



Press Release

23 January 2006

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Russian spy allegations – work of manic depressives

ANDREI PIONTKOVSKY, Director of the Center for Strategic Research in Moscow, speaking at the launch of a pamphlet (*East or West? Russia's Identity Crisis in Foreign Policy*) published today (24 January) by the Foreign Policy Centre said, in response to the allegations of Britain funding NGOs to spy on the Russian state:

“Never before has a diagnosis of collective manic depression in the Russian political class been so methodically demonstrated.”

HUGH BARNES, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre’s Future of Russia Programme said:

“The fall of the Soviet Union sparked an identity crisis in Russia and its effects continue to influence foreign policy under President Vladimir Putin. Over the past decade and a half, Russia may have ceased to be an active enemy of the West. But it has not become part of the West, and this spying allegation clearly shows that the tensions instilled during the Cold War have not been abated.”

ANDREI PIONTKOVSKY said:

“Putin is currently performing a U-turn in his foreign policy that perfectly suits China, whose historical program of swallowing Russia will be greatly facilitated by Russia’s petty and counterproductive geopolitical confrontation with the West.

“The Holy Alliance of Emperors Pu and Hu is a union of a rabbit and a boa constrictor. It will inevitably and very quickly lead to a complete Hu-ization of our little Pu. While desperately trying to pick up the piece of its ‘near abroad,’ Russia will soon find itself turned into China’s ‘near abroad.’”

Editor’s Notes

The FPC will launch a pamphlet authored by Andrei Piontkovsky (*East or West? Russia's Identity Crisis in Foreign Policy*) at 5.30pm today. **A copy of the pamphlet (pdf) is attached.**

‘East or West? Russia’s Crisis of Identity and Foreign Policy’

Speakers

Andrei Piontkovsky, Director of the Centre for Strategic Research, Moscow
Yulia Latynina, Senior Journalist, The Moscow Times

Date: Tuesday 24 January 2006 from 5.30-7.30 p.m.

**For more information or a copy of the report, please contact Alex Bigham on
020 7388 6662 or 07830 195 812**

The Foreign Policy Centre

Progressive Thinking for a Global Age



Venue: The Foreign Press Association
11 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AJ

The fall of the Soviet Union sparked an identity crisis in Russia and its effects continue to influence foreign policy under President Vladimir Putin. Over the past decade and a half, Russia may have ceased to be an active enemy of the West. But it has not become part of the West, nor has it entirely lost the anti-western instincts instilled by seventy years of communist rule. The events of 9/11 and war in Iraq have added to Russia's identity crisis, as has China's emergence as an economic superpower, posing the question: does Russia belong to the East or West?

The author of a new pamphlet commissioned by the FPC, "Russia's Crisis of Identity and Foreign Policy", Andrei Piontkovsky will argue that only by facing Westwards can Russia achieve its foreign policy goals and secure a European identity for the twenty-first century. A different point of view may be expected Yulia Latynina, an experienced commentator, currently working for the Moscow Times.

Please register by email to russia@fpc.org.uk T +44 20 7388 6662 or F +44 20 7388 8896

ENDS

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