcrowded; subway, trolleys, trams and buses operate with most passengers standing and or often unable to enter overcrowed cars. This congestion is due to the significant decrease in the frequency of public transportation as compared to only a few years ago. Transportation equipment is in poor condition, lacks comfortable seating and, for the most part, appears to operate without a regular schedule. Breakdowns during operation are also frequent.

To accommodate private automobile use, the plan advocates "the repair of major thoroughfares, a first traffic tunnel under the Neva River, completion of inner semi-circular roads and construction of a ring road around St. Petersburg" (*SP,* 81). Given the tremendous demand by private vehicles in the city, it is questionable whether road construction would significantly decrease gridlock, especially in the historic city center, where no space exists for any new road development. The plan does not specify the completion date of the planned new roads, although maps on the proposed development of the roads system and of the high-speed rail and tramway systems estimated completion in 2003 and 2010, respectively.

Concerning urban form, the plan recommends eliminating the continual outward development of the city and

POLLUTION SOURCES, 1,000 tons/yr	1987	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Stationary sources	260.9	150.9	127.6	104.0	77.9	70.8	68.1
Transportation sources	371.9	169.8	102.0	95.3	194.9	203.7	238.3
Private vehicles (listed also as part of Transportation Sources from 1995)	–	–	–	–	120.9	135.7	173.0
TOTAL	632.8	320.7	229.6	199.3	272.8	274.5	306.4

Pollution Sources by Type (Ekologicheskaia obstanovka v Sankt-Peterburge v 1996 godu, 148)

maximizing use of incompletely developed space within the city limits. It points out that valuable parts of the city have been left largely undeveloped—used instead as storage by Soviet-era firms that chose not to develop the land. The new development of underutilized land in the city center would indeed help contribute to maintaining the city's compact form and to reducing overall travel distances. Unfortunately, the plan offers no financial mechanism or set of incentives to facilitate such compact development.

In its perhaps most critical oversight, the plan fails to make an explicit connection between the growth of city transportation infrastructure and limiting that growth's environmental impact. Its recommendation for a general effort to reduce air pollution (*SP,* 103) does not outline specific steps for regulation of urban form. It also overlooks the necessity for stricter regulation of gasoline quality and higher inspection standards for polluting cars. The absence of parking and garage facilities in both the city center and in residential areas remains another serious problem. Fields adjacent to apartment buildings continue to be converted into temporary parking lots, reducing the city's green space. The seasonal nature of traffic flows also demands further analysis, as residents' in-city car use is higher during winter months when temperature inversions make starting a car generate more pollution. A final area of neglect is deteriorated road surfaces, which result in significantly greater wear on vehicles and tend to cause more environmental damage.

A stronger preference for public transportation over private vehicles will likely result only if St. Petersburg is able to improve the quality of its deteriorated public transportation system. Accurate scheduling, frequent service and a more modern fleet of vehicles must all be provided to attract more riders to public transportation. The success of a newly introduced minibus system in 1998 in St. Petersburg has shown that such improvements can attract passengers. The minibuses, which guarantee seating, are extremely popular with city residents. But funding sources for more extensive road infrastructure development in St. Petersburg appear to be largely theoretical. The plan suggests the city can pay for new transportation infrastructure and management by introducing fees for heavy freight transport entering the city, commercial parking and an increase of transport tax by 50% (*SP,* 4.5.3). None of these mechanisms has been successfully instituted. For example, an effort to charge private vehicles for parking in St. Petersburg's historic center was declared unconstitutional after six months of litigation in 2001.

Only the vagaries of federal funding provide significant investment for St. Petersburg's transportation infrastructure today, including parts of the newly built ring road whose rapid construction is reported to have resulted in a large number of environmental violations. St. Petersburg's existing compact form and inherited public transportation infrastructure indeed represent genuine advantages for the city, yet regular and locally managed ear-marked revenue sources for transportation investment are necessary for any significant future improvement.

Urban planners themselves must also rise to the challenge of transition. Local architects and city officials have to make their own planning decisions today rather than accept those from the center. Urban planners in transition economies have initially found themselves without adequate experience to solve unfamiliar and newly emerging problems. Furthermore, chief architects have strong design skills (in the visual and functional sense), but little background in the critical social processes of urban development.[v] Proper training of urban planners will become all the more relevant as financial, social, and environmental values and considerations change.

