

# Project Democracy Targets CIS for More Regime Change

by Elisabeth Hellenbroich and Mary Burdman

Warnings sounded by Russian representatives at *EIR*'s Berlin seminar of Jan. 12-13, about a new wave of destabilizations in Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) nations, were echoed on Jan. 25 by CIS Executive Committee Chairman Vladimir Rushailo in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. He said that a "Georgia" (December 2003) or "Ukraine" (December 2004) scenario of regime change may unfold in any CIS member country, "and it may happen in non-member countries, too, as we have seen many times."

Rushailo is heading up Russia's team of observers of the run-up to Tajikistan's Feb. 27 parliamentary elections. Kyrgyzstan will also hold elections that day. The Russian newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* of Jan. 24 wrote about Roza Otunbayeva, former Kyrgyzstan Ambassador to London, as a likely "Burjanadze" (Georgia) or "Tymoshenko" (Ukraine) figure for Kyrgyzstan, referring to female activists who played a high-profile role in regime change in those two countries. Elections in Moldova will be in March.

The issue of "regime change" also came up in a discussion with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, published on Jan. 25 in the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Saakashvili and the new President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, have issued a Carpathian Declaration, which calls the changes in their countries the "beginning of a new wave of European liberation, which will lead to the final victory of freedom and democracy on the European continent." But the "spark of revolution," Saakashvili said, will extend beyond Europe's geographic boundaries, to all countries of the former Soviet Union. He mentioned Kyrgyzstan by name. Newly named Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has promised "to peacefully export the [Ukrainian] orange revolution wherever possible."

Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev, in his Jan. 11 State of the Nation address, talked about Western-funded organizations having trained Ukrainian and Georgian NGOs [non-governmental organizations] in advance of their countries' contested elections. Akayev said that "our homegrown instigators" had "quite skilled trainers, who have learned to make revolutions of various colors out of provocations"—a reference to the marketing imagery used in Ukraine and elsewhere, as elaborated by Konstantin Chermnykh in the accompanying article.

The Russia correspondent of *The Hindu* newspaper of

India reflected concern in the region over the activation of these regime-change scenarios in central Eurasia, in a Jan. 31 article that called U.S. support for them "a threat to peace and stability." Ukraine's orange revolution "now threatens to spill over to Central Asia, with potentially dire consequences for regional stability," *The Hindu* article said, adding that Kazakhstan has been targetted, as well as Kyrgyzstan. The paper pointed out that Russia has an important new air base in Kyrgyzstan, while economic cooperation with energy-rich Kazakhstan is vital to Russia and China. Opposition victories could weaken such regional organizations as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, and the Organization of Central Asian States. Also, emphasized *The Hindu*, such "revolutions" could set off bloody conflicts in the region, which is plagued by drug warlords, ethnic conflicts, and tensions over scarce water resources.

*The Hindu* article stated that a planned "tulip revolution" in Kyrgyzstan had been promoted by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lynn Pascoe, a "moving spirit" of support for the "orange revolution" in Ukraine. (Pascoe became Ambassador to Indonesia at the end of 2004.) U.S. Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Stephen Young has called for a "peaceful transfer of power" there, and promised financial aid to ensure a "fair election," the paper said.

The economy is the key to Kyrgyzstan, where nearly half the population of 5 million live below the poverty line. Akayev said in a recent interview that Kyrgyzstan has been targetted, despite democratic institution-building. "I am sure this technology will not work in [dictatorial] Turkmenistan," he said, "but it may work in Kyrgyzstan, which has established such fundamentals of democracy as numerous opposition parties, free media, and over 5,000 non-governmental organizations."

During his January trip to the United States, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov warned that Russia would "sharply react to the export of revolutions to countries of the CIS, no matter in what colors these revolutions may be draped." He added, "Today we have military presence in all CIS countries, with the exception of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan."

President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan had late-January consultations with Russian President Vladimir Putin.