

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, today in Tallinn Central Russian Gymnasium presented his book, "Räägib riigipea" (Govorit glava gosudarstva/The Head of State Speaking), which collates a selection of the speeches given by the Head of State from 2006 to 2012, and a longer interview especially given for this book.

According to President Ilves, he primarily sees this book as a communication device and opportunity to explain his ideas and positions, more substantially, to the section of the population of Estonia who see their relations with the Republic of Estonia as both a source of joy and expectation and of problems and dissatisfaction.

"I hope that this book will help readers to understand the choices that Estonia has made over the last number of decades," told the President. "I do not assume that every reader will agree with everything that's been said or written. However, I hope that these speeches and interview will provide the foundation for peaceful dialogue."

Students of the Russian schools of Tallinn also took part in the development of the book by last year sending questions for the interview with the President. The full original interview is available in Estonian at the website of the President of the Republic ( <http://bit.ly/1IW5ERh> ) and also at the website of the Foundation Estonian Co-operation Assembly ( <http://bit.ly/1dC61X8> ).

Compilations of speeches by President Ilves have previously been published as books in Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian and Finnish. "Now that a book of speeches has been published in Russian, the thoughts and ideas of the Estonian Head of State will be available to interested parties among our largest kin and neighbouring people," told Olari Koppel, CEO of the Foundation Estonian Co-operation Assembly that published the book; Olari Koppel also compiled the book and conducted the included interview.

According to Koppel, this book could also be seen as an effort towards education and integration. To this end, the Estonian Co-operation Assembly has sent the book to the libraries of Russian schools; the book will also be distributed, with help from the Ministry of Culture, to the cultural societies of minorities.

Publication of the book was supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs; its circulation is 600 copies and, from today, the book can also be purchased from bookstores.

Foundation Estonian Co-operation Assembly is a co-operation network for non-governmental organisations that publishes the traditional Human Development Report, co-ordinates the work of the People's Assembly and involvement process of the new educational strategy and is currently developing the governance programme.

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