



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy

School of International Affairs

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AZERBAIJAN EXPANDS ITS FOCUS ON SOUTH AMERICA

An Interview with Mr. Mammad Ahmadzada
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Argentine Republic

November 29, 2010
Baku/Buenos Aires, Azerbaijan/Argentina

Azerbaijan in the World: How have relations between Azerbaijan and Argentina evolved in the post-Soviet era and what was the rationale behind Baku's decision to open up an embassy there?

Ambassador Ahmadzada: The Argentine Republic recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on March 9, 1992, and the two countries established diplomatic relations on November 8, 1993. Starting from the mid 2000's, Azerbaijan

began to build closer ties with Argentina and other South American countries, as a part of a strategy under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev aimed at strengthening the country's international standing. The visit to Argentina by Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov on April 3, 2006 was important in this regard. So, the opening of our embassy in Argentina, the first diplomatic mission of Azerbaijan in South America, is due to our country's proactive foreign policy and the expansion of its diplomatic presence around the globe. Azerbaijan views its ties with Argentina as offering enormous opportunities for greater cooperation in many fields, and considers this country as a gateway to the whole South American region.

AIW: What are your first impressions of Argentina?

Amb. Ahmadzada: A very interesting country! Argentina is rich in natural resources, climate zones, fertile land, multicultural diversity, economic potential and so much more. It is the second biggest power of South America and a member of G20, all factors that have given it a leading position in Latin America. A posting here is important not only for bilateral cooperation, but also because, due to its academic and research centers, Argentina is the best place for gaining an understanding of the whole region.

Buenos Aires, a huge megalopolis that has drawn people from all over the world, has a rich and vivid social and cultural ambience. As they say in Argentina, "the city enjoys to the fullest all 24 of the 24 hours of the day." Considered a center of the European culture of South America, Buenos Aires is full of theaters, cinemas, museums, art galleries, French and Italian style architecture, boutique parks, gardens, antique fairs, memorable tango shows, and restaurants offering the famous Argentine beef. And I cannot fail to mention sports, especially football and the legendary Maradona. All these things make Argentina an important tourist destination. I believe that this place can become an attractive tourist destination for Azerbaijanis as well, once it is discovered. However, for us, as an embassy, promoting tourist flows is just one side of the coin, the other side being about facilitating people to people contacts, laying bridges for mutual understanding and close ties between the two cultures.

AIW: What has already been done during the short time of the embassy's operation in Buenos Aires?

Amb. Ahmadzada: The Azerbaijani diplomatic mission arrived in Buenos Aires in mid-August 2010. We have already settled in, and today our Embassy is in full operation. While getting organized, we also began to make contacts with government institutions, members of the legislature, the diplomatic corps, businesses, academics, media and a wide range of other groups and individuals.

Recognizing that many people in South America know relatively little about Azerbaijan, the embassy has launched an active public diplomacy. The embassy organized a "Presentation of Azerbaijan" at the Argentine Foreign Ministry's National Foreign Service Institute (ISEN). In addition, *La Revista Diplomática Placet*, the Argentine diplomatic magazine, recently published a special edition devoted exclusively to Azerbaijan, in a joint work with the embassy, including articles about National Leader Heydar Aliyev, President Ilham Aliyev, as well as the country's foreign policy, its economy, history, culture, tourism, sports, and cuisine. The special edition titled "Azerbaijan—rich heritage, prosperous present and brilliant

future" is meant to serve as the very first guide on Azerbaijan ever published in Spanish. And finally, as we believe that high-level visits and first-hand impressions about the country are important, the embassy organized the visit of Ambassador Alberto Pedro D'Alotto, the deputy foreign minister of Argentina to Baku at the end of November.

AIW: What were the agenda and results of the visit of Argentina's deputy foreign minister to Baku?

Amb. Ahmadzada: It was the first ever official visit of a high-ranking member of the Argentine government to Azerbaijan. Therefore, in order to create the whole picture of Azerbaijan and provide insight to the overall potential sectors of cooperation, a comprehensive program was elaborated for the Argentine dignitary. During his visit, Deputy Minister D'Alotto met with Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, Deputy Foreign Ministers Khalaf Khalafov and Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Minister of Agriculture Ismat Abbasov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development Sevinc Hasanova and SOCAR Vice-President Davud Mammadov. The Argentine deputy minister also visited the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he met with Deputy Foreign Minister and Rector Hafiz Pashayev and discussed bilateral cooperation.

Among the most prominent results of his visit was the signing of "Memorandum of understanding on the establishment of political consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic" and "Memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the National Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic."

Deputy Minister D'Alotto also gave an exclusive interview to Trend news agency about the current state of, and future prospects for, bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Argentina.

