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School of International Affairs and Business

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In this issue:

- Paul Goble, "Baku Counting On Azerbaijanis Abroad to 'Neutralize' Armenian Lobby"
- Fuad Aliyev & Jahandar Gadirov, "ICT Development In The South Caucasus: Comparative Review"
- Jamil Hasanly, "Russian-Turkish Relations Between the Sovietization of Azerbaijan and the Sovietization of Armenia" (Part IVb)
- A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy
- Note to Readers

**BAKU COUNTING ON AZERBAIJANIS ABROAD
TO "NEUTRALIZE" ARMENIAN LOBBY**

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Azerbaijan, which has often felt itself on the defensive abroad because of the activities of the Armenian diaspora, is counting on Azerbaijani communities abroad to "neutralize the Armenian lobby," according to a senior advisor to President Ilham Aliyev. On the one hand, this new reliance reflects the dramatic growth in the size

and activity of the Azerbaijani groups in Europe and the United States. And on the other, it reflects a growing recognition in Baku that the Armenian "lobby" is not as strong as it was and can be most effectively countered by the Azerbaijani diaspora.

In an April 29 speech to the fourth congress of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Europe, a group that represents some 61 diaspora groups on the continent and is a partner of the Azerbaijani State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, said that "great responsibility for neutralizing the anti-Azerbaijani activity of enemies of the Azerbaijani state now falls on diaspora organizations." He added that he and other senior Baku officials "carefully follow the activity" of the Congress, especially because the activity of the group has increased in recent months. [1]

A major reason this has happened, Hasanov continued, is that "the growing power and international achievements of Azerbaijan have frightened the enemies of the Azerbaijani state and led them to increase their anti-Azerbaijani activity."

Bashar Kemur, the president of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Europe, echoed Hasanov's words. He noted in a speech to the group that the group is now conducting "serious work in the neutralization of the anti-Azerbaijani activity of the Armenian lobby and has made significant steps toward bringing to the attention of the world community the truth about Karabakh."

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, added that the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Europe has already achieved a great deal and that his structure is pleased to be working closely with it. Other speakers included Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Berlin, Samira Pattser-Ismailova, head of the Coordination Center of Azerbaijanis in Germany, Fazil Hasanov, head of the Cultural Center of Azerbaijanis of Georgia, Sahil Gasymov, president of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of the Benelux Countries, and Bilal Dunder, president of the Federation of Turkish-Azerbaijani Societies. This list in and of itself underscores the ways in which the Azerbaijani communities abroad have assumed a more clearly defined organizational role.

The Azerbaijani communities abroad vary from country to country. The largest, of course, numbering more than 25 million, consists of the Azerbaijani population of Iran. The next largest, number upwards of two million are the Azerbaijanis of the Russian Federation, with more than one million of them living in Moscow and another half million in St. Petersburg. Elsewhere, the communities are smaller, but in many cases, they consist of businessmen and students, with the latter group particularly prepared to play a broader social and political role.

Until a few years ago, most Azerbaijanis assumed that the Armenian diaspora was almost all-powerful, and even now Azerbaijanis are inclined to ascribe to its machinations decisions by foreign governments with which they do not agree. But Hasanov's comments in Berlin suggest that today there is a growing awareness among Azerbaijani leaders that the Armenian "lobby" can be countered, and countered successfully, if Azerbaijanis living abroad become more active.

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/329643.html> (accessed 30 April 2012).

ICT DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS: COMPARATIVE REVIEW

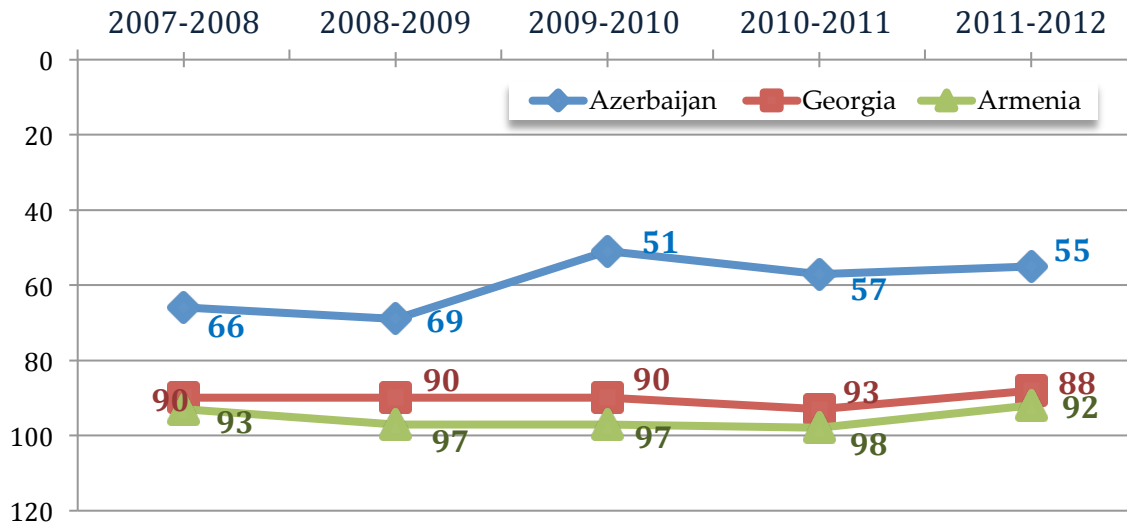
Fuad Aliyev, Fulbright Fellow, CACI, SAIS
&
Jahandar Gadirov, ICT market and data analysis expert*

The countries of the South Caucasus region have demonstrated quite interesting performances in terms of economic development and competitiveness moving up and down in various indices and reports by international organizations during the last decade. If we examine the rankings on the Ease of Doing Business of the World Bank, for example, we see that Azerbaijan, which was ranked 38th just a few years ago and named a top reformer back then is only ranked 55th in 2010 due to the fact that one of the indicators "Employment," in which Azerbaijan has been traditionally showing top performance has been removed recently and not counted during the last index calculations. This example alone shows how varied development in the region is.

