

MAIN EVENTS OF SCO SECRETARIAT IN 2004

On January 14, 2004 S.Safaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, paying an official visit to China for the Inauguration Ceremony of the Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization invited SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan invited SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan to an official lunch at the Diayuitai residence. Deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and National Coordinator from Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan ambassador to China, Director of the Executive Committee of the antiterrorist structure and the assistant to the Secretary-General were also present during the lunch. As a result of exchanges of opinions they reached mutual understanding on a broad range of questions concerning the Secretariat, basic spheres of cooperation and further directions of SCO development. At the same day, the SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received at the Secretariat office OSCE Secretary-General Jan Kubis, who arrived to take part in the Inauguration Ceremony of the Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. They discussed issues of cooperation between two organizations. Jan Kubis invited Zhang Deguan to visit OSCE headquarters. Zhang Deguan accepted this invitation with gratitude.

On January 15, 2004 the Official Inauguration Ceremony of the Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization took place. The ceremony was attended by Ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Coordinators of SCO member-states, Tan Ziasuayan, members of the PRC State Council, and heads of various ministries and departments of China, representatives of international organizations and diplomatic missions accredited in China, altogether by more than 100 people.

Heads of six SCO member-states conveyed congratulatory telegrams to Zhang Deguan.

The inauguration ceremony was broadcasted live by Central TV channel of China.

On January 16, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan had a meeting with Geir O. Pedersen, Director for Asia and Pacific, UN Department of Political Affairs, special envoy of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; L. Erdenechuluun, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia; A.Kojakov, Deputy Chairman of Executive Committee of CIS, who arrived to attend the Inauguration Ceremony of the Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Guests congratulated Zhang Deguan on the occasion of the Inauguration of the Secretariat and expressed hope the development of contacts and cooperation with SCO. Zhang Deguan informed the guests on the main principles, policy of openness and cooperation of the Organization. He expressed hope for development of comprehensive cooperation based on mutual benefits, in the interests of joint efforts to enhance stability in the region throughout over the world.

On January 20, 2004 on the occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony of the Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Zhang Deguan received a letter of congratulation from A. Gul, Turkish Foreign minister and Deputy Prime Minister, who expressed his appreciation of the concept and programme of SCO activity and his willingness to contribute into this activity.

On January 27, 2004 OSCE Secretary-General Jan Kubis conveyed his message to Zhang Deguan inviting him to visit OSCE head-office. On February 3, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan sent official application to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan requesting observer status for SCO at the United Nations. The same day SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan had a meeting with Rafet Akgunay, Ambassador of Turkey to Beijing. They exchanged opinions on matters of developing cooperation.

On February 6, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received Tor Christian Hildan, exclery Loshinin, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Both sides exchanged opinions on matters of cooperation within SCO framework, preparations for the summit and other matters of mutual interest.

On March 16, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met Javier Solana, Secretary General of the Council of the European Union and High Representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and accompanying persons.

Expressing his gratitude, Zhang Deguan informed guests with the undertakings of SCO and the Secretariat, especially in the spheres of anti-terrorist activities and fight against illegal circulation of drugs of last several years. Zhang Deguan emphasized SCO policy of peace, friendship and openness, and its desire to support versatile contacts and cooperation with EU member countries and other international organizations and promote peace and development jointly in the region and throughout the world. Javier Solana was pleased from the opportunity of direct contacts with SCO, stated readiness of the European Union to support such contacts and discussed possibility of development of mutual cooperation between

two organizations.

On March 16-17, 2004 the Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization hosted next meeting of National Coordinators of SCO member-states. During the meeting state of affairs on preparing number of important activities within SCO framework for this year were discussed. SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan delivered report on works done by the Secretariat from the date of its establishment and disclosed plans for this year.

On March 22, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met Joseph Caron, Ambassador of Canada to Beijing. Joseph Caron highly assessed SCO activity and identified it as one of the major international organizations emerged in last decade. SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan informed Joseph Caron about matters of development of SCO economic cooperation and its future plans. Joseph Caron stated that this year Canada is presiding the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD), and chairman of this organization, who is planning to visit Beijing in March this year, wants to meet Zhang Deguan.

On March 23, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received David Green, former president of International Road Transport Union and accompanying persons. The guest informed about the directions of cooperation between his organization and SCO member-states and expressed desire for future cooperation with SCO in the sphere of transport. Zhang Deguan stated that creation of favourable conditions in the sphere of transportations is one of important preconditions for development of trade and investments. He welcomed readiness of David Green for the cooperation with SCO in the sphere of transportations,
noting the fact that the Secretariat will alleviate it.