Given how recently Azerbaijan's embassy opened, I think that this visit highlights the keen interest of the Argentine government in Azerbaijan. Deputy Foreign Minister Alberto Pedro D'Alotto repeatedly emphasized in his meetings that he was impressed by the rapidly growing economy and ongoing developments in Azerbaijan and that Argentina is keen to be part of them. I hope this visit will lead to a variety of initiatives on both sides.

AIW: What are the existing and potential areas for cooperation? What are the plans for the future?

Amb. Ahmadzada: There is a solid foundation for political dialogue between Azerbaijan and Argentina. The principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are the basis for the development of the relations between the two countries. Both parties are keen to have intensive political consultations on bilateral, regional and global issues.

Economic cooperation is especially important. At present, bilateral trade between the two countries is relatively modest, but is increasing rapidly, having risen by approximately 70 percent this year. Trade consists mainly of Argentine exports of

pharmaceutical products, soybean oil, sugar, other agricultural products and foodstuff, and some Azerbaijani exports of chemical products. But there is ample room for expansion in both directions, as well as in other sectors. In particular, high-end Argentine agricultural technologies can be useful for increasing the capacity, productivity and export potential of the agriculture sector of Azerbaijan. To this end, the Embassy is working to expand contacts between business people of the two countries.

The Embassy is planning to continue the public diplomacy to promote Azerbaijani reality, including the country's historical and cultural heritage, the ongoing development of the country, its leading regional role, the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the position of Baku regarding the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the religious tolerance and Azerbaijan's role in intercultural dialogue, as well as the country's business-investment climate and opportunities and its tourism potential, among other areas. With that aim, the embassy will work towards creating more understanding of Azerbaijan in Argentina and the South American region, as well as foster friendship and cooperation.

AZERBAIJANI GAS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT

Matt Stone
Independent Consultant

From the Western perspective, Azerbaijan is the geographic gateway to the Caspian Sea region's plentiful oil and gas resources. In the post-Cold War period, Western political and commercial actors have sought to build export routes for Caspian hydrocarbons that avoid both Russian and Iranian territory. In that regard, Azerbaijan is essential and irreplaceable. The focus of the 1990s was on oil, which culminated in the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline in 2005. Now the focus is on natural gas, with a number of gas export projects competing for a commitment of Azerbaijani gas—mainly from Shah Deniz phase 2—to justify their financing and construction. However, in recent years the global natural gas market has undergone three major changes that threaten to make Caspian gas less competitive in the European market.

The first trend is the expansion of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade and, in particular, the growth of the LNG spot market (Jensen 2004). While LNG has been traded on the world's oceans for a number of decades, the past decade has seen a major expansion in LNG capacity. Historically, LNG cargoes are traded on the basis of long-term take-or-pay contracts whereby a buyer commits to purchase a specified quantity of LNG from a given seller for a number of years at a price usually indexed to the price of crude oil. This contractual basis served to apportion the volume and price risk to the buyer and seller, respectively, which in turn is considered sufficient commercial guarantee to justify the enormous up-front capital costs necessary to build an LNG supply chain. Moreover, this contractual relationship served to lock LNG volumes into fixed trading relationships, thereby keeping those volumes off the market.

This paradigm is changing. A number of older LNG liquefaction facilities are now operating beyond the term of their original long-term seller's contracts. Many of these now sell exclusively or in part into a burgeoning LNG spot market where cargoes go to the highest bidder. Additionally, some new facilities are also selling into the spot market. Qatar for instance is known to sell into the East Asian or Atlantic LNG markets depending on where the higher price can be found. This price arbitrage is increasingly frequent and expected, contributing to the gradual and imperfect formation of a global LNG spot price, which is partially independent of the oil-indexed LNG prices that have persisted for decades. The expanding liquidity of the LNG spot market means buyers with access to re-gasification infrastructure have more flexibility in choosing their gas trade partners according to price.

The second trend is the so-called "revolution" in unconventional gas production, primarily in North America. In the past decade, technological innovation has driven down the costs of the drilling method known as hydraulic fracturing, thereby increasing its commercial viability. This process, which uses a mixture of water, chemicals, and sand to break open reservoirs of gas locked in impermeable shale, has rapidly morphed the United States from imminent LNG importer (to supplement imports from Canada) into a potential LNG exporter. This has had the effect of diverting many LNG cargoes destined for North America to other markets, primarily Europe but also East Asia. Production of unconventional gas is also being mooted in other parts of the world, most significantly in Europe and China. If either were to replicate the U.S. success with unconventional gas production, the result would be an even larger glut of natural gas supply and depressed gas prices into the foreseeable future. For the sake of promoting energy security, Washington is aiding China and European governments in developing their unconventional gas resources.

