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School of International Affairs and Business

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KARABAKH DISPUTE RESURFACES AFTER WORLD WAR II

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The Karabakh conflict has its roots in Soviet times, the result both of Stalin's decision to draw the borders in the Caucasus the way that he did and of Armenia's efforts to change them and Soviet leadership's occasional willingness to appear open to such changes. Those roots are important now not only because they inform how many in the region view the current standoff, but also because they help explain many of the deeply held suspicions about any resolution of the conflict between independent Azerbaijan and independent Armenia.

Between 1923 when Nagorno-Karabakh was established as an autonomous oblast within the Azerbaijan SSR and 1945, Azerbaijani historians argue, there was an apparent "moratorium" on discussions about the border between Azerbaijan and the Armenian SSR. However, shortly after the end of World War II, the archives show, the leaders of Communist Armenia re-opened the debate in ways that suggested the previous two decades of relative quiet was entirely provisional from the point of view of Yerevan. [1]

In November 1945, Grigory Arutinov, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Armenian SSR, sent a telegram to Georgy Malenkov, secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, arguing that Moscow should transfer Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan to Armenia. This letter followed an earlier one at the end of October 1945, which had prompted Soviet leader Joseph Stalin to note that making such transfers was difficult and to ask whether Arutinov had asked the Azerbaijani Communist leaders about it, something Arutinov of course had to acknowledge he had not done.

But that doesn't mean, Azerbaijani historians say, that Arutinov did not have good reason to think that Moscow might be open to his unilateral suggestion. On the one hand, the Soviet government had denounced its 1925 friendship treaty with Turkey in March 1925, thereby appearing to open the way to territorial claims abroad. And on the other, Arutinov almost certainly believed he could count on support in Moscow from Anastas Mikoyan. Indeed, one Armenian researcher, Ruben Angaladyan, Baku historian say, has concluded that, "Arutinov could not have taken such a step without talking to Mikoyan. One should not forget," the Armenian researcher added, that Arutinov and Mikoyan had family ties: Arutinov's daughter was the husband of Mikoyan's son.

But Arutinov may have had other reasons to believe he would be successful in his request. According to longtime CPRU propagandist Karent Brutents, there are unconfirmed reports that there were discussions in 1945 involving Stalin and his secret police chief Lavrenty Beriya in which the idea of a grand "combined" swap of territories—Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, Daghestan to Azerbaijan, and Sochi to Georgia" was raised. Such discussions might have been part of Beriya's own efforts to appeal to the non-Russians in 1950-53 and certainly would help explain some of the charges brought against him by the post-Stalin leadership.

M.G. Seidov, who in the late 1940s was a secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, recalled in his memoirs that, "in one of the last days of 1945," the first secretary of the CP of Azerbaijan, Mir Jafar Bagirov encountered Mikoyan and Beriya outside of Stalin's office. "They both asserted, Seidov wrote, that, "the issue regarding Southern Azerbaijan [in Iran] had already been resolved and soon the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR would be significantly increased. Possibly as a joke but possibly in all seriousness, both expressed the hope," Seidov said, "that Bagirov would possibly now be more generous and agree to hand over Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and several regions in the north of the republic (Belokan, Zagatala, and others) to Georgia." Bagirov responded, according to Seidov, that, "it was still too soon to think about this."

Whatever the case, Bagirov and the Azerbaijani leadership prepared in response to Arutinov's proposal to Moscow a detailed history of the Karabakh region. Bagirov then made a counter-proposal: He expressed a willingness to transfer Karabakh to Armenia, excluding only the Shusha district which was overwhelmingly ethnically

Azerbaijani, if Yerevan would hand over to Azerbaijan the Azizbekov, Vedino and Karablar districts, then within the Armenian SSR, to Azerbaijan.

Arutinov then dropped the matter, at least at the level of exchanges with Moscow. But lower-level Armenia officials continued the campaign, Azerbaijani historians have found. In August 1946, for example, the Azerbaijan SSR state security ministry determined that the predominantly Armenian branch of the Azerbaijani Writers Union in Karabakh was conducting "a most active role" in spreading anti-Azerbaijani propaganda. B. Dzhanyan, the head of that union branch, for example, said Karabakh should be handed over to Armenia. In addition, ethnic Armenians in Armenian higher schools in the region and in Yerevan were promoting the same idea.

Moreover, in early 1946, Yerevan's *Armengiz* publishing house issued a book of essays by Marietta Shaginyan, in which she described the ethnic Azerbaijanis of Karabakh as "backward" and "crude" and said that Azerbaijani control of the region had led to its degradation economically and culturally. Not surprisingly, officials and scholars in Azerbaijan were furious. Bagirov sent a letter to Andrey Zhdanov, secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party in Moscow. As a result, Shaginyan's book was banned, and she herself had to acknowledge that she had made errors in describing Azerbaijanis.

But even that case did not end the matter. In the fall of 1947, Arutinov again raised the Karabakh issue, this time in terms of the need for land to resettle Armenians returning from abroad. Moscow—and in this case, Stalin—agreed to a deportation of ethnic Azerbaijanis from parts of Armenia, but the Soviet leadership was unwilling to redraw the borders and transfer Karabakh to Armenia. Arutinov's failure meant that he did not raise the issue again, at least until after the death of the Soviet dictator.
[2]

References

Savranskaya, Svetlana and Vladislav Zubok (1999) "Cold War in the Caucasus: Notes and Documents from a Conference," *Cold War International History Project Bulletin* 14/15, available at http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/f-research_notes.pdf (accessed 29 May 2012).

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/333427.html> (accessed 29 May 2012).

