

Ельцин пытается завоевать поддержку центристов

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Отрывки из статьи

Вчера президент Ельцин сделал попытку расширить свою политическую базу, прозондировав группу промышленников из "Гражданского союза", в чьей поддержке он нуждается для того, чтобы переломить хребет парламентской оппозиции.

Из надежного источника стало известно, что президент связался с Аркадием Вольким, лидером "Гражданского союза", который был среди тех, кто требовал смещения Егора Гайдара с поста премьер-министра. Считается, что Виктор Черномырдин, нынешний премьер-министр, очень близок к г-ну Вольскому.

Вчера г-н Костиков сказал, что члены консультативного президентского совета убеждали президента ввести "президентское правление", другими словами распустить парламент. ТАСС процитировал высказывание Костикова после заседания: "Многие высказались за то, что у президента все моральные и конституционные права ввести президентское правление. Путь уступок и компромиссов себя исчерпал".

Yeltsin moves to win centrists' support

David Hearst in Moscow

PRESIDENT YELTSIN attempted yesterday to widen his political base by putting out feelers to the Civic Union group of industrialists, whose support he needs to break the back of the parliamentary opposition to him.

According to one well placed source, the president has been in touch with Arcady Vol'sky, the Civic Union leader, who was one of those responsible for demanding Yegor Gaidar's replacement as acting prime minister. The current prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, is regarded as being very close to Mr Vol'sky.

Although Mr Yeltsin has tried to court the increasingly powerful centrist force before, the report is an indication of his indecision. It came after four days of public statements from his press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, all saying that the president is contemplating tough measures to ensure that his reform plan stays intact.

Yesterday Mr Kostikov said that members of the president's advisory council had urged him to introduce "presidential rule", in other words to disband parliament. "Many say the president has all the moral and constitutional rights to introduce presidential rule," Tass quoted Mr Kostikov as saying after the meeting. "The path to concessions and compromises is already exhausted."

However, behind the scenes, supporters of the pro-Gaidar team of ministers still left in the government feel that something quite different could be happening. They do not trust the president's repeated commitment to keeping the reform programme on track and believe the president is looking around for more influential friends. If the contacts with Civic Union are not a bluff to fool the opposition, this could mean a new wave of ministerial resignations.

First in the firing line is Andrei Kozyrov, the foreign minister whose head was demanded by Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary speaker, in the

last meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies. Mr Kozyrev rushed back on Tuesday from a visit to Finland, ostensibly because of the visit of the French president, Francois Mitterrand.

Yesterday the vice-premier, Sergei Shakrai, who is being used as a presidential representative, ruled out the possibility of Mr Yeltsin calling a state of emergency, which would require the active involvement of the army. Mr Shakrai said the president would resort to "primarily political means to ensure stability, national accord, inter-ethnic peace and security of Russian citizens".

Mr Shakrai said fresh attempts at compromise with the legislature were on the agenda. "In theory, we're all in the same boat," he said. "Sadly, at the moment, we're all drilling holes in it."

One limb of this policy was presented yesterday when Mr Yeltsin called for a reorganisation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, saying that new life had to be breathed into the moribund structure.

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