The third trend, which has garnered less attention in the year since the failure of the December 2009 Copenhagen climate change summit, is the push to put a price on carbon emissions and thus to reduce the global economy's carbon output. The European Union (EU) has been a trailblazer in this regard, having established the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2005, which operates as a cap-and-trade mechanism for a handful of carbon-emitting entities. ETS serves as a template for future cap-and-trade programs, including some at the state-level in the United States. While the Copenhagen summit's failure and the Republican Party's recent electoral success in the U.S. suggest that a global carbon emissions reduction and mitigation regime is still some way off, the trend toward regulating carbon emissions remains intact. When it does happen, the price of carbon will have a material impact on the global demand for natural gas. Indeed, in the power generation sector, a low price for carbon would benefit gas, nuclear, and renewables at the expense of coal. However, at a higher price, both coal and gas demand would be hurt, while nuclear and renewables would become more commercially attractive. At this point, it appears that a weak regulatory framework for carbon emissions is the most likely, and therefore natural gas should benefit (at the expense of more-polluting coal). But many investors in natural gas infrastructure—power stations, pipelines, gas fields, etc.—invest with an outlook of three to four decades. There is no telling where the price of carbon will be in that time frame. There are some gas sector investors who currently condition their investment decisions based on assumptions of a high carbon price within two decades such that while gas looks like a good short to medium-term bet, it is much more ambiguous in the long-term.

(A fourth potential trend is the small but growing prevalence of natural gas use in the transportation sector, diversifying the sectoral demand for gas away from

traditional uses in power generation and heating. This trend is still in an incipient phase, and doubts remain about the scalability of gas in the transportation sector.)

These three trends—the growing connectedness between regional gas markets via price arbitrage in the LNG market, the tsunami of new gas supply engendered by rapid development of unconventional gas, and the ambiguity about how gas will fare in a carbon-regulated business environment—present challenges for geographically constrained gas producers like Azerbaijan and the other Caspian states. In particular, the combination of new unconventional gas supply and growing volumes of LNG traded on the spot market has disrupted the supply-demand balance, pushing down spot prices in the European market. The prevalence of low spot prices is subverting the historic gas-pricing model in Europe—oil-indexation—which is gradually being supplanted by spot pricing as gas purchasers demand a loosening of the take-or-pay and pricing terms in their long-term contracts with sellers like Gazprom, Statoil, Sonatrach, and others (Stern 2009). It is not clear how comprehensively the European gas market will evolve toward spot pricing or what the eventual balance between spot pricing and oil-indexation in contracts will be when supply and demand fundamentals return to balance. This ambiguous pricing environment is not conducive to the signing of long-term contracts to justify the construction of geopolitically complex and expensive pipeline projects.

Critically, these global gas market trends have in the past three years driven down the netback price European energy companies can reasonably offer Azerbaijan for its gas. Gas transportation projects like Nabucco, Interconnector Turkey-Greece-Italy, and Trans-Adriatic Pipeline are competing to offer Baku and the Shah Deniz consortium the best netback price for gas deliveries to each project. With European gas demand in the doldrums due to the economic slowdown and supply from unconventional gas and LNG on the rise, netback prices in the near term are likely to be well under \$100 per thousand cubic meters (Mcm) and perhaps even less than \$50/Mcm. If the netback price, which accounts for transportation costs to bring the gas to market, is negative, then Azerbaijani gas is effectively “stranded.” Of course, the private firms that make up the consortiums for these pipeline projects cannot offer Baku any better than the market price for its gas (they would be punished by their shareholders if they did otherwise); a state-owned firm like Gazprom, which does not operate according to economic logic alone, can offer Azerbaijan higher-than-market prices in order to undermine the commercial feasibility of competing projects.

Ultimately, how Baku copes with these tectonic shifts in the global gas market—especially with regards to the government’s decision within the next year about which Southern Corridor project to favor, if any—will determine the future character and geography of the gas export corridor out of the Caspian Sea region, which will have important geopolitical and economic consequences for decades to come. Indeed, given the current state of the European gas market and the aforementioned macro-level trends in the global gas market, it may behoove Azerbaijan’s government to commit gas volumes to a Southern Corridor project even if in the short run the project does not seem particularly lucrative in terms of netback prices. The export flexibility and direct exposure to the European market that a new pipeline would allow may prove more than adequately compensatory in the long term.

Reference

Jensen, James (2004) *The Development of a Global LNG Market*, NG 5 (Oxford Institute for Energy Studies).

Stern, Jonathan (2009) "Continental European Long-Term Gas Contracts: Is a Transition away from Oil Product-linked Pricing Inevitable and Imminent?", NG 34, September (Oxford Institute for Energy Studies).