[2] For more on this issue, see Savranskaya & Zubok (1999).

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

Part V (B). Azerbaijan's Territorial Gifts to Armenia

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In the first days of December, the *Revkom* formed in Dilizhan did not make an attempt to move toward Erivan before the results of the Turkish-Armenian negotiations in Gumri were announced. Despite the collapse of the government structures of Armenia, this *Revkom* preferred a wait and see tactic. Having only a small number of armed troops, Dro considered appropriate the appearance of the *Revkom* in Erivan only on December 3, that is, on the day after the expected signing of the peace treaty in Gumri. Without having waited for the publication of the conditions of the treaty, B. Legran hurried to declare in the name of Soviet Russia the recognition of Soviet Armenia. The territory of Armenia as recognized by Russia included Erivan gubernia, a part of Kazakh district as defined by the treaty of August 10, 1920, and a part of Tiflis gubernia seized by Armenia before the Turkish advance. [1] B. Legran informed Chicherin about the need before December 3 to refrain from the advance of the formations of the Red Army into the interior regions of Armenia. Dro was to take measure so that Soviet forces would not meet the resistance of the Erivan government and a number of military units. [2] G. Ordzhonikidze explained the position of B. Legran by saying that the Soviet representative had promised too much to the old Armenian government. [3] At the same time, the command of the Kazakh group of the Red Army was ordered not to advance into Armenia until the political situation was clarified. [4]

On December 2, 1920, G. Ordzhonikidze reported to V. Lenin and I. Stalin that Soviet power had already been declared in Erivan, that the old government had been disbanded, and that all power before the arrival of the *Revkom* had been transferred into the hands of the military command under Dro. The order was given for the army to pass over to the side of the *Revkom*, which was still in Dilizhan and come to Erivan the following day. The *Revkom* already received greetings from Kazym Karabekir-pasha. "A comrade arriving today from Aleksandropol [Gumri] reports that the attitude among the Kemalists forces is to the highest degree friendly toward us, that the forces wear red badges and consider themselves red army men. Azerbaijan already declared yesterday in favor of Soviet Armenia the transfer of Nakhchivan, Zangazur, and Nagorno-Karabakh." [5] One should note that in this telegram, G. Ordzhonikidze on his own adds about the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, although the documents of the session of the Political and Organizational Bureaus of the AKP (b) of November 30, 1920, to which he refers, there was no reference to this, only about the conduct of a referendum in this oblast of Azerbaijan. Precisely this text of a telegram falsified by G. Ordzhonikidze was published by I. Stalin in *Pravda* on December 4. On the basis of this distorted telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze, an article by I. Stalin devoted to the proclamation of Soviet power in Armenia was published on the same day in the same newspaper. Thus is the background history of the intentional and, as further events show, provocateur 'editorial correction' of the Declaration of N. Narimanov, the chairman of the *Azrevkom*, on December 1, 1920 by G. Ordzhonikidze and I. Stalin.

Kazim Karabekir-pasha sent an analogous telegram to G. Chichern. He wrote: "I happily heard about the arrival of red forces in Dilizhan. In the name of fraternal Turkey which is allied to you, I welcome your arrival in Dilizhan and wish our victory over imperialism in the name of the well-being and happiness of the toiling proletariat." [6] Inspired by political support from Turkey as contained in the

greetings of Kazym-pasha and the well known Declaration of the *Azrevkom*, the leaders of the *Armrevkom*, S. Kasyan and A. Nuridzhanyan (Avis) arrived on December 4 as victors in Erivan, the capital of Armenia which had recently been defeated by the Turkish Army. A day later, the Red Army entered the city. [7]

On December 2, 1920, a peace treaty between Armenia and Turkey was signed in Gumri, a document that has passed into history as the Aleksandropol Treaty. In order to avoid misunderstandings, on this same day Kazym-pasha asked Budu Mdivani that Russian forces located nearby [in Nakhchivan] not cross the line of the front between the Araz station, where Turkish units were dislocated, and the city of Alagyoz. [8] This was done so that talks in Gumri and the signing of the peace treaty would take place in a calm situation. The first paragraph of the treaty confirmed that the war between Armenia and Turkey was at an end, while the second paragraph defined the borderline between the two states.

According to this paragraph, Nakhchivan, Sharur and Shakhtakhty, the districts to the south of the mountains of Kuku and Khamasur, the village of Gurdgulag, the Saat mountain, the village of Arpachay, the mountain of Gamarli, the mountain of Saray-bulag, Ararat station, and the territory to the south of the place where the Karasu river joins the Araz remain outside the control of Armenia. These regions provisionally remained under the protection of Turkey, and as a result, Armenia did not have the right to interfere in the expression of the will of the population by plebiscite regardless of what form the new administration takes. The final establishment of the border was to be carried on locally by a mixed commission from both sides within two weeks after the signing of the treaty. The third paragraph of the treaty defined the issues of the referendum, and the fourth concerned the numbers of the army, the gendarmerie, and the border forces of Armenia and also the amount of military equipment.

