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Professor Padma Desai Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems and Director, Center for Transition Economies Department of Economics Columbia University 420 West 118 Street, Room 1015 New York, New York 10027 USA

~ AY-923

Moscow, // April 2007

Dear Professor Desai,

Please, accept my hearty congratulations on the occasion of your birthday.

I think that many of my colleagues in Russia involved in realizing market-oriented reforms and transforming our country into a developed technological nation with a modern diversified economy and advanced living standards are proud to say that they are acquainted with one of the top experts in this research field. Those who may have not encountered with you personally can be proud to have ead your award-deserving books and numerous publications in professional journals and mass media.

Throughout your researches of complex, sometimes even painful problems of our country one can sense deep and sincere sentiments for Russia and Russian people, their history, heritage, traditions. Your studies on Russia are not aimed just to find roots of its acute problems but also to look for and suggest some responses to the challenges the country is faced with.

You have contributed greatly to Russian reforms via supporting them not only by your books and publications but also in person while being an Advisor to the Russian Finance Ministry and contacting Russian officials, public figures and scholars at various conferences, fora or on other occasions. I would like to thank you indeed for your dedication to new Russia which has become your challenging professional orbit.

I wish you, Padma, many happy returns of the day and all the best to you and your family!

Yours sincerely,

Anatoly Chubais