



**AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD  
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**AZERBAIJAN AND CANADA:  
FERTILE GROUNDS FOR EXPANDING COOPERATION**

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Farid Shafiyev,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Canada  
and  
Permanent Representative to ICAO

*Azerbaijan in the World:* What do you see as the central feature of relations between Azerbaijan and Canada?

*Ambassador Farid Shafiyev:* Speaking only for Azerbaijan, I can say that we see three reasons for the rapid development of our relations. First, Azerbaijan is especially interested in increasing the scope of its ties with a G-8 country. Second, both Canada and Azerbaijan are members of a variety of international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies as well as the OSCE, and thus have much to talk about in that regard. And third, we share a common structure of our economies, in that both our countries are based on the exploitation of natural resources, particularly oil and gas.

*AIW:* How would you describe the current state of bilateral relations?

*Amb. Shafiyev:* Since regaining its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has pursued a balanced and multifaceted foreign policy aimed at fostering friendly and cooperative relations with all states based on the principles of mutual respect and equality. Given Canada's high standing in the international arena, it was entirely natural that Azerbaijan should seek to develop ties with Ottawa. Canada recognized Azerbaijan's independence in December 1991, and diplomatic ties between the two states were established in July 1992. Over time, contacts and exchanges have steadily grown. Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister visited Canada in 1998. The latter represented the first high-level exchange between the two states and was followed up by Canada two years later when its foreign minister visited Azerbaijan in 2000. Finally, bilateral relations took on a new dimension and expanded after Azerbaijan opened an embassy in the Canadian capital in 2004.

Bilateral relations today are friendly, but Canada is not yet actively involved in the South Caucasus, including the many of its geopolitical problems. That is beginning to change as the number of mid-level visits and parliamentary contacts have increased over the last decade. After the Canada-Azerbaijan Inter-Parliamentary Group was established in the Canadian Parliament in 2006, there have been an increasing number of bilateral visits. The most recent was by Barry Devolin, the chair of the Group, to Baku in April this year. He and his colleagues were received by President Ilham Aliyev and other senior officials. Indeed, inter-parliamentary ties have now grown into a key element within the structure of bilateral political cooperation. Intensification of political contacts has positively affected the economic realm of cooperation as well, wherein we have witnessed considerable growth in bilateral trade since 2004.

*AIW:* What are presently the key areas of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Canada?

*Amb. Shafiyev:* Azerbaijan attaches great importance to development of its relations with Canada in various fields. Canada has highly competitive and innovative industries, and bilateral business ties between Azerbaijan and Canada have grown considerably over recent years. Nonetheless, there is great room for further growth. According to official statistics, bilateral trade rose from 20 million in 2004 to around one billion in 2008. Last year, trade reached 1.27 billion CAD (1 USD=0.99 CAD), while Azerbaijani exports to Canada were 1.23 billion USD and imports 40 million USD. Our primary trade consists of Azerbaijani crude oil exports to Canada, while from Canada, Azerbaijan is importing machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment and miscellaneous manufactured articles. Our task in this

respect is to promote bilateral cooperation in the non-oil sector and diversify the structure of trade turnover.

*AIW:* What is the state of bilateral cultural and humanitarian cooperation?

*Amb. Shafiyev:* Cooperation on cultural and humanitarian matters occupies a special place in the Embassy's agenda. The Embassy makes constant efforts to promote Azerbaijani culture in Canada. Over the past several years, numerous cultural projects have been undertaken by the Embassy with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and other entities. We have organized concerts of Azerbaijan's folk music—mugham, classical composers, and national jazz, as well as the demonstration of Azerbaijani movies. Some of our projects have become annual events—for example, since 2006 the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival includes in its program the music of Azerbaijani classic composers. The Embassy is also facilitating the Azerbaijani diaspora in Canada to showcase national arts and music, and we assist the Azerbaijani community in Canada to organize language classes and various cultural events and festivities.

Our Embassy is also actively engaged in the development of bilateral cooperation with Canada in the spheres of education and sciences. We are engaged in active cooperation with academic institutions and think tanks to foster joint research and student exchange. The embassy has organized a number of workshops and roundtables on Azerbaijan jointly with the Universities of Toronto, Carleton, McGill, and elsewhere. Moreover, a growing number of Azerbaijani students are undertaking degree studies at Canadian universities as part of the Azerbaijani Students' Study Abroad State Scholarship Program for 2007-2015.

*AIW:* What do you expect to constitute the core of your agenda as the Ambassador in the time ahead?

*Amb. Shafiyev:* Raising the profile of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is certainly our priority. Canada supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and backs the continuation of the negotiations and peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Embassy has worked in a number of directions to inform Canadian public opinion, as well as the country's academic and political circles, about continued Armenian aggression, including such measures as organizing academic workshops, field trips, photo-exhibitions, and other related activities. In the economic domain, we are working to develop ties in the non-oil sector, including in such areas as agriculture, information and communication technologies, alternative energy resources, construction, biotechnology and tourism.

Canada's vast experience in agriculture is of particular interest in this respect. Canada also stands to offer a vast market for some of Azerbaijani food industry products, including fruit juice, olive oil, preservatives, jams, among other similar products, and we work hard to encourage our business people to more actively engage with this sector and take part in various exhibitions organised to this effect and work to promote their products through different other channels as well.

There is also vast room for cooperation in the construction and tourism fields, with Canadian experts currently taking part in the construction of a number of tourism and sports facilities in Azerbaijan, among which Fairmont Baku (Baku Flame Towers) is one.

Azerbaijan is also seeking to learn from Canada's banking sphere and other related areas. Not long ago, a delegation of Azerbaijan Mortgage Fund visited Canada to learn about Ottawa's experience in mortgage crediting.

*AIW:* Could you share your opinion about the Armenian diaspora in Canada and the level of its influence?

*Amb. Shafiyev:* The Armenian diaspora in Canada is diverse and generally well established in the country, but it is not as influential as many might think, even though they have registered some success on the 1915 issue and even though there will always be politicians willing to engage with radical elements within ethnic communities with a view to chasing ethnic votes at elections. Indeed, a recent study found that despite many claims to the contrary, Armenians did not alter the final vote totals in Canadian elections in 2008 and 2011 (<http://news.az/articles/54597>).

