

CHAIRMAN,
FEDERATION COUNCIL,
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FEDERAL ASSEMBLY

26 Bolshaya Dmitrovka St., Moscow, 103426

May 11, 2007
Ref. 5.0.3 – 10/131

To: Yuri Ya. Chaika,
the Russian Federation
Prosecutor General

Dear Mr. Chaika,

Sergey E. Gordeyev, a member of the Federation Council, has approached me with information concerning possible infringements of the current laws in the urban planning field that caused the demolition of a historical and cultural monument in the territory of the City of Moscow and are posing a threat of destruction for the world-famous monument of constructivism - Architect Konstantin S. Melnikov's House (located at 10 Krivoarbatsky Lane, Moscow).

Sergey E. Gordeyev, a member of the Federation Council, states that in accordance with the Moscow City Government Resolution of March 13, 2007 No. 152-PP, the construction and renovation period for a range of buildings at the addresses: 24, 26/2/3 Bldg. 1, 39 Bldgs. 1 and 2, 41 Bldgs. 1 and 2 Arbat Street; 4 Bldgs. 2 and 5 Bolshoi Nikolopeskovsky Lane has been extended.

The purpose of said construction work is to build a multipurpose shopping and entertainment complex. The construction is being performed within the territory of the conservation zone for cultural heritage properties in the City of Moscow.

For the zones in this category the Federal law "On Cultural Heritage Properties (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Russian Federation Peoples" and the Moscow City Law "On Special Procedures for Regulating Urban Planning Activities in Historical Territories of Moscow and within Territories of Conservation Zones for Cultural Heritage Properties in Moscow" prohibit renovation of cultural heritage properties and any construction of new properties.

At the same time, as the result of said construction work the building-monument 1819 Residential House located at 39 Bldg. 1 Arbat Street has been demolished. At present another monument located nearby – Architect Melnikov's House – is threatened with destruction.

Sergey E. Gordeyev points to possible indications for elements of a crime specified in Article 243 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code ("Demolishing or damaging historical and cultural monuments").

Numerous petitions and appeals have been made concerning the matter to federal state authority bodies, to the City of Moscow authority bodies, to law-enforcement agencies, including the Moscow Public Prosecutor's Office.

Taking into account the social significance of the matter I request you to see to a possibility of issuing instructions for organizing at the level of the Russian Federation Prosecutor General's Office the check concerning the above-mentioned information and, if required, to take the procuracy supervision actions.

Enclosed please find attachments on 9 pages.

SERGEY M. MIRONOV