



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

To the Staff of PIR Center - Center for Policy Studies (Russia)

Dear colleagues and friends,

Congratulations on the publication of the first issue of *Security Index*. I view this as persuasive confirmation of the need for the research that your Center has been carrying out over the course of over a decade on a broad range of international security topics, including disarmament and nonproliferation.

The results of your work are of particular interest for the country's foreign policy agencies, given the relapses into a policy of the unilateral use of force that have caused small countries to feel that security is scarce and pushed large countries towards increasing weapons procurement. The continuing stagnation, though no fault of Russia, in the area of disarmament as well as the increasing potential for conflict in the world as a whole are also causes for concern.

I am counting on your expert assistance in the search for effective responses to the challenges and threats associated with large-scale international terrorist activity, the weakening of the nonproliferation regime, the aspirations of several countries to untie their hands in order to weaponize space, as well as the misuse of information technologies.

I wish the Center staff the best of success in their work, and hope that the journal will find its way to numerous readers.

Sergei LAVROV

Moscow, February «20» 2007