*AIW:* In addition to being accredited to the government of Canada, you are also Azerbaijan's official representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization based in Montreal. What is that organization's position on the Armenian speculations about the possibility to open the Khojaly airport in the occupied territories?

*Amb. Shafiyev:* The situation is crystal clear. No country can operate flights onto the territory of Azerbaijan without the permission of Azerbaijan's authorities. The converse would be a blatant violation of the Chicago Convention. And we have a written reconfirmation from the ICAO supporting Azerbaijan on this point.

*AIW:* Given your own experience, what advice would you give young Azerbaijanis beginning their careers in diplomacy?

*Amb. Shafiyev:* Every diplomat will have his or her own priorities, but success in diplomacy, in my opinion, rests on two pillars—knowledge and communications. In other words, I believe that a diplomat, regardless of rank or position, should, first, spend several hours a day reading. He or she must know the situation in the country with which he or she is involved extremely well. Further, he or she must also be aware about the broader picture as well, including major process across the globe. And second, a diplomat must be able to communicate his or her government's message in a clear, concise and appealing way. That requires networking and experience not only with officials, but with the broader community as well, including media, NGOs, members of academia, and cultural activists. Understanding, accepting, and acting upon the overall philosophy and spirit of the host country is essential in this respect.

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**CHANGING BORDERS A DANGEROUS IDEA,  
AZERBAIJAN REMINDS IRAN**

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Iranian suggestions that the border between Iran and Azerbaijan should be revised and that portions of Azerbaijan, including the capital city of Baku, should become part of the Islamic Republic have attracted international attention as the latest example of Tehran's aggressiveness and the best reason why Azerbaijan must stand firm with the United States and Israel against Iran. [1] Two aspects of this story have received less attention, however; and yet they, rather than the dominant narrative, say more about the meaning of these suggestions.

On the one hand, the Iranian suggestions *followed* rather than *preceded* suggestions by some activists in Azerbaijan as recently as March of this year and a few politicians in the United States and other Western countries beginning late last year but increasing in tempo and volume in recent months that the West should promote the secession of the roughly one-third of Iranian territory populated by ethnic Azerbaijanis and its ultimate joining to the Republic of Azerbaijan as part of its strategy to weaken Tehran. [2]

And on the other, however much sympathy many in Baku have for the ethnic Azerbaijani population in Iran, no country on earth is more committed to the principle of territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders than is Azerbaijan. Consequently, it should have come as no surprise to anyone that Baku reacted to these suggestions both dismissively and with warning that those who question internationally recognized borders are likely to be the first victims of such a policy. Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said he could hardly believe anyone in Tehran would take such a dangerous idea seriously; [3] and Siyavush Novruzov, the deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, noted that if Iran wanted to discuss bringing its political borders into line with ethnographic ones, it, not Azerbaijan, would be the big loser. [4]

The idea of changing borders between Azerbaijan and Iran was dead on arrival, and both sides knew it. However, this exchange is a reminder of just how tense the relationship between Azerbaijan and Iran has become. The level of tension has increased dramatically over the last few weeks for several reasons. From Iran's point of view, Azerbaijan's support for the international community's opposition to Tehran's nuclear program is an unfriendly act. Even more unfriendly from an Iranian perspective is the visit by Foreign Minister Mammadyarov to Israel and his suggestion that Baku may be ready to open an embassy in the Jewish state, something that Iranian commentators suggest points to the emergence of an alliance between Azerbaijan and Israel directed against the Islamic Republic.

And from Azerbaijan's point of view, Iran has launched new warships in the Caspian over the last six weeks, disturbing a precarious balance there. It continues to support Armenia, which, all analysts say, would almost certainly collapse without the Iranian lifeline. And Tehran continues to fish in troubled waters by promoting overtly and covertly ethnic minorities in Azerbaijan, unfriendly acts that Baku has frequently complained about and ones that appear to be growing with the expansion of Talysh broadcasting from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Despite this, Azerbaijan and Iran have not escalated this dispute out of proportion as some outsiders seem to be. There have been exchanges of diplomatic notes and some harsh words, but there has been no talk of a break in relations, especially because Azerbaijan has gone out of its way to stress that it will never allow its territory to become a place *des armes* for an attack on Iran and that it wants good relations with Tehran both because of its own needs, including a land route to the

non-contiguous Nakhchivan Republic, and because of its principled commitment to a balanced foreign policy. Iran would be the loser if it chose to escalate things and it appears certain that Tehran knows that.

What is less clear is that some outsider actors do not understand just how sensitive and complex these issues are and that continued talk about playing “the Azerbaijani card” will not benefit either their goals or the needs of the Azerbaijanis, either those in the Azerbaijan Republic north of the Araz or those in the Islamic Republic of Iran south of that river.

#### Notes

[1] See, for example, <http://caspiaresearch.com/2013/04/25/azerbaijan-iran-dispute-enters-historical-territory/> (accessed 14 April 2013).

[2] See <http://presstv.ir/detail/2013/04/04/296503/17-caucasus-cities-seek-iran-annexation/> and <http://inosmi.ru/world/20130416/208112107.html> (accessed 14 April 2013).

[3] See <http://news.day.az/politics/395269.html> (accessed 14 April 2013).

[4] See <http://en.baybak.com/irans-territorial-claims-please-north-and-south-azerbaijan.azr> (accessed 14 April 2013).

