

July 22-29, 2004

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Table of Contents

I. Election News

1. Lukashenko to Chair Conference on Election Preparations (*BelaPan*)
2. For Lukashenko, a New Parliament is "in the Bag" (*GazetaSNG.Ru*)
3. Belarus Accuses Russia of Funding Opposition (*Russia Journal*)
4. Belarus Elections Resolution Adopted by U.S. House of Representatives (U.S. Embassy, Minsk)
5. Statement by U.S. Representative Christopher Smith (U.S. Embassy, Minsk)
6. Belarusian President Calls for Transparent, Democratic Elections (*RFE-RL*)

II. Domestic & Regional

7. Thousands Protest Against Belarus Leader (*AP*)
8. Statement by Richard Boucher: Belarusian Steps Against Academic Freedom, Right of Assembly (*U.S. State Department*)
9. Jews in Belarus Complain of Rising Anti-Semitism (*AP*)

III. International

10. Lukashenko Says U.S. is Pressuring Belarus (*Interfax*)
11. Lukashenko: NATO Border Not to be Confrontation Line (*RIA Novosti*)
12. German Embassy Puzzled by Lukashenko's Reply to Question about High-Profile Disappearances (*Charter 97*)

IV. Human Rights & Independent Media

13. Russian Station Waits Belarus Official Action Against Russia Reporter (*Itar-tass*)
14. Belarus Closes Russian State Television Bureau, Staff Unaware (*Itar-tass*)
15. Belarusian Protesters Receive Fines, Jail Terms (*RFE-RL*)

V. Business

16. Belarussian Ruble Becomes Stable Currency (*Itar-tass*)

ELECTION NEWS

1. Lukashenko to Chair Conference on Election Preparations

Belarusian leader Aleksandr Lukashenko is to chair a government conference on July 27 focusing on preparations for this fall's parliamentary elections for the National Assembly's House of Representatives, Natalya Petkevich, Mr. Lukashenko's press secretary told BelaPAN.

Earlier, Mr. Lukashenko said he intended to discuss financial arrangements for the elections, the judiciary's readiness to quickly settle possible disputes, and the employment of the current House members who will not be elected to the new legislature.

Mr. Lukashenko also said that he would find out what was done under his directive that 30 percent of the current MPs be reelected, and that the representation of women should be increased to 30 or even 40 percent.

Lidiya Yermoshina, head of the central election committee; Valentin Sukalo, chairman of Belarus' Supreme Court; House members and senior government officials are expected to take part in the conference.

Source: *BelaPan*; July 27, 2004; www.naviny.by

2. For Lukashenko, a New Parliament is “in the Bag”

The lively start of the presidential campaign in Ukraine has overshadowed the parliamentary elections in Belarus, also slated to take place this fall. Of course, by the scale and tension, you can't compare the two campaigns, but for Moscow the apportionment of political power in the neighboring republics will be of utmost importance.

Yesterday Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed a decree that elections for seats in the lower house of parliament will take place on October 17. As *Vremya Novostei* reports, nominations of candidates will last from October 8 to September 6, and registration for candidates will last until September 16. The actual election campaign will last a month. Every candidate for deputy is allotted US \$440 (!) from the state budget to use in the campaign. If for any reason a candidate decides to spend more than the prescribed amount, then he/she will encounter serious problems with the Central Election Commission. Perhaps with this much money you could print leaflets with a depiction of the candidate—100, no more-- and paste them up in a limited number of places.

In Belarus, such a course by the election campaign surprises no one. Only naïve representatives from foreign human rights organizations will make a fuss and issue few angry announcements about the situation with free will in the republic, and their activity will stop here. The few representatives from the Belarusian opposition, whose faces the country's leadership knows very well, have for some time not posed any danger for the parliament. According to the opposition figures themselves, it would be a success if only five deputies made it through to the lower house of the legislative assembly. Probably, with parliamentary elections “in the bag,” Belarusian head of state Aleksandr Lukashenko will hold a referendum, during which citizens will have to express their attitude about a third term for the current president.

Whereas in regards to the Ukrainian electoral campaign Moscow announces that it “bets on a definite political contender who will be able to unite the elite and consolidate the Ukrainian nation,” Russia has no illusions about the “new-old” Belarusian leader. Apparently the Russian leadership made the unprecedented decision to grant Belarus US \$175 million in state credit. Moscow wasn't giving similar gifts to a country of the CIS.

