

THE GEORGIAN CHRONICLE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Major events and trends in politics, economy and social life

February 1997

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NATO Secretary General Javier Solana paid his first ever visit to Georgia, inclining it towards the West. President Eduard Shevardnadze's visits to France, Ukraine and Azerbaijan also strengthened the country's international stance. The government succeeded in hammering out a state budget for 1997. And President Shevardnadze declared 1997 the year of an anti-corruption crusade.

THE STATE POWER

THE STATE BUDGET. On February 6, President Eduard Shevardnadze submitted a draft 1997 state budget to Parliament worked out in accordance with IMF recommendations. Mr. Shevardnadze depicted the draft as a necessary, even forced step because of the absence of an alternative financial source for the national economy. The budget debate was limited by the IMF-recommended deadline of February 21. A delay would have led to the IMF postponing its next allocation credit of \$80mln.

The president called for support of some economic innovations in the budget, including a special presidential financial program to increase budget revenue. The MPs, however, failed to find any legal justification for the proposed economic deals and refused to support them.

Various party groups dissented from the government line during the budget debate, even the most of members of the Shevardnadze-chaired ruling party "Citizens' Union of Georgia" (CUG). The opposition groups "Popular Faction", "Abkhazia" and "National-Democrat" and those loyal to the ruling party, including "Imedi", "Majoritarian" and the coalition "United Georgia" (the groups "Elector" and "Union for Revival") also criticized the draft.

They criticized it for its orientation toward foreign credits rather than domestic resources, its deficiency in budgeting expenditures for social needs, poor definition of economic priorities delaying conditions for economic growth, an attempt to provide 63% of revenue through VAT collection, a lack of transparency in a portion of the

expenses and insufficient funding of regional needs, accused of underfunding of national judicial system reform, which was seen as a potential source of corruption.

The CUG group, in alliance with other MPs, demanded more parliamentary control over the implementation of the budget, calling for creation of special legal mechanisms.

Some experts explain the CUG's anti-budget mood as its way to use the budget issue to force some incumbent ministers out of office, apparently to be replaced by CUG nominees.

As the budget debating deadline approached and quick reshuffle of the cabinet appeared less realistic, the CUG MPs gradually calmed their criticism.

But it became clear that the draft could not have been passed without support from allies in groups other than the CUG. For final approval of the draft budget, 118 votes were needed out of 232 adjudicated in the parliament.

On February 12-13, a specially-created conciliatory commission, under Chairman of the Finance-Budget Committee Zaza Sioridze (CUG), generated support from most of the groups through a series of concessions and amendments to the draft bill. Social expenses were increased to 25%, and funds were redistributed in favour of those bodies and economic spheres whose interests those groups lobbied.

On February 21, the 1997 state budget was approved by a vote of 164/22. Only members of the "Popular" and "National-Democrat" groups voted against it. The parliament also passed a resolution requesting the President to improve the work and increase the responsibility of the Georgian delegation in talks with the IMF and other international monetary organizations. According to the resolution, parliamentary committees will be involved in Georgia-IMF interactions, starting next year.

The budget contains 26 paragraphs and provisional articles. It includes the central budget and special state foundations. Central budget revenue totals 532,385,000 laries. Expenses total 778,582,000 laries. Revenue of special state foundations is 639,930,000 laries, while expenses total 886,127,000. The budget deficit is 199,997,000 laries.

Despite visible shortcomings, most experts consider the current budget more progressive than the 1996 budget. In accordance with Georgia's constitution, the budget bill is to be signed into the law by the president within ten days.

CORRUPTION/POWER CLASH. In a speech delivered to the parliament February 6, Eduard Shevardnadze declared 1997 an year of anti-corruption crusade, and called for legislative regulations against corruption.

Judging by all indications, the anti-corruption struggle may become the main instrument in a growing clash between the parliament and the executive. At the very first meeting of the parliament's spring session, February 4, parliament chairman Zourab Zhvania, on behalf of all the parliamentary groups, made an unequivocal statement about existing "serious problems" in its relations with the executive.

He charged the cabinet with failing to implement parliament-approved laws and present timely, and in a due form, draft bills regulating activities of the executive power, local self-ruling bodies, and reforms of the judicial system. He exposed the executive power in cases of submitting its own draft bills as presidential legislative initiatives. Zhvania claimed to make the anti-corruption struggle a top priority of this years' state policy.