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### **AZERBAIJANI-CHECHEN INTERACTIONS: THE PRESENT AND THE PAST**

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On November 15, 2012, head of the Chechen Republic Ramzan Kadyrov paid a visit to Azerbaijan to discuss prospects for cooperation between the two republics. The visit of the Chechen leader to Baku was not the first contact between Azerbaijan and Chechnya. AZPROMO, the Azerbaijani Foundation for Supporting Exports and Investments, on April 4, 2012, organized in Baku a presentation on investment possibilities in the Chechen Republic. The presentation was attended by a Chechen delegation headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Chechen Republic and Finance Minister Ali Isayev. Among others in the delegations were also the Industrial and Trade Minister of Chechnya Galas Taymaskhanov and Culture Minister Dikalı Muzakayev. The delegation met both with members of the Azerbaijani government and with the country’s business circles, in which they—with a view to laying the groundwork for mutually profitable economic cooperation between the two sides—proposed projects in various segments of the economy. [1] This elicited interest from the Azerbaijani side, which prepared a draft agreement on cultural and economic cooperation. The Chechen delegation also visited major industrial objects of the country, and an agreement was reached on a visit by an Azerbaijani delegation to Chechnya at a later point. Still earlier, in November 2011,

an Azerbaijani delegation headed by Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev visited Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. [2]

An interest to foster bilateral relations is shared by both sides, with Chechen President Kadyrov having emphasized that, “[w]e must strive for all-sided strengthening of contacts with Azerbaijan.” [3] Azerbaijan, in turn, which now hosts a representation office for Daghestan and Chechnya, has been expanding its cooperation with a range of republics and *oblasts* of the North Caucasus, including Chechnya. With the latter, Baku’s relations have been advancing both in the trade and economic sectors and in the military and political directions.

Baku’s engagement with the Chechen people is far from a new phenomenon and traces back to many decades ago in history. By early 20th century, Baku emerged as the center not only of religious, spiritual and cultural life of the Muslim peoples of the Caucasus, but also a focal point of the ethnically varied work force of the region. In 1917, 999 North Caucasians lived in Baku, including Chechens, Daghestanis, Osetins, and others. Baku got to know quite a handful of prominent Chechens and Ingush in the 20th century who lived and developed their activity in the Azerbaijani capital, including enlightener Adil-Girei Dolgiyev; ethnographer, regionalist and folklorist Chakh Akhriyev; public teacher Tashtemir Eldarkhanov; famous composer and pedagogue Muslim Magomayev, and others. The daughter of Chakh Akhriyev, Tamara (Gul-Bahar khanum) Akhriyeva received her education in Baku’s St. Nina female academic institute and stayed to teach in Baku afterwards. In 1911-1915, she worked as the head of the female Russian-Muslim Aleksander Institute. [4]

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Azerbaijani oil specialists would share their experience in the development of all aspects of the oil industry in Grozny, which was the main oil centre in the North Caucasus. One of the well-known oil industrialists involved in the Grozny works was A. Akhverdov. [5] The improvement of rail, highway, sea and air communications in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to a still greater degree made possible the close economic and cultural ties of the regions of the Caucasus.

A new stage of Azerbaijani-Chechen relations set in following the February 1917 revolution: National Councils and various political organizations came to surface. The Chechen Congress in Grozny sent a telegram to members of the *Ozakom* M.Yu. Jafarov and M.I. Papadzhanov requesting that the *Ozakom* send the inspector of the Goychay higher educational institution Eldarkhanov to serve as inspector of primary schools in Chechnya. [6]

Following the February 1917 revolution, virtually in all regions of the former Russian Empire the tsarist administration began to be disbanded and replaced by all-national institutions, the latter dominated by bourgeois nationalist parties. The national bourgeoisie and intelligentsia, the Cossacks, and various strata of the population, having supported the democratic transformation in the country, began to insist upon freedom of speech and the press, the creation of national schools and a national administration.

Cooperation between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-20) and the Mountaineer Republic included the dispatch of Azerbaijani military units to the latter. Azerbaijani-Turkish forces, supplemented by native *gortsy* forces, occupied the coast between Derbent and Petrovsk. On 7 November 1918, Petrovsk was seized. The territory of Daghestan and Chechnya was freed from the Bolsheviks and power passed to the Mountaineer Government. Turkish forces led by Col. Ismail Haki-bey,

together with Azerbaijani units and others from the North Caucasus, began an attack against the Denikin-led Armed Forces of White Russia. Ismail-pasha was sent to Daghestan and Chechnya, while Shukri-bey went to the Terek and Kuban regions. However, as a result of the defeat of the German bloc in World War I and the withdrawal of the Ottoman Empire from the war in November 1918, Turkish forces had to quickly leave the territory of Daghestan and the South Caucasus.

In these conditions, an independent Mountaineer Republic was proclaimed at a general assembly of representatives of the peoples of Daghestan and Chechnya. According to the representative of the Azerbaijan Republic to the Mountaineer Republic, A. Akhverdov, there were no political parties in the latter, which only featured national fractions instead, such as the Ingush, Chechen, Kumyk, and the like; and the majority of the members of the Union Council were spiritual leaders and influential people. [7]

A delegation of the Mountaineer Republic, together with the Azerbaijani delegation, set off for the Paris Peace Conference in January 1919 to seek international recognition. However, the White Army occupied Chechnya and Ingushetia. The senior commander of the units of the Volunteer Army in the Caucasus, Maj.Gen. Shatilov, sent the Azerbaijani Government a letter on February 13, 1919, in which he assured the latter about the voluntary nature of the subordination of these two North Caucasus regions to the Volunteer Army and about the introduction in these places of self-administration. He consequently recommended that the Mountaineer Government yield its authority given the lack of demand for it. The Chechen delegation visited the diplomatic representative of the Azerbaijan Republic in the Mountaineer Republic, described in detail their republic's fight with the White Army and declared that if it did not receive support, it would be forced to surrender since its supplies and materiel were near exhaustion.

In his proclamation, Shatilov noted that the command of the Volunteer Army knew about the preparation of the Azerbaijan Republic to support the Chechens with its own forces and about the disinformation of the Chechens by statements that the White Army wanted to subordinate Chechnya to the Cossacks. Regarding the Cossacks, he gave assurances that the White Army intended to make peace with the Chechens. [8] One should note that after the occupation of the Terek oblast by Denikin's army, a dubious attitude toward the events could be seen. The Chechen National Council headed by Chulikov supported the appointment as ruler of Chechnya Voluntary Army General Iris-Khan Aliyev. But part of the population of Chechnya spoke out against the occupation of its territory by the White Army. On April 26, A. Kantemir, at the direction of the chairman of the Mountaineer Government P. Kotsev, sent the government of Azerbaijan and the allied command a note of protest against the actions of the White Army on the territory of Chechnya. The commander of British forces in Petrovsk responded that Denikin would not continue his military actions and would make peace with the Chechens, Ingush, Balkars, and Osetins and await the decision of the Peace Conference on the independence and borders of states formed on the ruins of the Russian Empire. In exchange, he wrote, the Mountaineer Government must allow the White Army to struggle against the Bolsheviks on the territory of the Mountaineer Republic.

