



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
School of International Affairs and Business

AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD
ADA Biweekly Newsletter

Vol. 5, No. 19
October 1, 2012

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**DIPLOMATS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE LIFE OF AZERBAIJAN,
PRESIDENT ALIYEV SAYS**

Speech by President Ilham Aliyev at the fourth meeting of
the heads of diplomatic service

Baku, 21 September 2012*

It is a wonderful and memorable day in the history of our country today. We are celebrating the opening of a new building of the Diplomatic Academy. At the same time, we are opening a traditional meeting with the Ambassadors.

The establishment of the Diplomatic Academy has been a significant event in the

history of our country. I am very pleased that the Academy has achieved rapid development in a short time and earned great authority in the country, region and the world. The activities of the Academy on training professional personnel are evident. I am sure the Academy will further expand its operations in the coming years. [And] that the young people studying here will continue to protect the national interests of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's foreign policy is a flexible, dynamic and rapidly developing one that brings our country great success. [And] the number of our Embassies in the world is growing fast. [...] But we should remember that our strategic course remains unchanged. Azerbaijan's foreign policy was defined by great leader Heydar Aliyev. Today, this strategic course is pursued in this and all other areas.

The main problem for our foreign policy is, of course, the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This is the main issue facing not only our foreign policy but the country as a whole. As you know, the issue has remained unresolved for many years, justice and international law are violated and this injustice continues.

Azerbaijan must do everything possible to resolve the issue. Diplomatic efforts must be stepped up. Other factors must also play a role in resolving this issue, and important steps are taken in this direction. If we look at the years of independence, we can see that the gap between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the 20 years has become even bigger. In subsequent years this gap will only grow, Azerbaijan's advantage will become even more visible.

Diplomatic efforts are continuing. Embassies work consistently in this direction. A growing number of countries are friends with Azerbaijan. International organizations have passed a sufficient number of fair resolutions, i.e. those securing our interests on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Four resolutions of the UN Security Council, OSCE decisions, resolutions of other international organizations—the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Non-Aligned Movement, NATO decisions. So the legal framework is wide, strong and indestructible. To resolve the conflict, it is first necessary to create strong legal framework.

I have repeatedly expressed my views on the historical aspect of the issue, given appropriate instructions, including those to our scientists, to publish books with substantive arguments on the historical aspect of the issue. Work in this direction is ongoing, our research and writings reflect the truth and are based on historical facts. The historical side of the issue is also very significant, because the Armenians through their Armenian lobby have been trying for many years to form an opinion in the world that Nagorno-Karabakh is supposedly an ancient Armenian land and that the Armenians had lived in this land for centuries. This is absolutely false and distorted information. We are exposing these lies and presenting the truth, while also strengthening the historical basis for a settlement.

As you know, Nagorno-Karabakh is native Azerbaijani land. Place names of all settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh are of Azerbaijani origin. The vast majority of names not only in Nagorno-Karabakh but also in modern Armenia have Azerbaijani origin. Our people lived and worked in this land for centuries and must continue to live there. We will achieve that.

Other aspects of the issue are also of great importance for the settlement. In particular, the economic ones. Today the gap between Armenia and Azerbaijan is quite large. Our economy is incomparably ahead. Our military spending alone is twice the entire budget of Armenia. Our economic opportunities are expanding. The number of our economic partners is increasing, our export potential is growing. The economy has become diversified, the first six months of this year show that growth in the non-oil sector exceeds 10 per cent.

Armenia is in a hopeless situation from an economic point of view. If there is no foreign aid or loans and donations from the diaspora, the Armenian economy will collapse. Even according to Yerevan's own statistics, the breakdown of Armenian exports has recently been disclosed. Armenia's internal resources of the country are running out. Its economy is falling apart. And its industry is paralyzed. Moreover, Armenia's demographic situation is desperate: some 100,000 people are leaving the country every year, and this process will not stop it as long as Armenia continues to make territorial claims on its neighbors.