According to the fifth paragraph, Armenia agreed to accept the Political representative of Turkey who was to come to Erivan and carry out an inspection as to how the above conditions were fulfilled. From its side, the Government of the Grand National Council of Turkey undertook to offer Armenia its military assistance if this was required as a result of an external or internal threat to security and when a request for it came from Armenia. The sixth and seventh paragraphs concerned refugees, and the eighth confirmed that the sides would refrain from any demands for revenge. The ninth paragraph expressed the sincere effort of Turkey to provide assistance to the government of Armenia in the development and strengthening of its authority. In the 10th paragraph, the Armenian government agreed to consider annulled the Sevres Treaty which had been categorically rejected by the government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The government of Armenia also undertook the obligation to recall from Europe and America its delegations, which the Entente had made into tools for its own goals. In the 11th paragraph, the government of Armenia undertook the obligation to guarantee the rights of the Muslim population on the territory of the republic, their religious and cultural development and not to block the free election of muftis and a sheikh-ul-Islam. In paragraph 12, Armenia abandoned all rights to transit payments concerning goods being carried from Turkey to Azerbaijan, Persia, Georgia and back. In its turn, the government of Turkey undertook to offer Armenia free transit to Persia and Maku through Sharur-Nakhchivan-Shakhtakhty and Dzulfu. According to paragraph 13, the government of Turkey without violating the rights extended to Armenia by the treaty, was to have the right to undertake military measures on the territory of the Republic of Armenia. In paragraph 14, the government of Armenia annulled all

treaties, which had been concluded at the expense of Turkey. Paragraphs 15, 16, and 17 regulated trade, post, telegraph, telephonic, consular, the exchange of prisoners of war and other issues. And paragraph 18 established that the treaty was to be ratified within one month. [9]

The main content of the Aleksandropol treaty and in particular its provisions about borders were already reported to G. Ordzhonikidze in Baku by December 3. However, under the pressure of Soviet Russia, the Aleksandropol treaty was not recognized by the Armenian communist powers and the Soviet government. As soon as the treaty was signed, I. Stalin immediately instructed all responsible officials in the Caucasus to stop supplying arms to the Turks. [10]

Meanwhile, O. Silin, the representative of Soviet Russia in Erivan; and the Dro government, which was still in the formation process, signed on December 2, 1920, a military-political agreement in order to place before the Turks a *fait accompli*. According to the third paragraph of this agreement, Russia recognized the former Erivan gubernia, including the Zangazur district, as a constituent part of the territory of Armenia, as a result of which Azerbaijan was cut off from Nakhchivan and consequently from Turkey. On this same day, V. Lenin, the chairman of the *Sovnarkom* of Russia, sent a telegram of greetings to S. Kasyan, the chairman of the *Armrevkom*. According to the third paragraph of this agreement, Russia recognizes the former Erivan gubernia, including Zangezour district, as a constituent part of the territory of Armenia, as a result of which Azerbaijan was cut off from Nakhichevan and at the same time from Turkey. On this same day, V. Lenin, the chairman of the *Sovnarkom* of Russia, sent a telegram of greetings to S. Kasyan, the chairman of the *Armrevkom*, in which he expressed the hope that the latter would devote all his efforts to the restoration of fraternal cooperation of the toilers of Armenia, Turkey and Azerbaijan. However, the very first step of the young Soviet government of Armenia was expressed in a request to G. Chicherin not to recognize the Aleksandropol treaty. [11] On December 10, T. Bekzadyan, the commissar of international affairs of Soviet Armenia appealed to Turkish foreign minister Ahmet Mukhtar-bey and Eastern Front commander Kazym Karabekir-pasha to denounce the Aleksandropol treaty. In his turn, Ahmet Mukhtar-bey called on the Armenian communist government to join the treaty signed by the Dashnaks.

In the first days of December 1920, the commissariat of international affairs of Soviet Russia, still not in complete possession of information about the processes taking place around Armenia, nonetheless presented to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) instructions on the Turkish question, which were confirmed on December 4. The latter read that, "if we do not extend diplomatic assistance to Soviet Armenia, this will disappoint the supporters of Sovietism everywhere. We unfortunately do not yet know what the Turkish conditions for peace are. Mdivani must contain the Turks and mollify their demands relative to Armenia. He must also restrain them from an attack on Georgia in view of the effect that this would have on the Entente, even more after the sovietization of Armenia. The latter forces us to be especially careful in relation to the Entente. Mdivani could ask for this indirectly and say to the Turks that for a further attack the current moment is not suitable, that taking that step is not timely. The Turks expect from us further assistance in arms and gold, and we thus have a powerful means of influencing them. It is clear that they will not receive the arms and money they want from the Entente, at least in sufficient quantities. We could promise the Turks a renewal of our assistance if they withdraw from Armenia. One must keep in mind that Kars is the key to Baku. When we conceded Kars at Brest, military specialists explained to us that this elevated

place is needed for the defense of Tiflis. In the current situation, when it is possible to expect the sovietization of Georgia in a relatively short time and when the future orientation of Treaty is a major question, it is necessary to proceed with these reflections in mind. A treaty with the Turks must be concluded, but without provisions that would interfere with our agreement with England. One must not mention, especially on paper, anything about assistance to the Turks. A written treaty can only include general provisions about friendly relations. The independence of Armenia must be guaranteed so that we must as before insist on the definition of borders by a mixed commission including ourselves. It is necessary to guarantee the independence of Georgia, but not the inviolability of its current borders, for there are disputed territories within Georgia on which Turkey has claims and which could be in the course of future events conceded to it. The independence of a certain part of Turkish Armenia ought as before to be sought, but not in the form of an ultimatum, lest this be an obstacle to fraternal relations with the Turks.” [12] In speaking about disputed territories in Georgia, the Soviet side had in mind Akhaltsykh and Akhalkalak. G. Chicherin on December 10 sent an instruction to the Soviet mission in Armenia, in which he said that, “if the Turks try to occupy the disputed districts of Georgia, namely Akhaltsykh and Akhalkalak, we will not respond. We will only insist that they do not advance further, but do not tell them this in advance for the initiative must come from them and not from us.” [13]

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

Notes

[1] Telegram of B. Legran to G. Ordzhonikidze, 2 December 1920, *Russian State Archive of Social-Political History* (hereafter RSASPH), f. 85, op. 14, d. 33, l.16.

