Министерство науки и высшего образования Российской Федерации

Федеральное государственное бюджетное образовательное учреждение высшего образования «Северо-Осетинский государственный университет имени Коста Левановича Хетагурова»

(ФГБОУ ВО «СОГУ»)

Утверждаю
Проректор по научной деятельности

_____ Г.Г. Гиникашвили

«_4_» ___03___ 2026 г.

ПРОГРАММА

вступительных испытаний по иностранному языку (английский язык) основной образовательной программы высшего образования - программы подготовки научных и научно-педагогических кадров в аспирантуре

Область науки **2. Технические науки**

Научная специальность:
2.7.1. Биотехнологии пищевых продуктов, лекарственных и биологически активных веществ

Владикавказ 2026

1. Область применения и нормативные ссылки

Программа вступительного испытания сформирована на основе федеральных государственных образовательных стандартов высшего образования по программам специалитета или магистратуры.

2. Структура вступительного испытания

Форма проведения: вступительные испытания по дисциплине иностранный язык (английский). Экзамен по дисциплине иностранный язык (английский) в устной форме очно или дистанционно.

Возможные формы проведения экзамена:

1. В традиционной форме устно.
2. В дистанционной форме устно с использованием онлайн ресурсов

Экзамен включает в себя три задания:

Изучающее чтение оригинального текста по специальности. Объем 1500–2000 печатных знаков. Время выполнения работы – 45–60 минут. Форма проверки: передача извлеченной информации осуществляется на иностранном языке (гуманитарные специальности) или на языке обучения (естественнонаучные специальности).

Беглое (просмотровое) чтение публицистического текста. Объем – 1000 печатных знаков. Время выполнения – 2–3 минуты. Форма проверки – передача извлеченной информации на иностранном языке (гуманитарные специальности) и на языке обучения (естественнонаучные специальности).

Беседа с экзаменаторами на иностранном языке по вопросам, связанным со специальностью и научной работой поступающего.

Вопросы вступительного экзамена:

Образец билета для экзамена

1. Read, translate and retell the text.
2. Render the article.
3. Speak of your scientific interests.

3. Содержание вступительного экзамена

№ п/п	Наименование раздела (модуля)	Содержание раздела (модуля)
Модуль 1	Изучающее чтение оригинального текста по специальности. **(Приложение 1)**	Изучающее чтение оригинального текста по специальности. Объем 1500–2000 печатных знаков
Модуль 2	Просмотровое чтение текста на иностранном языке. **(Приложение 2)**	Беглое (просмотровое) чтение газетного текста. Объем – 1000 печатных знаков. Время выполнения – 2–3 минуты. Форма проверки – передача извлеченной информации на иностранном языке (гуманитарные специальности).
Модуль 3	Беседа с экзаменаторами на иностранном языке.	Беседа с экзаменаторами на иностранном языке по вопросам, связанным со специальностью и научной работой аспиранта (соискателя).

Литература

№	Название	Автор	Вид издания (монография, диссертация, учебник, учебное пособие и др.)	Место издания, издательство, год издания, кол-во страниц
а) Основная литература				
1.	Professional English in Use.	Gillian D. Brown and Sally Rice.	Учебное пособие	CUP, 2009.
2.	Чтение и перевод научной литературы. Лексико грамматический справочник.	Рубцова М.Г.	Справочник	М.:АСТ, 2010.
3.	Англо-русские обороты научной речи.	Миньяр-Белоручева А.П.	Учебно-методическое пособие	М.: Флинта. Наука, 2010.
4.	Longman Advanced Learners' Grammar.	Mark Foley, Dianne Hall.	Учебное пособие	Pearson Longman, 2010.
б) дополнительная литература				
1.	Learn to Listen, Listen to Learn. Academic Listening and Note-Taking. Books 1 and 2.	Roni S.Lebauer.	Учебное пособие	Pearson Longman, 2010.
2.	Практический курс английского языка.	Камянова Т. Г.	Учебник	М.: Дом Славянской Книги, 2005
3.	Теория и практика перевода с английского языка на русский	Левицкая Т. Р., Фитерман А. М.	Учебное пособие	книга доступна на сайте: translations.web- 3.ru
4.	Основы теории и практики перевода с русского языка на английский	Бреус Е.В.	Учебное пособие	книга доступна на сайте: translations.web-3.ru
в) Словари				
1.	Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English.	Douglas Biber, Stig Johansson, Geoffrey Leech, Susan Conrad, Edward Finegan	Словарь	Pearson Longman, 1999.
2.	Новый англо-русский словарь.	Мюллер В.К.	Словарь	Изд-во «Русский язык» — М.: Рус.яз., 2000.
3.	Macmillan English Dictionary for advanced Learners.	Michael Rundell	Словарь	Macmillan Publishers Limited, 2007.
4.	Longman Language Activator.	Addison Wesley Longman.	Словарь	Longman Group UK Limited, 2008.