Table 1. Rankings on the ease of doing business

	183 country rank		
	2010	2011	Change level
Georgia	13	12	+1
Armenia	44	48	- 4
Azerbaijan	55	54	+1

According to the Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) Competitiveness Index for the last 5 years, there has been steady growth among the countries of the region, but with some fluctuations as a result of the above-mentioned versatile nature of the countries' performance along all the competitiveness indicators. Azerbaijan's leading position, however, both in the region and in the CIS is clear.



This being so, whether it is Azerbaijan’s natural resource-driven development, Georgia’s liberalization efforts or Armenian diaspora assistance, we cannot consider current economic development and growing competitiveness sustainable if innovation and efficiency issues are not taken into consideration. Here, we will try to compare performance of the region’s countries in terms of information communication technologies (ICT) to get some sense of long-term competitiveness opportunities of the three countries.

Considering the above-mentioned GCR’s relevant innovation and sophistication factors sub-index, one may find Azerbaijan ranked 60th (61th in 2010-2011), Armenia—112th (116th in 2010-2011), and Georgia—118th (125th in 2010-2011). Obviously Azerbaijan is much more competitive in this regard.

Another WEF annual—the Global Information Technology Report (GITR) based on so called Networked Readiness Index (NRI)—would be even more helpful in assessing the ICT development in the South Caucasus. The latest NRI has been released recently in April 2012 and includes 142 countries of the world. Table below shows ranking of the CIS countries, including three Caucasian republics.

Networked Readiness Index - 2012

<i>Kazakhstan</i>	55
<i>Russia</i>	56
Azerbaijan	61
<i>Ukraine</i>	75
<i>Moldova</i>	78
Georgia	88
Armenia	94
<i>Tajikistan</i>	114

The average rank of the CIS countries among 142 economies is 81, and the average rank of the South Caucasus countries is the same. Thus, in general the region is on the same page in terms of ICT development with the others CIS countries. However, Azerbaijan has demonstrated better performance than Armenia and Georgia, ranking third in the CIS in terms of NRI. It is also worth noting that Azerbaijan has been regularly in the top three among the CIS countries in the last 5 GITR rankings, which could also be considered a sign of sustainability.



The NRI is made up of 4 sub-indices—Environment, Readiness, Usage and Impact. The table below shows the three countries' ranking on each of these sub-indices.

	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Georgia
Environment subindex	77	110	74
Readiness subindex	61	90	93
Usage subindex	57	89	94
Impact subindex	70	99	87

In terms of Environment created and available for ICT development, Georgia and Azerbaijan are doing much better than Armenia. Environment subindex includes the indicators of political and regulatory environment, business and innovation environment in a country.

As far as Readiness sub-index is concerned, Azerbaijan is far ahead of its neighbors demonstrating more readiness to utilize ICT in terms of infrastructure, affordability, and skills. These categories reflect key policy action areas enabling to measure the overall preparedness of a country to use ICT. Thus in general this sub-index reflects the level of relevant infrastructure development, easy access as well as knowledge to utilize them.

Looking at Usage sub-index, one can see a similar picture—Azerbaijan again outperforms Armenia and Georgia. This means that the ICT penetration and usage on individual, business, and government levels is much higher in Azerbaijan than in the other two countries.

Azerbaijan is also a leader in the Impact sub-index ranking, although here the gap is not as big as in the previous two sub-indices. This sub-index measures the impacts of ICT on both the economy and society. It covers a wider range of impacts and includes such areas as the environment, energy, and health.

Reviewing sub-indices and their indicators we could roughly divide them into two groups: directly related to ICT (Readiness and Usage) and indirectly related to ICT (Environment and Impact). There is some irregularity in this division in terms of the performances the South Caucasus republics have displayed. For instance, Azerbaijan does much better in direct sub-indices relative to Armenia and Georgia: it is 57th and 61st in Usage and Readiness sub-indices respectively. In both indices Armenia does slightly better than Georgia, making Georgia the worst performer as far as ICT infrastructure, capacity and usage are concerned. At the same time, Georgia slightly outperforms Azerbaijan and significantly outperforms Armenia in Environment, and ranks second after Azerbaijan according to Impact sub-index. This could mean that Azerbaijan does much better job in ICT infrastructure development, capacity building and promoting ICT penetration, but its Achilles heel is general, and directly unrelated to ICT environment, issues, which also partly could be blamed for decreasing Impact of ICT on the economy and society.

Another important factor for understanding the role of ICT in the countries of South Caucasus is ICT Price index. This index is calculated based on three main sub-indices: 1. Share of costs on fixed telephone services in average income per capita; 2. Share of mobile-cellular services in average income per capita; 3. Share of fixed-broadband Internet prices in average income per capita. The maximum value is 3 with each of the sub-components making up to 1 point.

Top 10 rank	2010 Global Rank ICT Price Basket (IPB)	Country name	IPB Score 2010	IPB Score 2008	Relative change 2008-2010 (%)	Value change 2008-2010
1	53	Azerbaijan	1.8	9.9	81.8	-8.1
n/a	102	Armenia	5.9	7	15.7	-1.1
n/a	111	Georgia	8.4	10.4	19.2	-2.0

Azerbaijan ranks 53rd overall and third among the CIS countries. Among the latter, Russia is 32nd, Kazakhstan is 50th, Ukraine—69th, Armenia—102nd and Georgia—111th. Azerbaijan is also ahead of the broader regional leader Turkey, which ranks 80th. It is worth noting as well that in the last ICT Price Basket Index 2010 Azerbaijan made a tremendous jump forward moving from 99th in 2009 to 53rd advancing 46th ranks. According to this report, Azerbaijan with its 81.7% relative change leads the Top 10 countries with the highest relative change. The closer look at the sub-indices reveals that this significant change in Azerbaijan was achieved due to dramatic price reduction in broadband services (88%) and mobile communications (21%).