Some members of the cabinet have long been accused of corruption. The constitution makes them accountable only to the president, and envisages their dismissal by the parliament only through impeachment proceedings.

It is still unclear whether Mr. Zhvania's anti-government move was an independent political step aimed at strengthening the parliament's role, or coordinated with Mr. Shevardnadze to create a background for dismissing the most unpopular ministers.

Publicizing the account of the *ad hoc* parliamentary anti-corruption commission under MP Ghia Baramidze (the leader of the CUG parliamentary group and a close associate of Mr. Zhvania), expected in late February, was postponed for an indefinite period. According to some informed sources, it contains compromising materials on several cabinet members.

At a February 21 plenary meeting, leader of the opposition National-Democratic Party (NDP) group MP Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia publicly accused the Minister of Interior Kakha Targamadze of involvement in the illegal gasoline business, which was previously run by the disbanded semi-legal, paramilitary body "Mkhedrioni". She also charged the Minister of Security Shota Kviriaia with taking over the illegal cigarette-import business allegedly formerly controlled by ex-chief of security Igor Giorgadze, who is now believed to be in Moscow. Minister of Agriculture Bakur Gulua was blamed for continuing illegal operations with imported grain previously allegedly controlled by former deputy prime-minister Avtandil Margiani.

Mr Targamadze was the only one to react publicly to her charges. He issued a statement warning that he would press criminal charges against Sarishvili-Chanturia if she failed to confirm her allegations with factual data in the proper law-enforcement bodies.

Sarishvili-Chanturia told the media that she was ready to submit the factual data, but would do so only in court.

Some experts say President Shevardnadze remains tight-lipped on these issues so as not to destroy the existing equilibrium of powers by "forcing" events.

A parliament-approved law striking down a Soviet-era passport regime and citizens' registration was opposed by Tbilisi city officials. They demanded the law not be enforced because of the capital's "worsening criminal situation". According to the chairman of the parliamentary Constitutional and Legal Committee, M.Saakashvili, the law has deprived many corrupted municipal officials of an illegal source of income. He says such officials have been issuing illegal registration rights and made

from \$500 to \$3,000USD on each deal. He charged the deputy Mayor of Tbilisi M.Mgebrishvili and other top municipal officials with organizing on February 5 near the parliament building a protest rally of the staffers of passport offices, who lost their jobs when the new law officially went into effect. As a result of the stand-off, Mr Mgebrishvili was dismissed.

The Prosecutor's Office announced a new, comprehensive anti-corruption program that forbids any law-enforcement employees to be involved in any kind of commercial activity. The program is promoted as a way to root out bribery, stop illegal export of scrape, and stop food product forgery.

State Minister Niko Lekishvili issued a decree recommending all staffers of the State Office to declare all income within the month.

OTHER STATE-BUILDING ISSUES. On February 8, the scrutiny of the draft bill on "Local Self-Government Bodies" at a Shevardnadze-chaired government meeting caused sharp debate. The draft authorizes the president to appoint heads of executive power of districts, and towns with the status of "regional center." Only heads of smaller regional-administrative units would be elected. Critics believe this could create a doubling of the government's power.

Another dividing issue in the draft bill was the poor definition of relations between local and central powers. Although the President suggested the draft bill would be provisional for five-year term, it is likely to be debated again. The bill's passage is long-awaited as the signal needed to hold scheduled fall 1997 local elections. Other delays include the still unrestored territorial integrity of the country and undecided form of state-building.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ajarian Autonomous Republic (Georgia's constituent territory) Aslan Abashidze declared that Georgia's administrative-territorial arrangement should be settled only after restoration of its territorial integrity. He underlined his opposition to Shevardnadze-suggested status of an autonomous republic for Ajara, and said that local authorities still abstain from any initiatives in this field awaiting them from Tbilisi.

On February 5, a parliamentary resolution approved national army quotas for staff and armaments. The Georgian army must not exceed 42,000 servicemen. Armaments are to include 220 tanks, 200 units of heavy armored vehicles and 150 airplanes. These quotas cover the units of the Defense Ministry, as well as border and interior troops.

According to parliament's decision the immigration quota for Georgia in 1997 is 150 people. In 1996, 67 foreigners received rights of residence.

POLITICAL PARTIES. On February 8, Popular Party and the faction "National-Democrat" (detached from its mother organization, the National-Democratic Party) united in a new political organization, renaming itself the "Popular" party.

Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, leader of the “Majoritarian” faction, and chairman of the Socialist Party signed in Moscow an agreement on interfactional cooperation with “Regions of Russia,” a parliamentary group of the Russian Duma.

Followers of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia from the coalition “Round Table” are collecting signatures in a petition calling for withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia. So far 600,000 signatures have been collected. Double that number, or 1,200,000 signatures are needed to make the petition valid.

The Social-Democratic Party (SDP) has split into three hostile units after a year-long argument within its ranks. On February 1, one of the detached groups conducted a party congress, deciding to expell from SDP its former chairman Guram Muchaidze for his “pro-Russian orientation”. The congress elected Jemal Kakhniashvili as chair of the reorganized SDP’s central committee.

The Union of Georgian Traditionalists and “Khartia-91” --political parties stemming from the country’s national-liberation movement -- issued the “Mtskheta Manifesto” on February 16. The document calls for Georgia to transform itself into a federated state, in order to prevent its final disintegration. The manifesto is believed to indicate the probable merger of these two parties.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

RUSSIA & CIS. Rapidly worsening Russian-Georgian relations were highlighted by a decision of Russia’s State Duma in the beginning of the month to postpone ratification of a Russian-Georgian treaty on friendship and cooperation signed February 3, 1994, and ratified by Georgian parliament last year. The majority of the Duma links the ratification of that treaty with Georgia’s ratification of a bilateral agreement on deployment of Russian military bases and border troops in Georgia. Moscow government officials have turned down Tbilisi’s position conditioning the deployment of military bases by Russia’s help in regaining Georgian control over the break-away Abkhazia, and former South Ossetia.

General Lev Rokhlin, chair of the Duma’s defense committee, visited Tbilisi on February 23 and 24, probably to “sound out” the attitude of Tbilisi government officials on the abovementioned issues. Rokhlin held talks with Zhvania and heads of the parliament’s defense and foreign affairs committees Rezo Adamia and Kakha Chitaya. Rokhlin stated that Russian military presence in Georgia meets the interests of both countries from a military viewpoint, and should be accomplished only on the ground of mutual consent, but not become the subject of political speculations. There were no specific results from the discussions.

Rokhlin is expected to return to Georgia for talks with President Shevardnadze. However, in his interview with “Akhali Taoba” newspaper Chitaya did not exclude Georgia’s compromise on Russian military bases in the event of “mutual cooperation and understanding”.

Border problems continued to aggravate bilateral relations. General Vladimir Ruzliaev, commander-in-chief of Russia's border troops Caucasian district, announced he was moving Russian border units in Georgian territory to guard key points of the Georgian-Chechen border without notifying Georgian authorities.

The second border incident took place in Georgian territorial waters near Poti port where naval units of Russian border troops captured a Honduras ship delivering grain, saying they were intercepting a ship carrying contraband, again without notifying the Georgian government.

(A similar incident happened December 4, 1996, when Georgia-deployed Russian border guards captured a Ukrainian ship and its crew).

The media has speculated on the formation of a Baku-Tbilisi-Kiev alliance as a result of President Shevardnadze's visits to Ukraine (February 10-12), and Azerbaijan (February 18-21).

A package of signed Georgian-Ukrainian agreements includes an intergovernmental convention to avoid double taxation, and deals with cooperation in customs, exchange of socio-economic information, training of Georgian border guards, and extradition of sentenced persons. The parties also concluded a consulate convention. Kiev and Tbilisi officials reportedly agreed to involve Ukraine in Eurasian transport corridor projects, and transit of Caspian oil. President Shevardnadze and President Kuchma of Ukraine, however, did not rekindle the issue of Georgia's share in a partitioned Black Sea Fleet. The inclusion of Ukraine as mediator in the peace talks on Abkhaz conflict, as well as substitution of Russian "peacekeeping" troops for Ukrainian units also were the subject of talks. Both presidents were pessimistic in assessments of the future of CIS. Shevardnadze criticized Russia for delaying the ratification of a bilateral treaty on friendship.

Topping the summit was a joint declaration on deepening the two countries' partnerships. The declaration appeared to reflect both countries' similarity of views on major problems of mutual concern.

Shevardnadze's visit to Azerbaijan was preceded on February 8 by the signing an agreement on delimitation and demarcation of 25% (about 100km) of state borders, complicating bilateral relations because of frequent border accidents. The completion of this process is expected by the end of this year.

