

**Valentin Sobolev**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The appearance of a new publication always engenders interest and attention, particularly when the journal is the successor to a well-known journal like *Yaderny Kontrol*. During the years of its existence, *Yaderny Kontrol* became one of the most authoritative sources of information on current international security issues for both Russian and foreign experts. Over time the journal expanded—not only in terms of the numbers of pages and the quantity of authors and interviews it attracted, but also in terms of the extent and breadth of the issues and events that it covered.

Despite the fact that the name *Yaderny Kontrol* became quite well known and was virtually a business card for the PIR Center and Russian analysis on WMD nonproliferation and arms control issues, the considerable broadening of issue areas touched upon in the journal's pages made the changing of its name a logical step in the formation of an expert dialogue in Russia on issues related to security. The journal's new name reflects the fact that the publication, like all of the PIR Center's academic analysis, exceeded the realm of nonproliferation long ago and now includes all of the fundamental security issues that are of concern in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This expansion of topical areas is extremely well timed, as it takes into account the increasing complexity and multiplicity of factors involved in the security problems facing the global community and our nation at the present time.

In recent years, along with classic 20<sup>th</sup> century problems such as regional crises and conflicts, we are more frequently hearing of and recognizing ever more serious threats, the problems of terrorism, political and religious extremism in its various manifestations, separatism, the illegal narcotics trade, human trafficking, environmental and man-made catastrophes, the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, etc.

Regardless of the order in which we enumerate these problems, it is clear that together they have a very strong and very dangerous explosive potential and directly effect the security both of individual states and the entire international community.

The quality of the answers to these threats, to traditional threats, as well as to the new challenges to national and global security in many ways depends on bringing together the efforts of the entire world, including Russia. It is critical that state organizations, the media, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and independent analytical organizations like the PIR Center are brought together to find effective and nontrivial answers to the challenges and threats. I am certain that the new journal *Security Index* will be as necessary to people involved in working out solutions in the security sphere as its predecessor, *Yaderny Kontrol*, was before it.

I recall the esteemed Mr. Orlov referring to the dictionary, and would similarly like to refer to the definition of the word “index,” which means an indicator of the development, change in processes, and phenomena during a particular period of time. We have just seen this in the table, and on behalf of the Security Council staff would

like to wish for the new journal that this indicator would always remain valid, strictly calculated, and scientifically substantiated so that it may help all states, nongovernmental organizations, and all of humanity in the search for realistic means to combat current threats.

The best of success to the new journal!