



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. CONVICTS HIGH-RANKING UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL  
OF MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that a jury in Manhattan federal court today convicted VLADIMIR KUZNETSOV of conspiring to commit money laundering. The jury returned its guilty verdict after less than one hour of deliberation. Prior to his arrest in September 2005, KUZNETSOV served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the United Nations and was the highest-ranking Russian diplomat at the United Nations. The evidence at trial proved that:

From 2000 through June 2005, KUZNETSOV laundered over \$300,000 in criminal proceeds obtained by a co-conspirator, ALEXANDER YAKOVLEV, who served as a procurement officer at the United Nations. The funds laundered by KUZNETSOV were the proceeds of a fraudulent scheme perpetrated by YAKOVLEV. Specifically, in 2000, YAKOVLEV established an off-shore company, Moxycyco, Ltd. ("Moxycyco"), to facilitate the illicit and secret payment of money to him by, among others, foreign companies seeking assistance in securing contracts to provide goods and services to the United Nations. From 2000 to June 2005, YAKOVLEV accepted over one million dollars generated by this criminal scheme.

In 2000, YAKOVLEV informed KUZNETSOV of the scheme. Rather than report YAKOVLEV's conduct to law enforcement authorities or the United Nations, KUZNETSOV agreed with YAKOVLEV that YAKOVLEV would transfer a share of the proceeds to KUZNETSOV for KUZNETSOV's own benefit. To facilitate and hide the transfer of criminal proceeds to KUZNETSOV from YAKOVLEV's off-shore Moxycyco bank account, KUZNETSOV established his own off-shore company, Nikal, Ltd. KUZNETSOV also opened a bank account in the name of Nikal, Ltd. at Antigua Overseas Bank Limited, the same bank at which YAKOVLEV had previously opened the Moxycyco account. Thereafter, from 2000 to June 2005, YAKOVLEV transferred over \$300,000 in criminal proceeds to KUZNETSOV.

KUZNETSOV remains on house arrest pending his sentencing, currently scheduled for June 25, 2007. KUZNETSOV faces a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. GARCIA also thanked the United States Department of State and the United States Mission to the United Nations for their assistance. In addition, Mr. GARCIA thanked the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and Office of Investigative Oversight Services for their cooperation, assistance, and efforts in the prosecution.

Assistant United States Attorneys STEPHEN MILLER and JACOB BUCHDAHL are in charge of this prosecution.

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