KARABAKH AFTER ASTANA

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Publications Advisor
Azerbaijan Diplomatic Advisor

Despite widespread hopes and even expectations that the OSCE summit in Astana would bring progress toward the resolution of what has become known as the Karabakh conflict, that did not happen. And while some diplomats are already seeking to put the best face on things by noting that "at least" there was a meeting between Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, something that was uncertain until the very last moment, the failure to make discernable progress in the negotiations raises some serious questions about the future of that conflict and the role of the OSCE's Minsk Group in those discussions. To understand why expectations were so high, it is necessary to recall three things.

First, because Kazakhstan was OSCE chairman-in-office during the last year and because Astana had made it clear that progress on Karabakh was near the top of its agenda, many assumed that it very much hoped to orchestrate an accord to be announced at this summit meeting. Second, the intensity of visits and meetings of the OSCE Minsk Group, which consists of an American, French and Russian co-chair, has rarely been greater than over the last few months, a pattern that suggested the parties were making progress. And third, in support of the Minsk Group and the presidents of the two other co-chair countries, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev had taken a more active role in recent times, something many commentators have suggested is a pre-condition for progress.

Moreover, pressure seemed to be growing on Armenia to accept the modified Madrid Principles that would lead to Armenian withdrawal more or less immediately from five Azerbaijani districts and parts of a sixth as well as to an ultimate Armenian withdrawal from Karabakh itself. Turkey had made it clear that its opening to Yerevan would not really take off until Armenia agreed to this arrangement and began to implement it. Ever more countries, including Iran, and international organizations, such as NATO and the European Union, have adopted increasingly toughly-worded resolutions in support of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. And Russia, despite its cultural sympathies with Armenia, has demonstrated that it is more interested in Azerbaijan as the ultimate prize of its Caucasus policy.

But despite that, there was little or no movement. Azerbaijan has already agreed to the renewed Madrid principles, but Armenia's leaders, apparently concluding that they have nothing to lose by simply maintaining the status quo, refused to make any significant steps in the direction of a final accord, despite the president of one Minsk

Group co-chair country, the prime minister of a second and the secretary of state of the third and despite the hopes and even expectations of many who are concerned that the OSCE must demonstrate its ability to solve such conflicts or become increasingly irrelevant.

When it became obvious that no agreement was going to take place in Astana, the co-chair countries issued a statement which "recalled the joint statements of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, with the President of the Russian Federation, on November 2, 2008, in Moscow, and on October 27, 2010, in Astrakhan. They further agreed that a peaceful, negotiated settlement will bring stability and security and is the only way to bring real reconciliation to the peoples of the region. "The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan reaffirmed their commitment to seek a final settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based upon: the principles and norms of international law; the United Nations Charter; the Helsinki Final Act; as well as the statements of Presidents Medvedev, Sarkozy, and Obama, at L'Aquila on July 10, 2009, and at Muskoka on June 26, 2010."

And "the three OSCE Co-Chair countries pledged their support for the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia as they make the necessary decisions to reach a peaceful settlement. They urged the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to focus with renewed energy on the issues that still remain in the Basic Principles, and instructed their Co-Chairs to continue to work with the parties to the conflict to assist in these efforts. In order to create a better atmosphere for the negotiations, they called for additional steps to strengthen the ceasefire and carry out confidence-building measures in all fields," the kind of language diplomats use to conceal failure rather than to trumpet success.

President Aliyev was more openly angry about Armenia's failure to move toward a resolution of the dispute. "Today," he declared, "Armenia uses force to keep the occupied territories under its control and to block the return of internally displaced persons to their homelands. Nevertheless," he said, "Azerbaijan remains committed to peace talks and the principles laid out by various international organizations." Unfortunately, the Azerbaijani leader continued, "instead of conducting negotiations toward the resolution of the conflict, Armenia continues to prefer to escalate the conflict, violate the ceasefire regime, conduct military exercises in the occupied territories, change the names of [Azerbaijani] cities and villages, pursues an illegal settlement policy, and attempt to transform the peace process into a senseless exercise."

"Such behavior," President Aliyev said, "gives grounds for thinking that Armenia does not intend to free the occupied territories but instead wants to maintain the status quo for a long period and make the talks conducted with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group into something meaningless." We have been talking "for 20 years," he said, "but there is no result. We are ready to continue negotiations, conclude them quickly and reach an outcome based on the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and corresponding to international norms and principles."

What is this failure going to mean for the future of the Karabakh conflict in general and for the OSCE Minsk Group in particular? Many officials and political leaders in Azerbaijan, from President Aliyev on down, have stressed that they are not prepared to wait forever for the return of the occupied territories and that Baku has the resources to take them back by force if Armenia refuses to negotiate in good faith.