Following the defeat of the forces of the Mountaineer Republic, a powerful uprising led by the local spiritual leaders broke out in Chechnya and Daghestan. In his memoirs, Denikin described this as follows: "In its search for a way out, the Mountaineer Parliament began to seek political union with Azerbaijan in the name of



the defense of religion and the unique qualities of Daghestan ... The Mountaineer Government continued its agitation and set to mountainous Chechnya small Daghestani units and Azerbaijani volunteers.” [9] A. Akhverdov, in turn, was asking the Azerbaijani Government to send Azerbaijani officers to provide help to the Chechens, because “this could have ... a moral impact on those who are fighting.” Akhverdov also asked Baku to send a small unit toward Khasavyurt. A detachment under the command of Kazim-bey was dispatched for the defense of the Mountaineer Republic. Representatives of the Ingush met with told Akhverdov that they had assembled a serious force and were preparing an attack from three sides: Ingushetia, Chechnya and the Georgian military highways. According to Akhverdov, “the Chechens also were ‘inclined to unite with Azerbaijan....’” It was particularly emphasized that the head of the North Caucasus Emirate Uzun-Haji also called for joining with Azerbaijan. [10] The White Army at that time was engaged in battles on the territory of the Terek region, in particular in Ingushetia and in Chechnya. As is well known, Denikin set as his main task the liquidation of all newly formed sovereign states and the restoration of “a single and indivisible Russia.”

Following the seizure of Gudermes station by Denikin, the English colonel Rowlandson officially declared to Chechen governor Col. Jafarov about the inclusion of the North Caucasus into the sphere of influence of the White Army and of Daghestan into the English sphere of influence. In response, a session of the inter-party commission in Baku adopted an appeal to the citizens of Azerbaijan in which it declared, “In the North Caucasus, the freedom-loving mountaineers true to the behest of their ancestors and the principles of freedom and independence of small peoples, is shedding blood in an unequal battle with the reactionary forces of Denikin and company ...it is the responsibility of every Muslim to provide help to the fraternal mountaineers in a timely fashion....” The Inter-party commission set on the formation of an Azerbaijan Volunteer Detachment under the leadership of experienced officers to provide such help.

Uzun-Haji, the head of the North Caucasus emirate, sought to achieve via the diplomatic channels of Georgia and Azerbaijan recognition of his monarchy by the world powers. He asked Akhverdiyev to convey from him a message of greetings to the Azerbaijani government. In the middle of May 1919, it was reported that Uzun Haji, together with Akhverdov, was getting ready to come to Baku for talks concerning Chechnya. However, it appears that he sent as his representatives the brother of Mogamed Efendi Dibir-Magomayev and the honorary Chechen Magomed Piralov, while he himself went to Chechnya. According to a dispatch from A. Akhverdov, “after the seizure of Petrovsk, Daghestan, Chechnya and Ingushetia will recognize the authorities of Azerbaijan; they are prepared for this. After this, the Mountaineer Republic can be reestablished under the protectorate of Azerbaijan.” [11]

At the beginning of June 1919, Azerbaijani agents were dispatched to Temir-Khan-Shura, Shamil-Kala (Petrovsk), Grozny and Vladikavkaz in order to follow the actions of the Volunteer Army. According to Akhverdov, the population of Daghestan and Chechnya impatiently awaited the arrival of Azerbaijani forces. Uzun-Haji from Botlikh reported about the readiness of the Avar and Andi districts to rise against Denikin’s army. The residents of the *auls* of mountainous Chechnya reached agreement about not subordinating themselves to Denikin. And already at a congress in Shali, the Chechens resolved to defend the interests of the mountaineers to the last drop of blood and to preserve their freedom, and not to help in any way the Volunteer Army. Akhverdov sent two letters to Baku from the Chechen people—

one written in Arabic and one in Turkic—reporting about the situation in Chechnya and the destruction of villages there by the Denikin forces. In July, intense battles against the Denikin forces and the Cossacks were conducted by Ingush and Chechen mutineers in the directions of Vladikavkaz and Grozny. They cut the Grozny-Beslan line. The Ingush National Council organized a rising against Denikin, which seized the lower portions of Ingushetia in the middle of July 1919. On June 28, Abubakar Pliyev, the representative of the Ingush people and a member of the United Council of the Mountaineer Republic, sent a special letter to the Chairman of the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic requesting assistance and left for Baku. [12]

In September 1919, a new wave of the national liberation movement of the peoples of the North Caucasus began. The national movement in Daghestan was headed by N. Gotsinsky, that in Chechnya by Uzun-Haji, and that in the Northwestern Caucasus by Sultan Klych Girey. Meanwhile, members of the Mountaineer Government, located provisionally in Tiflis, reached agreement on forming a Committee of Mountaineers consisting of 12 people under the chairmanship of A. Tsalikov. The conduct of foreign policy was entrusted to Dzhabagiyev. They appealed to Vekilov with a request to the Azerbaijani government for subsidies and the transfer of the activities of this Committee to Baku. Vekilov transferred to Dzhabagiyev a 250,000 rubles loan for the needs of the Mountaineer organization. [13]

In November 1919, the Azerbaijani government sent Nuri Pasha to Daghestan as the commander in chief of the North Caucasus front. He and his Turkish officers formed a regular division in Daghestan and a cavalry division in Chechnya. Nuri-pasha organized negotiations between the commanders and the leaders of Daghestan and the North Caucasus, Ali Haji Akushinsky, Ibrahim-Haji, Kazim-bey, N. Gotsinsky, and K. Alikhanov. Nuri-pasha promised military assistance from Azerbaijan. He planned first to liberate the territories of Daghestan, then to establish a new provisional government and together with Uzun Haji occupy the Terek district. He also planned to conclude an agreement with the parliament of the Mountaineer Republic. Following the recognition of the Azerbaijani Republic by the major powers and the non-recognition by them of the Mountaineer Republic, Azerbaijan continued to support the North Caucasus peoples in their struggle for independence. [14]

Following the victory of the Red Army in Azerbaijan and in the North Caucasus, the power of the Bolsheviks was established, but even during Soviet times, relations between the Azerbaijani and Chechen peoples did not break off and continued within the framework of the Soviet state, the latter having promoted a mutual enrichment of cultures and the establishment of cultural links. According to the 1989 census, 456 Chechens lived in Azerbaijan. Following the war in Chechnya, the number of Chechen refugees there reached 4,700. And Azerbaijan took them in despite the problems it had with its own refugees as a result of the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenian forces. If the Azerbaijani refugees had somewhere to retreat to, the Chechens did not.