This brief examination of the three related indices helped us compare performance and development of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia in terms of ICT development and accessibility, which is vitally important for overall development and competitiveness of economies in the contemporary world. Azerbaijan is an evident

leader and thus gains comparative advantage. Moreover, it is approaching ranks of more advanced and developed countries, which will put more pressure on its development capacities and abilities to catch up with the selected pace. However, only having provided for better overall environment—political, regulatory, social and others—will Azerbaijan be able to advance further. At the moment, all achievements in ICT are related to government infrastructure projects, and support programs and policies. To be sustainable, however, this growth needs to be picked up by businesses, civil society and individuals. Limits to government-led growth are evident, and there is significant room for improvement even compared to Azerbaijan’s neighbor Georgia.

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**RUSSIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIETIZATION OF
AZERBAIJAN
AND THE SOVIETIZATION OF ARMENIA**

Part IV (B).

“In Our Struggle with Entente Armenia Would Always Stab Us In the Back”

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On November 28, 1920, peace talks were supposed to begin in Gumri. After the new government was formed, a peace delegation was formed, given plenipotentiary powers of the government and parliament and sent to Gumri. That delegation included the former head of government and member of parliament Aleksandr Khatisyan, the former finance minister and member of parliament Abraam Gulkhandanyan, and the deputy minister of internal affairs Stepan Korganyan. The Turkish side included Kazym Karabekir-pasha, Erzurum governor Hamid-bey, and the member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey from Erzurum Suleyman Necat-bey. However, it is not only in Gumri that Armenia’s fate was being decided at that moment, but also in Dilizhan, as well as in the Kazakh district of Azerbaijan. At the direction of the leading circles of Soviet Russia, Armenian communists were immediately mobilized and sent to Kazakh and further to Dilizhan in order to proclaim Soviet power there. In the last days of November, two revolutionary committees were established in Armenia in the process of the struggle for power there. The Turks formed one of them in Gumri, one without communists and willing to cooperate with them, and the other the Russians formed in Kazakh from among Armenian communists. The struggle for Armenia moved into its concluding stage.

The representatives of Soviet Russia, B. Mdivani, B. Shakhtakhtinsky, and Dzh. Korkmasov, at the start of the talks already were in Gumri, but were not allowed to participate in the negotiations. At the end of November, an immediate telegram from G. Chicherin addressed to Sergo Ordzhonikidze for transmission to Budu Mdivani arrived and read as follows: “Immediately report on the state of negotiations going on in Aleksandropol [Gumri] in which Mdivani is involved. Have him update us

on the latest news. It is especially important for us to achieve that the Armenian-Turkish delimitation of the border will be handed over to a mixed commission with our participation. Have Mdivani continuously keep us updated on what is taking place.” [1]

G. Ordzhonikidze explained to G. Chicherin that B. Mdivani did not have a direct link with Baku, that, rather, he had it through B. Legran and that Chicherin’s directives would be given to Mdivani via that channel. From the moment of the beginning of the Turkish-Armenian negotiations, Soviet Russia through B. Mdivani was interested in how the Turks looked at how to begin talks for the conclusion of a treaty and where and in what form they proposed to conduct negotiations. In order to clarify the intentions of the Turks, Sergo Ordzhonikidze and A. Sheynman advised G. Chicherin to propose to the Turks to conduct talks around the following questions: the borders of Soviet Armenia must be defined by a treaty with Russia; the time of the launch of an attack on Georgia must be defined by an agreement with Russia; and the war with the Entente should be renewed, that is, the war should be conducted actively. “Provided that these conditions are observed, the dispatch of arms, finances and other things is possible.” [2]

Interestingly, at the moment of the dispatch of this telegram, Soviet power had still not been proclaimed in Armenia, even though in the correspondence with Moscow, the borders of Soviet Armenia are discussed as a *fait accompli*.

After the return of Bekir Sami from the North Caucasus, a draft agreement—although not fully agreed to—was sent to Ankara via Yusuf Kamal. G. Chicherin, via B. Legran, asked B. Mdivani the following: “It would be desirable for us to know whether the Turkish government received the draft accord developed by us together with Bekir Sami and sent to Ankara with Yusuf Kemal. Does the Turkish government consider it acceptable and how does it relate to those points of disagreement between us and Bekir Sami on which the latter could not take a decision.” [3] On November 28, B. Legran, citing B. Mdivani, reported to G. Chicherin and G. Ordzhonikidze that the Turks intended to publish their peace conditions and that it was expected that these conditions would be severe. B. Mdivani should be instructed as to how he was to act if the Turks refused from mediation and what conditions in favor of the Armenians he could defend. He considered essential the need to leave to Armenia the Karaklis-Gumri-Erivan-Nakhchivan rail line, for that would correspond to Russia’s interests. B. Legran asked for an immediate response as to whether “military help will be offered to Armenia by the introduction of our forces if the Armenian government requests them, something that will undoubtedly happen if the Turks propose severe conditions? According to the directives developed in Baku when Stalin was there, [Legran continued, he had given] corresponding assurances to the Armenians.” B. Legran considered possible the establishment of an Armenian Soviet government, consisting of a majority of communists and several dashnaks supportive of Dro. The rejection by the Turks of Soviet Russia’s mediation, the formation by the Turks of an Armenian revolutionary committee, and the new demand for the withdrawal of forces from the southeastern part of Sharur district and the Shakhtakhty station next to it, presented to the Armenian command all testifies about the effort of the Turks to push out the Russians and keep the initiative in their own hands. Thus B. Legran concluded. [4] On November 28, 1920, B. Mdivani sent to Ordzhonikidze in Baku the following radiogram from Gumri: “There is a revolutionary committee calling itself the *Revkom* of the Armenian Soviet Republic here. The composition of the *Revkom* is weak. It is supported by the Turkish

command. There is a need to send here authoritative comrades in view of the inclination of the Turks not to trust Armenian communists." [5]