Базы данных, информационно-справочные и поисковые системы

*-	Наименование ЭБС	Принадлежность ЭБС	Адрес сайта	Сведения о правообладателе	Кол-во точек доступа	Характеристика доступа
1	"Университетская библиотека online"	Сторонняя	http://www.biblioclub.ru	ООО «Некс-Медиа»	1000 1000 7000	Безлимитный
2	Электронная библиотека диссертаций РГБ (ЭБД РГБ)	Сторонняя	https://dvs.rsl.ru	ФГБУ "РГБ"	10 точек доступа в читальном зале НБ СОГУ	Безлимитный
3	« Консультант студента»	Сторонняя	http://www.studmedlib.ru/	ООО «Институт проблем управления здравоохранением»	400 карт доступа	Безлимитный
4	Научная электронная библиотека eLibrary.ru	Сторонняя	http://elibrary.ru	ООО "Научная электронная библиотека"	Кол-во доступов не ограничено	Безлимитный
5	Polpred.com Обзор СМИ	Сторонняя	http://polpred.com	ООО «ПОЛПРЕД Справочники	Кол-во доступов не огранич	Безлимитный

Приложение 1
Тексты для изучающего чтения (Вопрос № 1 билета)

1.
Introduction

Typical food-processing companies have a twostage production process. The first stage consists of processing the product with typical activities such as mixing or heating to change basic food ingredients into basic products. Production can be continuous, but batch-like processes are also frequently encountered. The second stage changes a homogeneous product into a packaged discrete product—often customer-specific—ready for (consumer) use. Mostly, these two stages are distinct in a number of ways, e.g., with respect to the labour intensity, the level of capacity utilization, the magnitude and influence of set-ups, and the production rate. In order to find production sequences that are optimal for each stage and to compensate for differences in production rates, the two stages are generally separated by tanks or silos that temporarily store the unpacked, basic product. Typical examples can be found in the dairy industry (Lu¨ tke Entrup et al., 2005), the production of beverages (Fey, 2000), the tobacco industry (Van Dam et al., 1998), or the production of breadcrumbs (Van Donk, 2001). Due to the different nature of the two stages, managing the intermediate storage is necessary to find a balance between opposing demands. The processing stages might prefer long production runs and a specific sequence (like from light to dark colours or from low to high fat), while the packaging stage groups and sequences production based on packaging sizes and aims at combining orders for one customer. Moreover, tanks are usually limited in number and size, as high investments are involved for this type of storage facilities. The time of storing an unpacked product is limited by its shelf life. A main complication is, however, that usually the number of

products exceeds the number of tanks. Storing a product is thus more than just allocating a production batch to an arbitrary tank. On the one hand, availability of products for packaging is needed, leading to the wish to fill as many tanks as possible with basic product. On the other hand, availability of empty tanks is required to enable continuous processing in the first stage of the production process. Planners tend to believe that building extra tanks is the solution for this problem, but, as said before, that is expensive. What makes this situation even more complex is the fact that market demands can be different among products.