Consequently, in the 1990s and 2000s, a new wave of resettlement of representatives of many North Caucasus peoples to Azerbaijan was under way. They found work, sought education, and received local residence permits (Rasulov 2005, pp. 42-43). In 1995, a Cultural Center of the Chechen Republic-Ichkeria was opened in Baku. Azerbaijan President Heydar Aliyev considered the political problem of Chechnya as an internal affair of Russia, but the Chechen issue as a humanitarian problem. For the resolution of the problems of Chechen refugees, the main office of the plenipotentiary representative of Chechnya to the Muslim countries, Zelimkhan

Yandarbiyev, was opened in Baku. The number of Chechen refugees in Azerbaijan grew to 10,000 by the year 2000. Despite its own problems with refugees, Azerbaijan could not close its borders to suffering people who were hostages to larger political games. And most of the latter found refuge and a better life there.

The situation changed in the fall of 1999. According to Azerbaijani political scientist R. Musabayov, "the watershed became the explosions of the fall of 1999 when the Chechen resistance turned to terrorism. Azerbaijani society could not find a justification for this type of action, which discredited the Chechen resistance." In July 2000, the office of the representation of the Government of Ichkeria in Muslim Countries was suspended. Pressure from Russia played an essential role in that decision. With the coming to power in Russia of Vladimir Putin, relations between Azerbaijan and Russia improved. According to the director of the Chechen human rights center in Baku, Mairbek Taramov, after the events of September 11, the international Islamic foundations which were operating in Baku in 1999-2000 under pressure from the US, Russia and Azerbaijan, ceased their activities and assistance to the Chechens.

As a result, in March 2001, the Chechen refugees turned to President Heydar Aliyev with an open letter, noting that they did not want to be returned to Russia and insisted on their rights under the 1951 convention. These refugees indicated that they were encountering difficulties in obtaining the necessary documentation, because Azerbaijani officials were referring them to the Russian embassy. They asked that their problems be referred to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and that their position in Azerbaijan be regularized. As a result, they were issued a form of UNHCR identification, which legalized their status only in Azerbaijan, but stayed short of guaranteeing the provision of financial, humanitarian, medical, and other kinds of assistance. At the present time, there are 4,930 Chechen refugees in Azerbaijan. They continue to complain about problems with the police, obtaining documents for themselves and their children, and access to education.

These minor problems notwithstanding, the Chechen refugees in Azerbaijan have not lost hope and continue to support the position of an independent Azerbaijan in all questions and share the feelings of Azerbaijani refugees and martyrs who—just like themselves—suffered in the early 1990s. Thus, the Council of Chechen Refugees expressed its solidarity with Azerbaijan and sympathies on the occasion of the tragedy of January 20, 1990: "January 20 in the history of the Caucasus will always remain a day of loss and gaining: patriots died and a worthy Republic was born... The Chechen, sympathetic to the ideas of freedom and independence and having suffered enormous losses on this path have a deep understanding of what is taking place today on the territory of Azerbaijan. We will never forget the asylum offered to Chechen refugees on this land, the warmth and tolerance of the Azerbaijani people... The glorious action by the Azerbaijanis was among the first and served as a worthy example for the continuation of the national liberation war of the Caucasus. At the present time in Baku, there is a Chechen school, various committees established for work with mountaineers arriving from the North Caucasus, and a women's committee of Chechnya. There are also representations of Dagestan and Chechnya, as well as other organizations.

Indeed, the Azerbaijani population, despite its own far from simple position, continues to show tolerance and friendship toward its North Caucasus neighbors. There is no ethnic discrimination or hostile attitude toward other ethnoses in Azerbaijani society. The North Caucasus population in Azerbaijan is involved in trade

and transit through the country. Now, thanks to the stabilization of the situation in Azerbaijan itself, the efforts of individual extremists have been blocked. Chechens are living in a stable environment, and everything is being done to ensure that they, like all the other ethnic minorities of Azerbaijan, can continue to do so.

In the post-Soviet period, several projects for the integration of the peoples of the Caucasus have been developed. On August 26, 1989, at a congress of mountain peoples of the Caucasus in Sukhumi, on the initiative of the Popular Front of Abkhazia, the Assembly of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus was established, with Kabardin Yury Shanibov as its president. In the fall of 1991, General D. Dudayev took the Assembly under his protection. In November of the same year, that organization was transformed into the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus. The confederation united in its midst the Chechens, Kabardins, Cherkess, Adygeys, Abaza, Abkhaz, and others. The Ingush did not join it, nor did the Turkic language mountain peoples (the Kumyks, Balkars, and Karachays) save Akhysk Turks. The Nogays and Azerbaijanis who were living on the territory of contemporary Daghestan also refused to join that group. Instead, they entered the Association of Turkic Peoples.

A round table on a common "Caucasus home" took place in Grozny on September 4-5, 1992. Participants proclaimed the creation of a Higher Religious Council of the Peoples of the Caucasus and a Single Information Center of the Caucasus. Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Muslims of Azerbaijan, was elected chairman of the religious council. In the declaration of this meeting, reference was made to "the necessity of creating a confederation of Caucasus states." On September 27, 1992, the International Forum of the Caucasus Home was established in the Chechen Republic, and a program was developed for the unification of the peoples of the Caucasus. On October 19, 1992, at the initiative of Dzh.Dudayev, the Confederation of the Mountaineer Peoples of the Caucasus was reformed as the Confederation of the Peoples of the Caucasus. The group discussed the participation of the Cossacks and the possible formation of Cossack autonomies in places where the Cossacks lived together. This congress was created in opposition to the CIS. Its second conference was scheduled for Baku in the fall of 1993, but it was not held.