On the day the negotiations started, November 28, Kazym Karabekir-pasha met separately with the representatives of Soviet Russia. Following long talks about how tsarist Russia together with other countries of the Entente conducted a policy directed at the division of Turkey and about the Bolshevik revolution and the political results the revolution had generated, K. Karabekir said that, "the Turks, having decided to support with all their forces Soviet Russia, nonetheless are not inclined to establish a Soviet system for themselves immediately. This does not mean that we do not like communist ideals ... Soviet Russia better than anyone else is aware that the Turks were the first to respond to the Russian revolution, which subsequently contributed to the change of power in Azerbaijan in the hope that Russia through Azerbaijan will establish a link with revolutionary Turkey, but Russia did not undertake anything for the establishment of such a link with revolutionary Turkey." [6]

As far as the situation in the South Caucasus was concerned, Kazym-pasha in recalling the past said that, "Russia proposed to Turkey to refrain from any thought of attacking Armenia presenting itself as a most sincere ally of the Entente. Despite the fact that during our struggle with the Entente Armenia always plunged a knife in our back, we all the same decided to hold off to satisfy Russia. After all this, Soviet Russia demanded the transfer to Armenia of certain districts of Anatolia. For the good of the revolution, Turkey destroyed a more viable than Armenia Muslim government in Azerbaijan, and Russia in an obvious undercutting of its own goals wanted to establish a reactionary Greater Armenia without Armenians at the expense of Turkey and Azerbaijan at a time when Armenia itself was trying to create a coalition of Georgia, Persia and Armenia for a joint attack against Russia in Azerbaijan. And finally, Russia has given the Nakhchivan district to Armenia. This was the single corridor through which the Turks maintained a link with Russia. By virtue of this step of Russia, all the actors who led the Turkish revolution were almost disarmed before the Turkish masses, who lost faith in the possibility of the Russian support."

"On the other hand," Kazym-pasha continued, "news started to arrive about horrors being committed in Azerbaijan. All this taken together has given aid and comfort to our enemies to claim that not only is it impossible to expect any help from Russia but that one must be worried about it." [7] As far as the last Armenian-Turkish war is concerned, he said, "Russia allowed us to occupy Sarykamysh and Nakhchivan district without willing to offer us in this operation any military help. At the very same time, the Armenian forces began to attack and inflict violence on the Muslims in Olti district. The patience of the Turkish people ran out, and it demanded that the dashnaks be punished. My task was not of the easiest: dealing with Armenia would not be so difficult, but everything suggested that in such an attack we would have to deal with Armenian and Georgian armies and therefore I must have assembled such a force that would be able to master not only the Armenian, but also the Georgian army. The Armenian forces were destroyed so quickly that Georgia could not even think of acting. At the gates of Erivan, the government of Armenia asked for mercy, having declared its willingness to agree to all our conditions. We were reliably informed that our advance into the borders of Armenia was interpreted in Russia as an effort to reach the borders of Azerbaijan as a result of an agreement between us and the Entente on that point. Thus, all our actions, which involved large losses for us and was directed against a common enemy generated suspicion and distrust." [8]

The content of this conversation, B. Shakhtakhtinsky transmitted on the same day and then sent the text to Sergo Ordzhonikidze.

The last issue touched upon by Kazym-pasha, rumors about an agreement between Turkey and the Entente on the occupation of Azerbaijan. Those rumors were so widespread that Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmed Mukhtar was forced on December 1, 1920 to send a telegram denying this to Karabekir-pasha, the commander of the Eastern front in Gumri, to Memdukh Shevket-bey, the Turkish representative in Baku, and to Kazym-bey, the Turkish representative in Tiflis. His telegram said that, "According to the information received, the English are trying all forms of trickery in order to embroil us and the Muslim world in a conflict with the Bolsheviks. They hope that if they are able to do so, they will be able to put each of us down in turn. Among these provocations are suggestions by the English that they have promised us Azerbaijan if we will promise to distance ourselves from the Bolsheviks and so on. You are authorized to immediately and in the most categorical way deny these rumors using all the means in your possession." [9] Sergo Ordzhonikidze transmitted the text of this telegram to the Peoples Commissariat of International Affairs of Russia. In addition, on December 2, the Turkish foreign minister Ahmet Mukhtar sent G. Chicherin a special letter in which he called false reports about problems of the Western powers to hand over Azerbaijan to Turkey in exchange for struggle against Soviet Russia. [10]

Turkey's refusal of Moscow's mediating "services" for the negotiations at Gumri infuriated the Bolsheviks. This is obvious from the instructions, which B. Legran gave B. Mdivani on November 29. In these instructions, B. Mdivani was sharply but diplomatically criticized for allowing initiative to pass to the Turks. B. Legran wrote: "Have You received an official notice of the Turkish government about the refusal of our mediation? On what conditions do the Turks think to conclude peace with Armenia? What have they reported to You about this? What declarations did You make? One must not passively react to the Turkish effort to keep us out of the resolution of the question about Armenia. Karabekir, in addition, demands the withdrawal of forces from the district of Shakhtakhty and part of Sharur region—the Turks are liberating for themselves Nakhchivan." [11]

As far as the Armenian revolutionary committee set up by the Turks was concerned, B. Legran asked who is in this committee, are they local Armenian communists or is this another form of organization? Legran wrote that, "it is necessary to keep in mind that our comrades cannot be dispatched to this *revkom*; such a Turkish invention does not deserve the slightest faith as long as they continue to conduct a completely independent policy in Armenia and do not want to recognize our mediation." However, I. Stalin, in the spirit of a telegram to V. Lenin on November 16, sent the same telegram on November 29 to the Soviet mission in Erivan in which he advised B. Legran and B. Mdivani that "they must not hurry; they must achieve a strengthening [of the position]. One should not fight with the Turks on behalf of the dashnaks, but it is also impermissible to make concessions to the Turks in everything. It is necessary ... to leave open the question about Kars. By all appearances, the Turks are acting in Armenia with the approval of the Entente; therefore one must not trust them, one must break them away from the Entente, one must direct them at Georgia and test whether they will go against Georgia." [12]

In order not to remain at the side from dramatic events in such a difficult situation, Soviet Russia tried on the one hand to renew the peace talks with the Turks in Moscow that had earlier broken down, but on the other was preparing a revolution in