[2] Telegram of B. Legran to G. Chicherin, 30 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.64, op.1, d.21, l.264.

[3] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to V. Lenin, 8 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.5, op.1, d.2178, l.35.

[4] Telegram of Bobrishchev to the command of the Kazakh Group of the Red Army, 30 November 1920, *RSASPH*, f.64, op.1, d.21, l.269.

[5] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to V. Lenin and I. Stalin, 2 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.14, d.33, l.20.

[6] Telegram of greetings from K. Karabekir-pasha to G. Chicherin, December 1920, *Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Federation* (hereafter FPA RF), f.04, op.39, p.232, d.52987, l.61.

[7] Letter of B. Legran to G. Chicherin, 22 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.5, op.1, d.2127, l.3.

[8] Telegram of P. Mdivani, 3 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.14, d.50, l.1.

[9] Peace Treaty between Turkey and Armenia, Gumri, 2 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.14, d.28, l.5-7.

[10] Telegram of S. Kamenev to G. Ordzhonikidze, 5 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.85, op.3/s, d.7, l.1.

[11] Telegram of T. Bekzadyan to G. Chicherin, 12 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.5, op.1, d.2178, l.40.

[12] Letter of G. Chicherin to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 3 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f.04, op.39, p.232, d.53001, l.6.

[13] Instruction of G. Chicherin to the Soviet mission in Erivan, transmitted by radio, 10 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f.64, op.1, d.21, l.279.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev tells the NATO summit in Chicago that, "Azerbaijan is one of the most active members of the alliance in guaranteeing peace and security in Afghanistan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333490.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says in an article published in *The Wall Street Journal* that Eurovision will attract an enormous television audience is a source of great pride among Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/334030.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku has repeatedly said that it wants friendly relations with Iran at all levels, "but at the same time, we have said that the Iranian side must be careful in its relation to Azerbaijan, to its choice, to the will of the Azerbaijani people, to the state system, and to the foreign and domestic policy of Azerbaijan. Iran must react to the anti-Azerbaijani appeals of its religious leaders" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334302.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammadov says that Ashgabat views Azerbaijan as "a sincere friend and reliable partner, with common positions on many important issues of regional and global policy and devotes great importance to the development of traditionally friendly Turkmen-Azerbaijani relations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335316.html>).

Konstantin Kosachev, Russia's special representative for CIS affairs, says that Russia considers most acceptable a solution to the Karabakh conflict, which "satisfies both sides" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335677.html>).

Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet says that, "the resolution of the Karabakh conflict must be based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/332867.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

31 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Konstantin Kosachev, special representative of Russia for CIS affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/335621.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Farhad Mammadov director of the Center for Strategic Research (<http://news.day.az/politics/335710.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Elshad Iskandarov chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations (<http://news.day.az/politics/335707.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that, "Azerbaijan considers the development of human capital, the gradual change of the thinking of people, and also the strengthening in society of all-European values to be the primary basis for the flourishing of the country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335648.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev visits his Bulgarian counterpart Anu Anguelov (<http://news.day.az/politics/335657.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan provided security "at a high level" during the Eurovision 2012 competition in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/335557.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku considers NGOs to be its partners (<http://news.day.az/politics/335592.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "fake" religious leaders in Iran have been trying to accuse Azerbaijan of crimes it has not committed (<http://news.day.az/politics/335583.html>).

Elkhan Polukhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pretoria, hosts a reception there on the occasion of Azerbaijan's Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335718.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Buenos Aires, says that Argentina plans to send a large trade delegation to Baku in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/335683.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kyiv, says that Baku is interested in a strong and "energy independent" Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/economy/335533.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Azerbaijan's development is having a negative impact on the internal situation of Iran because "citizens of Iran who cross the Azerbaijani border see the big difference and it seems to them that they have passed from hell to paradise" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335671.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says the pressure exerted on Azerbaijan during the Eurovision song competition reflects "the successes and development of our country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335712.html>).

Malahat Ibrahimgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that NGOs for women in the Turkic language countries intend to unite (<http://news.day.az/society/335550.html>).

The State Border Service says media reports about Iran's closing its border with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic "do not correspond with reality" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335638.html>).

Azerbaijani military personnel take part in NATO exercises in Macedonia (<http://news.day.az/politics/335554.html>).

Bulent Arinc, Turkey's deputy prime minister, says that the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway is a very important project that will contribute to the development of the entire region (<http://news.day.az/economy/335691.html>).

Zoran Vayovic, Serbia's ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan is a very safe place for Serbians and others (<http://news.day.az/politics/335680.html>).

Iran's Consulate General in Nakhchivan says that reports claiming that Tehran has closed the border with that republic do not correspond to reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/335553.html>).

NATO's Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Tallinn discusses the security of the Metzamor atomic power station in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/335661.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a French senator, says that Azerbaijan became "a remarkable master of the Eurovision 2012 song competition" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335635.html>).

30 May

President Ilham Aliyev completes a visit to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335485.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku has not recalled its ambassador from Damascus (<http://news.day.az/politics/335439.html>).

The Foreign Ministry announces that Baku has recalled Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, for consultations (<http://news.day.az/politics/335369.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will discuss the regional security issues, strategic partnership and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during her upcoming visit to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/335444.html>).

The Foreign Ministry launches a new website, www.mfa.gov.az (<http://news.day.az/politics/335459.html>).