On March 25, 2004, on the invitation of the Russian embassy in China, SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan attended the ceremony, where Russian Ambassador I. Rogachev greeted SCO Secretary-General and presented him a medal of the 300th anniversary of Petersburg on behalf of Russian President V. Putin. Prior to the ceremony, SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan had a conversation with Valery Loshinin, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who arrived to China with an official visit. Zhang Deguan also gave an interview to media representatives.

On March 30, 2004, in connection with a number of terrorist explosions in Uzbekistan, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan conveyed letter to S.Safayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, where he condemned these acts of terror, expressed condolence to relatives of victims, and stated his support to antiterrorist actions of the government of Uzbekistan.

On March 31, 2004, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received A.Jekshenkulov, Deputy Head of administration of the president of Kyrgyzstan, on his request during his official visit to China. Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan in China and J.Kulubayev, Deputy Secretary-General were also present during the meeting. The officials exchanged opinions mainly on matters of acceleration and stimulation of economic cooperation within SCO frameworks and reached full identity of opinions.

On April 1, 2004, S.Safayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan expressed his gratitude for the condolence in connection with a number of terrorist explosions in Uzbekistan in his reply to Secretary-General Zhang Deguan. In his letter S.Safayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated, that these terrorist acts showed once more the necessity of continuation of active and coordinated actions of all countries throughout the world against terrorism.

On April 2, 2004, in connection with a number of terrorist explosions in Uzbekistan, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan published statement with sharp condemnation of these terrorist actions. The statement underlines, that these acts of terror showed again, that terrorist, separatist and extremist forces are still main threats the region faces today. SCO supports actions of the government of Uzbekistan on struggle against terrorism, protection of internal stability in the state, and will strengthen coordination and cooperation with international community, resolutely fight against these forces of evil, jointly protect the peace and stability in the region and throughout the world.

On April 5, 2004 in the message to Secretary-General Zhang Deguan President of Uzbekistan I.Karimov has expressed gratitude for the earlier published statement with condemnation of acts of terrorism in Uzbekistan. In the message of president I.Karimov it is noted, that Uzbekistan, as well as

other SCO member-states, is ready to strengthen interaction with international community, jointly protect the peace and stability in the region and throughout the world.

On April 5, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received Kalahan, representative of UN branch to control drugs and the prevention of criminality in the Central Asian region. The officials exchanged opinions on matters of cooperation in struggle against constantly growing manufacture and smuggling of drugs in the Central Asian region. Prior to the meeting, Kalahan informed employees of Secretariat, representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and scientists of the host state with a state of affairs in Afghanistan in the sphere of drugs.

On April 6, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received delegation of assistants to congressmen of the USA, paying a visit to China. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan informed visitors with the general tasks and main principles of SCO. He also answered questions of visitors.

On April 12, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received Dr. Bates Gill, scientist from the Center of the international researches and studying the strategy of the USA and accompanying persons. Zhang Deguan informed guests on state of affairs in the Secretariat.

On April 12-14, 2004 on the invitation of a officials of Liaoning province (Peoples Republic of China) Secretary-General paid a working visit to a province Liaoning accompanied by Deputy Secretary-General Z.Kulubaev and other employees of the Secretariat. During the visit there was a joint meeting of the Secretary of a Communist Party of a province Liaoning Wen Shizheng, mayor of Shenyang Chen Zhenggao and others with Secretary-General Zhang Deguan. The officials exchanged opinions on expansion of cooperation within the SCO framework in the spheres of education, science and technology. The delegation also visited Shenyang polytechnic university, paid an attention to considerations of the accepting side on concrete directions of cooperation.

On April 23, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan took part in SCO Council meeting of Foreign Ministers in Moscow, submitting considerations on Secretariat activity.

On April 24, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan took part as an observer in the ninth meeting in Shanghai of Heads ESCATO and regional organizations of the Asian-Pacific region. In his speech Zhang Deguan highly praised ESCATO s active role in assisting social and economic development of the Asian-Pacific region, and expressed hope for strengthening the cooperation between SCO and ESCATO. On behalf of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, he submitted an application for official membership to the given format of meetings.

On April 24 – 25, 2004 on the invitation of organizers of Boao Asian forum at its annual conference SCO Secretariat was represented by SCO Deputy Secretary-General Mr. J. Kulubaev. SCO Deputy Secretary-General Mr. J. Kulubaev made a presentation of SCO Secretariat, delivering detailed information about goals and tasks of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and forthcoming measures within SCO framework this year.