Armenia. On November 27, the Politburo of the Central committee of the RKP(b) heard a report by I. Stalin "On Caucasian Affairs" and adopted a corresponding decision. On November 29 at 14:30, Sergo Ordzhonikidze reported to V. Lenin and I. Stalin from Baku that, "I have just received the decision of the Central Committee. The Armenian *revkom* dispatched to the Kazakh district for preparatory work has received a mass of appeals from the peasants of the Karavansaray district and Dilizhan, with notes that there is no power there, the army has broken up, and asking for help. The *Revkom* at night independently crossed the border and continues its advance on Dilizhan where Soviet Armenia will be proclaimed." [13] Five minutes later, Sergo Ordzhonikidze telegraphed B. Legran in Erivan and Budu Mdivani in Gumri that, "According to reports just received, the Armenian *Revkom*, having received a mass of appeals from the peasants of the Dilizhan district, crossed the border that night and were met with delight by the population. Take all measures for support from the side of Erivan the group of Terteryan and Dro. Guarantee them inclusion in the *revkom* and complete security of the dashnaks." [14]

Such is the chronology and the essence of the political crisis on the eve of the Sovietization of Armenia. In fact, as can be seen, the proclamation of Soviet power for the Armenians on November 29, 1920 in Kazakh and Dilizhan had as its goal the salvation of Armenia, which had suffered collapse in the war with the Turks.

* *The article originally appeared, in Russian, in Russia's Regnum News Agency at <http://www.regnum.ru/news/1438182.html#ixzz1Xevxl1D3>.*

Notes

[1] Immediate telegram of G. Chicherin to G. Ordzhonikidze, 26 November 1920, *Russian State Archive of Social-Political History* (hereafter RSASPH), f.85, op.14, d.26, l.1.

[2] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze and A. Sheynman to G. Chicherin, 29 November 1920, *Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Federation* (hereafter FPA RF), f.04, op.39, p.232, d.52987, l.49.

[3] Telegram of G. Chicherin to B. Legran, 2 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.14, d.26, l.6.

[4] Telegram of B. Legran to G. Chicherin, 28 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.64, op.1, d.21, l.255-256.

[5] Radiogram of P. Mdivani to G. Ordzhonikidze, 28 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.14, d.33, l.6.

[6] B. Shakhtakhtinsky to G. Ordzhonikidze, Conversation with Kazym-pasha, 28 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.C /Turkey/, d.31, l.3.

[7] B. Shakhtakhtinsky to G. Ordzhonikidze, Conversation with Kazym-pasha, 28 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.C /Turkey/, d.31, l.3.

[8] B. Shakhtakhtinsky to G. Ordzhonikidze, Conversation with Kazym-Pasha, 28 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.C /Turkey/, d.31, l. 3-4.

[9] Text of a telegram of Ahmed Mukhtar-bey to K. Karabekir-pasha, Mehmet Shevket-bey and Kazym-bey, 1 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f.04, op.39, p.232, d.52987, l.53.

[10] Letter of Ahmet Mukhtar-bey to G. Chicherin, 2 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f.04, op.39, p.232, d.52987, l.58.

[11] Telegram of B. Legran to P. Mdivani, Copy to G. Chicherin, 29 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.64, op.1, d.21, l.259.

[12] Telegram of I. Stalin to B. Legran and P. Mdivani, 29 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.64, op.1, d.21, l.260.

[13] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to V. Lenin and I. Stalin, 29 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.14, d.33, l.2.

[14] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to B. Legran and P. Mdivani, 29 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.14, d.33, l.3.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "as a result of the successful reforms it has conducted, Azerbaijan is a leader in the world in terms of the rate of economic development" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328749.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, tells the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Europe that, "an enormous responsibility falls on diaspora organizations to neutralize the anti-Azerbaijani enemies of the Azerbaijani state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329643.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "Nabucco is a project of the European Union and its fate is in the hands of the EU" (<http://news.day.az/economy/328370.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that Tehran is prepared to serve as an intermediary between Azerbaijan and Armenia in order to promote the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict ([HTTP://news.day.az/politics/329631.html](http://news.day.az/politics/329631.html)).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman says that media reports about the establishment of Israeli military bases in Azerbaijan are "baseless" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328483.html>).

The Senate of Columbia unanimously votes to recognize the events in Khojaly as genocide, thus becoming the second Latin American country to do so (<http://news.day.az/politics/328438.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

30 April

The Foreign Ministry protests Google Map's use of an Armenian word for one of Baku's central avenues (<http://news.day.az/politics/329796.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City, says that relations between Mexico and Azerbaijan are at "a very good level" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329663.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City, says that international public opinion is "tired of Armenian lies" and that this is shown by the adoption in several parliaments of resolutions on the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/329657.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements by the president of Armenia are "absurd" and raise questions about his fitness for office (<http://news.day.az/politics/329465.html>).

Azerbaijan's embassy in Berlin says that anti-Azerbaijan articles in the German media do not reflect and cannot undermine good relations between Germany and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/329806.html>).

Azerbaijan's Consulate General in Tabriz organizes a ceremony for the birthday of Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/329789.html>).

The Azerbaijan-Kyrgyzstan intergovernmental commission on trade, scientific and humanitarian cooperation meets in Bishkek (<http://news.day.az/economy/329817.html>).

The National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan hosts a conference on the birthday of Heydar Aliyev and the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the Center for Research on the Heritage of Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/329770.html>).

Kyrgyzstan President Almazbek Atambayev tells Yagub Eyubov, Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister, that the leadership of Kyrgyzstan "devotes great significance to the development of relations with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329819.html>).

Arien Witerlind, Dutch ambassador to Baku, says that Dutch companies are working in various spheres of the Azerbaijani economy and intend to develop cooperation in non-petroleum areas (<http://news.day.az/economy/329846.html>).

The Russian embassy in Baku says that the situation regarding Russian citizens living in the Azerbaijani villages of Khrakhobs and Uryanoba has been "completely resolved" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329706.html>).