Renzo Akkerman. Product prioritization in a two-stage food production system with intermediate storage. Int. J. Production Economics 108 (2007) 43–53

2
Allocation policies

This prioritization often results in fixed assignments— or dedication—of storage to the prioritized product. In this paper, we specifically look at the effects of allocation policies for storing products in tanks, based on product prioritization. The literature in operations management hardly pays attention to this important decision area. The aim of this paper is to address the effect of prioritization of a product versus treating all products equally. An important result of the prioritization is a specific type of storage allocation: the permanent allocation, further addressed as dedication, of a tank to a prioritized product. This type of storage allocation can also be found in situations where production is hybrid make-toorder (MTO) and make-to-stock (MTS), which is quite common in the food-processing industry (Soman et al., 2004). In those situations, the decision to make a product to stock or to storage is mainly based on its share in the product mix; high-volume products are normally MTS, and lowvolume products MTO (see, e.g., Youssef et al., 2004). However, this decision can also be forced on the company by market demands. Therefore, we specifically investigate the effects of prioritization by means of dedication policies for various shares of a product in the product mix. With the present study we are able to assess the overall effect on system's performance of dedicating a tank for low-demand and high-demand products that get prioritized to be delivered within a relatively short lead time. The overall contribution is to better understand the intermediate storage in typical food-processing companies in order to improve planning and scheduling in such situations and to improve decision making with respect to the required number of tanks. In general, the situation with intermediate storage can be assessed using a common performance measure like lead time. There are two specific effects of interest: blocking and starvation. Blocking refers to the non-availability of storage tanks for finished product which has to wait in the processing stage, while starvation means idle capacity in the packaging stage due to nonavailability of basic product. For instance, in the situation described in this paper, blocking happens if a batch is produced in the first stage, but no intermediate storage tank is available for the product.

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3
Background

In the food-processing industry, reducing lead times is becoming increasingly important as improved customer service is important, especially when dealing with powerful food retail chains (see, e.g., Meulenberg and Viaene, 1998). Das and Abdel- Malek (2003) also investigate the effects of a varying lead time in a supply chain on flexible delivery. They state that lead times are one of the main causes for supplier–buyer grievances in a supply chain. As such, reducing lead times creates more pressure on these relationships in the supply chain. Lead time reduction also relates to the current interest in hybrid MTO–MTS production systems (see, e.g.,

Huiskonen et al., 2003; Soman et al., 2004). For the food-processing industry, a significant share of the production is customer-specific, which often results in a large MTO part in their production system. The reducing lead times interfere with these policies, as it is no longer possible to produce the required product from raw materials within this lead time. The answer usually lies in the storage of certain basic products, which can be packaged for customer-specific orders. This results in a hybrid MTO–MTS system at the intermediate storage. In the literature on hybrid MTO–MTS systems (see Soman et al., 2004, for an overview) demand characteristics (e.g., the share of the product in the product mix) are mostly used to determine whether products should be made to order or to stock. As Soman et al. (2004) also argue, other market characteristics are often ignored. In our study, we focus on one specific characteristic: lead time. A short lead time requires MTS at the intermediate storage level and prioritization of the product to be able to meet the required lead time. This is closely related to the work of Sox et al. (1997), who denote this required lead time with their service window. Sox et al. (1997) then prioritize the MTO products to ensure a good overall customer service. They also note that when the service window becomes very short (compared to the average flow time of the factory), prioritization degrades performance. In our study, the reason for prioritization and dedication is the fact that the required lead time (or service window) is shorter than the average flow time of the factory. Therefore, we explicitly aim at investigating the effect of prioritization and dedication (and treating all products equally with flexible storage allocation as the alternative policy) on the performance of a production process.