Usually, statements in this regard have been seen as part of the negotiating process, as the sticks behind any carrots, rather than as an actual threat of imminent action. But clearly, Armenia's unwillingness to be more forthcoming at Astana will lead to an increase in the volume of such statements, and Armenia may find itself confronted with the need to increase its own military effort or, more likely, to defer even more to an expanded Russian military presence, something that might prevent a conflict in the short term but that would expose Yerevan to even greater Russian influence over time, influence that Moscow would likely use eventually to secure a settlement in Karabakh that Azerbaijan would be happy about.

(Many analysts have long assumed that because of the religious and cultural ties between Russians and Armenians and because Moscow in the past has benefited from tensions in the region that the Russian government will never change its position. But as one extremely wise Azerbaijani observer put it not long ago, in the South Caucasus, for Russia, "Georgia is the way, Armenia is the tool, but Azerbaijan is the prize." Consequently, if Moscow does conclude that it stands to gain enormous influence in Azerbaijan by shifting away from Armenia, it is a near certainty that Russia will do just that.)

A military conflict is thus not likely in the short term unless something terrible goes wrong, and that is in itself a kind of victory. But if the guns are not going to fire, ever more people are going to ask some serious questions about the negotiations themselves, given, as President Aliyev pointed out, their lack of progress over almost a generation. And that means there may be calls for organizing a new grouping, especially as many of the participants at Astana pointed out that the OSCE should be renamed, reorganized, or otherwise transformed.

A shift on this point in the very near term may be unlikely as well. But as the actions of Russian President Medvedev have shown, the role of individual countries may expand at the expense of the Minsk Group. That may complicate matters, especially since the Minsk Group was drawn from the membership of the only international organization in which all the countries of the South Caucasus region or abutting it are included except Iran. Clearly, Iran like Turkey is going to want to have a larger role than it has had in the past, and that too will put pressure on all the parties for a new venue.

What form this might take is unclear, but it seems likely that there will be more bilateral efforts and somewhat fewer multilateral ones, a pattern that will reflect growing recognition of a fundamental reality: Ultimately, the two countries most immediately involved are going to have to agree, regardless of what the international community says. Azerbaijan, as President Aliyev said, is ready to do so. Astana showed that Armenia is not.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan never was and never will be subject to discussion” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240748.html>).

The President’s Office says that “the thoughts and judgments ascribed to President Ilham Aliyev” in the latest batch of Wikileaks materials “do not reflect reality and are absolutely without foundation. These materials are an open provocation, which pursues the goal of undermining the relations of Azerbaijan with neighboring states and creating distrust among the heads of those states” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240827.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Robert Simmons, special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that “the doors of NATO are open for new members, including Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240260.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says that “without a peaceful and secure resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is impossible to say that we live in a single and free Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240086.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that if outside pressure on the South Caucasus ends, then the Karabakh conflict can be resolved (<http://news.day.az/politics/238858.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan’s Foreign Policy

30 November

President Ilham Aliyev meets in Astana with Dunya Miyatovic, the OSCE representative for media freedom (<http://news.day.az/politics/240795.html>).

The President’s Office says that “the thoughts and judgments ascribed to President Ilham Aliyev” in the latest batch of Wikileaks materials “do not reflect reality and are absolutely without foundation. These materials are an open provocation, which pursues the goal of undermining the relations of Azerbaijan with neighboring states and creating distrust among the heads of those states” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240827.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, says that the appearance of the Wikileaks documents in the run-up to the OSCE summit in Astana makes the discussion of difficult questions such as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict more difficult (<http://news.day.az/politics/240828.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijani ambassador in Mexico who is jointly accredited to Costa Rica, presents his credentials to Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla (<http://news.day.az/politics/240773.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadguliyev meets with his Greek counterpart Spyros Kouvelis in Saloniki to discuss energy issues (<http://news.day.az/economy/240830.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev, together with his Uzbek counterpart Kabul Berdiyev, visits the Heydar Aliyev Azerbaijan National Cultural Center in Tashkent (<http://news.day.az/politics/240851.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia for a long time has been involved in illegal arms sales" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240708.html>).

Tahir Suleymanov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that hypocrisy and Armenian diplomacy have been "synonyms" for a long time (<http://news.day.az/politics/240518.html>).

The Azerbaijani diaspora in Kazakhstan calls on the OSCE to put pressure on Armenia so that Azerbaijani refugees from Karabakh and the other occupied territories can return home and enjoy their full rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/240787.html>).