Source: *GazetaSNG*; July 15, 2004; www.gazetasng.ru

3. Belarus Accuses Russia of Funding Opposition

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko said on Tuesday that Russia was funding opposition groups in Belarus. At the same time, he noted that it was not the Russian President and the Russian government who were supporting the opposition.

“When they bring US \$180,000 from Moscow, half for Marinich and half for Frolov... In my place, would not you be worried that the opposition is funded by Russia, my Russia, brotherly Russia?” Mr. Lukashenko was quoted as saying by the *Vremya Novostey* newspaper.

According to the Belarusian leader, this is “wasted money, vain efforts”. He promised to disclose the sources of funding of his opponents in the upcoming presidential race. “They take money, and later they work it off, and they do it badly. They also steal it, as it happened during the last presidential election campaign,” Mr. Lukashenko stressed. Mikhail Marinich is the former Economy Minister of Belarus and a candidate for President in the 2001 elections.

Last spring, he was arrested on suspicion of illegal weapons possession. Valery Frolov is a member of parliament. In June, he went on hunger strike demanding to liberalize election laws.

Source: *Russia Journal*; July 21, 2004; www.russiajournal.com

4. Belarus Elections Resolution Adopted by U.S. House of Representatives

The Belarus elections resolution at 4:10 pm July 22 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 421 for, 0 against.

Urging the Government of the Republic of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in the fall of 2004.

Whereas the establishment of a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the 2004 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Belarus and of a genuinely democratic political system are prerequisites for that country's integration into the Western community of nations;
Whereas the Government of Belarus has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including provisions of the Copenhagen Document;
Whereas the election in the fall of 2004 of Belarus's next parliament will provide an unambiguous test of the extent of the Belarusian authorities' commitment to implement these standards and build a democratic society based on free elections and the rule of law;
Whereas previous parliamentary elections in Belarus have not fully met international standards;
Whereas it is the duty of government and public authorities at all levels to act in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations governing election procedures and to ensure free and fair elections throughout the entire country, including preventing activities aimed at undermining the free exercise of political rights;
Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires a period of political campaigning conducted in an environment in which neither administrative action nor violence, intimidation, or detention hinder the parties, political associations, and the candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to the citizenry, including organizing supporters, conducting public meetings and events throughout the country, and enjoying unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;
Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote free from intimidation, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;
Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires the full transparency of laws and regulations governing elections, multiparty representation on election commissions, and unobstructed access by candidates, political parties, and domestic and international observers to all election procedures, including voting and vote-counting in all areas of the country;
Whereas control and manipulation of the media by national and local officials and others acting at their behest could raise grave concerns regarding the commitment of the Belarusian authorities to free and fair elections;
Whereas efforts by national and local officials and others acting at their behest to impose obstacles to free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair political campaign could call into question the fairness of the upcoming elections; and
Whereas the arrest or intimidation of opposition political parties and candidates such as the leader of the United Civic Party and others involved with the opposition including those associated with the Coalition Five Plus represents a deliberate assault on the democratic process: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the House of Representatives--
(1) looks forward to the development of cordial relations between the United States and the Republic of Belarus;
(2) emphasizes that a precondition for the integration of Belarus into the Western community of nations is its establishment of a genuinely democratic political system;
(3) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Belarusian people to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Belarus ;

(4) urges the Government of Belarus to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others to freely assemble, to organize and conduct public events, and to exercise these and other rights free from intimidation or harassment by local or national officials or others acting at their behest;

(5) urges the Government of Belarus to meet its Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratic elections;

(6) urges the Belarusian authorities to ensure--

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the 2004 parliamentary elections;

(B) free access for Belarusian and international election observers;

(C) multiparty representation on all election commissions;

(D) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

(E) freedom of candidates, members of opposition parties, and independent media organizations from intimidation or harassment by government officials at all levels via selective tax audits and other regulatory procedures, and in the case of media, license revocations and libel suits, among other measures;

(F) a transparent process for complaint and appeals through electoral commissions and within the court system that provides timely and effective remedies; and

(G) vigorous prosecution of any individual or organization responsible for violations of election laws or regulations, including the application of appropriate administrative or criminal penalties;