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4
Production model

Next to the prioritization of a product, dedicated storage in the intermediate storage facility is also required to meet the demand. In the literature, we see that several papers address intermediate storage in scheduling. Most papers develop techniques to incorporate these storage tanks in mathematical, mostly MILP-based, scheduling models (e.g., Belarbi and Hindi, 1992; Ha et al., 2000; Rajaram et al., 1999; Yi et al., 2000). In the majority of these papers, the distinction between dedicated and flexible storage is mentioned and considered in the techniques developed. However, this distinction is assumed to be predetermined and known. While the decision to dedicate a storage tank or not is not explicitly discussed, the literature pays some attention to the issues of dedication and flexibility in a qualitative sense. The main objection against dedication of storage tanks might be the loss of flexibility. One might assume that without dedicated storage, assigning products to tanks is easier and results in higher performance of the overall production system. If each product has its own tank, assignment is even easier. However, in food processing, the number of products usually exceeds the number of storage tanks, so only a partial dedication is possible. In the literature, dedication has hardly been discussed, but flexibility (as being its natural opposite) has been extensively treated. The main question seems to be how much flexibility should be added, as it is assumed that flexibility and flexible equipment are more expensive. For instance, Jordan and Graves (1995) develop principles on the benefits of process flexibility. One of the main outcomes is that a small amount of flexibility can have almost the same benefits as total flexibility. In other words, after a certain flexibility is reached, there are rapidly decreasing benefits when adding additional flexibility. This argument might be transformed for dedication of storage tanks by posing that removing some flexibility could initially be relatively harmless to production performance. However, this is less likely in situations where only a small number of storage tanks are available, as the dedication of one of those tanks removes a significant amount of flexibility.

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5
Deterministic analysis

To explore the described system, we will perform a deterministic analysis of the behaviour of the simplest system configuration (K ¼ 2 storage tanks and N ¼ 3 basic products) that still enables us to study the effects of dedication for several scenarios with different product shares for the dedicated product. Two storage tanks are needed to be able to distinguish between dedicated and flexible storage; three products are the minimum to have more than one product in the flexible storage. For the sake of simplicity, all possible variability (in order arrivals, processing times, packaging times) is ignored and we assume a utilization of 100%, which we achieve by setting the order arrival rate equal to the production capacity. 4.1. Dedication for a product with a share of 33% The first scenario we analyse is that of equal demand for all products. In Fig. 2, two excerpts from Gantt charts illustrate the system behaviour. For policy F, we see that a cyclic production pattern emerges, which only needs one of the two storage tanks. The second Gantt chart in Fig. 2 shows that this situation changes dramatically when policy D is implemented. Several important aspects in this chart are (i) the possibility to package orders for product 1 from intermediate storage; (ii) the occurrence of blocking at the batch processor due to unavailable flexible storage; and (iii) the fact that two storage tanks is getting restrictive, while only one was needed in the flexible case. This results in an unbalanced situation, characterized by an increasing backlog of orders in the long run. Here, we assume that a storage tank is dedicated to a product that only represents a small fraction of the product mix. Reduced lead times in the supply chain might be the main reason. Fig. 3 shows partial schedules for policies F and D for a situation where product 1 covers 10% of the product mix, and products 2 and 3 together cover the additional 90%. For policy F, the schedule is still cyclic in nature, albeit that the cycle is getting rather large. In principle, products 2 and 3 are alternating, with one batch of product 1 being produced every 10 batches. For policy D, we see that indeed the demand for product 1 can be met in a package-to-order fashion. However, this again results in blocking effects at the batch processor, and significant starvation effects at the time the dedicated tank needs to be refilled.

Renzo Akkerman. Product prioritization in a two-stage food production system with intermediate storage. Int. J. Production Economics 108 (2007) 43–53

Приложение 2.
Пресса
(тексты для просмотрового чтения – вопрос №2 билета)

№ 1.
Bin Laden son's wife joins British legion

Zaina Bin Laden, 56, has supported the services charity with cash donations for at least five years.

She said last night: "Whoever my father-in-law was, a good cause is a good cause. Charity is a big part of my life."

