

**REPORT ON**  
**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN**  
**KAZAKSTAN**  
**5 AND 9 DECEMBER 1995**

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

These were the first parliamentary elections held in Kazakstan since the 1994 elections which were annulled. The parliament was dissolved in March 1995 and the republic has been run by executive rule since that time.

- a) Delegation members observed the widespread practice of voters collecting and casting multiple ballots per person during the elections to the lower house (*Majilis*). Observers noted the process of signing for, and voting more than one ballot per individual, to be prevalent in the majority of polling stations.
- b) There appeared to be a general lack of information among voters regarding candidates.
- c) A lack of standardized procedures between polling stations was observed specifically relating to determining the validity of ballots, vote counts, etc.
- d) The adoption of a number of observer recommendations from the 1994 elections are believed to have somewhat improved the overall electoral process. Specifically, the simplification of the candidate registration process, the increased ability for opposition views to be broadcast in the press, more opportunities for candidates to obtain funds for their campaigns (along with established accounting criteria), and the inclusion of independent domestic observer groups.

The first round of voting did not produce a sufficient number of deputies for a quorum in the new legislature. Given the long period of time that the Government of Kazakstan has been without a legislature, the Delegation believes it would be an important achievement in building democracy in Kazakstan for a subsequent round of elections to eventually produce a new Supreme Soviet.

The Delegation's statement after the first round was published on December 10 [Annex 3].

## 2. DELEGATION

A Delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE monitored parliamentary elections in Kazakstan at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed the following Delegation:

Mr. Jan NAVRÁTIL ..... Czech Republic  
Mr. Michel VOISIN ..... France

The Delegation was accompanied by the two members of the International Secretariat:

Eric RUDENSHIOLD ..... Programme Director

### 3. PROGRAMME

The programme was prepared together with the Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan [Annex 2]. When preparing the programme the Secretariat also cooperated with the Delegation of the European Parliament and the OSCE ODIHR.

### 4. PRE-ELECTION ENVIRONMENT

The Parliament has been transformed by the new Constitution into a smaller and more professional, two-chamber legislature, since the last general election in March 1994, and the closure of the larger, single-chamber body one year later. In April and August 1995 there were two popular referenda: The first vote prolonged President Nursultan Nazarbaev's term in office until the year 2000. The second adopted the new Constitution which grants the President extended powers over the running of the government, political and judicial appointments, the creation and adoption of legislation, and even the interpretation the Constitution itself.

The Constitution leaves few checks on the power of the President, whose position vis-a-vis the Parliament is strengthened, because there are more grounds to dissolve the legislature. It will also be harder for the new Parliament to override a Presidential veto, and it would be substantially more difficult to impeach the President.

Shortly after calling elections, President Nazarbaev also adopted an election decree that has "the force of constitutional law."<sup>1</sup> It grants the President and the *akims* (local and regional representatives of the President and the Government) near exclusive control over the election process through the direct appointment of the election commissions on all levels. The President may also play a direct role in deciding appeals of the Central Election Commission to the Constitutional Council, which has the highest authority. The President who appoints three of seven members of the Council, may object to any decision, requiring the body to override his objection with 2/3 majority.

#### Organization of the Elections

The Central Election Commission (CEC) is responsible for overseeing the overall conduct of the elections for both the Senate and the *Majilis*, as well as the respective subordinate commissions. The CEC is a permanently acting body consisting of its Chairman, Yuri Kim, a deputy chairperson, secretary and other Commission members. While the Constitution states that members of the Commission are to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the *Majilis*, current members of the CEC have not been confirmed, since they were appointed only after the Parliament was closed in March 1995. The territorial, district, and precinct election

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<sup>1</sup> Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Having the Force of a Constitutional Law Concerning the Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1995 (English translation provided by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems).

commissions are made up of nine to fifteen members each that are appointed by the respective *akims*.

The territorial election commissions are responsible for the conduct of the 5 December elections to 40 of the 47 seats of the Senate (the remaining seven are appointed by the President). One commission was established in each of the 19 oblasts and Almaty, from which the 40 deputies (two from each) were to be elected.

The elections to the upper house were based on the principle of indirect suffrage, using members of the *maslikhat* (local council) of an oblast and Almaty, as well as those from districts and smaller towns (all of whom were previously directly elected in local elections).