The Georgian-Azerbaijani business forum meets in Tbilisi (<http://news.day.az/economy/329658.html>).

29 April

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, tells the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Europe that, "an enormous responsibility falls on diaspora organizations to neutralize the anti-Azerbaijani activities of the enemies of the Azerbaijani state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329643.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that Tehran is prepared to serve as an intermediary between Azerbaijan and Armenia in order to promote the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/329631.html>).

Adam Sterling, US charge d'affaires in Baku, says that over the past 20 years Azerbaijan has become "a strong, flourishing, sovereign and independent country" and that "the United States has played a definite role in supporting this development" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329597.html>).

28 April

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that Azerbaijan is seeking to expand assistance to African countries as part of the international effort to prevent and solve conflicts on that continent (<http://news.day.az/politics/329452.html>).

The office of the EU commissioner for energy says that the European Commission does not consider the Nabucco gas pipeline project a priority for Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/329501.html>).

27 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Nihat Ergun, Turkey's minister for science, industry and technology (<http://news.day.az/politics/329311.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov speaks at the second international exhibition at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (<http://news.day.az/society/329330.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, speaks at the opening in Baku of the Azerbaijani representation of the European Association of Law Students (<http://news.day.az/society/329357.html>).

A Washington conference on "20 Years of Azerbaijani-American Diplomatic Relations: Achievements and Prospects" attracts officials and experts from both countries including, Eric Rubin, US deputy assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia, Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, and Hafiz Pashayev, Azerbaijan's deputy foreign minister and former ambassador to Washington (<http://news.day.az/politics/329309.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the impossibility under present

circumstances for Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return home is "one of the most serious violations of human rights in Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329223.html>).

Musa Gasimly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that even a new government in Yerevan won't be able to solve Armenia's economic problems unless it removes its forces from the occupied territories in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/329199.html>).

Khady Rajably, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the economic situation in Armenia will remain critical until Yerevan ends the occupation of Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/329184.html>).

The Baku Inter-Bank Currency Exchange and the Moscow International Currency Association sign a cooperation agreement in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/329325.html>).

The Azerbaijan Foundation for Support of Exports and Investments signs a cooperation agreement with the Bulgarian Industrial Chamber during the visit of Bulgaria's Prime Minister Boyko Borisov to Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/329272.html>).

US President Barack Obama nominates Richard Morningstar, special representative of the US Department of State for Energy Issues in Eurasia, to be ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/329234.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group express their deep concern about recent ceasefire violations between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/329439.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that the current status of relations between Azerbaijan and Russia correspond to their national interests (<http://news.day.az/politics/329384.html>).

26 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov (<http://news.day.az/politics/329216.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in London with members of the Azerbaijan-Britain parliamentary working group (<http://news.day.az/politics/329016.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with David Lidington, chairman of the Council of Europe committee of ministers (<http://news.day.az/politics/329152.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia has so exhausted its diplomatic resources that it has been forced to make use of completely inappropriate people to make its case (<http://news.day.az/politics/329037.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that those who are trying to harm Azerbaijani-Iranian relations will not succeed (<http://news.day.az/politics/329222.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "the co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have welcomed a number of achievements connected with the development of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329061.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, chairman of the State Customs Committee, says that Azerbaijan is considering Georgia's proposal for simplifying customs procedures at the border of the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/329005.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan's ombudsman, expresses the hopes that those who beat the journalist Idrak Abbasov will be punished (<http://news.day.az/politics/329055.html>).

Mikhail Huseynov, secretary general of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Committee, says that his group is undertaking "all necessary steps for strengthening the position" of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Russia (<http://news.day.az/society/329139.html>).

Abbasali Hasanov, Azerbaijan's incoming ambassador to Dushanbe, presents his credentials to Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon (<http://news.day.az/politics/329064.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia does not have the resources to launch a commercial satellite (<http://news.day.az/politics/329001.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the threat of war in Iran has led ethnic Armenians there to flee to Armenia, a flow that has only worsened the economic situation in Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/328954.html>).

An international conference on Azerbaijan's relations with the United States opens in Washington attracting officials and experts from both countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/329217.html>).

Thorbjørn Jagland, secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that, "the membership of Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe is a very significant event" (<http://news.day.az/politics/329101.html>).

Rizvan Gazimagomedov, deputy prime minister of Daghestan, says in Baku that the geographic situation of Azerbaijan and Dagestan requires the creation of joint transportation and logistics centers (<http://news.day.az/economy/329126.html>).

25 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Abdurrauf al-Rawabide, first deputy chairman of the Senate of Jordan (<http://news.day.az/politics/328870.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Philippe Lefort, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/328870.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/328978.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Yuri Viytyev, Ukraine's deputy procurator general (<http://news.day.az/politics/328871.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that international meetings of various kinds in Baku highlight the growing international authority and economic development of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/328917.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, meets with UN Secretary General Pan Gi-Moon (<http://news.day.az/politics/328755.html>).

Eldar Hasanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Montenegro, opens the official representation of Azerbaijan in Podgorica (<http://news.day.az/politics/328888.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that international recognition of the Khojaly genocide is an important success for Azerbaijan's foreign policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/328831.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, sends a letter to Juan Manuel Santos Romano, chairman of the Columbian Senate, expressing the thanks of Azerbaijan's parliament for Columbia's recognition of the Khojaly massacre as genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/328973.html>).

Aydin Abbasov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that promises by Yerevan politicians that they will improve the lives of Armenians are nothing more than empty words (<http://news.day.az/politics/328786.html>).

The fourth International Inter-Bank Forum completes its work in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/329396.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili speaks at the opening of a Georgian-Azerbaijani joint enterprise in Hashuri (<http://news.day.az/economy/328897.html>).

Taner Yildiz, Turkey's energy and natural resources minister, says that Nabucco is "very important and necessary" (<http://news.day.az/economy/328925.html>).

Adam Sterling, US charge d'affaires in Baku, announces the release of the latest tranche of US assistance to Azerbaijan's State Border Service (<http://news.day.az/economy/328947.html>).