### References

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### Notes

[1] See <http://chechnya.gov.ru/page.php?r=126&id=10810> (accessed 13 April 2013).

[2] Ibid.

[3] See <http://chechnya.gov.ru/page.php?r=126&id=10848> (accessed 13 April 2013).

[4] Первая всеобщая перепись населения Российской империи [The first general census of the population of the Russian empire], 1897, Бакинская губерния [Baku province], 1904, pp. 52-53.

[5] Каспий, No. 222, 12 September 1893; Каспий, No. 81, 16 April 1895.

[6] Баку, No. 137, 27 June 1906; Каспий, No. 66, 23 March 1917.

[7] State Archive of the Azerbaijan Republic (henceforth SAAR), f. 897, op. 1, d. 22a, l. 23, 24–24 ob., 25; SAAR, f. 970, op. 1, d. 59, l. 7, 7ob.; Каспий, No. 74, 9 October (26 September) 1918.

[8] SAAR, f. 970, op. 1, d. 23, l. 9-10; SAAR, f. 970, op. 1, d. 59, l. 1-3.

[9] Грузия (Georgia), No. 55, 11 March 1919; Грузия (Georgia), No. 39, 20 February 1919; Грузия (Georgia), No. 93, 3 May 1919; Грузия (Georgia), No. 54, 9 March 1919.

[10] SAAR, f.970, op.1, d.59, l.13-16ob., 17 ob., 21, 25, 26, 26 ob.

[11] SAAR, f.894, op.10, d.62, l.37ob., 40; SAAR, f.970, op.1, d.59, l.5ob.-16, 28, 31; Грузия (Georgia), No. 93, 3 May 1919.

[12] SAAR, f.894, op.10, d.62, l.41, 41ob., 62-63; SAAR, f.970, op.1, d.46, l.6-6 ob.

[13] Заря России (Dawn of Russia), No. 25, 14 (27) September 1919.

[14] Борьба (Struggle), No. 82 (637), 14 April 1920.

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## **A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY**

### **I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy**

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "it is impossible to make us do something against our strategic partner," the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/395787.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that it is improbable that Tehran would officially support the ideas of some Iranians about the absorption of Azerbaijan into the Iranian state (<http://news.day.az/politics/395269.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the time has come to open an Azerbaijani embassy in Israel (<http://news.day.az/politics/395945.html>).

### **II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan**

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says that Azerbaijan has made a serious and long-lasting contribution to peace in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/394034.html>).

Carlos Pascual, the US State Department's special representative for international energy issues, says that, "if a new source of gas for Europe is to appear, then this source will be Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/economy/395162.html>).

The US State Department says it is examining the work of NDI in Azerbaijan following its receipt of a protest from the Azerbaijani foreign ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/393246.html>).

### **III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy**

15 April

President Ilham Aliyev received Francois Ocha, director of ASTRIUM, and Jean-Pierre Talimonie, international affairs director of the European Aeronautic Defense and Space company (<http://news.day.az/politics/396003.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Andrew Deshitsu, the special representative of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/396081.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the time has come to open an Azerbaijani embassy in Israel (<http://news.day.az/politics/395945.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements by Yerevan are more populist than sincere (<http://news.day.az/politics/395887.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the American administration's proposal to reduce assistance to Armenia by 40 percent shows the declining importance of Yerevan in the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/395876.html>).

The Defense Ministry announces that Azerbaijani personnel will take part in a German military intelligence training exercise (<http://news.day.az/politics/395878.html>).

Baku's Slavic University hosts an international forum of representatives from the CIS, the Baltic countries and Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/395967.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the EU representation in Baku, says that the EU and Azerbaijan are making progress on various issues having to do with the signing of an association agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/396085.html>).

Mikhail Shvydkoy, the Russian president's special representative for international cultural corruption, says that the MGIMO alumni meeting in Baku impressed all participants (<http://news.day.az/politics/396077.html>).

Justin Friedman, director of the US State Department's administration for Caucasus affairs and regional conflicts, visits Ganja (<http://news.day.az/politics/396027.html>).

14 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that "it is impossible to make us do something against our strategic partner," the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/395787.html>).

13 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that it is more difficult to compete against or oppose Azerbaijan than ever before and in the future this will be simply impossible (<http://news.day.az/politics/395452.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku will not comment on the Russian citizen of Azerbaijani ethnicity who has been put on the US Magnitsky List (<http://news.day.az/politics/395712.html>).

Valeh Alaskarov, deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis, heads an Azerbaijani parliamentary delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS (<http://news.day.az/politics/395640.html>).

12 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Johannes Schneider-Amman, attorney general of Switzerland (<http://news.day.az/politics/395597.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Cao Jianming, prosecutor general of China (<http://news.day.az/politics/395597.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Nasser Burita, his Moroccan counterpart (<http://news.day.az/politics/395623.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Nguhen Fyong Nga, Vietnamese deputy foreign minister, and says that Azerbaijan intends to broaden cooperation with Hanoi (<http://news.day.az/politics/395439.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Katarina Pelciska-Nalenc (<http://news.day.az/politics/395623.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that a statement by Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg in Yerevan that Khojaly is the kind of thing that happens in wartime denigrates the memory of the victims of that act of genocide and is deeply regrettable (<http://news.day.az/politics/395565.html>).

The Economic Development Ministry announces the successful completion of 11 EU-Azerbaijani twinning projects (<http://news.day.az/politics/395608.html>).

Ali Hasanov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Refugees and IDPs, says that Armenia continues illegally to settle Armenians from Syria and other conflict zones in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/395592.html>).

Ali Hasanov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Refugees and IDPs, says that Armenia needs to recognize that if the European Court satisfies

Azerbaijan's suit concerning the harm that Yerevan has inflicted on Azerbaijanis, "the Armenian state even after 50 years will not be able to compensate for the harm it has inflicted on Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/395572.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that all international organizations must show respect for the state interests of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/395610.html>).