Meanwhile, we are developing successfully. Azerbaijan's reputation in the world is growing. Our election to the UN Security Council is a historic victory. Indeed, I would say it is the biggest political and diplomatic victory in our history. It coincided with the 20th anniversary of our independence and highlights the successful development of our country. It also shows that we have dealt a major blow to the Armenians and foiled the Armenian lobby's attempts to create a false opinion about Azerbaijan. When we were elected to the Security Council, I said we would defend justice and international law. And from day one we have been faithful to these principles. Today, I constantly exchange views on the subject in meetings with my colleagues. Azerbaijan's fair and strong position is always emphasized.

Membership in the Security Council will give us the opportunity to give the world complete information about ourselves, introduce ourselves as a young, dynamic, modern and developing country. Of course, Armenia is helpless in the face of these victories. In fact, it admits defeat because diplomats know that Armenia also sought membership in the Security Council. But then, after weighing up all the circumstances, Armenia quietly withdrew from the race. It has to retreat in other races too. It can't compete with us.

We will increase our power. I repeat: historical, legal, economic factors reinforce our position. A growing number of countries want to be friends with us. I appreciate the role of embassies because we have made great progress in the bilateral format, especially in the last few years.

The demographic situation, in general, will determine a lot in the future. For some reason, this factor has not been taken into account as much as it should. But we can see that the opportunities, authority and the power of influence in many cases depend on the size of the population. We have a positive dynamic. I expressed my opinion on this matter at a Cabinet meeting. We must make sure that the Azerbaijani population grows even faster. If there are still people in the Armenian government who are not detached from reality, they should understand that in the short- and long-term competition with Azerbaijan, they will only suffer defeat. Now, if they agree to the option on the negotiating table and withdraw their troops from the occupied territories, they will secure a future for their people. Otherwise, in the future, they will face great dangers. The world is changing, you are aware of the

processes occurring in the region. There may come a time when each country will have to defend its interests on its own. Azerbaijan is ready for that because we have been fighting alone for 20 years. In some cases we secure our interests against much bigger forces, we do not back down to anyone.

Some recent regional developments suggest that policy initiatives cannot be implemented here without respect for our interests. We have passed the biggest tests with dignity. Even when the forces that did not share our position and took the opposite view took a common stance, the position of Azerbaijan prevented the developments that would have run counter to our interests. So not only are we ready to fight alone, we already do fight on our own, assert ourselves in the world and define our own future.

We have our say in the region and our position will become even stronger. We can never allow Armenia to join any political, economic, energy and transport projects. We have isolated them and make no secret of that. In the future, our policy of isolating Armenia must be continued. It is paying off. If our partners constantly sending us messages on a negotiated settlement really want to see peace in the region, Armenia should vacate the occupied lands. Otherwise, a different solution of the issue cannot be ruled out. We have never ruled it out. International law gives us that right. But Azerbaijan's peaceful policy, its growing responsibility for regional processes and the fact that Azerbaijan is already a stabilizing factor in the region deter us from these radical steps. So a speedy solution to the issue must be in the interests of each party.

We want the issue to be resolved. We want peace in the region. Mediators want that too. But we also want our lands back. This is the difference. We don't take the "peace at any cost" approach. The "freezing" of the issue is impossible. Armenia, naturally, wants the issue to be "frozen," the status quo to stay on, the talks to be held but, as they say, without any result. During the talks we have thought several times that we had come close to an agreement. But Armenia's hypocritical position and false promises prevented an agreement. So it is no secret for us that Armenia is trying to "freeze" and delay the settlement as much as it can.

The statements by presidents of co-chair countries that the status quo is unacceptable, that it must be changed are, of course, reassuring. But we expected specific action to follow such statements. We expected that the aggressor would finally be given serious signals that enough is enough, that if it doesn't leave these lands, Azerbaijan can resolve the issue in another way. Unless Armenia understands that, Yerevan may think that it can delay and delay. This is a wrong approach. I have repeatedly told our partners about this. We too want peace, but first of all our citizens must return to the occupied lands.

I want to repeat that this is our main issue, a national issue, and we will keep stepping up our effort. We are on the right track.

Every day brings us closer to victory. To achieve that victory, every citizen of Azerbaijan and especially our diplomats, should work hard every day.