Zaina — previously known as Jane Felix Browne — married the terror mastermind's son Omar in 2007 a month after she met him on a trip to Egypt's pyramids.

She is due to renew her annual membership of her local Legion branch in Moulton, Cheshire, next week. Zaina said she and Omar, 31 — whose mother is Bin Laden's first wife Najwa — wear poppies on Remembrance Day.

The gran hit back at critics who say she should not be in an organisation that cares for members of the armed forces, veterans and families.

She said: "My family were in the British forces and I still have links.

"My husband believes people who fight for their countries should be respected and I believe that too. This is a cause deep in my heart and it doesn't matter who I am married to."

Zaina converted to Islam before she wed Omar, her sixth husband.

His father was killed by US special forces who raided his compound in Pakistan in 2011.

Omar, whose middle name is Osama, insists he had no contact with his father since before the 9/11 attacks of 2001.

Zaina said she does not visit her local club because she does not drink, but she helps in fund-raising.

The Sun, December 27, 2012. http://openworldnews.com/project/the-sun-bin-laden-sons-wife-joins-british-legion/

№ 2
Now... 6 weeks' rain in 5 days

Landslides are a growing threat and there will be yet more flooding as bands of wet weather sweep across the country for at least the next week.

There is little sign of a New Year let-up with above average rainfall expected over the first weeks of 2013.

Up to **SEVEN INCHES** could fall by this Saturday alone — bringing misery to areas where the land is already saturated.

The Environment Agency had 228 flood alerts and 120 of the more serious flood warnings in place last night.

Almost 500 homes nationwide have been flooded in the last week alone and the agency's Floodline number has taken 18,000 calls.

The South West has been worst hit and **Plymouth** has had 9.4ins of rain in a month — double the average.

In **Devon** and **Cornwall** 245 properties were flooded over the weekend and many families were evacuated.

Officials said the rivers **Thames**, **Severn**, **Trent** and **Avon** are most at risk of flooding.

The Great Ouse broke its banks in **Cambridgeshire** and **Worcester** racecourse was under water. Roads in parts of **Essex** were impassable.

Experts predict that 2012 could be the wettest year on record. The Met Office will release the figures next week.

The Sun UK, December 26, 2012. http://www.allvoices.com/news/13685792-now-6-weeks-rain-in-5-days

№ 3
A merry Taxmas to you

BOOZY Brits will boost Treasury coffers by nearly £200million this Christmas thanks to the hated beer duty escalator, The Sun has learnt

It means drinkers will hand £12 each on average in tax to the Government during the festive period.

UK drinkers are the most heavily-taxed in Europe, accounting for 40 per cent of the Continent's beer duty bill.

An extra 50 million pints of lager and ale are sold every week during December compared with other months, according to the British Beer and Pub Association.

That amounts to an additional £104million in beer duty, plus £82million in VAT.

Campaigners say the findings prove that Chancellor George Osborne must scrap the escalator, which was introduced by Labour and guarantees that beer duty goes up by two per cent above inflation every year.

Brigid Simmonds, chief executive of the British Beer & Pub Association, said: "The Government is out of touch with people on the beer duty escalator.

"It is resented by drinkers and publicans and hits the after-work pint hardest.

"It is also economic madness. Beer duty is so high that demand goes down, hitting Treasury revenues."

The Treasury insists that the escalator plays a vital role in tackling the deficit.

The Sun, 27th December 2012.
http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/4714078/Boozy-Brits-to-boost-Treasury-coffers-by-200m-this-Christmas-thanks-to-hated-beer-duty-escalator.html

№ 4

Parking ticket as we helped disabled son

Karl Wade and Rebecca Harbourne were strapping splints to four-year-old Devon's legs when a warden hit them with a £70 ticket.

The couple said they appealed twice but were turned down by council chiefs as their case lacked "merit".

Rebecca said: "At a time of goodwill to all men, they haven't shown a lot of heart.