On April 27, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received in the Secretariat S. Tereshchenko, former Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, currently a member of Council of Asian Boao Forum and accompanying persons. The sides exchanged opinions on matters of joint stimulation of corresponding directions of cooperation within SCO framework.

On May 10, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan resolutely condemned the terrorist act happened in Grozny, which resulted the assassination of the President of Chechnya Republic Akhmad Kadyrov and Chairman of the State Council of the Republic Khusein Issayev, as well as other persons. In his message to the address of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S. Lavrov, Secretary-General requested to convey sincere condolences to relatives and friends of decedents of this terrorist act. One of the main objects of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as stated in the message, is counteraction against international terrorism, separatism and extremism. Secretary-General stated, that SCO supports all efforts and actions of the Russian Federation government in the struggle against terrorism. SCO is ready along with all states – members of the Organization, to strengthen the cooperation in order jointly to guarantee peace and stability in all SCO member states, as well as the whole Shanghai Cooperation Organization area.

On May 17, 2004 President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbaev, who arrived to China with the state visit, met with Secretary-General of the Shanghai cooperation organization Zhang Deguan in the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan K. Tokaev, assistant to the President on international affairs K. Masimov and Kazakhstan Ambassador to PRC Z. Karibjanov were present at the meeting from the Kazakhstan side, and Deputy Secretary-General S. Narysov – from the Secretariat.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan briefly informed Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbaev on a state of affairs in Secretariat, highlighting principal projects of Secretariat on the establishment within the SCO framework of the Development Fund, the Business forum and the Eurasian international university, and expressed hope for support of these projects by the Kazakhstan side.

Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbaev, recalling the history of SCO establishment, emphasized persistent and active position of Kazakhstan with regard to SCO. He highly appreciated Secretariat activity, and expressed full support of Secretariat's initiatives on establishment of the Development Fund, the Business forum and the Eurasian international university.

Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbaev and Secretary-General Zhang Deguan exchanged views on important matters of strengthening security, economic cooperation and developing of external relations of SCO.

On May 27, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received in Secretariat Mr. Halil Akinci, special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

Halil Akinci said, that the Turkish government is interested in developing cooperation with SCO and is ready to active and deep discussions with SCO in this field.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan expressed approval of Turkish active position with regard to SCO, noting, that SCO is open for developing contacts and cooperation with the Turkish side in matters of maintaining regional security and stability, promoting joint development. Answering his questions, Zhang Deguan acquainted him with SCO affairs.

On May 31, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met in Secretariat Ambassador Carlos Sersale di Cerisano, who was elected this year as the Chairman of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). C. Cerisano acquainted the Secretary-General with basic goals of MTCR and its main directions of work, expressed readiness to establish working contacts with SCO, to adjust an exchange and cooperation in matters of missile export control and control of export of corresponding goods. Welcoming C. Cerisano, Zhang Deguan emphasized the role of MTCR in matters of maintaining international security and peace, preventing proliferation of mass destruction weapons, and specified, that SCO member-states attach great importance to MTCR activity. The parties can keep regular contacts, research and discuss ways and spheres of cooperation, contribute jointly to preserving peace in the region and the whole world.

On June 1, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received A. Kydyrbekov, permanent representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan at SCO Secretariat, the Minister-Counselor of the embassy of Kazakhstan in the Peoples Republic of China. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan welcomed assignment of A. Kydyrbekov as the permanent representative at Secretariat and congratulated him on this occasion. He said, that Kazakhstan is substantial participant of SCO and has always played an active, constructive role in establishing and developing the Organization. Currently Secretariat's work has just begun to gradually develop along various directions and there still exist many things to do, demanding urgent consideration together with member-states. Assignment by Kazakhstan side of its permanent representative promotes Secretariat activity. Besides the Kazakhstan side, Tajikistan has also officially appointed the Ambassador to Peoples Republic of China as the permanent representative at SCO Secretariat. Hopefully, other member-states will appoint their permanent representatives as well.

Mr. Kydyrbekov expressed his gratitude to the Secretary-General for this meeting and promised to fulfill duties assigned on him as the permanent representative, and support close working contacts with Secretariat, in order to push forward SCO facing affairs.

In the morning of June 8, Chairman of the Peoples Republic of China Hu Jintao ahead his official visit to four European states and participation in Tashkent summit of SCO, accepted SCO Secretary General Zhang Deguan. Deputy Secretary-General Narysov S.Z., Kulubaev Z.M., Zaharov V.J., assistant to Secretary-General Du Wei were also present during the meeting.