Another important foreign political issue directly related to this problem is securing international recognition of the Khojaly genocide. I think we have pursued a successful policy in this area and in a short time the parliaments of three countries recognized the massacre in Khojaly as an act of genocide. Khojaly memorials are

erected in other countries. We have been dealing with this issue for several years and already have excellent results. So I think this policy should be continued. Our ambassadors and diplomats should raise the issue whenever possible. The legislative bodies of the countries where they operate should raise the issue of the Khojaly genocide. We must strive to get this genocide recognized at various levels. We must always pursue this case at both regional and municipal levels.

If we do that, I am sure that Mexico, Pakistan, and Colombia will be joined by other countries in the future and the Khojaly genocide will be recognized by more states. There will come a time when the perpetrators of this genocide will be brought to book.

I repeat that the tasks related to foreign policy are known and clear to ambassadors. I want to express my views on several issues again. We need to strengthen the bilateral format as it brings us great success especially given the growing number of countries seeking to establish close relations with Azerbaijan. Our foreign diplomacy is very active. My numerous visits abroad strengthen this excellent base; the visits of my colleagues to our country and our talks intensify the bilateral format. So our main line in foreign policy is bilateral relations. I can say that in our bilateral relations, no matter how big or small a country is, we have formed equitable relations. This is very important. And it should be so. Because equitable relations in the bilateral format are the only possible relations. [...] Therefore, the number of our embassies will grow in the future, so the bilateral format will further expand. Of course, we have to establish active ties with the 155 countries that supported us in the election to the UN Security Council. I can say that we don't have active relations with all the 155 countries, so they provided their support in advance. Now we need to strengthen these relations. At the same time, our role in the Non-Aligned Movement will become even more active. We recently joined this organization, and given the support of 120 countries for the resolution of the Non-Aligned Movement, we can see that at least three quarters of the international community see a settlement only on the basis of the principle of territorial integrity.

We have to push forward our economic agenda in the bilateral format. Of course, I repeat, life goes on and Azerbaijan is amending its investment policy. We have started to invest abroad. Of course, this process began with regional countries. But the demand for our investment in the world is growing. In particular, countries affected by crisis feel a great need for financial resources. We can offer these resources on acceptable terms. Thus, investment, loans and new forms of economic cooperation are already in use. Ambassadors have to be more active in this. We encourage the activities of Azerbaijani companies abroad. At the latest meeting with entrepreneurs I gave specific instructions on this matter, but Azerbaijani companies—both public and private—must access foreign markets as investors and contractors.

The number of Azerbaijani diaspora organizations is increasing and the quality of their work improving. The demonstrations, protests, activities, conferences regularly conducted worldwide show that we have created strong diaspora organizations. Our embassies have to be in close contact with Diaspora organizations. In most cases they are. But I want this to be the case everywhere. It further enhances our strength, attaches the Azerbaijanis living abroad to their homeland.

Media relations should develop more actively because we must counter the baseless allegations against Azerbaijan still being made by the Armenian lobby. We know

where they come from. Of course, the first source of such dirty scribble is the Armenian lobby. The Armenian lobby, Armenians of the world have chosen Azerbaijan as target number one. This is a reality because they know that Azerbaijan is the biggest threat for them. For us, too, the Armenian lobby is the biggest enemy. I want to say that I am not afraid to talk about this. Because this is a reality, it is true. Their dirty money, so to speak, pushes some politicians, some public figures to such an unacceptable way. We must constantly fight this.

Our independent policy is not to everyone's taste. But we did not set out such a task. We set the goal of strengthening our independent policy and securing the interests of the Azerbaijani people. In some cases, in an effort to guide us or soften our stance on an issue, certain circles stage campaigns against us. We saw this during the "Eurovision" and before. But the reality is that these campaigns have no effect. No outsider can influence our will and the policy of Azerbaijan. Our history of independence has repeatedly shown this. Therefore, our ambassadors and diplomats should always communicate with these media and explain their misguided policies.

In some cases, when I explain to foreign visitors that there is free Internet in Azerbaijan, they express surprise. Not every country has free Internet. For example, some countries are considering limiting the Internet or introducing censorship. We have free Internet. The number of Internet users has reached 65 per cent. So how we can limit the press if we have free Internet and a growing number of users? All our media are free. The freedom of assembly is guaranteed. Any political force can conduct its activities in designated places. There were such cases in the recent past. But no-one comes to such events. Therefore, some political forces want to conduct such rallies in the Fountains Square or other central locations so that a TV channel could come, film and show it. We know that.