Despite the increasing air pollution and private car ownership, St. Petersburg and other cities of transitional economies are not necessarily fated to retrace Western private automobile experiences. Car ownership is still not nearly as widespread as in an average Western city. Improvements in public transportation, built upon the existing infrastructure, can provide a viable solution for the compact cities of the transition economies. But, solutions will have to be modest, affordable and resist the promotion of economic growth through unregulated transportation policies at the expense of environmental protection.

In addressing growth and transportation solutions, the issue of individual versus government rights is perhaps an even more delicate issue in a transition economy. Urban planners find themselves confronting a skeptical public that is wary of almost all government directives. Consensus must nevertheless be negotiated between city residents and urban planners. Failure to include public participation in transportation planning at every level of the process will likely result in the continuing sense of absence of ownership of the city's infrastructure by its residents.

As one urban planner has warned about urban planning in the transition economies, "Change is abrupt, fast paced, pervasive and accelerating, and that is the milieu in which city planning must operate."[vi] Those planners who will strive to find creative solutions within that rapidly changing milieu will be the most successful. Comprehensive plans of the cities of the transition economies will need to be regularly updated. Several of the transportation policy recommendations of St. Petersburg's Strategic Plan already invite modification and change. The rapidly evolving conditions of transition economies make the role of strategic urban planning all the more important against a background of rapidly changing social issues and personal preferences, overall economic transformation and emerging technological opportunities. ◆

Nathaniel S. Trumbull is a Ph.D. candidate in the UW Department of Geography. He is Co-Director of the Transboundary Environmental Information Agency, based in St. Petersburg.

i Bater, James H. *Russia and the Post-Soviet Scene.* New York: Arnold, 1996.

ii French, R.A. "The Individuality of the Soviet City" in R.A. French and F.E. Ian Hamilton ed. *The Socialist City: Spatial Structure and Urban Policy.* New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1979.

iii Ziegler, Charles R. *Environmental Policy in the USSR.* Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1987, 32.

iv Sorokin, N.D., ed. *Ekologicheskaia obstanovka v Sankt-Peterburge v 1996 godu.* St. Petersburg: Administratsiia Sankt-Peterburga upravlenie po okhrane okruzhaiushchei sredy, 1997, 159.

v Shove, Christopher and Anderson, Richard, "Russian City Planning, Democratic Reform, and Privatization: Emerging Trends," *Journal of Planning Education and Research,* 16: (1997), 215.

vi Shove, 218.

Visiting REECAS Scholars

Discounting Currency Speculations

Margarit Mamikonyan is a visiting Armenian scholar in REECAS in Winter and Spring 2002 through the American Councils Regional Scholar Exchange Program. She is examining exchange rate issues, which are of great concern to transition economies of the former Soviet Union.

Margarit Mamikonyan

She hopes to disprove analysts' belief that the Armenian dram is overvalued and, therefore, vulnerable to pressure. She claims that the dram, currently free floating and valued at approximately 560 dram to the US dollar, is close to its long-run equilibrium. Further, pressure on the dram simply reflects a mood of pessimism that does not correspond to the improving fundamentals of the Armenian economy, and, in particular, to Armenian prices relative to foreign prices. In order to assess whether or not the dram is overvalued, she, along with her UW mentor, REECAS Senior Lecturer in Economics Haideh Salehi-Esfahani, and other UW Economists, aims to estimate the equilibrium exchange rate for the dram and compare it with the actual level. Such estimation has not been carried out to date.

This study is very important for Armenia, she says, and will suggest policy measures to formulate appropriate exchange rate policy and contribute to the development of foreign exchange market and operations in Armenia.

Armenia's economy suffered one of the severest contractions among transition economies, but, by 1994, Armenia had recovered from its early transition period and, for the first time since 1990, registered economic growth. Between 1994 and 2001, GDP grew at an average rate of 5.5% per annum, reaching 9.6% in 2001. Growth was not affected by the global downturn because of Armenia's relative isolation from world markets. Its only real exposure to the global economy is in its diamond-cutting trade, the most important export business in Armenia. Remittances from the main expatriate host countries, Russia and the US, and foreign investment, currently near $100 million/year, have also sheltered Armenia, but may decrease in the coming years. Still, domestic factors are more important determinants of growth. Even the Russian crisis in 1998 did not have much impact on the Armenian economy because Armenian banks limited their exposure to then considered high-risk Russian securities, the volume of Russian ruble-denominated assets in Armenian commercial banks was very low and Armenian and Russian banking systems were not highly integrated.