On 9 December, seats for deputies to the 67-member *Majilis* were contested in direct elections, by all eligible voters, who must be 18 years old and citizens of Kazakhstan. District election commissions were responsible for the organization and the conduct of these elections and were established in each of the 67, single-mandate electoral districts (the differences in the number of voters from district to district was not to exceed 25%).<sup>2</sup>

The precinct election commissions (each to contain no more than 1000 voters) were responsible for the establishment of polling stations, the conduct of voting, and vote counts. Special provisions existed for precincts in military units, on Kazakstani vessels at sea, in hospitals, etc. The precinct commissions keep a *voters' list* of all eligible voters based on place of residence, which should be checked quarterly and made public at least 15 days before the elections. Kazakstani citizens residing abroad were allowed to be included on the voters' list of a foreign mission.

### **Nomination and Registration of Candidates**

There are two significant changes from the previous election law concerning the nomination and registration of candidates. First, the financial requirements to be permitted to run for either the Senate or *Majilis* became more stringent. Under the old law candidates were required to pay five times their current wage if employed, or five times the minimum wage if unemployed. The money was to be returned if the candidate received at least five percent of the vote in the respective electoral district. The new election decree, however, not only stipulated that each candidate should pay an election fee of 100 times the minimum wage--irrespective of their current salary, but that the fee was non-refundable.

Second, the old law required each candidate to collect 3000 signatures. Under the new rules, candidates to the *Majilis* (lower house) did not need to collect any signatures, however, those running for the Senate (upper house) were required to collect signatures from 10% of their respective electors.

### *Senate*

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<sup>2</sup> A substantial disparity between electoral districts was cited as one of the justifications for invalidating the March 1994 elections. The previous election law stated that they should, "as a rule,...[be] formed with equal numbers of voters."

Candidates needed to fulfil the constitutional requirements of being at least 30 years of age, holding citizenship in Kazakhstan for more than five years, and residing for the last three years in the oblast or city in which they were running. In addition, each candidate must have had a higher education and have "five years of service." While the Constitution is unclear regarding precisely what type of service, it appears to refer to the governmental or public sector.

The election decree allowed candidates to be nominated at sessions of oblast *maslikhats* (local councils), as well as at those from other cities, districts and smaller towns by a majority vote, with the Almaty *maslikhat* nominating at least two. Candidates could also nominate themselves. Each nominee was required to provide a statement of intent, biographical data, and a pledge to provide the non-refundable election fee.

Once nominated, candidates were required to collect the signatures of 10% of their prospective electors and submit them to the respective territorial election commission, which had five days to verify them. If only one percent of the signatures were not deemed authentic, the candidate was to be denied registration.

### *Majilis*

To qualify to run for the lower house, candidates needed to be citizens of Kazakhstan and at least 25 years of age. Candidates could be nominated by republic wide or local public associations, or they could have nominated themselves by informing the appropriate district election commission in writing. Candidates were prohibited from running in more than one district and for more than one public association. As with the Senate candidates, each needed to provide a statement of intent, biographical data, and a pledge to provide the non-refundable election fee.

## **Candidates**

### *The Senate*

As of 17 November, only 49 of 62 nominated candidates were registered to run for the 40 seats in the Senate.<sup>3</sup> The largest number of nominated candidates were managers and workers of *maslikhats* [local councils] (22 nominations), followed by managers of enterprises, associations, and other groups (14 nominations). Although elections were held, there was no formal contest in Almaty as well as in 13 of the 19 oblasts, where only two candidates ran for each of the two mandates.

Six of the remaining seven seats in the 47-seat upper house, to be allotted by the President, were announced in the 8 November issue of *Kazakstanskaya Pravda*:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Dzhandar Karibayev | Chief of the culture administration from the Zhambil oblast                            |
| 2. Bigali Kayupov     | Akim of the Aralsk region from the Kzil- Orda oblast.                                  |
| 3. Sergey Zhalibin    | Chairman of the presidium of the oblast collegium of lawyers from the Kustanai oblast. |
| 4. Esbergen Bozhanov  | Rector of the polytechnical institute from the Mangistau oblast.                       |

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<sup>3</sup> Lunev, Gennady, "The first stage of the pre-election marathon is over," *Kazakstanskaya Pravda*, 8 November 1995.

