

**COMMENTARY BY MEMBERS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP  
(January-April 2007)**



**Marian Abisheva**, Deputy Director of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, by phone from Astana, Kazakhstan:

*I agree with the common iSi dynamics in 2007. Presented figures adequately reflect global changes in this period. Another political crisis in Kyrgyzstan impacted negatively on security in Central Asia. Undoubtedly, at the moment Kyrgyzstan is the area of instability in the region. Moreover, situation in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq is far from improving. I expect iSi Index will grow slightly in the next few months, because I do not see any extra anxious factors.*



**Sergio Duarte**, Ambassador, Chairman of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (2005), **Brasilia, Brazil**:

*The nationalization of Brazilian oil companies by the Evo Moralez Government in Bolivia, as well as the possible forming of the left-populist axis Venezuela-Bolivia-Ecuador negatively affected situation in South America. But at the same time I would like to underline that mostly because of regular high-level international visits and the “good will climate” these negative factors are smoothed out. In the following months I do not expect any jerky changes of iSi figures. The dominant problem of international relations – situation over Iran seem to be solved in a diplomatic way.*



**Konstantin Eggert**, Editor-in-Chief , Moscow Bureau, BBC Russian Service, **Moscow, Russia**:

*Slight growth of iSi figure, from my point, is caused by things that did not happen – the expected confrontation between Russia and the West, and the salvation of political crisis in Ukraine with the use of armed forces. The mostly negative event of the period was Russian-Estonian relations and followed international reaction. I think that this factor caused a substantial growth of the intrust to Russia, as to a country which policy toward neighbors is based on the irrational basis, and on the logic of the internal policy.*



**Harald Mueller**, Director, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt am Main, Germany:

*The iSi figures reflect the dynamics of international relations neatly. The lowering of the graph is caused by situation in Iraq (in spite of regular attempts of the US to appease) and Afghanistan. Speaking about my region, forming of the Government in North Ireland and the growth of German economy (that caused the whole European economy) are the most positive factors there. In the near few months I do not expect any significant changes of iSi figures. The improving of the global security may be caused by possible warming in relations between Russia and the USA / NATO.*



**William Potter**, Director, Center for the Non-Proliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, **Monterey, USA:**

*I do not think that international security changed much in January-April 2007. But I think that Democratic majority in US Congress may quicken the withdrawal of the US forces of Iraq, that probably will affect global security positively.*



**Alexander Saveliev**, director, Department for Strategic Studies, Center for International Security (Institute for World Economy and International Relations Studies), Moscow, Russia:

*The deployment of the US AMD components in Eastern Europe negatively impacted on European and global security. No it is clear that Russia will not ignore unilateral efforts of the US in the AMD issue. Concerning Iran nuclear problem, I think that the possibility to solve it with the use of armed force has lowered. In the whole, the year of 2007 is a period of expectations mostly caused by pre-elective age in Russia and the USA.*



Evgeny **Satanovsky**, President of the *Ariel* group and President of the Institute for Israel and Middle East Studies, **Moscow, Russia:**

*I suppose that various religious holidays as well as the beginning of the farm operations in the drug-producing regions (that turned terrorists from their ordinary activity to the agricultural one) has caused the slow increase of the iSi figure. The permanent negative factors in international security are the situation over Iran and different regions African continent. I think prevention of the Islamic presidency in Turkey will seem to be critical factor for International security in the near future. I hope that the army will stand for the secular character of the state, as it happened before.*