Head of Office of the Central Committee of a Chinese Communist Party Van Gan, member of State Council Tan Jiajuan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Li Zhaosin and other officials were present from the Chinese side. Hu Jintao noted, that from the moment of its formation, the Secretary accomplished a great volume of very effective work in promotion of cooperation in various spheres within the SCO

framework and widening external contacts. From the moment of establishment in 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation organization has already passed a three-year long development and now entered the new period of business cooperation. Strengthening of real cooperation within the SCO framework will not only favor the security, stability and development in the region, but also respond to an equitable interests of peoples of SCO member-countries.

Hu Jintao declared, that the Chinese side, as the host country of the Secretariat, will continue to give full support to the institute and provide all necessary convenience and assistance. On behalf of all employees of the Secretariat, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan thanked the government of the Peoples Republic of China for the help and support, which provided duly creation of Secretariat and its normal functioning. He promised to justify hopes of the governments and peoples of SCO member-states, strictly to be guided by the purposes, principles and spirit of SCO Charter, and successfully perform the Secretariat duties.

In the first half of June 19, 2004 the football tournament took place on sport grounds of Zhen Jinlun high school in Chaoyan district in Beijing, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the establishment of SCO. The competition was organized on the initiative and under the patronage of the SCO Secretariat.

Five teams took part in the tournament – the Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Embassies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and a combined team of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan, Deputy Secretary-General S. Narysov, Kyrgyzstan Ambassador in China and others attended the tournament as spectators. Before the start of the tournament, Secretary-General Zhnag Deguan delivered a brief greeting speech. He said, that the Council of heads of six SCO member-states has been just successfully held in Tashkent. During the session a number of important documents were signed, questions of further all-round deepening of practical cooperation within the framework of the Organization in various areas were settled. One of the important results of the summit became the decision to establish an annual celebration of June 15 as the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Day". We organized these competitions today to mark this our common holiday. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan wished the teams to exercise spirit of sportsmanship and friendship at the competition and to achieve outstanding results.

After half a day of hard competition, the Kazakhstan and Chinese teams, as well as Central Asian team, consisting of Kyrgyz and Tajik players, achieved first, second and third places respectively. Secretary-General handed over cups to prize-winning teams.

On July 6, 2004 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met in Secretariat Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine K. I. Gryshchenko and accompanying persons, who arrived in China with an official visit. Deputy Secretary-Generals Z. M. Kulubaev and V. J. Zakharov, assistant to Secretary-General Du Wei, other officials of the Secretariat, as well as the ambassador of Ukraine to China, Heads of territorial department, Department of economic cooperation, Press-service and legal department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine took part in the meeting.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan first of all welcomed the arrival of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine K. I. Gryshchenko and expressed great pleasure for the opportunity to meet the old friend in Beijing. He said, that Ukraine, as a major European state, is a friendly neighbour state for the SCO, as well as the country currently presiding in CIS and keeping close ties with all SCO member-states. The SCO adheres to a principle of openness in external relations, and is ready to strengthen contacts and cooperation with Ukraine and the CIS, jointly promote peace and development in the region and all over the world. At the request of the guest, Zhang Deguan informed him on results of recently held Tashkent summit, emphasizing the summit's course on pragmatism and openness, and also requested Secretariat's staff to inform the guest on a state of affairs with regard to developing cooperation within SCO in the field of opposing terrorism, as well as in trade, economic and other spheres.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine K. I. Gryshchenko during conversation highly evaluated SCO role and influence in maintaining security and stability in the region, assisting common prosperity and development of SCO member-states and declared Ukraine's readiness to develop active cooperation with SCO in combating threat of terrorism, in trade and economic cooperation and other spheres of common interest.

On July 14, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan was interviewed by Mr. Anthony Yuen, a leading anchor of Hong Kong television Phoenix, where he recounted in all details matters related to SCO activity. Full interview is due to be broadcasted in the program "Dialogue on international matters", on the eve of next meeting of Heads of Governments of SCO in September this year.