(7) further calls upon the Government of Belarus to guarantee election monitors from the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), other participating States of the OSCE, Belarusian political parties, candidates' representatives, nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations, both foreign and domestic, unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process, including unimpeded access to public campaign events, candidates, news media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results and processing of election challenges and complaints;

(8) encourages the international community, including the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to continue their efforts to support democracy in Belarus and urges countries such as Lithuania and other Baltic countries and Nordic countries to continue to provide assistance to nongovernmental organizations and other Belarusian organizations involved in promoting democracy and fair elections in Belarus; and

(9) pledges its support to the Belarusian people, their commitment to a fully free and open democratic system, their creation of a prosperous free market economy, and their country's assumption of its rightful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.

Source: U.S. Embassy, Minsk; July 21; <http://minsk.usembassy.gov/>

5. Statement by U.S. Representative Christopher Smith

Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H.Con.Res. 652 which urges the Government of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in October 2004. As the sponsor of the Belarus Democracy Act (H.R. 854), which has also been reported out by the International Relations Committee, it is important that the House call specific attention to these upcoming fall elections. Mr. Bereuter, in his capacity as Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Europe, has lent his support of the Belarus Democracy Act as well.

Belarus' poor track record with recent elections -- which were judged as not meeting international democratic standards by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe -- and more broadly with the situation with respect to human rights and democracy in Belarus, underscore the need for this resolution. Belarus, under autocratic ruler Alexander Lukashenka, has the worst human rights record in Europe today. Repressions against members of the democratic opposition, non-governmental organizations, the independent media and independent

trade unions have become commonplace. Independent thought and action are anathema to Lukashenka, who over the last ten years has consolidated his power to an alarming extent.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Belarusian authorities will take this resolution seriously, as it provides them with a blueprint on what they need to do to have their elections conform with OSCE standards. Unfortunately, four benchmarks for free and fair elections established by the OSCE four years ago still not been met. Thus far, the pre-election environment has not been encouraging. Last month, three opposition parliamentarians staged an 18-day hunger strike demanding changes in the Election Code, which still includes several undemocratic provisions. The reform bill was overwhelmingly defeated by the Lukashenka-controlled parliament.

Belarusians still have no opportunity to receive independent viewpoints through broadcast media. Opposition access to the state media is virtually non-existent; rather the political opposition is often vilified. Just yesterday Lukashenka, talking about his hopes for a pro-government majority in the October elections, said: "I strongly hope that the people will make the right choice," and added that "the people will take a close look at traitors, black sheep...wolves in sheep's clothing, and we will help them if they don't." This is not a good harbinger for the elections -- and the election campaign has not even begun!

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we convey to the Belarusian authorities our call for a free, fair, open and transparent parliamentary election process consistent with Belarus' freely-undertaken OSCE commitments. The long-suffering Belarusian people deserve no less.

Source: U.S. Embassy, Minsk; July 21; <http://minsk.usembassy.gov/>

6. Belarusian President Calls for Transparent, Democratic Elections

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said on 27 July that October's parliamentary elections to the Chamber of Representatives should be conducted in strict accordance with the constitution, Belapan reported. Lukashenka said the constitution demands "good organization, transparency, democracy, high voter turnout, and, above all, productivity," adding that he wants to see all chamber seats filled in the first round. Lukashenka urged women, young voters, and veterans to run for elected office as representatives of their social strata and ordered the government to find new employment for legislators who do not run for reelection.

Source: RFE-RL; July 28, 2004; www.rfe-rl.org/newsline

DOMESTIC & REGIONAL

7. Thousands Protest Against Belarus Leader

Police scuffled with protesters in Belarus as several thousand people gathered on Wednesday to demonstrate against President Alexander Lukashenko. A rights group said about 50 opponents of the authoritarian leader were detained.

Riot police with batons fought with some of the protesters who assembled in a square in the center of the capital, Minsk.

State-run television in Russia showed footage of police roughing up protesters and of people who had apparently been detained sitting in buses. Vesna, a human rights group in Belarus, said about 50 were detained.

After the scuffles, about 3,000 demonstrators gathered in a park for the largest anti-Lukashenko protest this year in the tightly controlled country.

