

semination of materials containing such calls shall be punishable with arrest from six months to three years. If these calls are disseminated through mass media, the punishment increases and includes deprivation of freedom from two to five years.

The Criminal Code is also supplemented with a new article «Discrediting of the Republic of Belarus». It means «*giving to a foreign state, a foreign or international organization of knowingly false data about the political, social, military or international position of the Republic of Belarus, the legal status of citizens of the Republic of Belarus or its authorities*». This stipulates arrest up to six months or deprivation of freedom up to two years.

Vladimir Glod. 01.12.05.

A DIRIGIBLE INSTEAD OF AN AWACS AIRPLANE

Work is under way in Belarus to build a multi-purpose surveillance and reconnaissance aerostat

According to the opinions in the Military Academy of Belarus, the Army must make more active use of aerostats and dirigibles. According to specialists, aerostats and dirigibles that were used some time ago actively in the Soviet Union have become outdated by the modern jet aircraft. The military specialists are sure that aerostats and dirigibles have been forgotten undeservingly and that now there are real opportunities for their revival. Today, science has reached the level when it is possible to equip even a simplest anchored aerostat with modern communications facilities, as well as software allowing precise surveillance and reconnaissance. The shell of the aircraft can be made very strong, nonflammable, light and cheap.

The aerostat in itself is a means for carrying any cargo to a specified elevation. It is suggested that location of five-six aerostats at the elevation of 3000–4000 metres with specialized onboard equipment will allow reliable radio, telephone and mobile communication across the entire territory of Belarus as well as 24-h surveillance over movement of on-land and air equipment.

It cannot be excluded that in the future aerostats can occupy the niche between the terrestrial radars and surveillance satellites. At the same time, they are dozens of times cheaper in production and operation than long-range radar airplanes.

Retranslation equipment installed onboard these aerostats can ensure reliable two-way communication with crews of helicopters and airplanes during their flights. An aerostat can be used to lift to the air an observer who corrects and sends to the artillery battery the shooting results. According to military experts, the Military Academy of Belarus carries research to create a multi-purpose surveillance aerostat through the joint Belarusian-Russian programme. In opinions of specialists, such dirigible can be invaluable for defence of the western borders of Belarus and become a serious supplement to equipment and machinery available for the air force and air defence teams.

As it was explained in the Military Academy of Belarus, that the scientific team of this educational institution is developing an information surveillance platform which, by its ca-

capacity, can replace five patrol airplanes as well as an airplane equipped with AWACS. It is planned to install on the information surveillance platform a three-coordinate radar station with a phased antenna grid, developed by one of the Belarussian enterprise of the military and industrial complex. As it was explained in the Ministry of Defence, this station, lifted by an aerostat to the required elevation, will be able to detect immovable and movable targets at distances «significantly exceeding the capacities of the terrestrial detection facilities».

Specialists are sure that the use of a flying command station A-50 (which is not available at the air forces and air defence teams) for getting early warning information about a massive attack from the air, including high-precision weaponry, will cost one order of magnitude higher.

Currently, the issue is coordinated with the Russian specialists on the creation of the aerostat shell. According to specialists: «It will be made from special synthetic materials that ensure not only strength, but also their low-visibility». Besides, Russian and Belarussian enterprises are working to create «special self-defence weaponry for an aircraft, i.e., station for radio electronic suppression of sighting devices of the striking air forces by means of laser SHF arms», stated military men. They also think that the aerostat is easy to use by border guards, as well.

Besides radar and surveillance operations, dirigibles can transport military equipment, arms and personnel. The designers say, that «Using the capacity for vertical landing and take-off from unspecialized sites, dirigibles can become an irreplaceable transport means».

Leonid Semenov. 05.12.05.

WAY TO EUROPE

The majority of illegal migrants consider Belarus as a transit state on the way of their illegal migration to countries of the European Union

The geographical position of Belarus also brings about a problem of illegal migration to this country. According to experts, the territory of Belarus is used to reach Western Europe. Foreigners use not only tourism channels, transit passage and business trips, but also seriously violate the rules of entry. According to information of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the majority of migrants consider Belarus as a transit state on the way of their illegal migration to the countries of the European Union. Enhancement of the migration policy in Europe, funding of their expenses related to strengthening of the borders and organization of filtration areas leads to the situation when illegal migrants, who have failed to enter the countries they intended to reach, take attempts to settle in Belarus.

Now, the majority of illegal migrants coming to Belarus are from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, India, Sri-Lanka and China, who mainly use the transparency of the Russian-Belarussian border. Russia «supplies» up to 95% of these migrants. Migrants often enter the Russian Federation and other CIS countries legally. They also use rather liberal entry and visa conditions. Absence of customs and border control allows them to freely move to other states of the