The Ministry of National Security says it has successfully neutralized "a dangerous trans-national criminal armed group" that planned to carry out terrorist actions in Baku during the Eurovision competition (<http://news.day.az/society/335347.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, participates in the UN Forum on the Alliance of Civilizations in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/335187.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the current rulers of Armenia have "completely exhausted themselves and are at the verge of self-destruction" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335323.html>).

Namik Abbasov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tashkent, hosts a meeting in the Uzbek capital marking Azerbaijan's Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335456.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Kyiv, hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335328.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Vilnius, hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335327.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Riga hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic. Among those in attendance is former Latvian President Valdis Zatlers (<http://news.day.az/politics/335335.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Tallinn organizes a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/society/335270.html>).

Gudsi Osmanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in St. Petersburg, hosts a meeting in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335283.html>).

The National Aviation Academy is given the status of a regional training center by the International Air Traffic Association (<http://news.day.az/politics/335480.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict requires not only intergovernmental talks, but also "inter-religious dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335442.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that the leaders of various religions should create "a consolidated organization" to address current problems in the world (<http://news.day.az/society/335428.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammadov tells visiting Yagub Eyubov, Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister, that Ashgabat views Azerbaijan as "a sincere friend and reliable partner, with common positions on many important issues of regional and global policy and devotes great importance to the development of traditionally friendly Turkmen-Azerbaijani relations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335316.html>).

More than 50 members of the US Congress, state legislators, mayors and other US

dignitaries complete their visits to Azerbaijan following the end of the Eurovision 2012 song competition (<http://news.day.az/politics/335382.html>).

In honor of the Day of the Republic, officials in the US state of Connecticut raised the Azerbaijani flag over the state's assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/335304.html>).

Zhumakady Akeneyev, president of the Association of Oil Traders of Kyrgyzstan, says that Azerbaijan will provide oil to a Kyrgyz oil processing facility through a swap scheme (<http://news.day.az/economy/335411.html>).

29 May

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov visits Qatar (<http://news.day.az/society/335236.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says the resolution adopted by the European Parliament concerning human rights and democracy in Azerbaijan is "characterized by a lack of objectivity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335264.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the European Parliament's recent declaration about human rights in Azerbaijan gives "a serious basis" for reconsidering relations between Azerbaijan and that body (<http://news.day.az/politics/335160.html>).

The Milli Majlis approves a letter of protest against the resolution adopted by the European Parliament concerning human rights and democracy in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/335246.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that, "a number of international organizations have unleashed an anti-Azerbaijan campaign, but no one will force us to change from our path" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335156.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "practically nothing in Armenia has changed since the time of its exit from the Soviet Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335074.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, hosts a reception in the Russian capital in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335277.html>).

Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Berlin, hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335220.html>).

The Consulate General in Batumi hosts a reception on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335066.html>).

Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius says that expanding cooperation in the energy sector will "open new opportunities for the enterprises of Lithuania and Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334995.html>).

Grigory Karasin, Russian deputy foreign minister, says that Russia is "always glad of the successes of fraternal Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335181.html>).

Matthew Bryza, former US ambassador to Baku, says "the real Azerbaijan is multifaceted and the reporting of the Western press does not always present the full range" of the situation there. "The Eurovision competition in Baku gave a opportunity to see the country as it is" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335218.html>).

Egypt announces visa free travel for Azerbaijani tourists (<http://news.day.az/society/335192.html>).

28 May

President Ilham Aliyev leads Azerbaijan in commemorating the 94th anniversary of the foundation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/334957.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon protesting Armenia's decision to stage a military parade in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/335015.html>).

Vahdat Sultan-zade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Ashgabat, says that Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan are involved with a number of important political and economic initiatives (<http://news.day.az/politics/335057.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, says that Azerbaijan and Lithuania have "much in common" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335019.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Chisinau hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335062.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Tbilisi hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335043.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says time is working for Azerbaijan and that Azerbaijanis should be proud of this (<http://news.day.az/politics/334959.html>).

Gular Ahmadova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that calls for the drafting of a road map for regime change in Armenia are not serious (<http://news.day.az/politics/334958.html>).

Chingiz Ganizade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia's efforts to control public opinion on Facebook are "illegal" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334955.html>).

27 May

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva attend the finals of the Eurovision song competition in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/334933.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Eurovision has given Azerbaijan "the chance to demonstrate its potential" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334852.html>).

The Interior Ministry says that it has provided complete protection for the Eurovision

competition (<http://news.day.az/politics/334855.html>).

The legislatures of the US states of New Jersey, Illinois and Connecticut adopt resolutions on the occasion of Azerbaijan's Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/334914.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/334916.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Eurovision has been "a very important event for the country from a political, economic and international point of view" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334853.html>).

26 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Philippe Lefort, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/334802.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, sends a letter to Martin Schultz, chairman of the European Parliament, expressing regret and concern over the European Parliament's resolution on the state of human rights in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/334769.html>).

Hasan Hasanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Warsaw, hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic in the Polish capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/334830.html>).

Zakir Hashimov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Astana, hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic in the Kazakhstan capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/334826.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Islamabad hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic in the Pakistani capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/334825.html>).

The US Department of State says that Washington continues to support the Nabucco gas pipeline (<http://news.day.az/economy/334715.html>).

Members of the US Congress meet with faculty and students at the Azerbaijani State University of Languages (<http://news.day.az/politics/334752.html>).

Dannel Malloy, governor of the US state of Connecticut, says he supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/334788.html>).

Matthew Bryza, former US ambassador to Baku, says that the holding of the Eurovision song competition in Baku has allowed Azerbaijan to "become closer and better understood by ordinary European citizens who today have a mistaken idea about this country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334741.html>).