The rally was organized to protest Lukashenko's policies in 10 years as president of the former Soviet republic and his plans to possibly seek a referendum that would ask voters to allow him to run for a third term.

"The detentions clearly demonstrate the results of Lukashenko's 10 years in power," said Valery Frolov, leader of the Respublika opposition faction in parliament. "Belarus will not survive a third term."

Lukashenko has made himself an outcast in the West by increasing his power, cracking down on independent media and stifling dissent in the mostly Slavic nation of 10 million.

Elected in 1994, Lukashenko extended his first term in a disputed referendum in 1996, dissolved an opposition-dominated parliament and won his current term in a 2001 vote Western governments said was neither free nor fair.

Source: Yuras Karmanau, Associated Press; July 22, 2004; www.ap.org

8. Statement by Richard Boucher: Belarusian Steps Against Academic Freedom, Right of Assembly

The United States is deeply concerned about the ongoing repression of civil society in Belarus, particularly the Belarusian government's current assault on academic freedom and the right of assembly.

On July 21, the Belarusian government informed the European Humanities University, a respected private institution of higher learning, that it would terminate the lease on the building housing most of European Humanitarian University's academic programs and facilities. This step, along with continuing Belarusian government attempts to force European Humanitarian University's rector, Anatoly Mikhailov, to resign, will require European Humanitarian University to suspend its operations, jeopardizing the future of the university, its students and faculty, along with its vital contributions to intellectual thought and academic freedom in Belarus.

Likewise, on July 21, Belarusian police violently dispersed a large demonstration of pro-democracy activists in Minsk, arresting dozens when they attempted to unfurl banners.

The action against European Humanitarian University and the violent dispersal of the demonstration are the latest in a series of measures that demonstrate Belarusian authorities' obstructionism towards developing a democratic society and improving relations with the Trans-Atlantic community. We urge Belarus to immediately cease its efforts to dismantle the European Humanities University and to halt the violent suppression of the legitimate right of its citizens to assemble and express their political views. It is imperative that the Belarusian authorities cease their campaign against civil society and independent voices in Belarus if they hope to have a constructive dialogue with the United States and our European partners.

Source: U.S. State Department; July 23, 2004; <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2004/34646.htm>

9. Jews in Belarus Complain of Rising Anti-Semitism

A leading Jewish group in Belarus yesterday accused the government of turning a blind eye to a rising tide of anti-Semitism in the ex-Soviet republic.

Conditions for Jews in Belarus "differ little from the situation in the former Soviet Union," said Yakov Basin, head of the Belarusian office of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

In a statement, he urged international organizations to respond to the spread of anti-Semitism in Belarus and help protect the rights of Belarusian Jews.

Jewish groups in Belarus have repeatedly complained of anti-Semitism, manifested by the appearance of swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti, vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, the open sale of anti-Semitic publications, and the closing down of the sole university in Belarus that taught

Jewish studies. In the capital Minsk and the city of Lida, near the border with Poland, vandals have defiled monuments to Jews killed during World War II.

President Alexander Lukashenko's government has failed to respond to anti-Semitic actions, Basin said. He added that Belarus' Orthodox Church helps encourage anti-Semitism by defaming Jews in its official publications.

Some 25,000 Jews live in Belarus, a mostly Slavic nation of 10 million that was home to a substantial Jewish minority before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Source: Associated Press; July 26, 2004; www.ap.org

INTERNATIONAL

10. Lukashenko Says U.S. is Pressuring Belarus

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko said that normal relations cannot be established with the U.S. until Washington stops putting pressure on Belarus.

"Lately, the U.S. has clearly been abusing its authority as a leader," Lukashenko said on Thursday at a meeting with Belarus' ambassadors to foreign countries.

"As long as the U.S. continues to try to affect Belarus by pressure, there will be no normal relations between us," he said.

"We realize this does not make any difference to the U.S., but we will not yield to the pressure. If the U.S. understands that having a sovereign and independently prosperous Belarus would serve their interests, and change from pressure to cooperation, things will get underway," Lukashenko said.

The format of U.S. world leadership should be changed, he said. "The U.S. is a world leader, but its leadership should be different," he said. At the same time, Lukashenko noted that "the U.S., undoubtedly, is the world center of political, economic, technological and military power." Lukashenko added that "cooperation with the U.S. in all these spheres is within Belarus' interests."

