

## The First

Some people believe that the role of personality in history and formation of the state in our innovative age is not as great as it used to be before. It is not quite so, but in regard to Kazakhstan Embassy this statement is absolutely wrong. Through the example of the first Kazakhstan President we ascertain that this role is great and noble, as well as responsible, even more so if president's authority has been supported by all Kazakhstan ethnoses for more than 20 years. Moreover, according to the last presidential elections and social studies, approval rating of the first President is higher among ethnic minorities than among representatives of titular nation. Such peculiar phenomenon cannot be observed in any other state.

One of the main reasons of such comprehensive support is a rise in the standards of living and other aspects of people's material position. I believe that one of the major reasons why the ethnic groups' stability and their confidence in future grows is a well regulated Concept of interethnic and interfaith dialogue, as well as subsequently promulgated and implemented model of interethnic accord.

The President's model of Peace and Accord has been used in other states (we would love to use Kazakhstani experience of ethnoses development, solution of interethnic problems and satisfaction of national and cultural needs in Ukraine. I was among those who had a chance to study this wise policy during 4, 5 years and I was convinced of its effectiveness by multiple examples and real facts. It is well known that friendly interstate relations between our countries have been defined by a powerful personality factor: warm relationship of Nursultan Nazarbayev with Ukraine. Recalling years of his studies in Dneprodzerzhynsk, Nursultan Abishevich noted that in Ukraine he had come to know the strength of mind, feelings and beauty of Ukrainian nation. In the course of the 21 session of Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev wished fraternal nation peace and accord and mentioned the unstable situation in Ukraine, deaths of people and aggravation of regions' confrontation had deeply hurt him.

Thousands of kilometers separate Ukraine from Kazakhstan, but our nations are united by millions of threads which intertwine history with people's fates. Today these threads are weaved from bonds of friendship and mutual understanding, from friendly and harmonious relations which have been successfully developing despite all obstacles. Contemporary Ukraine-Kazakhstan relations are represented and defined by active political dialogue: during 21 years there have been arranged 60 official bilateral meetings, during two decades the priority of Ukrainian-Kazakh relations have been constantly proved.

Kazakhstan is a major partner for Ukraine in Central Asian region, and we are proud by the fact that collaboration with Ukraine is an integral part of European vector of the foreign policy. It is doubtless that for the past years a considerable potential for getting to a new level of partnership has been formed. For the period of 2002–2013 total amount of two-way commodity circulation increased by 5 times and reached more than 4 billion dollars level.

In the past century Ukraine and Kazakhstan had to undergo such terrible ordeals as Holodomor and repressive policy. Your country carefully preserves memory of 500 thousand Ukrainians deported here and takes care of the same amount of those who prosper todayj this is what we are deeply appreciative of. We were together during the World War II and in postwar period of five-year plans. It is quite symbolic that more than 150 Kazakhstan citizens had been awarded the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union for liberation of Ukraine, and the same amount of Ukrainians had been awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour for lands development in Kazakhstan.

International and republican festivals which had been conducted in Astana and different regions of the Republic under the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan and the Embassy of Ukraine auspices became unprecedented events in lives of Ukrainian people all over the world.

Our States positions concerning new global architecture of security on the territory of Eurasia are identical.

Warm, long standing relations between our nations molded the foundations of effective interstate collaboration regarding actual world-wide and regional problems.

*By Petr Tokar,*

*A counselor of the Ukrainian embassy in the Republic of Kazakhstan, director of the Ukrainian scientific and cultural centre under the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Kazakhstan. He is an honorary professor of L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Candidate of Sociological Sciences.*