5. Anatoly Litovchenko Deputy chairman of the oblast trade union from the Northern-Kazakhstan oblast.
6. Amanzhol Seltzhanov Akim of the Kyiminsk region from the Turgai oblast.

### *The Majilis*

According to the CEC, of the 307 nominated candidates, 285 were actually registered to run for the 67 seats in the *Majilis*, which averaged more than four candidates per single member district. There were a total of 128 self-nominated candidates, as well as 157 candidates registered to 30 political parties and public associations, 18 of which fielded less than two candidates apiece.

### **Pre-Election Campaigning**

There were a series of limitations concerning pre-election campaigning: Candidates could not campaign in state or local bodies; on military bases, organizations, or institutions; or to members of election commissions. Campaign materials could not be posted at the premises of an election commission or in polling stations.

Candidates had the right to set forth and advocate political programs, as long as they did not conflict with a series of general prohibitions: "The candidate's program must not advocate ideas of a violent change of the constitutional system, violation of territorial integrity of the Republic, undermining of the state's security, war, [or] social, racial, national, religious, estate and clannish superiority as well as the cult of cruelty and violence."

Candidates were allowed to have up to five personal representatives each, to act in their name at meetings with state bodies, organizations, public associations and election commissions. Individuals nominated to run for the Senate were also allowed to use initiative groups to collect the required signatures from 10% of the electors. Campaigning was required to end the day before the election.

### **Campaigning and the Role of the Media**

Each candidate was given public funds to be used on an equal basis for access to the media: one 15-minute appearance on state television, one 10-minute time slot on state radio, and two articles in the state press. These media presentations were to proceed without interruption and without comment.

### **Voting Procedures**

#### *Senate*

Voting took place on 5 December at joint meetings of all electors in each oblast and in Almaty. The time and place of the meetings was determined by the relevant territorial commissions. Electors included all directly elected deputies in the district, town and oblast *maslikhats*.

#### *Majilis*

The polls were to be open from 7:00 to 20:00 on 9 December. At the request of the

respective *akims* in some areas the polling times could have been changed, but the voters were to be informed not later than seven days before the election. In this case, polls could not open earlier than 6:00 or close later than 22:00. The precinct commission had until ten days before the election to inform constituents about the time and place of voting.

The polling station were to be established so voters passed through a polling booth or room (to ensure a secret ballot) on their way to the ballot box, which was to be in plain view of the observers and members of the commission.

Commission members were required to arrive at least one hour before balloting commenced and to witness the examination of the ballot box by the chairperson. Observers were allowed to be present at the opening of the polling station, throughout the day, and during the count, including candidate representatives, accredited members of the press, an observer from each republic-wide public association, and accredited international observers.

As with the previous elections, the secret ballot and one-person-one-vote principles were stated clearly in the election decree. Provisions were also made for absentee voting, as well as a travelling ballot box for voters who could not come on their own.

Ballot papers, signed by a member of the election commission, were required by law to be issued only upon receipt of proper identification (the election decree does not stipulate what type of identification is valid). The ballots were to be written in both Kazak and Russian, as well as other languages spoken by a majority of the population in given districts.

Voters (electors) were to mark their ballot papers by leaving one candidate and crossing out the surnames of all others being voted against. Any controversy regarding the validity of ballots was to be settled by a 2/3 majority vote of the commission.

### **Validity of Elections and the Election of Deputies**

Candidates were considered elected to the Parliament in the first round of the elections, if they received votes from more than half of the participating voters (electors). If none of the candidates received a majority, then a second round of elections between the top two vote getters was to be scheduled later in the day for the Senate, or within two months for the *Majilis*. In order to be elected, candidates must have received a majority of votes, accounting for at least 40% of the total votes.

Turnout requirements existed for both first and second round elections to the Senate and the *Majilis*. A 50% elector threshold was required to elect representatives to the Senate, and half of those present must have participated in the balloting for elections to be valid. For elections to the *Majilis*, a 50% turnout of eligible voters was required in each single-mandate district. New elections for the *Majilis* are required by law in single-mandate district(s) or, in the case of the Senate, in particular oblast(s) or Almaty, if elections had been invalidated. These elections are to take place within two months of the original elections, or within a term set forth by the CEC. Further, candidates who ran in the original elections are barred from participating in new elections. Apparently, the argument in favor of this provision rests in the notion that the candidates were initially unable to draw enough interest from the voters, since

less than half came to the polls.