25 May

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva host an official reception devoted to the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/334670.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that the European Parliament's resolution on the state of human rights in Azerbaijan bears "an unserious and slanderous character" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334647.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the European Parliament's resolution on the state of human rights in Azerbaijan is "tendentious and impermissible" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334551.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Budapest, hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic in the Hungarian capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/334651.html>).

Rashad Mammadov, consul general of Azerbaijan in Aktau, organizes an exhibition in honor of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/334612.html>).

The State Border Service says that media reports about Iranian naval maneuvers near the Azerbaijani shore lack any basis in reality and are provocations (<http://news.day.az/politics/334592.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the European Parliament's resolution on Azerbaijan "harms bilateral ties" between the European Parliament and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/334668.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is "isolating itself" and therefore is not in a position to expand cooperation in the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/334468.html>).

Rovnag Abdullayev, president of SOCAR, signs an agreement with Saudi Prince Bander bin Abdallah bin Muhammed al Saud, under the terms of which Azerbaijan will participate in long-term oil projects in Saudi Arabia (<http://news.day.az/economy/334576.html>).

Luiz Almagro, Uruguay's foreign minister, tells Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Buenos Aires and Montevideo, that "Uruguay supports negotiations in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group and is a supporter of the peaceful resolution of the conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334515.html>).

Dervis Eroglu, president of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, says that, "the Azerbaijani people and the Turks of Northern Cyprus are fraternal peoples and therefore the Karabakh problem is our common pain" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334470.html>).

The Foreign Operations Sub-Committee of the US House of Representatives votes to provide financial assistance in 2013 to the victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/334655.html>).

24 May

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku "condemns the politicization of the Eurovision competition" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334292.html>).

The Foreign Ministry places the three French deputies who visited Nagorno-Karabakh without clearance from Baku on its black list (<http://news.day.az/politics/334398.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, leads an Azerbaijani parliamentary delegation to the Tallinn meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/333984.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the Eurovision competition in Baku is "an exclusively humanitarian event" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334337.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the economic situation in Armenia has reached catastrophic proportions (<http://news.day.az/politics/334227.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says any talk of developing relations with a country like Armenia, which occupies the territory of another is "illogical" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334226.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Sofia hosts a reception in honor of the Day of the Republic in the Bulgarian capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/334430.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Berlin issues a statement decrying the appearance in the German media of articles critical of Azerbaijan and pointing out that these articles are based on "mistaken and incomplete information" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334299.html>).

Azerbaijan assumes the six-month chairmanship of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/334330.html>).

The Baku Stock Market receives members of the Association of Brokers of Lithuania (<http://news.day.az/economy/334186.html>).

The Union of Writers of Azerbaijan issues a statement on the disappearance on May 2 of two young Azerbaijani writers in Iran (<http://news.day.az/society/334391.html>).

Shahin Ismayilov, president of the Union of Youth Student Organizations of Azerbaijan, says that "the baseless reports prepared by such international organizations as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are the main factor causing them to lose their authority" (<http://news.day.az/politics/334410.html>).

Elkhan Mammadov, secretary general of the Azerbaijani Football Association, attends the FIFA meeting in Budapest and says that Azerbaijan agrees to host together with Georgia the European football championship in 2020 (<http://news.day.az/sport/334408.html>).

Mikael Eriksson, Sweden's ambassador to Baku, says that the Eurovision song competition must not be used for political declarations (<http://news.day.az/politics/334291.html>).

Roland Noble, secretary general of Interpol, says that "Azerbaijan is one of the most

secure countries in the region, and its citizens and guests should be proud of this” (<http://news.day.az/politics/334221.html>).

Muhammed bin Abdul Aziz al Shehi, deputy economics minister of the United Arab Emirates, tells Azerbaijani Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev that Dubai will be opening a representation of its Trade and Industrial Chamber in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/334429.html>).

The US Department of State’s annual human rights report notes that Armenian separatists continue to control a large section of Azerbaijan’s Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjoining Azerbaijani regions (http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=186330).

The foreign relations commission of the Spanish parliament rejects a measure granting official recognition to “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/334367.html>).

Lincoln Chafee, governor of the US state of Rhode Island, issues a proclamation greeting the people of Azerbaijan on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/334277.html>).

23 May

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says in an article published in *The Wall Street Journal* that Eurovision will attract an enormous television audience is a source of great pride among Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/334030.html>).

Sports Minister Azad Rahimov says that Baku has learned from its mistakes in its earlier application to host the 2016 Olympics and has prepared a much better application for the 2020 games (<http://news.day.az/sport/334068.html>).

Farhad Abdullayev, chief justice of the Constitutional Court, takes part in the meeting of the International Congress of Constitutional Courts of Asian Countries in South Korea (<http://news.day.az/society/334024.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that, “certain circles in Iran are conducting baseless anti-Azerbaijani propaganda” (<http://news.day.az/politics/334201.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party and a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the campaign organized against Azerbaijan in the run-up to the Eurovision song competition in Baku has backfired on its authors (<http://news.day.az/politics/334173.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva and Gular Ahmadova, Milli Majlis deputies, take part in a meeting in the Georgian city of Marneuli devoted to the 20th anniversary of Shusha and Lachin by Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/334140.html>).

Faradzh Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty must not interfere in a possible war around Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/334097.html>).

Aytan Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is in a deep political crisis (<http://news.day.az/politics/334053.html>).

The Iranian authorities re-open the border crossings into Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (<http://news.day.az/society/334126.html>).

Azerbaijan's Foundation for the Support of Exports and Investment (AZPROMO) takes part in the wine festival in France's Burgundy region (<http://news.day.az/economy/334154.html>).