Talks with President Aliev of Azerbaijan and other officials produced 22 agreements and the declaration on "Intensifying of Strategic Partnership". The declaration reflects the similarity of views on solutions to bilateral, regional and international problems, particularly in securing and preserving state borders and territorial integrity. Both sides agreed to implement the Eurasian transport corridor project, speaking in favour of Ukraine's inclusion in this process.

Other documents signed deal with cooperation in the oil and gas industries, banking, avoiding double taxation, investment, and communications. Aliev assured his Georgian counterpart that Azerbaijan will support the main oil pipeline route via

Georgia from the Caspian sea. Shevardnadze clarified Georgia's role in the much-talked-of Russian arms delivery to Armenia, saying that it could be implemented only by bypassing official channels.

In a speech delivered to the Azeri parliament, Shevardnadze quite explicitly accused Moscow of masterminding the Abkhaz conflict, and attempting to force countries to integrate within the CIS. Shevardnadze said if peace talks on the Abkhaz conflict continue without results, Georgia will consider adding its UN "friend" countries (USA, Germany, France, Great Britain) into the negotiation process. He reaffirmed that nothing should impede Georgia's wish to join European or other international structures.

Shevardnadze's statements made in Baku, especially on border issues, were met by a negative response in Armenia, even casting doubt on the visit of Armenian parliament chairman Babken Arakzian to Tbilisi. The visit nevertheless took place February 20-21. The talks centered on rights of the Armenian community in Georgia, and putting vital Armenia-Georgia transport routes into operation. Mr. Ararkzian was told that some forces in Russia try to provoke Georgian-Armenian tensions.

EUROPE/NATO/UN. President Shevardnadze's visit to France February 3-5 appears to have been much more productive than a previous 1994 visit. In negotiations, President Jacques Chirac and other top officials showed increased interest in the Caucasus region and Georgia in particular. Areas of mutual interest include creating a Eurasian transport corridor, putting the EU-sponsored TRACECA project into effect and accomplishing other oil transportation projects.

Signed agreements include French help in rehabilitating Georgia's energy sector, in equipping the Georgian army with military medical facilities, and training military personnel. An agreement was also signed with the biggest French insurance company on mutual protection of investment.

Chirac and Shevardnadze also discussed political issues. Shevardnadze, in a change to his previously demonstrated attitude towards NATO's eastward expansion, said each country should be given the right to make an independent choice about NATO. He also pointed out that Georgia at this stage should try to integrate into other European structures but not into NATO.

Despite the government's sober approach, the level of Georgia-NATO relations has obviously been upgraded by the visit of the NATO Secretary General Javier Solana to Tbilisi February 11-12. The visit was held within the NATO-sponsored PFP program. Solana conducted closed-door one-on-one talks with Shevardnadze, and also negotiated with defense and foreign ministers. Leading topics reportedly included NATO's political involvement in resolution of Georgian ethnic conflicts, the possibility of using a Bosnian model of conflict settlement in Abkhazia and development of cooperation in the frames of PFP.

In a speech to the Georgian parliament, Solana said he considers the Caucasian states an integrated part of the European security system. Shervardnadze underlined

the vitality of creating a new system of European security for Georgia saying it was more important than NATO's expansion.

Georgia has temporarily lost its right to full-scale participation in the UN General Assembly because it owes \$5 million. According to the Finance Ministry the debt will be repaid fully by December 1997.

FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. An IMF delegation led by Mokhammad Shadman Valavi negotiated February 28 with Georgian officials on the pace of Georgia's financial-economic policy agreed to in a special agreement with the IMF. Valavi stressed that if the government failed to improve its tax collection record for January-February, amendments to the law on the state budget would be inevitable. He also negatively assessed the government's attempt to revive the Ministry of Industry and criticized the Customs Department for its delay in submitting a proposal for its IMF-funding technical reorganization.

The IMF delegation also demanded that Georgia replace the inefficient staff of the directorate of one of the biggest state-commercial banks "Agrobanki". Mr. Valavi demanded that all tax-privilege decisions be made in conjunction with the IMF. He recommended the government reconsider the existing list of goods destined for VAT exemption.

Ministers of Finance and Economy and respective parliamentary committee heads failed to attend the talks, reportedly because of continuing disagreements on taxation policy.