The National Security Ministry conducts a course for a group of high-ranking Afghan officers (<http://news.day.az/politics/240891.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Moscow is working closely with its fellow Minsk Group co-chairs in advance of the OSCE Summit in Astana but that he is not in a position to say whether there will be a meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents or what progress toward a resolution of the Karabakh conflict that session will have (<http://news.day.az/politics/240870.html>).

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut says that "for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Ilham Aliyev and Serzh Sargsyan, must meet on a regular basis" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240807.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, who will serve as chairman-in-office of the OSCE beginning in January 2011, says that resolution of drawn out conflicts will be "one of the priorities" of his chairmanship (<http://news.day.az/politics/240759.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iranian ambassador to Baku, says that the countries of the Caspian region must solve their own problems and strengthen themselves in order that outside powers take them seriously (<http://news.day.az/politics/240904.html>).

Michal Labenda, Polish ambassador to Baku, says that "Azerbaijan remains a priority partner of Poland" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240752.html>).

The Observer Mission of the Commonwealth of Independent States releases its final report on the November 7 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan which concludes that the elections met all international norms (<http://news.day.az/politics/240856.html>).

29 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that "the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan never was and never will be subject to discussion" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240748.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Craig Kennedy, president of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/240679.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev names Nadir Huseynov a deputy foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/240644.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Vagif Sadykhov ambassador to Italy (<http://news.day.az/politics/240644.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign affairs department of the President's Office, says that the reports about conversations between President Ilham Aliyev and US officials are false (<http://news.day.az/politics/240641.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov speaks by telephone with Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/240627.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a cooperation agreement for 2011 with his Uzbek counterpart Kabil Berdiyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/240551.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev calls for fundamental legal and institutional changes in the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/240715.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that she expects the Armenian president to attend the OSCE summit lest he and his country be further isolated (<http://news.day.az/politics/240347.html>).

Emil Karimov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Bulgaria, presents his letters of credence to the president of that country, Georgi Parvanov (<http://news.day.az/politics/240678.html>).

The State Committee for Work with the Azerbaijanis Living Abroad is planning for the creation of a Congress of Azerbaijani Youth of the World (<http://news.day.az/politics/240566.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, receives the American and Russian co-chairs of that group and his personal

representative to the Minsk Group, Andrzej Kasprzyk (<http://news.day.az/politics/240716.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office says that the upcoming OSCE summit "will give a boost to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240655.html>).

Igor Popov, Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, meets with Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, to discuss the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/240569.html>).

Petros Efthymiou, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, says that "the time has come" to make the OSCE more politically effective, especially on issues such as longstanding conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/240637.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/240618.html>).

Herbert Salber, director of the OSCE conflict prevention center, says that the OSCE summit in Astana will give a positive impulse to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/240548.html>).

Birgen Keles, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that she does "not expect anything from the OSCE summit in Kazakhstan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240286.html>).

28 November

The First World Congress of Azerbaijani Youth takes place in Frankfurt. Among the Azerbaijani leaders speaking to the delegates are Leyla Aliyeva, the president of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Russia, Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov, Head of the Social-Political Department of the President's Office, Ali Hasanov, and a large group of Azerbaijani ambassadors and consuls general from around the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/240447.html>).

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut says that the resolution of the Karabakh conflict requires a constructive approach from all sides (<http://news.day.az/politics/240474.html>).

Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that it is too soon to say whether there will be a meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents at the OSCE summit in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/240503.html>).

27 November

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/240451.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Canada, speaks to a gathering of deputies of the Province of Ontario (<http://news.day.az/politics/240363.html>).

Fazail Ibrahimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "leading personalities of Armenia may be involved in the financial scandal in the US" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240234.html>).

Ulvi Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that in Astana may begin "the process of forcing Armenia to peace" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240202.html>).

Igor Popov, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that meetings of the co-chairs with Armenian and Azerbaijani officials set the stage for further progress in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/240399.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, the honorary president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, is no longer fulfilling the position of special representative of that body on the Karabakh and Georgian conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/240448.html>).

26 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives HRH Prince Andrew, the Duke of York (<http://news.day.az/politics/240353.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Montenegrin Foreign Minister Milan Roćen (<http://news.day.az/politics/240300.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Peter Semneby, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/240350.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Montenegrin counterpart Milan Roćen sign an accord eliminating visa requirements for diplomats and others holding official passports from their two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/240301.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev takes part in the Black Sea Economic Forum (<http://news.day.az/economy/240360.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "in the event of war, the Armenian armed forces will attack one another" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240034.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that she expects the Armenian president to show enough "good sense" to come to the OSCE summit in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/240144.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia always chooses not to show up when negotiations become the most difficult (<http://news.day.az/politics/240005.html>).