Mamikonyan appreciates the chance to conduct research in the US, because there are no academics involved in this field of study in her country. She met with experts at the IMF and the World Bank for three weeks in March and April and researched at the Library of Congress.

She holds a Ph.D. *(Kandidatskaya)* in Theoretical Economics from the Yerevan State Institute of National Economy. She began her post-graduate study in Microeconomics at the Institute of Economy of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia after earning her diploma of higher education (roughly equivalent to a Master's degree) at the Yerevan State Institute of National Economy. She then attended courses in Applied Market Economics at the IMF Institute, Bank of England and Bank of France prior to earning her Ph.D.

Upon returning in June to her post as a chief expert of the Monetary Policy Department of the Central Bank of Armenia, she will work towards implementing the exchange rate policy measures recommended by her research. She expects that her research in the area of exchange rate adjustments will solve the problem of exchange rate misalignments and the resulting payments imbalances in Armenia, and possibly in other CIS countries. ◆

Teaching Democracy through English Instruction

Maira Katenova, a visiting Kazakh scholar in the College of Education and REECAS in Winter and Spring 2002 through the American Councils Regional Scholar Exchange Program, wants to aid English language teacher education efforts in her country both for improving English language skills and building democratic thinking and behavior.

Maira Katenova

English can be an effective forum for building democracy, she believes, because the methods utilized by native-English speakers or others trained in western teaching methodologies emphasize creative and critical thinking and leadership skills, which Kazakh students are still developing. These methods employ activities centered around student interaction, which allow students to participate in the process of learning through cooperation and mutual respect and to develop their critical thinking abilities. These skills can help develop democracy in her country. Her article on the topic, "Practical Application of 'Democratic' Educational Tools," is under review by the *Journal of Eurasian Research.*

The Soviet educational legacy in Kazakhstan has ingrained certain negative methodologies into teachers that stifle creativity, independent thinking and critical analysis, such as the emphasis on memorizing vast amounts of information. New laws in Kazakhstan reflect deep changes in the country's educational system, however, including new educational standards and new curricula, which encourage development of more innovative thinking.

Katenova's introduction to English instruction in grammar school at age 11 utilized traditional methods, such as translation and memorizing grammar rules. Her English developed most dramatically during her intensive university study at Almaty State Pedagogical Insti-

tute of Foreign Languages, which emphasized listening, speaking, writing and reading skills through non-traditional methodologies. She was also successful because of her high degree of motivation to be an English teacher and her commitment to practicing in the language lab and with native-speakers.

The most recent of her 34-years of teaching English language and English-speaking cultures has been at Zhetsu State University in Taldykorgan, near Almaty, where she also heads the English Language Department. She is also pursuing her Ph.D. *(Kandidatskaya)* in English language pedagogy at the University of World Languages and International Relations in Almaty.

She is researching teaching methodologies in order to design a new English language textbook for Kazakh University English teachers, anticipated for completion by the end of 2002. It will emphasize the communicative language teaching approach, which places importance on the actual use of the target language in meaningful contexts instead of just talking about the target language or repetition and memorization. She believes total immersion in the target language in the classroom is the best way for beginners. The text will utilize an integrated approach that combines the best aspects of other teaching methodologies as well as provide phonological teaching tools.

Katenova began her research for this book at Oxford in August of 2001, with support from the Soros Foundation. During her stay at UW, she has observed English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes and teaching methodology classes for foreign languages as well as for other disciplines, such as the sciences. She also participated in the national TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) conference in April in Salt Lake City.

Upon returning home, she will share her findings with the teachers' association in Taldykorgan, of which she serves as President. She also plans to conduct teacher education seminars for university, elementary and secondary teachers. All her efforts will hopefully contribute to Kazakhstan's improved English language pedagogy and development of democracy. ◆

From Moscow to Seattle via Paris: Looking for a New Immigration Policy for Russians

BY OLGA MAKHOVSKAYA

As part of the *Russian Diaspora: Integration Program* of the Russian Academy of Sciences, I am studying the Russian émigré population in Seattle, Washington. My research aims to develop a new policy for Russian emigration and immigration and to discover better policies to provide social and psychological support to the children of immigrants in Russia and Russian emigrants abroad.

