

The CRCE Newsletter

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Birthday celebrations

On 15th December, Lord Harris of High Cross – who has been a Trustee of the Centre since its inception – celebrated his 80th birthday and Lisl Biggs-Davison attended the party given by the IEA in his honour. It was a terrific occasion and a meeting of many old friends. Both Ralph Harris and Lisl were astounded to realise that it was nearly 20 years since she arrived at the CRCE which was then based at the IEA. Ljubo Sirc sent a tribute for Ralph's birthday book, part of which was read out by John Blundell, the IEA's Director General.

Visitors

The year 2004 closed with visits from Andreea Udrea of Bucharest, a friend of Oana Sociu who took part in our meeting at Bled. Andrea was most interested to hear about the work of the CRCE and took with her a selection of publications. Our final visitor, shortly before Christmas was Liza Markham over from America. Liza also attended the Bled Conference as an Atlas Foundation Observer. During her time in London, she accompanied Lisl and CRCE intern James Peters to a meeting of the Military Commentators' Circle.

Fraud or Fairy Tales?

February 2005 was a busy month at the Centre with a visit from Elena Zhuhuravskaya of the Institute of Open Economy together with her colleagues Andrei Kunov and Dmitry Shakin. The CRCE held a meeting with the fascinating title of *Fraud or Fairy Tales: Russia and Ukraine's Electoral Experiences*, an analysis of the recent elections in Russia and Ukraine to a large and interested audience. Ljubo Sirc travelled to London to be with us, and took the Chair at the meeting. Earlier in the month Lisl Biggs-Davison and Helen Szamuely had attended a debate on much the same subject.

Publications

From Crisis to Growth: by Dr Vladimir Mau was published a few days before the meeting (see above). This is a major study on Russia's post-revolutionary economic policy. We are grateful to Roger Clarke for translating and editing. The book is available at a 50% discount of £12 (\$24 in United States, which includes postage) to *CRCE Newsletter* readers.

The December issue of the journal, *Post-Communist Economies*, contained four articles on Russia and also covered Slovenia and China. The journal is now in its 17th year of publication and the spring issue is available. The Centre always welcomes submissions to the journal and further details may be found at Taylor and Francis www.tandf.co.uk/journals. Sample copies are available from the CRCE office.

Selected papers from the symposium at Bled on *Inhibited Transition – Reasons and Remedies* can be read on the CRCE Website. We are grateful to James Peters for his assistance in editing the papers, together with his comment on the symposium.

On the following page we have reproduced a fascinating article, ‘The Last Dissident’, which appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*. The hero of the title is our own Ljubo Sirc. There is one error I should like to correct: Dr Sirc was never a communist. But full marks to Marcia Kurapovna for writing his story.

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