On July 20, 2004 in the afternoon Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met at the Secretariat with ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong. The assistant to Secretary-General Du Wei, counselors A.Sh.Khashimov, V.I.Trifonov, as well as special assistant to the Secretary-General and other officials took part in the meeting.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan warmly welcomed the visit of the Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong, saying that meeting was of great importance, because it was the first official contact between such two big regional organizations, as SCO and ASEAN. He noted, that both SCO and ASEAN were situated in the Asia-Pacific region, both were geographical neighbors, had similar or close goals and purposes with regard to each other, and that good relations were being maintained among member-states of these two organizations. Therefore, both organizations have strong reasons and necessity for cooperation, joint promotion to strengthening and consolidation of peace, development and progress in Asian-Pacific region. SCO member-states actively support development of relations with ASEAN and consider, it to be one of priority directions foreign policy activity of SCO.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan acquainted the guest with results of recent Tashkent summit, especially pointing out, that this summit had made an important decision, namely called on international organizations and forums in the Asia-Pacific region to gradually form a multilateral partnership network by concluding mutual agreements, based in particular on a principle of equality, mutual granting of the observer status. While making such an initiative, Heads of six states proceeded first of all from the principle that regionalism and multi-lateralism occupied ever increasing place in world affairs, and that the role and influence of regional organizations continued to grow. All these represent natural tendency of international policy development in the globalization epoch. Numerous regional organizations and various structures function in the Asia-Pacific region, cooperation among which has great importance in providing security and stability of the region. Being among them typical representatives of such kind of organizations, SCO and ASEAN should play a leading role in this respect and be the first to make a historic step towards cooperation. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan asked Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong to convey this request on his return home to ASEAN member-states, and also expressed hope to receive from ASEAN a positive reply.

Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong expressed gratitude to Secretary-General Zhang Deguan for invitation to visit the Secretariat and completely agreed with his assessment of the meeting. He said, that ASEAN considered it of great importance to establish relations of cooperation with SCO and expressed hope, that spheres and directions of future cooperation between two organizations would be discussed at that meeting. As to the SCO initiative, mentioned by Secretary-General Zhang Deguan, he would take it to convey to ASEAN Permanent Council of for further through consideration. During the conversation, both leaders exchanged information and experience in developing cooperation in their organizations. Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong especially admired with SCO efforts with regard to developing economic and humanitarian spheres of cooperation and expressed opinion, that it represented broad field for activity to cooperation between ASEAN and SCO. Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong invited Secretary-General Zhang Deguan to think over a visit to the ASEAN Secretariat with a delegation for further exchanges of opinions on matters of bilateral cooperation. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan accepted this invitation with pleasure.

On June 26 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met at the Secretariat with experts on matters of defense of six SCO member-states, who arrived to Beijing to participate in SCO seminar on matters of defense and security.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan welcomed successful implementation of the first seminar of six states on matters of defense and security and expressed opinion, that such activity in the form of a seminar is rather useful to a mutual exchange of experience, strengthening of mutual understanding and cooperation, and that it should be continued.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan acquainted experts with a current state of affairs in the Secretariat, and informed that the Secretariat together with SCO member-states actively accomplish the specific goals determined by the Tashkent summit and carry out cooperation in various spheres within the framework of the Organization. The Secretary-General underlined in his statement, that SCO is not the military block, it emphasizes on versatility of cooperation in internal affairs, and on development of all-round relations in external affairs and does not aspire to any confrontations. At the same time, struggle against "three evils" - terrorism, separatism and extremism, and also with illegal circulation of drugs, in protection of the peace, security and stability in region, creation of favorable social climate for development and prosperities of SCO member states is a constant priority in the activity of this Organization. Struggle against terrorism is concern of not only law enforcement bodies, but also demands the coordinated efforts of all ministries, and in this respect the Ministries of Defense possess an important role.

Experts on matters of defense of six states thanked Secretary-General Zhang Deguan for a meeting and declared, that they will continue to strengthen mutual cooperation, make efforts to increase the efficiency of cooperation in sphere of security, and bring the necessary contribution to the protection of SCO member states, the peace and stability in the region.

On July 29-30, the meeting of experts and senior officials of the Ministries of trade and economy of SCO member states took place in the Secretariat. The primary goal of this meeting was coordination and consideration of corresponding documents for their further transfer for approval in September of this year during the meeting of Ministers of trade and economy of the Organization and the Council of Heads of the governments. As a result of two-day hard work, experts reached the consent under the Project of the program of realization of substantive provisions of multilateral trade and economic cooperation and under the general contents of other projects. They signed the meeting protocol. After the meeting, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met experts. In his statement, he completely confirmed, that positive results were achieved during the meeting, and expressed opinion, that this meeting carries out an important spadework to meetings of Ministers of trade and economy of six countries and the Council of Heads of the governments.