Azerbaijani and Turkish students demonstrate in front of the US embassy in Ankara to protest US President Barack Obama's comments about "the so-called Armenian genocide" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328835.html>).

24 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "as a result of the successful reforms it has conducted, Azerbaijan is a leader in the world in terms of the rate of economic development" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328749.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar

Salehi (<http://news.day.az/politics/328638.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that an agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey on the construction of a Trans-Anatolian gas pipeline is completely prepared (<http://news.day.az/economy/328628.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that in the future, the capacity of the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline may be doubled to 30-36 billion cubic meters (<http://news.day.az/economy/328623.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, meets former US President George H.W. Bush and presents him with a certificate in honor of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/328528.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, speaks on Azerbaijan's contribution to international energy security at a conference held at Tuft's Fletcher School (<http://news.day.az/politics/328526.html>).

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to London, is named diplomat of the year by Britain's *Diplomat* magazine (<http://news.day.az/politics/328974.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, meets Lithuanian Internal Affairs Minister Arturas Melianas (<http://news.day.az/politics/328699.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the report by the PACE monitoring committee on Azerbaijan contains both criticism and praise of the work Azerbaijan has been doing (<http://news.day.az/politics/328679.html>).

Zakir Garalov, procurator general, receives his Ukrainian counterpart Yuri Viytev (<http://news.day.az/society/328743.html>).

Defense Ministry experts and NATO supply specialists open a four-day meeting (<http://news.day.az/politics/328716.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the so-called Armeninan genocide" is "a great slander" on the Turkic world (<http://news.day.az/politics/328637.html>).

Ulvi Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian talk about a genocide in 1915 is "empty words" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328505.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian diaspora has not been able to get Washington to recognize "the so-called Armenian genocide" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328502.html>).

Mahmoud Karimov, president of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, says that despite numerous requests from Baku, Yerevan has not provided any information about the status of the Metsamor Atomic Power Station (<http://news.day.az/politics/328629.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Baku "positively assesses" the Columbian Senate's decision to

recognize the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/328606.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry says that "any provocation can harm relations between Iran and Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328584.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that talk about "the so-called Armenian genocide" is "a lie, a slander and has no legal basis" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328640.html>).

Georgian deputies challenge claims by an ethnic Armenian member of the Georgian parliament concerning events in Azerbaijan in 1918 (<http://news.day.az/politics/328736.html>).

Emanuelis Zingeris and 20 other Lithuanian parliamentarians send a letter to the European Parliament on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/328575.html>).

23 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman (<http://news.day.az/politics/328425.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Oleg Bogomolov, governor of the Russia's Kurgan oblast (<http://news.day.az/politics/328425.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Ekrem Zeynally Azerbaijan's ambassador to Bern (<http://news.day.az/politics/328459.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "either the OSCE Minsk Group will resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem by peaceful means or Azerbaijan will liberate its lands by military means" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328393.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Armenia delegation to that body has rejected "all contacts with our delegation" on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/328447.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Council of Europe must adopt measures to put pressure on Armenia to restore the rights of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/328514.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the return of former Armenian president Robert Kocharyan to high politics in Yerevan "testifies to the further denigration of the interests of the Armenian people" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328086.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "in a short time, Armenia will cease to exist" because of the exodus of its population (<http://news.day.az/politics/328249.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party and a Milli

Majlis deputy, says that the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on the South Caucasus is "the latest victory of Azerbaijani diplomacy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328423.html>).

Azerbaijani and Russian border officials conduct joint anti-terrorist operation on the border (<http://news.day.az/society/328385.html>).

David Lidington, chairman in office of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh problem is "exceptionally important" and that "it is necessary to find a way to its resolution" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328515.html>).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman says that Israel respects the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be resolved on that basis (<http://news.day.az/politics/328507.html>).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman visits Baku to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/328512.html>).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman says that media reports about the establishment of Israeli military bases in Azerbaijan are "baseless" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328483.html>).

The Senate of Columbia unanimously votes to recognize the events in Khojaly as genocide, thus becoming the second Latin American country to do so (<http://news.day.az/politics/328438.html>).

Jean-Claude Mignon, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the situation regarding the activities of the Council's subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh remains "unclear" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328413.html>).

The Kazakhstan foreign ministry says that the definition of the legal status of the Caspian Sea remains a priority of Astana's diplomacy (<http://news.day.az/politics/328324.html>).

Turkish European Affairs Minister Egemen Bakis says that Armenia's refusal to take part in the *Eurovision* competition in Baku works against Yerevan's own interests (<http://news.day.az/politics/328313.html>).

Sergio de Sousa Fontes Arrudan, Brazil's ambassador to Baku, says that his country "impatiently waits for the fulfillment of the UN resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328297.html>).

22 April

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Baku's policies have "strengthened the position of Azerbaijan in the international arena" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328252.html>).

The Environment and Natural Resources Ministry together with the International Dialogue for Environmental Action organizes events to mark Earth Day (<http://news.day.az/society/328182.html>).

21 April

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva meets with Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno as part of the Days of Azerbaijani in Italy exhibition (<http://news.day.az/politics/328070.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov meets with US State Department officials during the third session of the American-Azerbaijani inter-governmental commission on economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/328093.html>). He also meets with officials of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (<http://news.day.az/economy/328174.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov completes a five-day visit to Australia (<http://news.day.az/politics/328184.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that Baku shares international concern about the intensification of nuclear dangers and risks (<http://news.day.az/politics/328216.html>).

20 April

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with the foreign ministers of Turkey, Georgia, New Zealand, Ukraine, and Montenegro during an ISAF conference in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/327863.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abasov signs a cooperation agreement with FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva (<http://news.day.az/economy/327921.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that an investigation is ongoing concerning the attack on journalist Idrak Abbasov and that "a journalist must have the opportunity to fulfill its professional obligations independent of circumstances" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328066.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "Azerbaijan has been able to unmask the lies of the Armenian state and diaspora" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328064.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Buenos Aires, meets with Argentinian Agriculture Minister Norberto Yauhar (<http://news.day.az/politics/327908.html>).