Aslan Aslanov, the director general of AzerTAj, receives Luiz Enrique Gonsales Acosta, the president of Cuba's Prensa Latina (<http://news.day.az/politics/395690.html>).

Russian President Vladimir Putin sends a message of greetings to the Baku meeting of MGIMO alumni and expresses the hope that such meetings will become a tradition (<http://news.day.az/politics/395457.html>).

11 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Veisal Eroglu, Turkey's forestry and water minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/395327.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Konstantin Grishchenko, vice prime minister of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/395327.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Slovakian Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajčák (<http://news.day.az/politics/395327.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms agreements with Spain, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates (<http://news.day.az/politics/395354.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms an agreement with Turkey on gas transit through that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/395352.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that it is improbable that Tehran would officially support the ideas of some Iranians about the absorption of Azerbaijan into the Iranian state (<http://news.day.az/politics/395269.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku is investigating reports of deaths among Azerbaijanis in Syria (<http://news.day.az/politics/395323.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Adam Kobiratsky, deputy secretary general of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/395273.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov is elected vice president of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Organs at a meeting of that body in India (<http://news.day.az/politics/395304.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, awards MGIMO Rector Anatoly Torkunov with ADA's first honorary doctorate (<http://news.day.az/politics/395244.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev signs an agreement with Luxembourg officials calling for an increase in bilateral economic ties



(<http://news.day.az/politics/395326.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku agrees to the OSCE Minsk Group's proposal for a meeting between the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/395259.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Yerevan has misrepresented losses along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/395305.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says the idea offered by several Iranian legislators about the need to join Azerbaijan to Iran is "a complete absurdity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/395206.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan is always ready for talks and seeks peace, "unlike Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/395296.html>).

Sultan Gasymov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Ekaterinburg, meets with Vladimir Yakushev, governor of Russia's Tyumen oblast (<http://news.day.az/politics/395363.html>).

Azerbaijani experts take part in an Ashgabat meeting of the Caspian littoral states on a draft agreement on the use of biological resources of that sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/395284.html>).

Štefan Füle, EU commissioner for enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, says that solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is "one of the chief priorities" of the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/395299.html>).

10 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "Azerbaijan is becoming not only the geographic, but logistical center of the region" (<http://news.day.az/economy/394430.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergio de Susa Fontes Arruda, Brazil's ambassador to Baku, on the occasion of the conclusion of his assignment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/395048.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's statements at his inauguration are intended to mislead the international community (<http://news.day.az/politics/395068.html>).

Huseyn Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tashkent, is awarded a special diploma by the Mekhribonlik Charity (<http://news.day.az/politics/395120.html>).

Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Chisinau, meets with Moldovan Defense Minister Vitaly Marinutsa, who says that his country will not allow any more arms sales to Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/395006.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, attends the 16<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul (<http://day.az/economy/395060.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan is talking ever more about solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, because it finds itself in increasingly desperate straits (<http://news.day.az/politics/395052.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the situation of Armenia is close to collapse (<http://news.day.az/politics/394954.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul and his Georgian counterpart Mikheil Saakashvili agree to expand cooperation with each other and with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/394952.html>).

Georgian Prime Minister Bidzhina Ivanishvili says that Tbilisi considers Baku its strategic partner (<http://news.day.az/politics/395036.html>).

Armenia loses its voting rights at the United Confederation of Entrepreneurs of the Black and Caspian Seas Region because of a failure to pay its dues (<http://news.day.az/politics/395020.html>).

The Group of Co-Rapporteurs for Democracy of the Council of Europe visit Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/395009.html>).

9 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives members of the administration of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (<http://news.day.az/politics/394812.html>).

Nargiz Gurbanova, counselor of the Azerbaijani embassy in Washington, speaks on Azerbaijan's role in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/395129.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that suggestions by Iranian parliamentarians about absorbing Azerbaijan into Iran are dangerous and irresponsible (<http://news.day.az/politics/394923.html>).

Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius says that the formation of a parliamentary friendship group with Nagorno-Karabakh does not reflect the official position of Vilnius, which remains unchanged (<http://news.day.az/politics/394760.html>).

Günther H. Oettinger, the EU commissioner for energy, says that obtaining gas from Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan is the best way to reduce Europe's dependence on gas from Russia (<http://news.day.az/economy/394912.html>).

The Russian Defense Ministry denies reports that Moscow has moved additional troops up to the Azerbaijani border (<http://news.day.az/politics/394836.html>).

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov says that the last Russian employees will leave the Gabala site in August (<http://news.day.az/politics/394786.html>).

8 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius (<http://news.day.az/politics/394608.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha (<http://news.day.az/politics/394608.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Helge Lund, executive director of Statoil (<http://news.day.az/politics/394608.html>).

Deputy Emergency Situations Minister Faig Tagizade and French Ambassador to Baku Pascual Meunier jointly chair a meeting of bilateral experts on dealing with complex disasters (<http://news.day.az/society/394509.html>).

Ali Huseynli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that NDI must review its activities in Azerbaijan following complaints that the American group has interfered in the domestic affairs of the country (<http://news.day.az/politics/394601.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan meet and agree that their countries should work closely with Azerbaijan on a wide range of projects (<http://news.day.az/economy/394536.html>).

Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevicius says that Azerbaijan is a particularly important partner of Lithuania in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/394426.html>).

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz says that Azerbaijan and Turkey should jointly invest in third countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/394594.html>).

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz says that Nabucco West is a far more ambitious project than TAP (<http://news.day.az/economy/394480.html>).

Kyrgyzstan Vice Prime Minister Dzhomart Otorbayev says that cooperation must be a priority for all the countries in the region (<http://news.day.az/economy/394444.html>).

Pascual Meunier, France's ambassador to Baku, says that Paris does not recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh which it views as a part of sovereign Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/394484.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that energy is important both for Azerbaijan and for the region (<http://news.day.az/economy/394545.html>).

7 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Klaus Schwab, executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/394415.html>).

US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu to discuss the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/394413.html>).

6 April

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, calls on the EU and NATO to play a more active role in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/394284.html>).

Ali Huseynli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he supports upgrading the status of the OSCE representation office in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/394349.html>).

Tofiq Musayev, deputy permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, speaks to a Washington conference on the role of the UN in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/394265.html>).

Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevicius says that Vilnius' position on Nagorno-Karabakh remains unchanged (<http://news.day.az/politics/393985.html>).

5 April

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva visit the 12<sup>th</sup> Azerbaijan International Tourism Exhibition (<http://news.day.az/politics/394014.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "from the point of view of economic potential, Azerbaijan is the leader of the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/393901.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev is elected president of the Caspian European Integration Business Club (<http://news.day.az/politics/394087.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says the Armenian diaspora is involved in the trafficking of illegal drugs (<http://news.day.az/politics/394046.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that if Iran were not helping Armenia, the population of the latter country would die from hunger (<http://news.day.az/politics/394033.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that, "Azerbaijan wants peace and seeks the further close of its economy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/393996.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that talks about the status of the Caspian Sea are continuing and that progress is being made in many areas (<http://news.day.az/politics/394030.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin (<http://news.day.az/politics/394101.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that he hopes that the Armenians will not take the provocative step of trying to open an airport in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/393980.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenians no longer have any hope for the future of their country and consequently are leaving it in large numbers (<http://news.day.az/politics/393972.html>).

The Milli Majlis passes a law creating the new position of deputy ambassador in Azerbaijani embassies abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/394100.html>).

Nizami Sadygov, head of the Agdam District, says that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs have said that, "everything has been destroyed in the occupied Agdam district" (<http://news.day.az/politics/394129.html>).

Crown Prince Haakon of Norway says that Oslo is very pleased with the relations it has with Azerbaijan in the energy sector (<http://news.day.az/politics/394075.html>).

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy says that the EU wants to expand its ties with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/393990.html>).

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says that Azerbaijan has made a serious and long-lasting contribution to peace in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/394034.html>).

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy says that the EU will continue to call for Azerbaijan and Armenia to work harder to reach an agreement to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/394001.html>).

Georgia's European Integration Minister Aleksii Petriashvili says that the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway could be used for carrying materiel to ISAF in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/economy/394121.html>).

Toyli Komekov, Turkmenistan's ambassador to Baku, hosts a sports competition for Azerbaijani students (<http://news.day.az/society/394089.html>).

4 April

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev says that the EU is helping Azerbaijan to improve its legislation on tourism (<http://news.day.az/economy/393874.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan's success has attracted the attention of various international business and economic structures (<http://news.day.az/politics/393921.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that all too often the OSCE mission in Azerbaijan loads itself up with tasks that prevent it from carrying out its main responsibilities (<http://news.day.az/politics/393940.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia's policy of conquest is a cancerous tumor on the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/393772.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku has responded to Iran's protest note by pointing out that the recent meeting in Baku about Southern Azerbaijan does not reflect the official position of the Azerbaijani government (<http://news.day.az/politics/393868.html>).

Khazar Ibrahim, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to NATO, says that Azerbaijan is discussing various ways for the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/393786.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that until Armenia withdraws from the occupied territories, Azerbaijan will not cooperate with Armenia economically (<http://news.day.az/politics/393803.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia pursues cosmetic changes rather than real reforms (<http://news.day.az/politics/393754.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that displays of a lack of respect for the territorial integrity and independence of Azerbaijan by Iranian parliamentarians are a matter of sincere regret (<http://news.day.az/politics/393717.html>).

A Polish edition of *Poles in the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic* by Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Budapest, is published in Warsaw (<http://news.day.az/politics/393822.html>).

Herbert Quelle, German ambassador to Baku, says that his embassy does not have any information about a trip by a local German official to Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/393858.html>).

Daniel Christian Ciobanu, Romania's ambassador to Baku and NATO coordinator for Azerbaijan, says that military cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO continues at a high level (<http://news.day.az/politics/393798.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Baku, says that the European Union and Azerbaijan have achieved real progress on travel rules (<http://news.day.az/politics/393750.html>).

The House of Representatives of the US state of Iowa has adopted a resolution recognizing the genocide of Azerbaijanis in 1918 (<http://news.day.az/politics/393845.html>).

The House of Representatives of the US state of West Virginia adopted a resolution on the tragedy of Khojaly (<http://news.day.az/politics/393707.html>).

Former Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin says that Armenia's nationalistic programs have isolated it from the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/393780.html>).

3 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Barry Devolin, head of the Canadian parliament's Canada-Azerbaijan friendship group (<http://news.day.az/politics/393563.html>).

Raimond Benjamin, secretary general of the International Civil Aviation Organization, says that it would be illegal for Armenia to open an airport in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/393695.html>).

Roland Kobia, the EU representative in Baku, calls on both sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to step up their efforts to resolve the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/393573.html>).

Roland Kobia, the EU representative in Baku, says that 2012 was an active one

regarding dialogue between the European Union and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/393570.html>).

2 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored without any changes" (<http://news.day.az/politics/393107.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/393333.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Zumeyim bin Juweibir as-Sawwat, director of Saudi Arabia's border service (<http://news.day.az/politics/393333.html>).

The Foreign Ministry expresses concern about the publication of material by Russia's *Parlamentskaya gazeta* that treats Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent formation (<http://news.day.az/politics/393242.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku will do whatever it can to learn the fate of Azerbaijanis in Syria (<http://news.day.az/politics/393411.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the deputy head of the Presidential Administration, says that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs should focus on resolving the conflict rather than making "senseless visits" to the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/393371.html>).

Rufat Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there should not be even a theoretical discussion of opening a Yerevan-Van air route (<http://news.day.az/politics/393254.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, condemns the launch by Armenians of a Talysh-language radio station in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/393322.html>).

Georgian Defense Minister Irakly Alasania says that Tbilisi supports broadening military cooperation in a trilateral format with Azerbaijan and Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/393310.html>).

1 April

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Armenia does not need the Khojaly airport (<http://news.day.az/politics/393210.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan has forgotten all the basic principles of international relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/393013.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is seeking to blame Europe, because it refuses to take responsibility for its own actions (<http://news.day.az/politics/393016.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry handed a note of protest to Azerbaijani Ambassador Javanshir Akhundov concerning a meeting in Baku of the National Front for Freedom for Southern Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/392995.html>).

### **Note to Readers**

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