So there is every freedom. There is freedom of conscience. Some countries should learn from Azerbaijan. Countries that artificially increase Islamophobic tendencies should come and learn from us how to build interfaith relations. We are not doing it as an experiment. This is our way of life. This is how it should be. There can never be not only conflicts but also differences on religious or ethnic grounds. We will not tolerate that. Therefore, the freedom of conscience is guaranteed.

Moreover, there is no limitation to political activities. Azerbaijan has a free society. And foreigners coming to Azerbaijan, if they are not biased, can see that. These realities must be communicated to the people of other countries, so that there is complete information about Azerbaijan. I think there is still much to do in this direction.

As regards our foreign policy, it is fairly open. With regard to our membership and activities in international organizations, nothing is hidden from the public in this area. We are active in all the organizations of which we are members, we protect our interests and honor our obligations. And we can't have any obligations to organizations of which we are not members. That is axiomatic. In bilateral contacts I personally openly state that we accept equal treatment. It can't be otherwise. We do not owe anything to anyone. We don't depend on anyone. We don't ask anyone for help. We just know that no one will help. When we needed help, did anyone stand behind our backs? No. When our economy was in ruins, Armenia occupied our lands and ousted a million Azerbaijanis, did anyone help us? No one did. So I haven't had such illusions for a long time. Therefore, we are in favor of equal treatment with all the countries and international organizations. We join

international organizations of our own accord. If we see that our interests are violated or that there is a biased position towards Azerbaijan, we can leave the organization voluntarily. We have repeatedly seen this bias. I personally have. I have witnessed a biased position, double, triple and quintuple standards. Nothing has changed.

Nothing has changed in this issue since the early 2000s to the present day. But Azerbaijan has changed. Azerbaijan has grown stronger. Azerbaijan has become a country it is impossible to put pressure on or blackmail. One can speak evil and spread slander, but it doesn't affect us because the reality is quite different. The reality is that Azerbaijan is an independent, modern, secular and dynamic welfare state. Look at our economic indicators. Just a page of them is enough to demonstrate what we have achieved in the social sphere. Pensions make up 40 per cent of the wage. These are the EU criteria. We have achieved this. Perhaps many analysts don't know this. The calculations of the Davos Economic Forum on economic competitiveness put Azerbaijan in 46th place in the world and in first in the CIS. In addition, we are in a leading position in the "Doing Business" program. During the crisis, the credit ratings of all European economies have fallen, while ours are rising. [...]

Earlier, envious people, spiteful critics and those who wanted to denigrate our success said that Azerbaijan develops because of its oil. But there are countries that have 10 times more oil than us. What is the situation like there? Why are their ratings falling? Why are there social upheavals there? It is not about oil. It is about choosing the right political and economic trends, about unity between the people and the government because without this no reform can be possible. This is why we have a say in the economic sphere. We managed to reduce poverty several times.

I remember the time when I worked in the State Oil Company and when our contracts with foreign companies were being signed. Some analysts used to say that Azerbaijan would run into the Dutch disease, its economy would be lopsided, it would collapse after the oil runs out. What happened? Our poverty rate has dropped from 49 to 7 per cent in eight years. If it really were the case, this would never have happened, the economy wouldn't have grown three times. By listing all this I want to say that we can pursue independent policies and we do just that. Even at the most difficult time when our economy was in a dire situation we did not deviate from our path. And we certainly won't now. Azerbaijan is the leading country of the region.

Azerbaijan's economy accounts for almost 80 per cent of the economy of the South Caucasus. We have energy diplomacy. I haven't said anything about that yet but it is also a diplomatic tool we use. We have a favorable geographical location. But without the infrastructure this geographical location means nothing. We are creating infrastructure. The railway that will link Asia with Europe is built on our initiative.

Now is not the time to discuss many issues, but this time will come. We faced a lot of pressure when he wanted to implement the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway project. So much pressure was exerted from regional countries: you can't do this, if you do this, Armenia will be gone. The issue of the blockade and isolation of Armenia will be fully ensured. But despite everything, we did it.

