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MEDIA ADVISORY

**Russian Young Political Leaders to Visit St. Louis and Jefferson City;
Delegates to Meet with Government, Business and Civic Leaders**

ST. LOUIS – From May 2-5, 2007, six young political leaders from Russia will visit St. Louis and Jefferson City, Missouri as part of a twelve day political exchange program organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). Composed of delegates from across the Russian political spectrum, the delegation kicked off its program with meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. While in Missouri, the delegation will be hosted by Michael McMillan, License Collector for the City of St. Louis and a 2006 ACYPL delegate to Russia. Prior to returning to Russia, delegates will also visit Utah.

One of the very few organizations with which the former Soviet Union agreed to conduct political exchanges during the height of the Cold War, ACYPL welcomed the first Soviet ACYPL delegation to the United States in May 1971. U.S. and Russian alumni of this exchange program include U.S. Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin, D-Ill., U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., U.S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., U.S. Under Secretary of State Paula J. Dobriansky, President Bush's special envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios; First Lady of Ukraine Katherine Chumachenko Yushchenko; Russian Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade Andrei Sharonov and Russian State Duma Member Andrei Kokoshin.

Who: Young political leaders from across the Russian political spectrum, including:

- **Ms. Marina Chashchina** (United Russia Party) - Aide to the Governor, Sverdlovskaya
- **The Honorable Sergey Fadeyev** (Yabloko) - Deputy of the Kaluga Regional Duma
- **Mr. Oleg Kruglov** (United Russia Party) – Party Secretary, Ekaterinburg
- **The Honorable Mikhail Malahovskiy** (United Russia Party) - Mayor of the City of Ahtubinsk
- **Ms. Larisa Shkondina** (SPS - Union of Rightist Forces) - Deputy of the Samara City Duma
- **Mr. Dmitry Vishnyakov** (Escort) - Chairman of the Muskie Club, Moscow

What: Program highlights include:

- Meetings with state and local government officials from both major political parties, such as Governor Matt Blunt (R), St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay (D), St. Louis Board of Alderman President Lewis E. Reed (D) and St. Louis License Collector Michael McMillan (D).
- Discussions with representatives from Time Warner and People's Health Center and touring the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City and the St. Louis City Hall.

When: May 2, 4, 5, 2007 (St. Louis)
May 3, 2007 (Jefferson City)

Why: The purpose of this program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels.
- Give the delegates a new perspective on American culture.
- Allow the delegates to engage in dialogue on international issues and develop professional relationships with their American counterparts.

About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-857-0999 or mgarretson@acypl.org.

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