CONFLICT ZONES

ABKHAZIA. Even though the mandate of both Russian (formally CIS) peacekeeping troops, and UN military observers has been extended up to July 31, 1997, the situation in this break-away region, especially in the 12 kilometer safety zone, has not improved. A continuing mine war and terrorist acts in which both sides accuse each other is one of the reasons. On February 1, Mr. Shevardnadze issued a decree committing the ministries of internal affairs and security to provide order within the Georgia-controlled 12 kilometer safety zone along the Inguri river.

On February 6, a mine exploded in the village of Chuburkhindgi of Gali district, located within the Abkhaz-controlled zone, killing 1 and wounding 7. On February 22-23, a mine explosion killed 3 and severely injured 5 Russian peacekeeping troop servicemen. Russian Foreign Ministry and commander of peacekeepers General Dori Babenkov promptly blamed "Georgian terrorists" he said are operating in Abkhazia and receiving support from Georgian intelligence bodies. He did not present any evidence. The Georgian Security Ministry denied these allegations.

Meanwhile, according to the Georgian Defense Ministry, in violation of provisions of peacekeeping operations and with the connivance of Russian militaries, Abkhaz separatists have built more than 60 military strongholds within the 12 kilometer safety zone. On February 28, without notification of Georgian authorities, commander-in-

chief of Russia's paratroopers forces General Georgi Shpak inspected Abkhazia-deployed paratroopers units.

Russian military officials confirmed that despite Abkhaz resistance, which nearly led to an armed clash February 28 , the Ochamchira -based naval station of Russia's border troops will be a limited-capacity naval point, and the ships will be taken away.

Russia-mediated peace negotiations in Moscow have been suspended with no new date set to resume. At a February 19 news conference Vladislav Adzinba, leader of the Abkhaz separatist government said new mediators may only be involved in the negotiatory process if the Abkhaz side agrees.

He accused the Georgian government of driving peace talks into a deadlock, and advocated the well-known but unacceptable for Tbilisi, Abkhaz proposal to make Abkhazia a confederated state with equal rights for Abkhazia and Georgia. Mr. Ardzinba threatened to completely stop the talks if Georgian "irregulars" continue subversive activities.

Meanwhile, the Georgian government has sent new proposals on conflict resolution to the council of the heads of CIS states for consideration at an upcoming CIS summit. The proposals envisage stricter economic sanctions on the separatist regime by checking in Poti seaport all ships bounding to Abkhazia. Proposals also forbid entry and departure to and from Abkhazia without permission of Georgian authorities. The proposals pledge the peacekeepers to widen the zone of operation and provide guaranteed security of repatriating refugees.

TSKHINVALI (former South Ossetia). Meetings of Russia-mediated Georgian-Ossetian control commissions in Tskhinvali (February 4-5), and Vladikavkaz (February 12-14) did not promote political settlement issues, including the repatriation of Georgian refugees. The issue of reducing check-posts of Russian-Georgian-Ossetian mixed peacekeeping units from the existing 27 to down to 15 also remained undecided.

President of self-proclaimed South Ossetian Republic Ludvig Chibirov, while admitting the necessity of peace talks, continued to demand the Georgian government abrogate legal acts passed in 1990, by which the then South Ossetian Autonomous Region was formally abolished.

According to Irakli Machavariani, head of the Georgian negotiatory team, and a presidential aide for conflict resolution issues, the Georgian government is determined to restore political autonomy status to the region, but only in exchange for South Ossetia's unconditional recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity, and its refusal to continue to demand unification with Russia's North Ossetia.

Besides, South Ossetia's level of political autonomy, future denomination of the region continued to be a divisive issue. South Ossetia's Minister of Information Slava Kochiev stated that Tskhinvali will continue talks with Tbilisi only through Russian mediation.

Meanwhile, the restoration of economic and other kinds of links between Georgians and Ossetians in Tskhinvali and bordering Georgian cities, and the resumption of safe transport routes to and from the break-away region are believed to be the first indications of gradually overcoming ethnic intolerance.

SOCIETY

The indictment in the USA of the Georgian Embassy's second-ranking diplomat Giorgi Makharadze February 21 for auto-accident death of a 16-year-old girl in January caused controversial response of domestic publicity. Some people, including some lawyers, believe that Shevardnadze's decision to waive Makharadze's diplomatic immunity runs counter to the Constitution.