Olga Makhovskaya

The *Zone of Proximal Development* model asserts that children best internalize sociocultural rules and conceptions through interaction with an adult and offers the best approach to help immigrants' acculturation. My current research is based on this approach, which is built on psychology, sociology and gender studies. The importance of this approach for Russian immigration policy is heightened because sociology is a rather new discipline in Russia and we are seeking new forms and methods of evaluating social changes in our society.

This approach will hopefully lead to the best outcome of acculturation, which is integration.[i] Integrated emigrants obtain higher job positions, feel safer and more satisfied and generally are more psychologically healthy, but concrete methods to achieve this are unknown. As a means of assessing the needs of emigrants, the *Life Stories* approach (*recits de vie* in French), which considers authentic sources of cultural influence, such as memoirs and diaries, is regarded as the most promising, complete and relevant method.

One of the goals of this study is to create new immigration policies for the successful acculturation of the children of Russian emigrants' and immigrants in Russia. I am approaching this study with a scientific perspective, in that I am determined to create a new, concrete immigration policy in Russia based on in-depth evaluation and assessment of real life experiences and field data. Contemporary Russia's lack of an immigration law and ambiguity about the status of former Soviet citizens leaves all migrants outside of the law. Despite and because of this fact, about one million non-legal migrants of various nationalities struggle to survive in Moscow alone.

The first phase of this study took place during three expeditions to Paris from 1998-2000, with the support of the French foundation *La Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* in Paris. The study began in Paris because of the long history of Russian emigration to France since the Russian Revolution. Four previous waves of Russian emigrants to France (and elsewhere) and their high cultural and social recognition in France seemed a good basis for comparison with recent Russian emigrants' acculturation.

Russian Emigration in France and in the US

My research also aims to conduct an ethnographic examination of the educational practices and methods of raising Russian children in two democracies—the US and France. I hope to compare to what extent different immigration policies facilitate both the successful and unsuccessful adaptation of children and adolescents into the host culture.

Several characteristics of Russian emigration in France contrast with that of Russian emigration in the US. One early observation is that Russian emigration in France tends to center around the Russian Orthodox church, which serves as a social reference point. Another observation is that French immigration policy is more child-centered while America's is parent-centered, which may be superior since the success of parents' acculturation results in the considerable psychological well-being and social adjustment of children.

Several observations from France reflect more general characteristics of Russian emigration. For example, I found that immigrants in France used traditional educational and upbringing practices typical of the former Soviet Union, which contrast with both the social demands and educational standards in France. In all emigration environments with their concomitant social displacement, however, the new culture disrupts the traditional influences of family and the neighborhood community on an immigrant child's education and socialization. Furthermore, traditional practices are diminished within the host culture. In France, for example, Russian emigrants tend not to carry on the traditional practices of teaching adolescents art, dance and music because of the lack of Russian teachers in France, whom they prefer to French teachers.

The Russian system of child-rearing entails high social control, the predominance of negative prescriptions on behavior and the strict authority of adults. Probably the most dramatic practice of child-rearing that has a negative impact in emigration communities is a rule that parents "never tell children the truth about family matters." As a result, parents continually build a wall of future misunderstanding between their children and the world of adults closest to them, the adults who are the most important participants in the *Zone of Proximal Development* of their children. This greatly contrasts with the educational system of host countries, which tends to be more liberal than the Russian home environment, and tends to creates further distance between the emigrant parents and their children.

Recent Russian emigration to France is predominantly female in character due in part to the mythical ideal that France represents to the independent, successful, educated Russian woman, as described in my book *La Seduction d'emigration: Aux femmes s'envolant pour Paris, (Seduction of Emigration: For Women in*

Flight to Paris). Another type of Russian woman is seeking a higher social status in France through marriage to a wealthy, successful French man. And finally, Russian mothers trying to save their sons from military duty in Chechnya highlight another motivation.

Russian Emigration to the US

I started my investigation in the US with a special focus on female immigration, stimulated by numerous Internet marriage agencies. According to the US Department of Justice, 75,000 Russian women emigrated to the US on fiancée visas in the last decade. Almost 600 marriage cyber-agencies in the US and no less then 200 Russian websites serve this purpose. The US has become the most desired destination for emigrants.