On August 3-8 in Urumchi the expert meeting of the ministries of transport of SCO member states took place. This is the second expert meeting organized under auspices of ESCATO, the SCO Secretariat, and the Ministry of transport and communications of the People's Republic of China. During the meeting experts discuss matters of understanding and preparation of the project of the intergovernmental Agreement on facilitation of the international automobile transportations on the territory of SCO member states. Experts emphasize the development of the project of such agreement, as in the long term prospect transit automobile transportations provide the most active assistance in increase and expansion of trade relations among participants of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

On August 11, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met at the Secretariat with the delegation of assistances of US Congressmen. This is the second such delegation visiting the Secretariat. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan acquainted guests with a current state of affairs in the Secretariat and its external and internal aspects, answered their questions related to the antiterrorist and trade-economic cooperation.

On August 16, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan invited national coordinator of Kyrgyzstan K.Sarbayev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan S.Aslov, Director of the Executive Committee of RATS V.Kasimov and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Sh.Shoislamov to the Secretariat for joint business dinner. Deputy Secretary-General Zh.Kulubayv, Assistant to the Secretary-General Du Wei and other employees of the Secretariat were present during the dinner. Participants of the meeting exchanged opinions on friendly and open atmosphere on preparation to the meeting of Council of Head of Governments in Bishkek in last decade of December this year, on works of strengthening Regional Antiterrorist Structure and other important matters, reaching wide mutual understandings.

Abovementioned four guests arrived to Beijing for participation on the International conference on SCO, jointly hosted by China Institute for international strategic studies and German Konrad Adenauer Foundation. At the first half of the same day Secretary-General Zhang Deguan held brief meeting with V.Kasimov.

On August 17, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan took part in the International conference on SCO, which was jointly hosted in Beijing by China Institute for international strategic studies and German Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and addressed participants with his welcoming speech (more on this on "important speeches" of the Secretariat web-site). Deputy Chief of General Staff of Chinese People's Liberation Army and Chairman of China Institute for International Strategic studies General-Colonel Xiong Guangkai and resident representative of German Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Beijing Winfried Jung also delivered welcoming speeches during the conference. Besides that, Chairman Xiong Guangkai delivered theme address on "Supporting the "Shanghai Spirit", for assistance on peaceful development".

On August 25, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan met newly appointed permanent representative of Russia at the Secretariat of SCO. Officials conducted a friendly conversation. Zhang Deguan welcomed appointment of G.Logvinov to this position, pointing out, that this appointment will be beneficial for strengthening mutual exchange between the Secretariat and member-states, increase effectiveness of Organization's activity. G.Logvinov said, that Russia pays special attention to SCO, and after becoming a

permanent representative he is ready to maintain close cooperation with the Secretariat and jointly contribute to the development of SCO.

On August 25, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan was interviewed by the correspondent of the Uzbek television on the occasion of the upcoming celebration of the Independence of Uzbekistan. Zhang Deguan in his statement warmly congratulated government and people of Uzbekistan with important state holiday. He expressed appreciation on prominent accomplishments achieved on the sphere of governmental structuring for the last 13 years of the independence and important and active role, developed within the frameworks of SCO in recent years. He also expressed hope, that jointly gathering efforts with Uzbekistan, activity of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will surely develop further.

On August 30, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan resolutely condemned terrorist acts, which resulted the crash of two aircrafts of the Russian Federation civil airlines.

In his message to the address of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S. Lavrov, Secretary-General requested to convey sincere condolences to relatives and friends of decedents of this terrorist act.

One of the main objects of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as stated in the message, is counteraction against international terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Secretary-General stated, that SCO supports all efforts and actions of the Russian Federation government in the struggle against terrorism. SCO is ready along with all states - members of the Organization, to strengthen the cooperation in order jointly to guarantee peace and stability in all SCO member states, as well as the whole Shanghai Cooperation Organization area.

On August 31 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan received Australian Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism Mr. Les Luck at the Secretariat on his request.

During the meeting, Secretary-General explained that Shanghai Cooperation Organization is the first international organization, which openly and clearly declared struggle against terrorism by signing appropriate legal documents.

In anti-terrorist struggle, member states of this organization consecutively formed number of common views: international cooperation is necessary to effectively fight against terrorism; separatism and extremism should also be struggled against; struggle against narcotic smuggling is also necessary; terrorism has no mutual relations with any religion and nationality; struggle against terrorism is a long term mission, which requires adoption of complex measures, complex responds; struggle against terrorism requires strengthening of struggle in ideological front-line, using modern culture for mass training, prevention of corrupting influence of extremist ideology. Secretary-General acquainted the ambassador with basic functions and activities of RATS as well.