"We care for a seriously disabled little boy yet it seems they don't want to help."

The couple were fined as they got Devon, who has cerebral palsy and is paralysed down his left side, ready for school in Erdington, Birmingham.

Their car was outside their home for only 20 minutes but they fell foul of 8am-6pm parking restrictions imposed while the road was being resurfaced.

Dad-of-three Karl claimed he had been given the go-ahead to park by workmen and that other vehicles left on the same road did not get tickets.

He said: "The council don't realise we have no choice. We are law-abiding people but we carry Devon and there was nothing else we could do."

A Birmingham City Council spokesman said all residents had been warned in advance of the road resurfacing.

He added: "The car was obstructing the work. Other cars did not get tickets as they were parked on sections that had already been done."

The Sun, 27th December 2012.
http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/4714047/Couple-got-a-parking-ticket-from-warden-as-they-helped-their-disabled-son-get-ready-for-school.html

№ 5

Legendary Quincy actor Jack Klugman dies aged 90

Klugman, whose gruff-voiced medical examiner became a favourite with millions of TV viewers, passed away aged 90.

Son Adam told how the star died peacefully at his Los Angeles home.

He said: "He went very suddenly and peacefully. He was there one minute and gone the next."

Adam said his dad had "been in convalescent mode for a while", could not walk, and spent a lot of time in bed.

Klugman's wife of 4½ years, Peggy Crosby Klugman — former daughter-in-law of the late singer Bing Crosby — was with him when he died.

The actor is also survived by another son David and two grandchildren.

Philadelphia-born Klugman hit fame as a slovenly sports writer alongside Tony Randall in US TV series The Odd Couple, for which he won two Emmy awards. He went on to star in Quincy M.E. from 1976 to 1983, often uncovering evidence of murder in cases deemed natural deaths.

Born to Russian Jewish immigrants he also starred in several Hollywood films, including 1957's 12 Angry Men. He was the last survivor of the 12 actors who played jurors.

During the 1980s Klugman had throat cancer surgery and lost his voice before training himself to speak again.

The Sun, 26th December 2012.
http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/4713060/Legendary-Quincy-actor-Jack-Klugman-dies-aged-90.html

№ 6

Bye, Darling

Labour ace set to quit in blow for Miliband

The Scottish MP is considering calling time on his 25-year Parliamentary career despite mounting speculation the Labour leader wants him back on the party's front bench.

Mr Miliband is said to be keen on replacing Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls with Mr Darling before the country goes to the polls again in 2015, as he is seen as more voter-friendly.

But the 59-year-old, known for his white hair and bushy black eyebrows, has told pals he may not stand for re-election, scuppering any chance of a comeback.

Last night a senior Labour source said: "Everyone expected Alistair to become Chancellor again if we win the next election.

"But he's let it be known that he isn't planning on standing at the next election. It's a surprise, but it looks like he may already have made his mind up."

Mr Darling, MP for Edinburgh South West, was Chancellor under PM Gordon Brown between 2007 and 2010.

Although he was in charge of the economy at the time of the financial crash, he emerged from the crisis with his reputation intact. He oversaw the nationalisation of Northern Rock, as well as the bailing out of banking giants RBS and Lloyds — moves credited with preventing a full-scale economic depression.

After Labour's General Election defeat in 2010 he returned to the backbenches, where he is still a highly-respected figure.

The Sun, 27th December 2012.
http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/4714380/Former-Chancellor-Alistair-Darling-is-planning-to-quit-at-the-next-election.html

№ 7

PM is a 'shambles' on gay wedding

DAVID Cameron's plans to bring in gay marriage have been dismissed as a "shambles" by the leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

A Bill to allow same-sex weddings in religious venues will be introduced by the Government next year.

But Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols said there was no political mandate. He told the BBC: "There was no announcement in any manifesto, no statement in the Queen's Speech.

"From a democratic point of view, it's a shambles." He added: "George Orwell would be proud of that manoeuvre." In his Christmas Eve sermon, the Archbishop also accused the Government of "encouraging" homosexual lifestyles among the young.