The reasons for the present exodus of Russian women are well known: the economic collapse has hit women harder than men. Women account for some 70% of the country's unemployment. They constitute the majority of low paid workers, since traditionally female-dominated professions, such as health and education, tend to be in ill-financed state sectors. The increasing crime rate, especially crime against women, is another factor making life in Russia less pleasant, but it is a relatively minor issue in comparison with the sheer effort of daily survival. The acquisition of a degree or other qualification from a US university, plus the chance of achieving fluency in English are highly-sought by anyone wishing to forge a successful career in post-communist Russia.

The strongest push for Russian female emigration is the family crisis in contemporary Russia. It stems from both economic collapse and cultural family traditions questioned by the feminist movement in Russia in the last ten to fifteen years. Domestic violence is commonplace and, indeed, a horrifying 15,000 women per year are beaten to death by their husbands or partners. Nearly 25% of all Russian women are victims of domestic violence. More than 25% of children are born out of wedlock. Approximately 50% of marriages in Russia end in divorce and only 4% of divorced men participate in the upbringing of their children. It is estimated that the numbers of narcotics abusers (up to age 30) is near five million.[ii] The traditional system of children's socialization, shaped under Communism, was ruined after *perestroika.* Although Russian female emigration continues to be overlooked, a Russian mother plays the principal role in child-rearing. In this sense, female emigration is more influential than has ever been recognized. A child's success in acculturation depends greatly on the mother's attitude toward the new society: the mother's rejection of the new society's rules and behaviors can hinder her child's acceptance of them.

Seattle-Area Russian Immigrants

The larger goal of my research is to assess the current situation of the Russian émigré population in the Seattle area and to assess their future problems and prospects. The Russian community includes Jewish refugees in Bellevue and Kirkland, Christian Evangelicals in Kent and Tacoma, programmers at the Microsoft Corporation in Redmond and Kirkland and mail-order brides and wives of American citizens throughout the area. Aside from the former political and religious refugees and the new female stream of Russian emigration, the wave of Russian professionals is quickly growing—not only at Microsoft, but also at the Boeing Corporation and at small and middle-size companies in the Seattle area. My current book project *Electronic Romance vis-à-vis America* explores the experiences of mail order brides and Microsoft programmers' families. I have made contact with Russian immigrants at churches and at traditional cultural events as well as at meetings of the Russian Seattle Club and in weekly evening radio dialogues with Russians on the Seattle Russian radio station *Aurora.*

Policy and Acculturation Efforts

The ethnographic examination of refugee and migrant acculturation processes will hopefully provide a more accurate prognosis of their acculturation into host cultures. In addition, the research will yield a selection of successful educational methods and techniques that we hope to use in the design of new educational and developmental programs for immigrant children in Russia. The results will also be useful for American, French and Russian policy makers, tutors and others who work with children of Russian emigrants.

In March 2000, the first *International Round Table* on problems of socialization of children of Russian migrants and refugees was held in Paris, France. Under the auspices of the Russian Duma, the second round table discussion in 2001 brought together Russian leaders, policy specialists and experts in Moscow. The third roundtable will be held in Seattle, Washington in 2002.

The *Summer School for Russian Young Intellectuals,* in which 23 children from Russian Diasporas in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, France and the US participated, was held in 2001 at former governmental summer residences near Moscow in cooperation with the Pushkin Institute. The summer programs may be a good cultural tool to support the acculturation of Russian children abroad and to renew the use of Russian as a language of emotional communication between parents and children. ◆

Olga Makhovskaya is a visiting Fulbright scholar in the UW's College of Education and REECAS, working under the guidance of Professor Stephen Kerr, during Winter and Spring 2002. She is a senior research scientist at the Institute of Psychology, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, Russia, where she also earned her Ph.D. in Psychology. She also serves as Executive Director of the "Russian Diaspora: Integration" Program.

i According to the leading concept of acculturation by John Berry.

ii *Socializatziya detej rossijskikh migrantov.* Moscow: The Institute of Psychology, 2001, p. 94.

Dr. Makhovskaya will speak on the problems and prospects of Seattle-area Russian immigrants on May 24th from 12 noon to 1:00 pm in Miller Hall, Room 104, University of Washington.

REECAS NEWS

The **REECAS PROGRAM** received $200,000 from the Department of Education to support a Title VI National Resource Center at the UW from August 2002-July 2003 as well as a much higher allocation of FLAS fellowship funding. REECAS thanks every member of its faculty for their excellence, hard work and commitment.