Mr. Les Luck expressed gratitude to Zhang Deguan for this meeting, articulating complete endorsement with SCO approach in struggle against terrorism and explained, that Australian officials are ready to strengthen contacts and interested to learn possible way of cooperation with SCO.

On September 3 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan made statement on seizure of hostages in Northern Osetia of the Russian Federation by terrorists. He resolutely condemned this terrorist act, expressed sincere condolences to the Government of Russian Federation, victims and their relatives. He expressed hope for their swift release and return of hostages to their families.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan stated, that he supports all efforts of the Russian Federation government directed towards the maintenance of governmental and social stability, guaranteeing peaceful life for citizens.

On September 6, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan sent a telegram to the address of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S. Lavrov, expressing condolences for victims of hostage siege.

Zhang Deguan stated, that number of innocent children and peaceful citizens were killed as a result of hostage siege by terrorists in Northern Osetia city Beslan of the Russian Federation. Whole staff of the Secretariat of SCO unanimously express indignation and sorrow on this action, resolutely condemn this inhuman outrage committed by terrorists, deeply grief over victims and convey their relatives most sincere condolences. We invariably support all efforts of the Russian Federation government and their people in maintaining governmental unity and territorial integrity. Terrorism, separatism and extremism are our common enemies. The Secretariat staff put all the efforts on strengthening coordination among SCO member states, developing cooperation in the field of security within the frames of our Organization, struggle against all forms of terrorism, safeguarding peace, security and stability in the region.

On October 18 the Secretariat hosted the SCO member-states' Ambassadors' Club second working meeting. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan, Ambassadors accredited to China, Permanent representatives of the SCO member-states to the Secretariat, Head of the East Europe and Central Asia Department of the MFA of the CPR took part in this meeting. The Session was chaired by Kazakhstan ambassador, representing the presiding member-state.

Secretary-General Zhang Deguan informed the participants on the situation regarding the realization by Secretariat of instructions of the recent Bishkek meeting of Heads of Governments and on his considerations concerning further work, which was then followed by discussion. In their speeches participants highly appreciated Secretariat efforts and positive results in promoting various spheres of business cooperation and in the field of external contacts achieved within the Organization's framework during more than half a year period from the moment of its establishment. They also supported plans and ideas for further actions put forward by the Secretary-General. Besides, they exchanged opinions concerning ways to further strengthen cooperation in economy and other spheres. After the session, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan held dinner party at the Secretariat in honor of diplomatic representatives.

The SCO member-states' Ambassadors' Club was established on September 7 this year on the initiative of member-states in order to strengthen contacts among diplomatic representatives of member-states with Secretariat, exchanging opinions on international and regional conditions and important issues of the Organization. The Ambassadors' Club consist Ambassadors of SCO member-states, accredited to China, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan and representative of MFA of the CPR.

On October 20, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan hold a meeting with National coordinator from Russia V.Vorobyov, who is responsible for SCO issues. Officials in a close friendly atmosphere exchanged opinions on important current issues of Organization's activity, reaching wide mutual understanding. Permanent representative of Russia at the Secretariat G.Logvinov and assistant to Secretary-General Du Wei took part in this meeting.

On October 25-27, 2004 SCO Secretary-General Zhang Deguan on the invitation of telecommunication department of Chinese company Zhongxing accompanied by Secretariat representatives paid a familiarization working visits to this company's headquarter in Shenzhen and the Zhongxing Communication institute. During this visit, the Secretary-General met Shenzhen city committee secretary Huan Limane, major Li Hunzhun and manager of Zhongxing company Hou Weigui, as well as had conversation with Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Communication A.Aripov, who was also visiting Zhongxing company at the same time.

During the visit, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan speaking on the Bishkek summit of the Council of Heads of Governments, pointed out, that strengthening practical cooperation in spheres of energy, transport and communication are priority directions of SCO development.

If consider transport communications as arteries of the economic development of states, then communication itself is the nerve of this economic development. Secretary-General Zhang Deguan welcomed active participation of Zhongxing company in the process of SCO development. Both sides had thorough exchange of opinions concerning preparation of communication specialists of SCO member-states and other issues.

On November 8 2004 in the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kasymjomart Tokayev, Ambassadors of the People's Republic of China Zhou Xiaopei, of the Kyrgyzstan Republic Jumagul Saadanbekov, of the Russian Federation Vladimir Babichev, of the Republic of Tajikistan Akbarsho Iskandarov and of the Republic of Uzbekistan Turdiqul Butayarov took place in this Club meeting.

Diplomats discussed issues of interaction of SCO Secretariat, the Council of National Coordinators and permanent representatives at the embassies accredited in Kazakhstan.