### **Voter Turnout**

In the December 9, first-round elections to the *Majilis* (lower house), 79.84% of registered voters are reported to have participated. Out of 285 registered candidates in 67 electoral districts, 41 candidates were elected with the required turnout and majority thresholds. However, only 32 candidates were officially registered by the Central Election Commission, after all protests were decided. On December 23, a second round of elections saw a reported 64.69% voter turnout, electing 13 new deputies. Combined, the two rounds of elections produced the minimum number of deputies necessary for a quorum in the Parliament. A third round of elections is scheduled for February 4, 1996.

## **5. OBSERVATIONS**

### **5.1. LEGAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS**

#### **The Electoral Law**

- a) Efforts to provide equal funding for candidates resulted in serious limitations in the candidates' abilities to promote themselves and their platforms. The press was reportedly prohibited from publishing any information other than what was paid for. Many voters complained of having "little information." This was corroborated by press members who complained about their ability to provide press coverage.
- b) The adoption of simpler candidate registration procedures, and the elimination of securing large numbers of voter signatures, greatly streamlined the process of adding candidates to the ballots.
- c) The process for registered candidates to secure official funds for campaigning seems to have worked without many problems.
- d) The inclusion of domestic observers and independent observer groups increased the transparency of the electoral process.

#### **Political Parties**

- a) The Delegation met with representatives from political parties and former parliamentarians boycotting the elections on the grounds that the prior Parliament had been dissolved illegitimately, that elections should have been scheduled immediately, and that the election law had not been popularly discussed or adopted.
- b) Communist Party officials complained that their campaign posters were

systematically torn down.

## 5.2. THE MEDIA

- a) Press coverage, due to an interpretation of the election law greatly reduced coverage beyond paid-for messages, resulted in significantly large numbers of voters being poorly informed about parties, candidates and their platforms.
- b) Registered opposition candidates and parties did appear to have access to the print and broadcast media.

## 5.3. OBSERVATIONS AT POLLING STATIONS

During its observation of the first round of elections, the Delegation was divided into four groups which visited more than 100 polling stations covering . Polling stations were visited before their openings, throughout the day, and closing procedures were also observed.

**In most polling stations there was a widespread practice of voters collecting and casting multiple ballots per person. Although it was recognized that there are strong cultural traditions related to the practice of proxy or "family" voting in Kazakhstan, a number of high-level officials assured observers that the one-man one-vote principle would be adhered to. In fact, special provisions were written into the current electoral law to clarify prior legislation and to prohibit the proxy voting practice. (The previous parliamentary elections in 1994 were criticized by observers for widespread violations of the one-man one-vote principle.)**

Members of the Delegation also observed the following:

- a) There was a lack of standardized procedures between polling stations: No standard criteria appeared to be used from one polling station to the next on what constituted a validly marked ballot. Vote counting procedures also varied widely between polling stations.
- b) Voters queried regarding who they were voting for seemed particularly uninformed, many could not provide a single name on the ballot.
- c) Voters' identities were frequently not checked by asking for identification. In cases when asked, officials claimed this only happened when they knew the voter personally. However, this did not appear to be a convincing argument to observers.
- d) Voter registration lists appeared to be out of date, with many voters receiving inaccurate invitations.
- e) Voter turn-out seemed extremely low to observers. In several polling stations where domestic observers were conducting parallel vote counts, the number of

actual voters was less than half of the reported voter turnout.

- f) Domestic observers in some polling stations complained of not being allowed to view all aspects of the voting process, including the count and of not being able to file protests.
- g) One polling station was observed by Delegation members to open late and close early.