Media speculation has been high about the probable resignation of Tbilisi police department chief, General Demur Mikadze. His son has long been accused of links with the underground world and abuse of his father's post. The Prosecutor's Office is studying the case. Mikadze, who is still in office, denied all media allegations.

On February 24, seven followers of the ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia went on trial on charges they prepared a terrorist act against President Shevardnadze. The seven were arrested by state security officials on August 30, 1995, the day after the unsuccessful attempt on Shevardnadze's life. A search allegedly found compromising material.

Notwithstanding the parliament-established moratorium on capital punishment in the country, the court sentenced Zaur Kartvelishvili to death for cruel assassination of his wife.

In February, the number of HIV-infected residents of Georgia increased to 30 as compared to 20 in the past year, according to official data. Unofficial estimates put the number at 200.

THE ECONOMY

The national currency, the lari, continued to weaken. By the end of February, its exchange rate to the US dollar was 1:1.29 as compared to 1:1.23 six months ago. According to official data 215 million lari is currently circulating in the country. The lari is weak in Georgia's border regions (Marneuli, Tsalka, Gardabani, Akhalkalaki) mainly at the expense of free circulation of the Russian rouble. Meanwhile, the relatively stable course of the lari is still chiefly provided by international financial injections, not by the efficiency of the domestic economy.

Nevertheless, Georgia is preparing to issue securities in accordance with IMF agreements (regarded as one more feature of macroeconomic stability.) On February 13, representatives of the US Treasury department negotiated with Georgian officials on American technical aid in this field.

In February, industrial development figures showed signs of decline, caused mainly by stagnation in the mining and chemical industries, according to official figures. Stagnation also comes from continuing inefficiency of privatized economic entities. The slow progress was observed in the government's tax collection record.

In the absence of a valid Tax Code, which still is being discussed in parliament, the tax burden remains very uneven. Businesses making up Georgia's "shadow" economy (estimated in some quarters to be up to 50 percent of the country's economy) pay no taxes. According to the Tax Inspectorate, in February, budget revenue totaled 25 million lari, twice the budget entries for January. Independent sources, however, doubt the veracity of official figures.

The government's persistent failure to bring tax legislation in line with the requirements of international lending agencies is regarded as one of the reasons big foreign investors have been hesitant to invest in Georgia in the first months of 1997.

In the first half of February, gasoline prices rose from about 40 to 50 tetri per liter. Experts said the increase was a result of an introduction of new fixed tariffs of customs duties on imported fuel. This did not appear, however, to create excessive price inflation as had been forecasted.

The ongoing privatization of energy units has involved one of the biggest energy entities - Tbilisi power plant "Tbilsresi." The power plant was transformed into a joint-stock company -- 51% of it owned by the government.

Georgia's air-transport department warned of the precarious situation in flight safety, mainly because old-fashioned airplanes are used and aviation facilities are outdated. During the past year 17 flight accidents were registered. Pilot error was the cause in 71% of the accidents, damage of aviation technique caused 23%, and 6% were caused by environmental impact.

Chronic underemployment of the most active and skilled part of the population appeared to be another reason for industrial decline. Unofficial estimates in this field again run counter to the officially-declared figures. According to data of the Labour Resources Department 500,000 persons are out of work in Georgia. This makes country's unemployment rate (population 4.9 million) equal to about 15%.

According to the Department for Socio-Economic Information in February the subsistence minimum of an able-bodied man totaled 106.5 lari. The subsistence wage for the average customer was 93.4 lari. The same figure for a 3-member family totaled 174 lari, while for 4-member and 5-member families it totaled 193.50 and 217.70 lari respectively.

SOURCES: Agencies: *BGI-press*, "Iberia", "Iprinda", "Alioni", "BS-Press", Newspapers: "Resonansi", "Alia", "Akhali Taoba", "Droni", "7Dge", "Meridiani", "Dilis Gazeti", "Svobodnaya Gruzia", "Sakartvelos Respublika". TV: The first channel: *Morning News "Alioni", News-program "Matsne", News-*

program “Kvishis Saati”. TV-company “The Second Channel”: “Information Program”, “A Weekly Analytical Program ‘Time-Out’”.

“THE GEORGIAN CHRONICLE” is a publication of the Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development(CIPDD). It is compiled and written by Zaal Anjaparidze. Computer work is done by Archil Bolkvadze.

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