The Minister in his statement concentrated attention to the urgency of interaction of SCO member-states in struggle against terrorism, as well as in development of trade and economic cooperation.

Concerning Kazakhstan, according to the Minister, this country will continue to work actively in SCO with the purpose of strengthening its efficiency and positions in the modern international community. Astana is going to host next SCO summit July 2005, added K.Tokaev.

On November 9 Secretary-General Zhang Deguan hold a meeting in the Secretariat with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Elyor Ganiyev, who is responsible for trade and economic issues in Uzbekistan Government during his visit to China and accompanying persons.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to China N.Yusupov, Deputy Minister of Economy of Uzbekistan S.Hasanov,

Deputy Minister of Finance Z. Quchqorov and other officials took part in the meeting from the Uzbek side. The Secretariat was represented by Deputy Secretary-Generals S. Narysov, V. Zaharov, assistant to the Secretary-General Du Wei and other employees. Officials exchanged opinions in a friendly atmosphere on issues of strengthening trade and economic cooperation within SCO framework and unanimously noted, that on the basis of principles of high efficiency, pragmatism, equality, mutual benefit, coordination and harmony, SCO should propose concrete cooperation in trade, economy and other spheres for the interests and benefits of people of six countries. After the meeting the Secretary-General hosted a banquet in honor of the Uzbek delegation.

On November 17 in Astana meeting of interdepartmental group on issues of Kazakhstan's activity within SCO framework under presidency of Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kasimjomart Tokayev took place.

During the meeting results of the Bishkek meeting of Heads of Governments of SCO member-states, which took place on September in Bishkek, issues of fulfilling plans of measures on realization of the Program of multilateral trade and economic cooperation of SCO member states and realization of projects within framework of special work-groups were discussed.

On November 23, Secretary-General Zhang Deguan on the invitation of Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in China, Minister Counsellor Franz Jessen, took part in a working dinner. Assistant to the Secretary-General Du Wei, advisor V. Trifonov and first secretary of the EU delegation to China D. Kremonini were also present. During the dinner officials exchanged opinions concerning SCO activity and expressed readiness to promote establishing mutual contacts between such huge regional organizations such as EU and SCO.

On December 14-16, the regular session of the Council of National coordinators of SCO member-states took place in the Secretariat, where national coordinators of six states, permanent representatives, Secretary-General Zhang Deguang, other heads of the Secretariat, and representatives of RATS took part. The Secretary-General delivered his report on results of 2004, and participants positively assessed Organization's activity in 2004. Besides, the Secrgroups on establishing the Development Fund and SCO Business council also took place in the Secretariat.

In the evening of December 29, 2004, the Secretariat hosted a New Year party, where all the Secretariat staff took part along with their spouses. The Party started with Secretary-General Zhang Deguang speaking on behalf of heads of the Secretariat to congratulate all with a happy new year and wish happiness, family prosperity and best of luck in 2005.

In his statement, Zhang Deguang said that this year Organization has carried out a transition from establishing mechanisms towards expansion of practical cooperation. Due to joint efforts of all colleagues, the Secretariat, from the very beginning of its existence, has joined in a full-scale activity of the Organization and perfectly fulfilled its organizational and coordination functions. Besides, the Secretariat has also submitted its proposals and comments for discussion of number of important issues concerning the Organization's development. This year all the Secretariat staff have achieved big successes, brought in the valuable contribution to the development of the Organization and at the same time obtained a wide experience of conducting the multilateral diplomacy.

The SCO member-states are interested in effective development and strengthening of Shanghai Cooperation organization, which is of their fundamental and long-term interests. During his speech, Zhang Deguang expressed confidence, that 2005 will be the year of even bigger developments for Shanghai Cooperation organization and let all the Secretariat staff to achieve even bigger successes in their work.

During the New Year party, congratulations of national coordinators of the SCO member-states and Directors of the Executive committee RATS have also been comprehended. Flowers and New Year gifts have been handed to families of the Secretariat staff. There have also been comic tricks executed. The party went on in lively, friendly and harmonious atmosphere.

On December 30th, 2004 Russian Foreign affairs minister Sergey Lavrov sent a congratulation telegram to Secretary General Zhang Deguang on the occasion of the New Year holiday. The telegram reads that the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has begun fully functioning in the outgoing 2004. After its opening the Organization has obtained an effective instrument for fulfilling a number of cooperational assignments connected with providing stability, security and economic development of the member states. In conclusion, minister Lavrov expressed his hope about the further development of his useful contacts with the Secretary General.