#### 5.4. COUNTING OF VOTES

Members of the Delegation only observed the beginning of the counting of votes in polling stations. No irregularities were observed.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important that **1) the electoral process has legitimacy with the population at large. Each individual needs to cast their own ballot.** Programs to educate voters and electoral officials should be undertaken to emphasize the importance of the one-person-one-vote principle. **2) Political parties and the legislature should be involved in the writing of election laws and any call for new elections.**

**3) The electoral law should be amended to avoid any misinterpretation that would prohibit the press from covering any aspect of the electoral process.** If the public is to make an informed decision at the ballot box, sufficient press coverage of the political campaign and the candidates is necessary.

**4) The officials in polling stations must be instructed to observe the law.** Specifically, this refers to following standard procedures, requiring voter identification, allowing observers to view the entire process.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation

**Annex 1**

**ELECTION DAY DEPLOYMENT**

On Tuesday, December 5, the Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observed *maslikhat* elections in the city administration of Almaty.

Jan NAVRÁTIL ..... Czech Republic  
Eric RUDENSHIOLD ..... International Secretariat  
Stig KJELDSEN ..... International Secretariat

On Saturday, December 9, the Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was divided into the following groups, covering the capital of the Republic of Kazakstan as well as the regions around it:

**Group 1 ... *Almaty area***

Jan NAVRÁTIL ..... Czech Republic

**Group 2 ... *Almaty area***

Michel VOISIN ..... France

**Group 3 ... *Almaty area***

Eric RUDENSHIOLD ..... International Secretariat

**Group 4 ... *Almaty area***

Stig KJELDSEN ..... International Secretariat

**Annex 2**

**PROGRAMME FOR OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
OBSERVER DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS  
IN KAZAKSTAN, December 5 & 9, 1995**

**Monday, 4 December**

- 10:00 - 11:00 Meeting with Vice-President of the Republic of Kazakstan,  
E Asanbaev
- 11:40 - 13:00 Meeting with representatives of registered political parties:  
*Socialist Party*, Ermukhamed Ertesbaev  
*Party of Peoples Congress*, Victor Rogaliev  
*Communist Party*, Tulibay  
*Peoples Union of Kazakstan*  
*Democratic Party of Kazakstan*, Katabalin Kadyrgay  
*Peasants Union of Kazakstan*, Ljah Nikolai  
*Peoples Cooperation Party*, Salikev Gaizat Ruisaevich and  
Amanbaev Musat
- 14:45 - 16:00 Meeting with the Minister of Justice,  
Konstantin A. Kolpakov
- 16:15 - 16:45 Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
K. Tokasov
- 16:00 - 17:00 Meeting of international observer groups
- 17:00 - 18:10 Meeting with representatives of the Central Election  
Commission, Yuri Kim, Chairman  
Ospanova Maidasch, Balieve Sagira, Bukenow Kapar, Hetenov  
Y., Ohlopkova T., Erzat Zeynullaevich Bekbaev, Tolepbaev  
Baidabek Ahmetuly

**Tuesday, 5 December**

- 09:00 - 14:00 Elections to the Senate
- 17:30 - 19:00 Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Wednesday, 6 December**

- 11:00 - 11:45 Meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbaev

16:00 - 17:00 Meeting with representative of *IFES* (International Foundation for Electoral Systems)  
Linda Edgeworth

**Thursday, 6 December**

10:00 - 11:00 Meeting with representatives of NGO's  
*The Council of Trade Unions*, Mr. Martynov, Chairman  
*The Central Committee of Union of Youth*,  
Mr. Kasymkulov, Deputy Chairman  
*The Republican Council of Women*,  
Mrs. Numusheva, Deputy Chairman  
*The Republican Council of Veterans of War & Labor*,  
Mr. Sagdiev, Chairman

11:15 - 13:00 Meeting with representatives of the Press & Media  
TV program "Week", KTK TV Channel and Kazakstan-1 TV  
Channel, Vadim Boreiko, Editor-in-Chief  
Information programme "Khabar", TV & Radio Broadcast  
TOTEM, Vera Avaliani, Editor  
Horisont Newspaper, Jaouhaz Kassenova  
TV M, Sergey V. Duvanov, Director

15:00 - 15:45 Meeting with representatives of the intelligentsia of Kazakstan:  
Kazakstan State Architect Academy, Social Development  
Department of the President of Kazakstan, actors and writers

16:00 - 17:30 Meeting with representatives of local observers from the public  
association "*Legal Development of Kazakstan*",  
Ms. Ivanova Alla and Ms. Frolova Valentina

