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и между Германией и США. Тот, кто откроет для себя дорогу в Томск, возвращается назад восхищенный. После моего визита еще 2 сотрудника посольства окончили языковые курсы в Томске. Немецкий адвокат, работающий в Москве, также учил русский в Томске.

Вскоре мы сможем организовать объединение немецких студентов, которые обучались в Томске.

К сожалению, Lufthansa, единственная западная авиакомпания, имеющая мужество совершать прямые рейсы из Западной Европы в Новосибирск, отказалась от таких полетов. Сотрудники ОЕСД из Парижа, которые прилетали через Франкфурт и Новосибирск в Томск и желающие сейчас посетить этот город, должны проделать трудный путь, так как сейчас западноевропейские самолеты пролетают над Западной Сибирью на высоте 10 000 м, когда следуют в пункты назначения в Азии. Однако Томск окупает такое сложное попадание.

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«**W**hy have you decided to go to Tomsk to learn Russian? " - this question I heard not only in Moscow, but also in Tomsk. It is difficult for a Moscovite to understand that, but a Tomskian should at least guess it.

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ture of the nuclear weapon, which has not conducive to visits from the time of its opening. In 1993 an explosion has contaminated an area of 120 km² with radiation, in 1994 Tomsk has become center of a tuberculosis epidemic.

The negative representation has not stopped OECD before realization, together with regional administration, of the international conference on industrial reconstruction directly in Tomsk on June 3-5, 1997. The conference, in which I have taken part as the chief of department of economy and science of German embassy in Moscow, has given Tomsk area an opportunity to show itself.

At this conference, in which alongside with others, the Austrian minister of foreign affairs, familiar to me from New York, and the ambassador of UNO Yankovich took part, I have received the first positive notion about Tomsk and area. Later I frequently spoke about it with German businessmen. However, being an Envoy in Moscow embassy, and, thus an office worker, I certainly do not belong to a group of so necessary investors.

At this conference in Tomsk I have decided to make a contribution to my own knowledge, namely in my knowledge of Russian language. The four-week stay in the autumn has given me an opportunity to use that Tomsk offers. Tomsk not without reason is named as "Siberian Athens". Those who feels well in ancient university cities, such as Heidelberg or Tubingen, Cambridge or Oxford, Prinston or Berkley, at once feels themselves at home in Tomsk. Facades of public buildings in the "Classicism" style, wooden laces on last century houses, parks and avenues, concert halls and theatres from

the first minutes show that Tomsk is city, in which an European feels perfectly, city in which a person is readily immersed in university and urban life. Here it is possible much more effective to improve the knowledge of Russian language and culture, deeper to penetrate into the life of Russian family and the community.

I have achieved my object due to the numerous favorable factors: a hospitable, educated and approachable family, perfect teachers of TSU and TPU, and also opened before me, as German diplomat, door in cultural establishments.

For these four weeks in Tomsk I heard German language only occasionally, practically did not speak German. However I did not suffer from it.

The contacts did not represent any problem. I should rather struggle for some minutes of free time to execute various home tasks (preparation of reading, retellings, grammatical exercises and learning by heart).

More important, than language lessons, there was an experience in cultural environment: my life among people, very advanced in the intellectual plane, in the classically educated community, having a good understanding in many areas of the literatures and music of XIX century.

The successful study of language in Tomsk is also provided by readiness to help, despite of non-simple vital conditions of the Russian people.

After my returning to Moscow, I have discussed with the representative of DAAD, general secretary, the professor Bergmann the problems, concerning organization of one-year course on Russian language and area studies for the German students of economic specialities (universities and tech-

nical high schools) in the next year at one or two Siberian universities. The professor Bergmann, which well knows Russia after study and long-term work in Moscow, has accepted this proposal. The purpose of a such course should not be only granting to the students of opportunities to improve their knowledge of Russian, but also the possibility to get acquainted with far, from the Germans' point of view, Siberian high schools and economy.

If we want to enter into further business relations in Russia, we should not rely only on the Russians, who were trained in Germany. The young German generation is necessary for us, which knows this country since student years. For us, the Germans of the post-war generation, there was not difficult to send our schoolboys and students to France, the USA, England and Spain. Russia, however, was the unknown place for a long time. Now Siberia is opened for us, and for many inhabitants of Central Europe this land is associated with various emotions.

Those, who will finish the above-mentioned one-year course in Siberia (for example, one month in Tomsk), will be less afraid with preparation of a dissertation on a theme connected to Russia, or learning in Moscow, St.-Petersburg or even in Tomsk.

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I have found out, that the desire of cooperation with Europe after all closed years, in Tomsk is much greater, than we usually have in our country, where the international relations frequently turn to routine. In Tomsk it is possible to expect not only high level of the competence of high schools, but also high readiness for cooperation.

The hard situation with a science in Russia, being a consequence of financial problems in the state, makes conditions of study in Russia not too attractive for the foreigners, however it leads to the more attentive attitude to the coming students. I have found out, that the desire of cooperation with Europe after all closed years, in Tomsk is much greater, than we usually have in our country, where the international relations frequently turn to routine. In Tomsk it is possible to expect not only high level of the competence of high schools, but also high readiness for cooperation.

Mr. Alexander Fritsler, the chief of Russian-German center at TPU, the professor Alfred Dulzon - the vice-rector of TPU, the professor Mikhail Nikitin - the director of physic-mathematical branch and the accredited representative of DAAD, are competent not only in their areas, they also well know German universities. If everything will turn out well with realization of one-year courses this or next year in Tomsk, it will result in occurrence of a new element connecting Germany and the oldest university city of Siberia. Besides it is essential that at the university there are many business initiatives, which are supported by those, who are about thirty years old or a little more. I mean, for example, Oleg Zhiganov, who worked in technical organization of OECD conference, founded a consulting bureau (TOKKO) after his study and practice in the administration of Dortmund. The bureau distributes various equipment from Germany, namely: pumps, independent heating installations, equipment for pig-breeding farms. In addition, annually a large industrial delegation from Tomsk participates in Hannover fair.

That is more attractive, it is an impression of the opened - in all senses - city with a university climate, which, however, had difficulties, in comparison with Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford and Heidelberg, on realization of its favorable conditions for cooperation earlier. For some decades being the closed city for the foreigners, Tomsk has lacks and advantages, associated with its site. It is necessary to give our countenance to the pearl, hidden in Siberia, which is located far from large transport routes. These "Siberian Athens" deserve our interest, even if the flight from Central Europe to the next city of Novosibirsk (about 200 km from Tomsk) takes up 7 hours, and the difference in time is so great, as between Germany and the USA. Those, who open for him a way to Tomsk, come back with admiration from there. After my visit, two more employees of our embassy have finished language courses in Tomsk. A German lawyer working in Moscow also learned Russian in Tomsk. Soon we can organize the association of the German students, which were trained in Tomsk. Unfortunately, Lufthansa (the unique western airline having courage to make direct flights from Western Europe to Novosibirsk) has given up such flights. The members of the OECD staff from Paris, who fled to Tomsk via Frankfurt and Novosibirsk, and wishing now to visit this city, should do a trudge. Now West-European planes fly over Western Siberia at height of 10,000 km, when proceed to their Asian destinations. However Tomsk is worth of such a difficult way.

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of embassy of Germany in Moscow.
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