



The Russia Journal

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Georgia strikes against Chechen rebels

Dozens are arrested and 5 killed in an anti-terror operation

By Margarita Antidze
Reuters

TBILISI — Georgia, under pressure from Moscow to halt rebel activity on its territory, said Saturday it had detained scores of Chechens and killed at least five guerrillas linked to deadly blasts in Russia three years ago.

As part of what it calls a broad anti-terrorist operation, Georgia also extradited to Russia a man Moscow says belongs to a group of Chechens behind the 1999 blasts that killed more than 300 people across Russia, Itar-Tass said.

On Saturday, in the biggest crackdown against Chechens in ex-Soviet Georgia in recent years, authorities took in dozens of foreigners, including Hizri Aldamov, the chief representa-



A GEORGIAN police officer stops a car and checks the occupants' documents during an anti-crime operation in Tbilisi on Saturday. Georgian police flooded the streets of the city in an operation that resulted in dozens of arrests.

tive of the Chechen exile community in Georgia, to be fingerprinted.

Also summoned were relatives of

top Chechen rebel envoy Akhmed Zakayev, wanted by Moscow for alleged terror crimes.

"Interior Ministry and security

officials have detained and checked up about 80 people

See **GEORGIA**, Page 4

Transneft says Russia faces pipeline choice

By Eduard Gismatullin
Bloomberg

Transneft, Russia's state-controlled oil pipeline monopoly, said the government must choose between its proposed pipeline to Asia and the Pacific or one that Yukos plans to build to northern China.

Both pipelines would run from the Angarsk Oil Refinery in southeast Russia, and there isn't sufficient oil capacity for the two projects to be profitable, Transneft Chief Executive Officer Semyon Vainshtok said at a press conference.

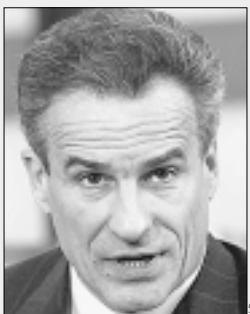
Yukos's "Russia-China pipeline will be targeting a closed market of one country, while

See **PIPELINE**, Page 4

Moscow looks for a new NATO

By Alex Kwiatkowski
The Russia Journal

Ahead of this week's visit to Moscow by NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, aide to President Vladimir Putin, said Russia's attitude toward NATO expansion into ex-communist states was "quietly negative," and that Russia



SERGEI YASTRZHEMSKY

saw no clear motive for it. "In principle, Russia is opposed to NATO expansion because we can't see any real purpose or reason for it," he told reporters Friday, three days before a conference on military cooperation in anti-terrorist operations, an event hailed by NATO as a "concrete manifestation of solid, good cooperation between NATO and Russia."

"I believe that NATO enlargement is a tribute to old approaches toward security that do not take into account modern challenges," Yastrzhembsky said.

Global terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional instability and aggressive nationalism are these new challenges to security, common to both NATO and Russia, he added in a comment giving hope that this week's

See **NATO**, Page 4

Iraq sends 'tell all' document on arms to U.N. headquarters

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.N. plane left Sunday with voluminous documents of a report on Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear programs that a senior Iraqi official described as accurate and comprehensive. He challenged critics to come forward with proof otherwise.

"It's accurate, comprehensive and truthful," Gen. Amer Saadi, presidential science adviser, told reporters. He said that if others, presumably the United States, "have anything to the contrary, let them come forth with it."

Saadi said the report "will

See **IRAQ**, Page 4



IRAQI officials seal a suitcase containing reports on the country's nuclear, biological and chemical activities before sending it to New York and Vienna.

INSIDE

RUSSIA

- Russia slams Britain over Zakayev..... 3
- Top Chechen survives ambush..... 3
- Dirty tactics seen in vote..... 3

MONEY

- Sibneft buys Slavneft stake..... 5
- Ukraine siphons more gas..... 5
- Berezovsky to sell stake..... 5

WORLD

- Serbia goes back to the polls..... 8
- Blasts see dozen of arrests..... 8

SPORTS

- Wild puts stop to Canucks..... 12
- Hawks swoop to win..... 12

A note to readers

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