**Friday, 8 December**

10:00 - 11:00 Meeting with Head of the National Press Agency, A.  
Sarsembaev

11:30 - 12:15 Meeting with the Head of the Supreme Court, M. Malakhov

12:30 - 13:30 Meeting with the US Embassy,  
Ambassador and the Political Officer

16:00 - 17:00 Meeting with former parliamentarian, Valentina Sevriukova, and  
Head of the Independent Trade Unions of Kazakstan, Leonid  
Solomin

17:00 - 18:00 Meeting with candidates boycotting the elections and opposition candidate:  
*Civil Movement of Kazakstan Azat,*  
Toled Seitnamuly, Chairman (boycotting)  
*Social-Democratic Party,*  
Dos Kushinov, Chairman (boycotting)  
*Legal Development of Kazakstan,*  
Chebotasev André (boycotting)  
*Russian Center,* Paper Oleg Panteleevich (boycotting)  
*Independent Candidate,* Mels Ilusisev (opposition)

**Saturday, 9 December**

07:00 - 22:00 Elections to the lower house "Majilis"

**Sunday, 10 December**

10:00 - 12:00 Meeting with domestic monitoring groups and observers

17:30 - 20:00 Meeting of all international observers

## Annex 3

### PRESS RELEASE

#### "1995 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN KAZAKSTAN"

A delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observed the widespread practice of voters collecting and casting multiple ballots per person during the parliamentary elections for the lower house (majilis) in Kazakstan on December 9. Observers noted the process of signing for, and voting more than one ballot per individual, to be prevalent in the majority of polling stations.

The delegation notes that there are strong cultural traditions related to the practice of proxy or "family" voting in Kazakstan. However, a number of high-level officials from the Government, including the Chairmen of the Supreme Court and the Central Election Commission, assured international observers that the one-man one-vote principle would be adhered to in these elections. In fact, special provisions were written into the current electoral law to clarify prior legislation and to prohibit the proxy voting practice. The previous parliamentary elections in 1994 were criticized by observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation for widespread violations of the one-man one-vote principle.

Furthermore, on elections day the delegation encountered a general lack of information among voters regarding candidates. When asked before casting their ballots, most voters were unable to recall the name of even one candidate running in their district. In a related vein, the electoral campaign was regarded by the delegation members to be exceptionally quiet, with little debate or information. Given this situation, the delegation believes it was difficult for the electorate to make an informed decision.

In addition, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation members observed a lack of standardized procedures between polling stations relating to: the determination of the validity of ballots, vote counts, etc.

However, delegation members also wish to recognize the adoption of a number of observer recommendations from the 1994 elections which are believed to have somewhat improved the overall electoral process. Specifically, the simplification of the candidate registration process, the increased ability for opposition views to be broadcast in the press, more opportunities for candidates to obtain funds for their campaigns (along with established accounting criteria), and the inclusion of independent domestic observer groups. The delegation congratulates the Government of Kazakstan for holding multi-party elections and recognizes this effort as a vital step towards democratic development. The Government and Central Election Commission are also to be commended for inviting international observers in an effort to open up the electoral process. Delegation members strongly encourage the citizenry of Kazakstan to participate in any subsequent rounds of voting that may be necessary to seat the new Parliament.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation monitored the parliamentary elections in Kazakstan for the Senate on 5 December and for the lower house (majilis) on 9 December at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan. The Delegation

included two parliamentarians from two countries (the Czech Republic and France) and two members from the International Secretariat.

During their visit to Kazakstan, the delegation met with representatives from registered and unregistered political parties, the mass media, the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, the President and Vice President of Kazakstan, the Chairman of the Supreme Court, the Ministers of Justice and Foreign Affairs, members of national minority groups and the intelligentsia, domestic monitoring groups, former parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations. On elections day, members of the delegation visited more than 100 polling stations in the Almaty region, including their opening and closings.

The final report of the delegation will be presented to the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Stockholm, Sweden, scheduled for July 2-6, 1996. Further information can be obtained from Eric Rudenshiold, Program Director of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: Radhusstraede 1, 1466 - Copenhagen K, Tel +45 3332 9400, Fax. +45 3332 5505.