

**Prague Office of the Secretariat of the  
Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe**

CSCE Communication No. 27/94

Prague, 14 June 1994

**RELEASE OF DOCUMENT**

Recommendations to the Government of Kyrgyzstan; letter of the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Upon the decision of the 27th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials taken on 13 June 1994, the above mentioned letter of the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, dated 29 April 1994 as well as the letter of reply, dated 11 June 1994 (CSCE Communication No. 27/1994) has been released to the public.

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# C S C E

High Commissioner  
on National Minorities

Her Excellency  
Mrs Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan  
720050 BISHKEK  
Republic of Kyrgyzstan

The Hague      Reference :  
29 April 1994      No 2369/94/L

Your Excellency,

During your absence I visited your country on 22 - 24 April 1994. I should like to express my gratitude to your Government for the kind reception it gave me and for its willingness to organise a most interesting programme of meetings.

During these contacts, one of the questions frequently discussed was how to encourage especially the members of the Russian ethnic group, many of whom have left Kyrgyzstan in recent years, to stay in your country and to contribute their skills to its development. In this connection, I should like to draw the attention of your Government to a memorandum signed on 30 March 1994 by Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on the main principles regarding the citizenship and the legal status of citizens of both states who reside permanently on the territory of the other state. One of the main principles is, as President Nazarbayev commented later, "to ensure that if a Kazakh citizen moves to Russia he should be able to obtain citizenship there without question, without any delays; if he comes back to Kazakhstan, or a Russian decides to move to Kazakhstan permanently, he must be able to obtain citizenship right away."

It is the intention of the Governments of the Russian Federation and of Kazakhstan to elaborate these principles and to conclude a treaty along these lines. My recommendation to your Government is that you would try to follow a similar approach. It is important for Russians living in Kyrgyzstan to know that, if they would decide, for whatever reason, to return to Russia, they would not be strangers in their

country of origin, but would be able to acquire Russian citizenship rapidly and easily. Paradoxically, the knowledge would help to make them decide to stay in Kyrgyzstan. I would be highly interested in having your comments on this recommendation.

When I was received by President Akayev, he proposed that CSCE would organise a seminar in Bishkek in cooperation with your Government on the subject of the prevention of conflict between various ethnic groups. I welcome this proposal, and I will do my best to promote its implementation. It would be my view that apart from representatives of your Government and representatives of various ethnic groups living in your country, a number of international experts in this field would have to participate.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]  
Max van der Stoel  
CSCE High Commissioner  
on National Minorities

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**Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kyrgyz Republic**  
No. 3 3-08/13 Bishkek, 11 June 1994

Unofficial translation  
(made by the HCNM's office)

His Excellency  
Mr. Max van der Stoel  
The CSCE High Commissioner  
on National Minorities

Your Excellency,

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like once again to express gratitude for the attention you are paying to such a live issue for Kyrgyzstan as integration of national minorities in the Republic.

You are well aware that the President and the Government of the Republic are highly concerned about it and are paying the greatest attention to it, aiming at facilitation of the life of ethnic minorities in the territory of Kyrgyzstan to the highest degree.

At present, on the initiative of the President of the Republic A. Akayev, an intensive work is being done on elaboration of a National Programme on preventing migration

in the Republic. Within the framework of this Programme a series of purposeful measures are being undertaken and, in particular, these days in Bishkek a Round Table 'Russians in Kyrgyzstan' is being carried out. It is devoted to the second anniversary of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation and President A. Akayev will take part in this work.

Concrete measures are also being undertaken in order to implement state policy in the field of inter-ethnic relations 'Kyrgyzstan Our Common Home'. Among them one can mention for example regular meetings of the President of the Republic with representatives of different national and ethnic minorities, carrying out exhibitions on particular subjects, stone-laying ceremony before construction of a new Orthodox church in Bishkek with participation of President A. Akayev and many others.

In other words, the President and the Government of the republic attach an extremely high importance to the preservation of the civil peace, to the harmonious development of inter-ethnic relations and to questions relating to the prevention of undesirable for the Republic migration processes.

Concrete recommendations of Your Excellency are undoubtedly of a great interest for us and at present are being studied very carefully by our experts and are likely to be taken into consideration in elaboration of a final version of the national Programme on preventing migration in Kyrgyzstan.

Please accept, Your Excellency, assurances of the highest consideration,

Deputy Minister A. Jekshenkulov