ELOISE M. BOYLE, Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, co-edited (with Genevra Gerhart) *The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language* (Slavica Publishers 2002). This companion to *The Russian's World* (by Gerhart, 2001) is a collectively authored monograph, taking on the daunting task of quantifying the minimum level of cultural literacy necessary for serious learners of Russian to appreciate and to function properly in the Russian cultural context. Boyle's chapter called "Theater in Language" is also included. The book comes with a CD-ROM including nearly 1700 graphic and sound files.

During the 2001-2002 academic year, **JAMES R. FELAK,** Associate Professor of History, presented a paper at the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) on "Communist Efforts to Woo Catholics in Slovakia, 1945-1948." He spoke at the 2001 Baker Peace Conference on War Crimes, Justice and Peace in Athens, Ohio, and at a conference on "The Czech and Slovak Twentieth Century in Retrospect, 1900-1948" at the Czech and Slovak National Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He has also given several lectures in the Seattle area, including one at Seattle University on the just war doctrine and one for the G. K. Chesterton Society: "Aleksandr Solzhenistyn, Václav Havel and Pope John Paul II on the Social Implications of Atheism." He continues to serve as Director of Graduate Studies for the UW's Department of History.

During autumn quarter 2001, Professor **JACK HANEY** in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures retired for health reasons. Jack joined the university in 1965 and served as the Slavic Department's chair twice, first for seven years in the 1970s and then from 1998 to 2001. Throughout his years at the university, Jack taught medieval literature and folklore (as well as nineteenth-century Russian literature, Russian language and whatever else was necessary) to thousands of students. From the time he started teaching as an undergraduate TA shortly before he went to Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship until seven months ago, Jack was one of the most popular lecturers on this campus. His sudden retirement was greeted with much sadness. We wish him a speedy recovery and productive and fulfilling years ahead.

REECAS Director and Associate Professor of Political Science **STEPHEN E. HANSON'S** co-edited volume (with Grzegorz Ekiert), *Capitalism and Democracy in Eastern and Central Europe: Assessing the Legacy of Communist Rule,* has been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. His article, "From Culture to Ideology in Comparative Politics: A Review Essay," has been accepted for publication by *Comparative Politics.* He was also recently named to the editorial board of *Slavic Review.*

Education Professor **STEPHEN KERR** serves on the Advisory Board for "Measure Up," which is adapting the Russian elementary school Elkonin-Davydov math curriculum for use in US schools. Based on the work of psychologist Lev Vygotsky, the program postpones the introduction of numbers as the basis for math activity until the second grade. All activities are based on comparisons of quantities and "greater than - equal to - less than" judgments. The program has been translated into English, and is being tested in two elementary schools in Hawaii under the auspices of the Curriculum Research and Development Group. A conference was staged in Hawaii in late January with support from the National Science Foundation to consider the materials and the results obtained to date. Funding for a wider-scale test is being sought at present. In mid-March, Professor Kerr appeared on a live Voice of America call-in show, "Speak with America in Russian: The Crisis in Post-Communist Education." The program drew callers from several Russian cities, as well as cities in the former USSR and Eastern Europe.

KAZIMIERZ POZNANSKI, Professor of International Studies, was invited to China in February to give several lectures dealing with the failed East European transition and with the diverse outcomes of globalization. While there, he signed a book contract with China's Academy of Social Sciences. He also participated in the March conference of the Japanese Association of Evolutionary Economics on post-communist transition held in Kyoto.

During the 2001-2002 academic year, **SARAH ABREVAYA STEIN,** Assistant Professor of History and International Studies, was awarded a Koret Jewish Studies Publication grant for work on her book manuscript, *Making Jews Modern: Yiddish and Ladino Newspaper Cultures in the Russian and Ottoman Empires.* Stein delivered academic addresses at the University of Illinois (Champagne-Urbana, Illinois), Stanford University (Stanford, California) and the Max Planck Institute für Geschichte (Göttingen, Germany). She continues to serve on the academic advisory board of the Albert Benveniste Institute of Sephardi Studies of the Sorbonne, Paris. Forthcoming publications by her may be found in the Mediterranean Programme Working Paper Series (sponsored by the European University Institute and the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies).