Gudsi Osmanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in St. Petersburg, attends a United Russia conference on transportation security (<http://news.day.az/economy/327946.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that there is "not concrete and official definition of such terms as 'political prisoner' or 'prisoner of conscience'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327953.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there will not be any democratic elections in Armenia and that Armenians are aware of that (<http://news.day.az/politics/327940.html>).

The analysis group of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party's newspaper says that, "today, Germany at the state level is conducting a dirty campaign against Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/328069.html>).

Hungarian Agriculture and Regional Development Minister Sándor Fazekas says that Budapest and Baku will achieve the level of strategic partnership in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/328008.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov receives his Italian counterpart Francesco Braga (<http://news.day.az/economy/328065.html>).

Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, chairman of the Afghanistan National Assembly, tells Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kabul, that Afghanistan "highly values" Azerbaijani assistance (<http://news.day.az/politics/327966.html>).

Mikhail Lotem, Israel's ambassador to Baku, says that relations between Israel and Azerbaijan are "actively developing in political, economic and cultural spheres" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327842.html>).

19 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "a policy of very great modernization is being conducted in Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327698.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mohammed Ibrahim al-Shaibani, director of Dubai's investment corporation (<http://news.day.az/politics/327820.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev opens the 28th regional conference of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/327698.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that, "today Azerbaijan is a recognized center for inter-civilizational and inter-cultural dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/politics/326687.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that people in Azerbaijan today have "deep respect for the Russian language, Russian literature and Russian poetry. Not a single Russian language school has been closed [in Azerbaijan] during independence; they all operate as before" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327543.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan "intends to continue to make its contribution to ISAF" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327831.html>).

Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Afghanistan, says that the ISAF command rates the level of preparation of Azerbaijani soldiers very highly (<http://news.day.az/politics/327607.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the upcoming Armenian elections are completely rigged by Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/327346.html>).

Adil Garibov, director of the Institute for Radiation Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, says that the latest extension of the life of the second energy block of the Metsamore atomic power plant in Armenia "increases the

likelihood of an accident" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327768.html>).

Kazakhstan Deputy Agricultural Minister Marat Tolybayev says that Astana is ready to increase the extent of its export of grain to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/327730.html>).

Vladimir Litvin, speaker of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, says that Kyiv is interested in cooperating with Azerbaijan in the gas export sphere (<http://news.day.az/economy/327722.html>).

18 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Vladimir Litvin, speaker of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada (<http://news.day.az/politics/327483.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives José Graziano da Silva, director general of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/327483.html>).

The State Border Service conducts exercises in the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/327491.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that those in power in Yerevan have exhausted the trust and patience of the Armenians (<http://news.day.az/politics/327322.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov says that relations between Russia and Azerbaijan are "an example for other countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327464.html>).

Adam Sterling, US charge d'affaires in Baku, says that the United States is offering Azerbaijan its expertise in tax issues (<http://news.day.az/economy/327409.html>).

The Russian Embassy in Baku says that Moscow is offering stipends for Russian compatriots living in Azerbaijan who wish to study in Russian state universities (<http://news.day.az/society/327481.html>).

17 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Robert Dudley, the managing director of BP (<http://news.day.az/politics/327295.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Halil Akincim, secretary general of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Language States (<http://news.day.az/politics/327295.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to UN Secretary General Pan Gi-Moon outlining Armenian falsifications regarding the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/327148.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, meets with Lithuanian Agriculture Minister Kazimieras Starkevičius (<http://news.day.az/economy/327362.html>).

Deputy Agriculture Minister Ilham Guliyev says that Azerbaijani officials will provide security for Armenian officials who attend the FAO regional conference in Baku because Armenia is a member of the FAO (<http://news.day.az/politics/327266.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that falsifications have taken place in all Armenian elections since that country became independent (<http://news.day.az/politics/327123.html>).

The Academy of the Armed Services, together with German representatives, organizes a conference on "leadership and civil society" (<http://news.day.az/society/327243.html>).

Niyaz Alizade, vice president of the Commerce Chamber of Azerbaijan, signs a cooperation agreement with Aleksandr Rybakov, his Russian counterpart (<http://news.day.az/economy/327202.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul appoints Ismail Alper Cosgun ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/327207.html>).

British Prime Minister David Cameron invites the Azerbaijani people to come to the Olympic games in London (<http://news.day.az/politics/327221.html>).

Ramil Hasanov, secretary general of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Language Countries, says that Azerbaijani students may be offered broad opportunities to receive education in Turkey, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (<http://news.day.az/society/327338.html>).

16 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that Baku "will resolve the issues of energy security with partner countries on the basis of mutual interests and mutual profit" (<http://news.day.az/politics/327137.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jyotiraditya Scindia, Indian commerce and industry minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/327112.html>).

Elkhan Polukhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to South Africa, discusses cooperation with Nhlan Ngidi, head of the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal (<http://news.day.az/politics/327085.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it has evacuated the families of Azerbaijani embassy officials in Damascus (<http://news.day.az/politics/326994.html>).

Deputy Transport Minister Musa Panakhov says that the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway will be open to traffic over its entire length in 2013 (<http://news.day.az/economy/327066.html>).

Elmira Akhundova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the international community has used double standards in evaluating the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/327033.html>).

Gular Ahmadova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia survives only because of the support it receives from its diaspora populations

(<http://news.day.az/politics/326724.html>).

Khady Rajabli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan's promise to equalize living standards between city and country in Armenia cannot be realized (<http://news.day.az/politics/326839.html>).

Vitautas Landsbergis, former president of Lithuania and current member of the European Parliament, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh problem must be resolved by peaceful means (<http://news.day.az/politics/327009.html>).

Vitautas Landsbergis, former president of Lithuania and current member of the European Parliament, says Azerbaijan should aim to become a member of the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/327032.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that certain proposals by the Venetian Commission are based on "inaccurate information" about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/326998.html>).

Note to Readers

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