The US city of Miami, Florida, declares May 28 the Day of the Azerbaijani Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/334205.html>).

Reporters Without Borders, the international media watchdog organization, says that it is deeply concerned about the fate of two Azerbaijani poets, Farid Huseyn and Shahriyar Hajizade, in Iran (<http://news.day.az/society/334043.html>).

22 May

The Foreign Ministry welcomes the declaration of the NATO summit in Chicago on Nagorno-Karabakh as a confirmation of "the serious support" Azerbaijan has in the international community (<http://news.day.az/politics/333889.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the Iranian foreign ministry has not given a precise explanation for why it has recalled its ambassador to Baku beyond saying that he was recalled "for reasons of a religious character" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333878.html>).

Isfandiyar Vahabzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Minsk, says that Azerbaijan and Belarus are expanding their cooperation in machine-building (<http://news.day.az/economy/333963.html>).

The Milli Majlis "sharply condemns" the anti-Azerbaijani propaganda unleashed in Iran, and Mubariz Gurbanly, a deputy, "expressed regret that the Armenian lobby and certain Iranian circles have opposed the Eurovision session in Baku" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333856.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says Armenians are directing the anti-Azerbaijan actions in Iran (<http://news.day.az/society/333893.html>).

Malahat Ibrahimgizi, a Milli Majlis deputy, tells a meeting in honor of Turkish Ambassador Hulusi Kilic and his wife Gunai Kilic about the role of women in the social-political life of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/333948.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, was summoned to the Iranian foreign ministry where Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Aragci protested "the lack of respect for religious values" in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/333902.html>).

Yerevan media as a provocation falsely reports that the Azerbaijani parliamentary delegation in Armenia to take part in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization visited that country's monument to "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333848.html>).

Tehran recalls Mohammed Baqir Bahrami, its ambassador to Baku, for consultations (<http://news.day.az/politics/333814.html>).

Turkmenistan state media say that establishing a ferry between Turkmenbashi and Baku "deserves all possible support" (<http://news.day.az/economy/333792.html>).

21 May

President Ilham Aliyev tells the NATO summit in Chicago that, "Azerbaijan is one of the most active members of the alliance in guaranteeing peace and security in Afghanistan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333490.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Iran has always been envious of Baku and that Azerbaijan has repeatedly "demanded that Iran not interfere in the affairs of our secular state and said that we will not interfere in the affairs of religious Iran" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333625.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that NATO "is not demonstrating activity and political will in involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgian-Abkhaz conflicts in the South Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333655.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "Azerbaijan is guaranteeing the complete security of guests at the Eurovision 2012 song competition in Baku" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333616.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "certain circles are concerned by the cooperation which exists between Georgia and Azerbaijan" and are seeking to disrupt it (<http://news.day.az/politics/333623.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it, the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran and the consulate general in Tabriz are attempting to learn the fate of and provide protection for the two young Azerbaijani poets detained in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/333652.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan supports a good neighbor policy and "will never allow its territory to be used against its neighbors" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333640.html>).

Deputy Finance Minister Azar Bayramov says that the size of Azerbaijan's foreign debt equals 7.6 percent of its GDP and thus does not present any problem for Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/333584.html>).

Arif Valiyev, head of the State Committee on Statistics, signs a cooperation agreement with Aleksandr Surinov, is Russian opposite number (<http://news.day.az/politics/333693.html>).

Azerbaijanis in the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, and Germany organize demonstrations against Iranian involvement in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan and

in the violation of the rights of the 35 million Azerbaijanis living in Iran
(<http://news.day.az/politics/333730.html> and
<http://news.day.az/politics/333514.html>).

The NATO summit in Chicago calls on the sides of the conflicts in the South Caucasus and in Moldova to avoid steps, which would undermine security and stability in these regions (<http://news.day.az/politics/333612.html>).

Lithuania Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis says Vilnius supports the active involvement of the European Union in the South Caucasus
(<http://news.day.az/politics/333658.html>).

Sherzod Fayziyev, Uzbekistan's ambassador to Baku, says that "for Uzbekistan Azerbaijan is the key partner in the South Caucasus" and that it "devotes particular attention to strengthening all-around cooperation with it"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/333572.html>).

The Russian Central Bank says that Azerbaijanis living in the Russian Federation sent 967 million US dollars home during 2011
(<http://news.day.az/economy/333700.html>).

The Iranian city of Gorgan hosts the 13th summit of the International Council of Business Cooperation of the Countries of the Caspian Region
(<http://news.day.az/economy/333597.html>).

20 May

Azerbaijanis living in Denmark stage a protest in front of the Iranian embassy in Copenhagen against Tehran's efforts to destabilize Azerbaijan in advance of the Eurovision song competition (<http://news.day.az/politics/333514.html>).

19 May

The Foreign Ministry says that there are no disputes between Azerbaijan and Georgia
(<http://news.day.az/politics/333325.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to UN Secretary General Pan Gi-Moon about terrorist actions committed by Armenian terrorist groups (<http://news.day.az/politics/333321.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammadov tells Ziyafat Askarov, first deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, that, "Turkmenistan devotes great importance to strengthening and developing the traditional fraternal relations with neighboring countries, including Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333328.html>).

The US city of Portland, Maine, issues a statement reaffirming that Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/333353.html>).