He said: "Sometimes sexual expression can be without the public bond of the faithfulness of marriage.

"Even governments mistakenly promote such patterns as objectively to be approved and even encouraged among the young."

The issue of gay marriage also threatens to cause a split among Tories, with backbench MPs and grassroots activists vowing to defy the leadership.

The Sun, 26th December 2012.
http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/4713471/PM-is-a-shambles-on-gay-wedding.html

№ 8
Muslim cleric killed in N.Ossetia

A deputy mufti in North Ossetia was shot dead in an attack that could be linked to his profession, local officials said on Thursday.

Ibragim Dudarov was found dead inside his car on a road near the North Caucasus republic's capital of Vladikavkaz, a spokesman for the local Investigative Committee said.

North Ossetia's mufti Khadzhi-Murat Gatsalov said that the attack took place around 11 p.m. on Wednesday night, as his 34-year-old deputy, Dudarov, was driving home. "He was shot at close range. Five shots were fired."

Investigators said on Thursday that they were currently considering different motives for the crime, from his professional activities to a family dispute. Gatsalov insisted that Dudarov had been attacked for his work as a cleric.

"This man died for his faith. I think it is linked to his work," Gatsalov said. "Someone doesn't want this kind of Islam in North Ossetia," he said, without elaborating on who could be behind the murder. He added that his deputy was "a peaceful man."

Gatsalov said that Dudarov had taken some time off from his work with the Spiritual Board of Muslims in the North Caucasus, the republic's leading Muslim organization promoting moderate Islam, for personal reasons: his mother was ill and his daughter was born under a month ago.

The Moscow News, 27/12/2012.
http://themoscownews.com/russia/20121227/191067715.html

№ 9
Pope Benedict XVI delivers Christmas message

Pope Benedict XVI delivered his Christmas message and blessing on Thursday, calling among other things for an end to the violence in Syria.

Addressing the thousands gathered on Saint Peter's Square and millions of Catholics watching and listening to the speech on TV and radio, the 85-year-old Pontiff said people should never give up hope for peace.

"May peace spring up for the people of Syria, deeply wounded and divided by a conflict which does not spare even the defenceless and reaps innocent victims," the Pontiff said in his traditional Urbi et Orbi (to the City of Rome and to the World) speech.

"Once again I appeal for an end to the bloodshed, easier access for the relief of refugees and the displaced, and dialogue in the pursuit of a political solution to the conflict," he said.

The Pope also mentioned the constitutional crisis in Egypt and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He also condemned terrorist attacks in Mali, Nigeria and Kenya, violence in DR Congo and expressed his support for migrants from Latin American states.

Summing up his speech, he said: "may every land become a good earth which receives and brings forth kindness and truth, justice and peace."

25/12/2012. http://en.rian.ru/world/20121225/178395507.html

№ 10

Russian police break up US adoption ban protest

Police in Moscow detained seven people on Wednesday at a protest outside the upper house of parliament against a proposed ban on US nationals adopting Russian children.

The protesters were detained after holding placards urging Federation Council members not to vote for the bill, which was overwhelmingly approved in its third and final reading by the lower house, the State Duma, last week. Federation Council committees on international affairs and legal issues advised the upper house on Tuesday to give the green light to the controversial bill.

"We need to approve this bill," Federation Council head Valentina Matvinenko told journalists ahead of the vote. "And believe me, no one has pressured me."

President Vladimir Putin earlier this month indicated that he supports the bill, but has not yet decided if he will sign it into law. If he does, the law will come into force from January 1, 2013, halting the adoption of 46 Russian children by US families whose cases are currently being processed, Russia's ombudsman for child rights, Pavel Astakhov, said on Wednesday.

A number of Russian ministers, including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, have criticized the bill.

TopNewsToday, 19 December, 2012. http://www.topnewstoday.org/politics/article/4047499/