Source: Interfax; July 22, 2004; www.interfax.ru

11. Lukashenko: NATO Border Not to be Confrontation Line

Belarus does not need confrontation with NATO, but security cooperation, said Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko addressing Belarusian diplomats with a statement of policy on Thursday.

"The 1,200-km border on NATO should not be the line of confrontation, but the belt of neighborliness", said Mr. Lukashenko.

At the same time, he does not consider appropriate the fact that NATO, deploying its armaments and military infrastructure at the Belarusian border, neglected to inform the country, "to avoid arousing Belarusians' excessive concerns".

Mr. Lukashenko also stated that NATO and Belarus had a lot of common tasks, including safeguarding the installations "of the critical infrastructure", those being oil and gas pipelines, nuclear power plants and common European transit corridors.

"It is necessary to secure the borders to avoid intrusion of terrorists, illegal migrants, drugs and weapons including nuclear components", said Mr. Lukashenko.

"Can NATO and the neighbors provide it? It is impossible without Belarus", Mr. Lukashenko stressed. According to the president, "Belarus is making an important contribution into European security".

Source: *RIA Novosti*; July 22, 2004; www.rian.ru

12. German Embassy Puzzled by Lukashenko's Reply to Question about High-Profile Disappearances

The German Embassy in Minsk has said that it is unclear what Aleksandr Lukashenko meant by saying on July 20 that some prominent Belarusians had disappeared in Germany, but German authorities had failed to reply to Belarus' requests to investigate those cases.

In reply to an Associated Press reporter's question concerning a recent report by MP Christos Pourgourides of Cyprus on Belarus' high-profile disappearances, the Belarusian leader said at a news conference: "Pourgourides and others should better reply to my question.... You remember I posed the question about Germany... about the missing persons. I asked the [following] question: We saw those people there and there [in Germany], where are they? They [the German authorities] have not answered this question until now."

The Germany Embassy notes that it is unaware of any Belarusians who allegedly disappeared in Germany or any unanswered inquiries from the Belarusian authorities. According to the embassy, the German authorities have replied to all requests for information about missing persons, including the one concerning former Interior Minister Yury Zakharenko, who mysteriously disappeared in May 1999.

Following a local newspaper allegation that General Zakharenko was seen in Germany, the German Embassy received an official request for information about his whereabouts from the Belarusian authorities on September 7, 2001. The matter was promptly and thoroughly investigated, the embassy says. According to it, in January 2002, the German authorities informed the Belarusian side that no evidence was found to substantiate the allegation that Mr. Zakharenko was staying in Germany. The Belarusian authorities did not make any additional requests regarding the case, the embassy stresses.

The Belarusian authorities also inquired about the fate of actor Andrei Bubashkin, but German investigators discovered no evidence that the actor might have disappeared in Germany. The actor's car was found in Russia's Kaliningrad region. The Belarusian authorities were informed about that, the Embassy stresses.

"Germany like other European states is very interested to see the fate of the missing people clarified, and, if crimes were committed against them, to see those involved prosecuted and those guilty sentenced," the embassy says.

Source: *Charter 97*; July 22, 2004; www.charter97.org

HUMAN RIGHTS & INDEPENDENT MEDIA

13. Russian Station Waits Belarus Official Action Against Russia Reporter

The leadership of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company (VGTRK) will not comment on the intention of Minsk to strip a company journalist of accreditation until the reception of official documents from Belarusian authorities, the media holding sources told Itar-Tass on Thursday.

According to Belarusian Interior Minister Vladimir Naumov, his agency intends to use the levers of the Foreign Ministry to strip the Russian reporter of accreditation in Belarus.

This decision of the Belarusian Interior was encouraged by “gross distortion,” in the ministry’s view, of facts on Russian television when it covered an unsanctioned opposition rally held in Minsk on Thursday.

Naumov said, “The RTR television channel correspondent Dmitry Petrov grossly distorted the facts when announced the number of the demonstration participants - from 2,000 to 5,000 people. We estimated the number of the rally participants at 150-170, 40 of whom attempted to destabilise the situation.”

It is not for the first time when Russian reporters are stripped of accreditation in Belarus. Last July, head of the NTV television company news bureau in Minsk Pavel Selin was expelled from Belarus.