Javid Huseynov, the general director of the Azerbaijani-American Council, says that "with the occupation of Azerbaijani lands, the appetite of Armenian irredentism grows" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240073.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia can ultimately involve "completely unexpected problems" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240172.html>).

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko says that his country is discussing with Azerbaijan and Venezuela the formation of a joint logistical company (<http://news.day.az/economy/240325.html>).

Bernard Fassier, French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says he has no information as to whether the Armenian president will be at the Astana summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/240288.html>).

Robert Simmons, special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that "the doors of NATO are open for new members, including Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240260.html>).

25 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/240159.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkmenistan Deputy Prime Minister Khydyr Saparliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/240124.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister Waldemar Pawlak (<http://news.day.az/politics/239998.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the President's Office, says that the OSCE "must increase pressure on Armenia" in order to resolve the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/240152.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijani ambassador in Kyiv, receives a delegation of members of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Crimea (<http://news.day.az/politics/240045.html>).

Musa Gasymlı, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that time has come to put Armenia in its place (<http://news.day.az/politics/240036.html>).

Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan announce at the conclusion of the second session of the Azerbaijani-Turkmenistan joint inter-governmental commission that they will jointly monitor the world energy markets (<http://news.day.az/economy/240235.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and the Institute of the Foreign Service of Argentina sign a cooperation memorandum (<http://news.day.az/politics/240085.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam, expresses his gratitude to the government of the Turkish province of Sivas for its help with Azerbaijani hajis who were in an accident there (<http://news.day.az/society/240069.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says that "without a peaceful and secure resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is impossible to say that we live in a single and free Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240086.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that it is currently impossible to talk about what will be the results of the OSCE summit as far as the Karabakh conflict is concerned (<http://news.day.az/politics/240139.html>).

Ruhi Achykgez, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "Armenia has made its aggressiveness more harsh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239865.html>).

24 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister Waldemar Pawlak (<http://news.day.az/politics/239893.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Kamil Khasiyev ambassador to Croatia (<http://news.day.az/politics/239976.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev is named "Man of the Year" by the Romanian journal, *Balkanii si Europa* (<http://news.day.az/politics/239892.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs a cooperation agreement that calls for political consultations with the Argentine deputy foreign minister Alberto Pedro d'Alotto (<http://news.day.az/politics/239968.html>). Argentine deputy foreign minister d'Alotto in turn calls for a just and lasting resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/239940.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the President's Office, says that Baku "expects that the OSCE will take a more decisive position" on the Karabakh conflict in order to bring about its resolution (<http://news.day.az/politics/239969.html>).

Altay Efendiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Spain, says that bilateral relations are developing favorably (<http://news.day.az/politics/239830.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the occupation of Azerbaijani lands is a deeply immoral action" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239777.html>). He adds that the possibility of progress at Astana "depends on the position of Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239804.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov receives Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Alberto Pedro d'Alotto, as well as Shusuko Watanabe, Japanese ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/239938.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev says that "relations between Azerbaijan and Poland have reached a new level" (<http://news.day.az/economy/239864.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov speaks to an international conference of justice officials in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/240718.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov receives the three Minsk Group co-chairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/239977.html>).

Andrey Chupov, a representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency, says that his organization will help Azerbaijan to open a Center of Radiation Technologies at the Baku Institute of Radiation (<http://news.day.az/society/239899.html>).

23 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives former German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (<http://news.day.az/politics/239786.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov announces an agreement on cooperation with Belarus in this area for 2011-2013 (<http://news.day.az/economy/239762.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Michal Labenda, Poland's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/239799.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, discusses bilateral ties with Ecuador's deputy foreign minister, Kintto Lucas (<http://news.day.az/politics/239628.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the declaration adopted at the NATO summit in Lisbon "strengthens the position of Azerbaijan" on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/239798.html>).

Mario Baldi, Italian ambassador to Baku, says that the partnership relations between Azerbaijan and NATO are useful for Baku given its complicated neighborhood (<http://news.day.az/politics/239748.html>).

22 November

President Ilham Aliyev speaks by telephone with Syrian President Bashar Asad (<http://news.day.az/politics/239611.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/239500.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Armenian and Russian counterparts, Edvard Nalbandyan and Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/239607.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Lisbon (<http://news.day.az/politics/239549.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs an agreement with his Portuguese counterpart Luis Amado eliminating a visa requirement for diplomats and others carrying official passports (<http://news.day.az/politics/239575.html>).

Azerbaijan's permanent representation to NATO says that the Lisbon Summit declaration "yet again affirms [the alliance's] support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239620.html>).

The Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry says that Armenia's "total war" against Azerbaijan continues through the use of "ecological" methods (<http://news.day.az/politics/239553.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that "we expect a lot from the OSCE summit concerning the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239423.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the recent declarations of the Armenian president are "hysterical" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239173.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says "we will give help in everything to fraternal Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239497.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov says that "the Caspian is a unique water resource, for whose fate all the countries of the region are responsible" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239512.html>).

Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet says that it is important for the European Union to call on Russia to take a more active stand on resolving the conflicts in Transdnestrria and Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/239619.html>).

20 November

President Ilham Aliyev takes part in the NATO summit in Portugal (<http://news.day.az/politics/239097.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the OSCE summit in Astana should characterize Armenia as an aggressor (<http://news.day.az/politics/239350.html>).

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, secretary general of NATO, says that he does "not think that NATO can play a definite role in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239248.html>).

19 November

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, visits Guyana and meets that country's foreign minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett (<http://news.day.az/politics/239034.html>).

Azerbaijani and Greek officials reach agreement on the final version of a draft inter-governmental agreement on water transport (<http://news.day.az/economy/239158.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements by the president of Armenia are intended to lead to a breakdown in negotiations on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/238981.html>).

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko calls on Azerbaijan to participate in swap oil deals (<http://news.day.az/economy/239143.html>).

The US Department of State calls on the sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "to remain in dialogue and to avoid rhetoric which can increase tension" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239033.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that the United States and its European Union partners are working on expanding cooperation with suppliers of natural gas to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/239219.html>).

NATO names James Appathurai to be the alliance's special representative for Central Asia and the South Caucasus, in place of Robert Simmons who has been in that position for seven years (<http://news.day.az/politics/239110.html>).

The UN Committee on Social and Humanitarian Issues and Cultural Questions adopts an Azerbaijani resolution on missing persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/239036.html>).

18 November

President Ilham Aliyev says, that "at the bilateral level, affairs between Azerbaijan and Russia are going well." His comments came following his meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238987.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev and says that "relations [between the two countries] are developing very dynamically, successfully and positively" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239028.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov and says that bilateral relations are developing "successfully" (<http://news.day.az/politics/239023.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Baku as part of the Caspian summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/238851.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad meet in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238957.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov and his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad meet in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238951.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus receives Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (<http://news.day.az/politics/238970.html>).

Sports and Youth Minister Azad Rahimov receives his Lebanese counterpart Ali Huseyn Abdullah (<http://news.day.az/society/238932.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, says that "the US can and should do much more to put pressure on Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/238918.html>).

Ali Huseynov, chairman of the Milli Majlis legal policy and state construction committee, attends an international conference on administrative law in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/238906.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the probability of the renewal of military actions in Karabakh is very high" (<http://news.day.az/politics/238353.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko says that he hopes that a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict will lead to "flourishing and stability" in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/238994.html>).

Mehmet Hanifi Alyr, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that it is "unrealistic" to think that peace in the South Caucasus can be achieved without Turkish participation (<http://news.day.az/politics/238356.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that if outside pressure on the South Caucasus ends, then the Karabakh conflict can be resolved (<http://news.day.az/politics/238858.html>).

The Turkmenistan government says that "the Caspian Summit in Baku is called upon to give a new dynamism to negotiations about the Caspian" (<http://news.day.az/politics/238843.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Azerbaijan, says that infrastructure for the transportation of gas from the Caspian basin to Europe in the second phase of the development of the Shah Deniz field should be ready by 2016-2017 (<http://news.day.az/economy/238968.html>).

17 November

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives her Iranian counterpart Azam as-Saadat Farahi (<http://news.day.az/politics/238817.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (<http://news.day.az/politics/238823.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent Armenian military exercises in the occupied territories do not "by themselves" mean anything (<http://news.day.az/politics/238729.html>).

Sergey Ryabkov, Russian deputy foreign minister, says that Moscow hopes to sign an agreement on the Caspian Sea among the five littoral states at the Baku summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/238727.html>).

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin confirms Vice Prime Minister and Presidential Plenipotentiary to the North Caucasus Federal District Aleksandr Khloponin as the Russian co-chair on the inter-governmental commission on economic cooperation between Russia and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/238812.html>).

16 November

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijani permanent representative to the United Nations, meets in Belize with that country's foreign minister Wilfred Erlington (<http://news.day.az/politics/238623.html>).

Ermukhamet Ertysbayev, political advisor to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, says that he has "the impression" that there is forward progress on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/238707.html>).

Note to Readers

The editors of "Azerbaijan in the World" hope that you find it useful and encourage you to submit your comments and articles via email (adabiweekly@ada.edu.az). The materials it contains reflect the personal views of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.