18 May

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva attends the opening of the Afrovision art exhibit in Baku
(<http://news.day.az/politics/333092.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Georgia counterpart Grigol Vashadze to discuss the situation around the Udabno Monastery on the border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/333098.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the Azerbaijani embassy in Washington and Azerbaijani communities in the US have blocked efforts by the Armenian lobby to have the Rhode Island legislature give official recognition to the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333305.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan is "adequately" reacting to the anti-Azerbaijani actions now taking place in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/333311.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that responsibility for security during the Eurovision song competition in Baku lies not only on official agencies but also on every individual citizen of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/333298.html>).

Fuad Akhundov, a sector head in the Presidential Administration, says that Armenians have not been able to disprove research showing that the Armenian people arrived in the South Caucasus from elsewhere (<http://news.day.az/politics/333116.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan wants Europe to be a strategic and reliable partner and to change from its past approach to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/333290.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Work with Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, criticizes the ambassadors of Iran and Russia in Baku for failing to take part in measures on the 20th anniversary of the Armenian occupation of Lachin (<http://news.day.az/politics/333191.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Work with Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, says that former Russian defense minister Pavel Grachev provided the support the Armenian separatists needed to occupy Shusha and Lachin (<http://news.day.az/politics/333177.html>).

Bahar Muradova, deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijan is preparing a law on those missing in action in the Nagorno-Karabakh war (<http://news.day.az/politics/333229.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Yerevan meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Cooperation Organization provides an opportunity for Azerbaijan to make its case about Nagorno-Karabakh directly rather than indirectly (<http://news.day.az/politics/333275.html>).

Virginia Fox, a US congresswoman, delivers a speech on the 20th anniversary of the Armenian occupation of Shusha (<http://news.day.az/politics/333211.html>).

Greg Harper, a US congressman, says that Azerbaijan has "successfully realized its energy projects and received the profit from them" (<http://news.day.az/economy/333147.html>).

Frank Heinrich, a deputy of Germany's Bundestag, says that the media are a core part of democracy, but that statements about Azerbaijan in the German media are "the position only of these media and not of the German government and the German people" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333287.html>).

17 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of incoming Uzbekistan ambassador Sherzod Fayziyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/332988.html>).

The Ministry of National Security says it has destroyed a terrorist who was seeking to threaten the national interests and security of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/333007.html>).

The Ministry of National Security uncovers a group involved in smuggling narcotics from Iran through Azerbaijan to Russia (<http://news.day.az/society/333019.html>).

Fuad Akhundov, a sector head of the Presidential Administration and author of a two-volume work on Armenian falsifications, says he has the support of Russian specialists (<http://news.day.az/politics/332987.html>).

The Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus says that there is no basis for the concerns that some Iranian religious leaders have expressed about the state of Islam in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/333082.html>).

Azerbaijani organizations stage a mass protest in front of the Iranian embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/333028.html>).

Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet says that, "the resolution of the Karabakh conflict must be based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/332867.html>).

Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi visits a new Iranian gas field in the Caspian some 250 kilometers from the Azerbaijani shore (<http://news.day.az/economy/332970.html>).

Fikret Akchura, UN resident coordinator in Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijan "by its development serves as an example for other countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/333003.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Baku, says that the European Commission during the course of its analysis of the situation in Azerbaijan has taken note of "positive changes in the framework of realizing the Action Plan" of cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/332979.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Baku, says that the European Union wants to see progress in talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/332954.html>).

The Foreign Operations Sub-Committee of the US House of Representatives, under pressure from the Armenian lobby, votes to provide more than twice as much aid to Armenia as to Azerbaijan in 2013 (<http://news.day.az/politics/332974.html>).

Orange County in the US state of California proclaims May 28 to be the National Day of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/333064.html>).

16 May

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Moldovan President Nicolae Timofti during his work visit to Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/332519.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Kyrgyzstan counterpart Almazbek Atambayev in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/332519.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan is "one of the most secure countries in the world" in response to the US embassy in Baku's statement calling on American citizens attending the Eurovision 2012 song competition to be vigilant (<http://news.day.az/politics/332748.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Abbasov discusses the security of the Armenian Metzamor atomic power plant with Karsten Meyer, head of the IAEA's administration of internal control (<http://news.day.az/politics/332847.html>).

Asef Hajiyev and Mubariz Gurbanly, two Milli Majlis deputies, meet with Canadian parliamentarians in Ottawa (<http://news.day.az/politics/332877.html>).

Faig Ismayilov, head of the Organization for the Defense of Historical and Cultural Monuments in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan, presents his new book, *Lachin: Realities, Conclusions, and Historical Values* (<http://news.day.az/society/332754.html>).

Farasat Gurbanov, executive direction of the Presidential Administration's Council for State Support of NGOs, says that the Azerbaijani government has completed "about 100 projects" in the area of support for independent social organizations.

Vugar Aliyev, a section head in the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijani law "fully guarantees freedom of the press" in the country (<http://news.day.az/politics/332743.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Paris, speaks to a reception on the occasion of the 89th anniversary of the birth of Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/332817.html>).

The consulate general of Azerbaijan in Tabriz says it is following closely the case of two young Azerbaijani writers who have been detained there (<http://news.day.az/politics/332720.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World and the International Center of the Diaspora organize a protest in front of the Iranian embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/332764.html>).

Ali Ahmed Karti, foreign minister of Sudan, says that bilateral ties between his country and Azerbaijan have "over a long period of time remained good and constructive" (<http://news.day.az/politics/332699.html>).

Levent Ozgul, director of strategy planning in the Turkish government's BOTAS company, says Ankara is reaffirming its support of the Nabucco gas line project (<http://news.day.az/economy/332792.html>).

Faina Kirshenaum and Orit Zurets, two deputies of the Israeli Knesset, say there are many places in Azerbaijan where Israeli tourists could come (<http://news.day.az/economy/332695.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.