The NTV office closure was provoked by Selin’s report about the funeral of writer Vasil Bykov, the coverage of which was considered by the Belarusian leadership to be not objective.

In February 2004, the NTV news office in Minsk was reopened.

Several years before the current incident, ORT television correspondent Pavel Sheremet was also deported from Belarus.

Source: Itar-tass; July 22, 2004; www.itar-tass.ru

14. Belarus Closes Russian State Television Bureau, Staff Unaware

The Belarussian authorities closed the Minsk bureau of the Russian RTR state television, a report voiced by the national television said Friday. However, the bureau’s staff said they have not received any formal notification of the closure so far. A source in the bureau told Tass they learnt about the decision of the Belarussian Foreign Ministry from television news.

The pretext of the move was an RTR report by its correspondent Dmitry Petrov about an opposition protest on July 21, the 10th anniversary of Alexander Lukashenko’s presidency. While Belarussian police claimed not more than 170 protesters took part in the rally, Petrov estimated their number “between 2,000 and 5,000”.

The Foreign Ministry called the report “an intentional false information insulting the dignity of Belarussian citizens and negatively affecting the image of the Republic of Belarus.”

Seven years ago similar accusation caused the deportation of Aleksandr Stupnikov, a correspondent of the Russian NTV private channel. Last year, the NTV bureau in Minsk was closed accused of disseminating biased information.

Belarus has radically cut broadcasting hours of Russian television and radio programs depriving completely the listeners from such popular Russian radio programs as Mayak, the Voice of Russia and Yunost.

Source: Itar-tass; July 24, 2004; www.itar-tass.ru

15. Belarusian Protesters Receive Fines, Jail Terms

A Minsk district court on 22 July sentenced 15 participants in the 21 July rally marking the 10th anniversary of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's rule to jail terms of three to 15 days, Belapan reported. The police detained some 50 protesters at Yakub Kolas Square, where the organizers

initially planned to hold the demonstration but failed to obtain permission. The younger and older demonstrators were released, while 26 detainees spent the night in jail and appeared in court the next day. Dzmitry Bandarenka, coordinator of Charter-97, was sentenced to 15 days in jail; Yauhen Afnahel and Pavel Yuhnevich of the youth organization Zubr, Aleh Korban of the Belarusian Popular Front, and others were sentenced to 10 days. Other detainees received shorter sentences and fines, while others received warnings.

Source; RFE-RL; July 23, 2004; www.rfe-rl.org/newsline

BUSINESS

16. Belarusian Ruble Becomes Stable Currency

The Belarusian rouble has become a stable currency, National Bank head Pyotr Prokopovich said.

To prove his point, Prokopovich told journalists on Monday that the exchange value of the Belarusian rouble to the U.S. dollar and the Russian rouble had practically not changed since the beginning of the year and had actually strengthened by 2.9 percent against the euro.

In his words, the stabilisation of the Belarusian rouble has been achieved not through the bank's currency interventions but due to the growing international reserves of the country.

Gross foreign assets of Belarus' monetary and credit regulation bodies have increased by almost 60 million U.S. dollars since January 2004 and reached 961.3 million U.S. dollars.

Prokopovich also noted the growing confidence in the Belarusian rouble among businesses and people. Currency revenues increased by 1.4 times in the first half of the year to more than six billion U.S. dollars. Citizens sold more foreign currency than bought.

The chief banker believes that all this helped reduce inflation. Consumer prices grew by about 8 percent in the first six months of the year, which is 1.8 times less than in the same period of 2003.

According to Prokopovich, inflation in Belarus will not exceed 16 percent by the end of this year.

Source: Itar-tass; July 26, 2004; www.tass.ru

The Belarus Update is a weekly news bulletin of the Belarus Human Rights Support Project of the International League for Human Rights, www.ilhr.org. The League, now in its 62nd year, is a New York-based human rights NGO in consultative status with the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the International Labor Organization. To send letters to the Editor or to subscribe/unsubscribe please contact Nate Young at: cis@ilhr.org.

For current and back issues, list of events, and more information about the League's advocacy activities in Belarus, please visit the Belarus Update website at: www.belarusupdate.org.

The Belarus project was established to support Belarusian citizens in making their case for the protection of civil society before the international community regarding Lukashenko's wholesale assault on human rights and the rule of law in Belarus.
