

**"Russia and the World
at the Dawn of 2006"
Report of a Listening Post
held on 11th January**



Encouraging The Reflective Citizen

Part 1. THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

In this part of listening Post participants were invited to identify their experience in various social roles. Mostly as citizens faced to power.

Part 2. IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

In part 2 the aim was collectively to identify the major themes emerging from part 1. There were four interrelated statements:

1. Emigration in own country

We are citizens of this country not "thanks to" but "in spite of". There were frequent references to the growth of aggression in Moscow.

2. Person has no rights

Most people broken rules and it is only way of living here. The results of election are discouraging. Some people think that they want to run or to find a place to hide.

3. Moscow and regions

All money from other regions of Russia are in Moscow, all aggression in Moscow and many people from province are dreaming about life in Moscow. This is the topic of best opportunities. It is closely connected with the idea from soviet period that all people have to be equal.

4. Constant extreme

Our every day life is accompanied by the fear of tomorrow. People always worried about their own future and future of their children. The majority of women who have sons told that they are shudder with horror when think about Russian army. For them it means that they have to send their children for death. It is not only in connection with Chechnya but with relationship between old soldiers and officers and new young one.

Part 3. ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

In this part of the Listening Post the members were working with the information resulting from parts 1 & 2 developing hypotheses as to why they might be occurring at that moment. Their collective ideas and ways of thinking about external realities created some hypotheses:

Analysis and Hypothesis 1

Analysis:

There are a lot of complaints for authority (aggressors) or people prefer to identify with aggressor. Our feeling of citizenship is very infantile. Most words about citizenship were negative and look like children attitude. Children are not citizens. On the other side of the topic of shame there is the topic of self-interests, profit. Corruption is opposite to responsibility and guilty. Citizen has to choose from these two possibilities. Offences against law are common place. There is no law for everybody.

Hypothesis:

Our Ego is enslaved of power. Our feeling of citizenship is very infantile. It means that superego is not developed.

Analysis and Hypothesis 2

Emigration in own country

Analysis:

There is no more image of the country with whom it is possible to identify. There is a lot of hostility to arrival new people, strangers. It is hard to be not similar to everyone. From the point of view of biology it means that there is attack on our territory.

Hypothesis:

Ethologic told about surge of energy. Growing of aggression connected with biological instinct reaction. We can run or struggle. Second point - Everybody wants to be equal. It takes place from Freudian ideas about children reaction to strangers (deepest fear of other sex).

Analysis and Hypothesis 3

Constant extreme

Analysis:

Unstable life leads us to the fear of future and we even take pleasure from this. We feel anxiety, fear of the existence. Modern popular Russian proverb "The absence of bad news is good news".

Hypothesis:

After long period of soviet state people still have habit to grow up their self-attitude throw solving dangerous situation even with the risk for their life. That means that we have some masochistic features in our characters. And we still need make revolution inside us.

It is important to mention that people start evening from the question: "To whom you will send our words? (FSB - former KGB). And finishing meeting one man has told that during 50 minutes we were talking about negative attitude towards country but there are a lot of positive changes around us.

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