ERIK WIBBELS, Assistant Professor of Political Science, published "Federal Politics and Market Reform in the Developing World" in Studies in Comparative International Development, October 2001. ◆

SUMMER SEMINAR FOR EDUCATORS, GRADES 7–12

JUNE 25–26, 2002

Storytelling and Oral Traditions Around the World

In this two-day seminar, participants will explore the rich and varied subject of oral traditions and storytelling from around the world. Each day will begin with theoretical approaches on how to use this type of material in the classroom setting. Presentations will include both scholarly lectures and actual professional storytellers. Some of the presentations include: Afghan Storytelling, Asian Tales and Tellers, Indonesian Shadow Puppet Theater (wayang), Canadian First Nations Communities' Storytelling, Oral Traditions and India's Great Epics, European Puppeteering Traditions, Central Asian folktales and more!

Both days, the Seminar will be held in Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus, Seattle, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants will receive UW parking validations each day as well as morning coffee/tea and lunch. A packet containing the final program and a campus map will be mailed to pre-registrants a week in advance of the event.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Deadline:	June 18, 2002
Space Limitations:	Seminar is limited to the first 60 registrants
Registration Fee:	$75.00 (checks payable the University of Washington). No refunds or puchase orders.
Clock Hours:	16 WA State clock hours for teachers at no additional charge (must attend the entire seminar to be received)
Registration Validation:	Registration can only be accepted by mail and must include payment in full.
Mail Forms to:	Carrie O'Donoghue, Canadian Studies Center, Box 353650, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3650.
Questions:	Contact Carrie O'Donoghue 206-221-6374, email codonogh@u.washington.edu

REGISTRATION FORM

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ADDRESS _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE LEVEL _____

DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE CLOCK HOURS: ◯ YES ◯ NO

SILK ROAD SEATTLE UPCOMING EVENTS

The rich array of presentations and performances in connection with the Silk Road theme concludes in May and June with the following events:

MAY 9 Lecture 4 in the Art and Religion on the Silk Road Lecture (ARSR) series: "Cultural Exchange Under the Mongols" by Thomas Allsen, Professor of History, State College of New Jersey, Seattle Asian Art Museum auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

MAY 12–16 Cellist Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project, sponsored by the Seattle Symphony, a series of evening concerts in Benaroya Hall presenting the indigenous music and instruments of countries along the Silk Road.

MAY 23 "Measuring Time, Ordering Space: Rock Art, Altars, and Standing Stones in the Altai Mountains of Mongolia" by Esther Jacobson, Kerns Professor of Asian Art, University of Oregon, University of Washington Art Building, Room 003, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

MAY 30 Lecture 5 in the ARSR Series: "Courtly Art and Cultural Transmission in Western Asia in the 13th–15th Centuries" by Dr. Linda Komaroff, Head, Department of Ancient and Islamic Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Seattle Asian Art Museum auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 5 Sound Dialogues – "Building Relationships Past and Present: The Nomads and the Silk Road," a presentation by **Daniel C. Waugh,** Professor, Department of History, University of Washington, Soundbridge, Benaroya Hall, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

JUNE 6 Final Lecture in the ARSR Series: "New Journeys Down Old Roads: 20th Century Impressions of the Silk Road" by Dr. Karil Kucera, University of Washington, Seattle Asian Art Museum auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 11 Sound Dialogues – "Central Asian Musical Traditions," a discussion and demonstration of Kyrgyz musical and epic traditions and culture led by **Elmira Köçümkulkïzï,** Ph.D. candidate, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Washington, Soundbridge, Benaroya Hall, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

An online **Virtual Exhibit of the "Art of the Silk Road,"** displaying objects from many museums and integrating them into discussions for various levels of audiences, is available from the website of the Seattle Art Museum *(www.seattleartmuseum.org),* where it will be permanently located. Curated by John Szostak, a Ph.D. candidate in Art History at the University of Washington. A preview is available at: *http://depts.washington.edu/uwch/silkroad/exhibit/index.shtml.*

Silk Road Seattle is a project of the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington. Co-sponsors include the Silkroad Foundation, Seattle Arts & Lectures, the Jackson School of International Studies and its outreach programs, the East Asia Center, the Program in Comparative Religion, and the Departments of History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, Asian Languages and Literature, and Division of Art History in the School of Art. Programs are presented with the collaboration and support of the Seattle Symphony and the Seattle Art Museum. Details about Silk Road Seattle events and many additional resources are to be found at: *http://depts.washington.edu/uwch/silkroad.*

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