

YAROSLAVL: UNIFICATION OF POLICY AND INTELLECT

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The Yaroslavl conference was a very good beginning, a conference which will be remarkable and remembered for the fact that it included a wide spectrum of Russian political opinion. But I felt that while it was a good beginning with a great deal of potential, if it is to continue successfully then it needs to be expanded in terms of the duration for which the conference is being held, and secondly in terms of international participation, because I felt that **the participation of the international community was too limited.**

I think we need to have people from the global South. We need to have Chinese representation, and we need to have Western, Latin American, and African representation. These need not all be governmental representatives, but could be representatives of civil society, as well as important intellectuals.

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In Davos, the business community is the dominant community. Yaroslavl can develop into having a slightly different angle, ensuring also that it is attracting people at the front lines of intellectual activity. We can have great thinkers in various fields of intellectual endeavor and disciplines who will come to Yaroslavl and make it a hub of intellectual ideas once again.

As the President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World, I realize that there is a gap between the intellectual community and politicians. But there exist unpublicized ways to reach policy-makers. **Yaroslavl can be a place where intellectual leaders can meet political leaders. And that direct contact might ensure a better exchange.**

Following the global developments of 2009, it is very clear that the world is still recovering from the great slump in our international economic situation, caused by irresponsible casino capitalism on Wall street. The bottom billion, the poorest of the world, have been hit the worst by the financial meltdown.



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Today, the countries of the global South, and that includes China, India, and Brazil, are recovering a little better than some of the Western economies.

But we are all suffering from a common malaise, because in today's globalized and interdependent world what hits one country inevitably hits other countries as well.

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The fact that the United States is involved in two wars (in Iraq and in Afghanistan) is a further cause of some degree of pessimism, as to whether we will recover from this international financial meltdown quickly enough.

Global military expenditure, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in 2008, was 1,464 billion dollars. The US comprises 41.5 per cent of this figure. We hope, therefore, that the bilateral talks between the US and Russia, which are going on with regard to strategic arms, will be successful, and that there will

be deep cuts in the arsenals of these two countries, because together they comprise 95 per cent of the global nuclear arsenal.

I think that global trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization must be improved. Above all, **it is vital that the Russian Federation becomes an important power in the world and a very important economic player in the world and is admitted to the WTO.**

When we look at the global situation of international terrorism, we see that it's a feature that affects everyone in common. We have seen that in Sri Lanka, as a result of international cooperation, the Sri Lanka government was successful in defeating the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). And it is now left to the government to consolidate that military victory into a political arrangement.

But in China, too, we have been very surprised to see in Xinjiang the emergence of some form of terrorism. This is an international problem, and international cooperation is the key to combating this kind of terrorism successfully. We must enlarge our democratic system in order to accommodate grievances whether they are of ethnic minorities or religious minorities.

Nobody can transplant one model, which is successful in a particular country, to another country. Political models have got to be shaped by a country's history, by its tradition and local conditions. The United Kingdom, for example, during the 17th and 18th centuries, and even in the 19th century, did not have a perfect democratic system. In China, we see some evolution at the grassroots of democracy, and there are elections being held today. I am confident that **in the future, China too will have the same forms of democracy, perhaps not in an identical way to Russia or Sri Lanka, but in its own way.** The important thing is to have the participation of the people, and after economic empowerment inevitably political empowerment will follow. ■

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