

Russian helicopter released in Sudan

[ResBusinessConsulting](#), Friday, Jul. 25, 2003, 7:01 PM Moscow Time

Sudanese state authorities have released crewmembers of a Russian Mi-26 helicopter, representatives of the company Vertikal-T told RBC. Currently the helicopter is on its way to Congo. As reported earlier, the Mi-26T helicopter belonging to the company Vertikal-T was detained by Sudanese authorities on July 21. Sudanese authorities thought that it was a military helicopter and its transit through the country had not been registered correctly. The aircraft is bound to Congo to work for a UN mission there.

RBC-Composite index (6:00 P.M., close)

[ResBusinessConsulting](#), Friday, Jul. 25, 2003, 6:50 PM Moscow Time

The RBC-Composite stock index was at 45.7620 points as of 6:00 p.m., which is 0.12 percent lower than the opening level of July 25, 2003. The index is calculated on the basis of trading data coming online from MICEX, the Moscow Stock Exchange and the Russian Trading System from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Diplomat hopes visa snag does not mar U.S.-Russian relations

[Interfax](#), Friday, Jul. 25, 2003, 6:45 PM Moscow Time

MOSCOW. July 25 (Interfax) - The U.S. ambassador to Russia expressed hope on Friday that the delayed issue of a U.S. entry visa to a Russian delegate for a US-based conference on the International Space Station project would not spoil U.S.-Russian relations.

Ambassador Alexander Vershbow told Interfax that the member of the Russian Aviation and Space Agency (Rosaviakosmos) delegation who had had problems with his visa did receive it eventually. The diplomat said he did not know the reason for the delay and voiced hope that the incident would not affect the conference.

Vershbow said he met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyakov on Friday.

The ambassador said the visa incident had been one of the issues raised during the conference, but that the main part of the agenda had been a planned meeting between the Russian and U.S. presidents in September and a full range of other bilateral issues. He said the two countries saw the planned summit as holding tremendous prospects for U.S.-Russian relations

Economy Ministry on duties for used car imports

[ResBusinessConsulting](#), Friday, Jul. 25, 2003, 6:33 PM Moscow Time

The leveling of duties for importing used cars aged 3 to 7 years by individuals and legal entities is a part of a concept of the development of the Russian automobile industry approved by the Russian government, the press service of the Economy Ministry reported to RBC. This measure is to exclude any benefits for optimizing payments. Nevertheless, the ministry is worried about the growing financial burden on car owners due to a surge in the transportation tax, excises on gasoline and customs duties as well as the recent introduction of compulsory auto liability insurance. The ministry believes it necessary to do a thorough study and work out a mechanism of supporting the Russian car industry and promoting the construction of facilities to produce cars in collaboration with foreign automakers.

GAZ posts export plans

Always a Dissi

By Boris Kagaritski

Between the L

By Alexei Parkan

Defense Dossie

By Pavel Felgenhau

Inside Russia

By Yulia Latynina

Moscow on the

By Matt Elsworth

Pensioner's Pe

By Wladimir Schin

Tales From th

By Chloe Arnold

Global Eye

By Chris Flood