

The Ukrainian Journal [www.UkrainianJournal.com]  
September 9, 2005

## Zinchenko's Resignation as a Last Call for the President

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An announcement about Olexandr Zinchenko's resignation from the Office of the Secretary of State was made on Friday, September 3, granting the broad public a weekend to give the benefit of the doubt for one of the heavyweights in the Presidential team. However, Victor Yuschenko had not waited until Zinchenko's press conference on Monday and accepted the resignation of former head of his Presidential campaign the same day.

A deep analysis of the reasons that forced one of the Maidan's most respected politicians to resign from the office has to be made later, first of all by Yuschenko himself. However, key highlights resulting from another stressful situation within the new Ukrainian political power are on the surface.

**First, a democratic political system based on transparency, balance of power and civic control has not been established in Ukraine yet.** In fact, nowadays there are six political centers of power lead by influential figures: the President (Victor Yuschenko), the Prime Minister (Yulia Tymoshenko), the National Security and Defense Secretary (Petro Poroshenko), the Head of the President's Cabinet (Olexandr Tretyakov), the Speaker of the Parliament (Volodymyr Lytvyn), and (ex-) Secretary of State (Olexandr Zinchenko).

Among these political sharks Zinchenko simply could not lobby the interests of his Office successfully enough. Why should he? Those who had supported the Orange Revolution claimed transparent and responsible branches of power controlled by the rule of law. Unfortunately, 14 years have passed, including 9 months with the new President and Prime Minister, but the state has not got the Law on President of Ukraine and the Law of Prime Minister of Ukraine yet. As a result of absence of the latter, over 440 laws and regulations define activities of the government and over 250 define activities of the Prime minister to date.

**Second, the moral climate within the cabinets occupied by new officials is mean.** In the absence of the aforesaid laws, on February 2005 the President signed a Decree on the President's Cabinet that moved a bulk of authority from the Secretary of State to the President's First Aide. Some media have already speculated that Tretyakov monopolized influence on Yuschenko. In the same light, quotations from the fight "Poroshenko vs Tymoshenko" are not unusual for daily news.

Furthermore, if one looks at Zinchenko's resignation in the light of political demarches by Justice Minister Roman Zvarych, Vice Prime-Minister Roman

Bezsmertny and Deputy Head of Tax Administration Mykola Katerynychuk, the prospective politicians in the Ukrainian political Olympus, one can see serious problems inside the camp that appeared to be united last winter. One does not want to remind of Olexandr Razumkov's resignation from his post of the First Aide and Head of Referral Group to the President of Ukraine, but these were the constant sinister designs that aggravated his disagreement with the style of work and system of informing the Head of State and compelled his leaving the Presidential Administration in December 1995.

**Third, hopes and beliefs of those who supported Yuschenko and his team have not been fulfilled yet.** The current closed political system with permanent conflicts does not differ much with the one during Kuchma's regime. Although one cannot expect to change everything in a year, Central European state leaders make it clear for their citizens how political decisions are made and who is responsible for them in no time. On the other hand, Ukrainians are a rather peaceful and indulgent people that would rather have affordable prices for meat, sugar and oil than political confrontation. New Presidential team still has time... until the Parliamentary election in Spring 2006.

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