

### **The Rt Hon Lord Astor of Hever DL**

#### **The Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Kazakhstan**

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Since independence, Kazakhstan has played a significant role in the region – both as an engine of economic growth and a positive and stabilising influence. Kazakhstan's contributions in the field of nuclear non-proliferation should be acknowledged for promoting peace and security in the region and the wider world.

Kazakhstan should be congratulated on its dramatic transformation since independence – both domestically and internationally. Today Kazakhstan is recognised for its dynamic and fast growing economy and good international relations. Kazakhstan is a full member of the WTO, hosted the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana and was elected a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

I welcome both this official book and map which clearly demonstrate the major milestones in the history of an independent Kazakhstan – from its contribution to building a nuclear-free world to its winning the right to host the EXPO-2017 International Exhibition to be held in Astana. I believe this book will become an essential guide to Kazakhstan's history as an independent nation.

### **The Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham**

#### **Former Paymaster-General and Minister for Trade and Investment of the United Kingdom**

I have great pleasure in introducing this official book and map about Kazakhstan, published to mark the historic 25th Anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence. This document highlights Kazakhstan's key achievements throughout its years of independence and provides a fascinating insight into modern Kazakhstan.

The leadership of President Nazarbayev, the architect of Kazakhstan's transformation over the past quarter of a century, is very evident in these pages and demonstrates achievement across a broad spectrum of activity. Kazakhstan has developed a dynamic market-led economy while maintaining inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony, and establishing positive international relations.

Kazakhstan's international initiatives such as the 'Congress of World Religious Leaders', the 'Astana Economic Forum' and 'The ATOM Project' represent important platforms for global dialogue and understanding. They demonstrate Kazakhstan's positive contribution to regional and global issues.

I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the Republic of Kazakhstan on the 25th Anniversary of Independence and wish the country and its people every future success.