Now it is not only us who wants to use this road but also those who once opposed it. If we had shown weakness then or stepped back in order to please someone, all this

would not have happened. There was pressure, there were ordered articles and smear campaigns, but we eventually secured the interests of the Azerbaijani people and state. Therefore, our geographical location is such that not a single transportation project can be implemented in this region without our consent. And transport issues in the region, particularly on the issue of Afghanistan, will now be resolved in a new plane. And the role of Azerbaijan is gradually increasing.

As for our energy diplomacy, I can say today that the share of Azerbaijani oil in the energy balance of some European Union member-countries is close to 35-40 per cent. Azerbaijani gas is expected in the European region and we are working on that.

The collapse of a number of European projects which had been the subject of debate for 10 years forced us to propose our own project. In a short period we initiated the TANAP project. We did all the preparatory work. All the documents were signed with Turkey. Now, a growing number of countries want to join TANAP. European countries officially support this project. If we hadn't initiated the project, what would the situation be now? We gave it a name and chose the route. We also assumed the main financial burden. At present, our share is 80 per cent. But we are receiving proposals to yield a bit to partner companies. I don't rule that out. So Azerbaijan has shown initiative again, and what will this give us?

This will enable Azerbaijan to be a reliable supplier of energy over the next 100 years. At least 100 years. There is probably no need to explain to this audience what that means. Our strength will increase. Our financial strength, political power, influence will grow, and we will be reckoned with even more. Any country, anyone wants this. Naturally, we also want this. We have achieved all this through our hard work.

Today, Azerbaijan is a young state. But look how many friends and partners we have in the world. We pursue our energy diplomacy. We pursue our cultural diplomacy. Look how many cultural events are held abroad. We promote our culture, history and art in the world's capitals. Of all former Soviet republics, Azerbaijan was the only one to have conducted major events to mark the 20th anniversary of its independence in the world's capitals. It was our initiative, concerts, presentations and exhibitions were held in the capitals of leading countries. This area should be in the spotlight because it unites people and creates full understanding of the country.

We are a young independent country. Some countries believe that in 20 years Azerbaijan has secured a place on the world map. This is really the case on the political map of the world. But we have been on the world map for centuries. Our ancient culture, history, arts are our national treasure. We must promote this heritage, introduce it to the world. The work of the embassies in this respect is very significant. Work has now begun to establish culture services of embassies. This is also a successful initiative. Again, this initiative was made only by Azerbaijan. So these innovations, reforms and new insights lead us forward.

Today the political and economic situation in Azerbaijan, our foreign policy is such that sometimes I am told: maybe you should slow down a little, you shouldn't go so fast. Because the beauty of Baku and other our cities annoys some people. We are moving forward very fast. Perhaps there is some logic in this - not to annoy others. But I think to myself: look where we are, Azerbaijan has reached a level of

development when others tell us to slow down a bit. Because when you go very fast, other countries get annoyed.

But at the same time I am absolutely sure that we can't slow down. We must go forward because there are many issues that lie ahead. The world is developing fast. We can't wait a month, even a week. We need to jump the gun in foreign policy, in the economy, in the field of technology.

One of the benefits of this beautiful Diplomatic Academy is that the most modern technology is applied here. Our young people will receive education using these technologies. Some people wonder: how can a country like Azerbaijan have space industry? But I ask, why not? We have talented people, financial resources and vision. Therefore, we will not slow down. We will go ahead and achieve our goals. I am sure that we will restore our sovereignty, and the day will come when the Azerbaijani flag will fly in Shusha and Khankandi. Thank you!

* *The full text is available at <http://en.president.az/articles/6304>.*

HOW NAKHCHIVAN'S SPECIAL STATUS CAME TO BE

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Few aspects of Azerbaijani statehood have a more complicated history than the way in which Nakhchivan, the non-contiguous autonomous republic, acquired its special status in 1921, a status that to this day makes both Ankara and Moscow guarantors of its remaining part of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Both this complexity and the special status of Nakhchivan are little understood by many outside observers. But like so many other things in Azerbaijan, they continue to play a key role in the understanding of Azerbaijanis about the role of outside powers in their national life, including in the ending of the Armenian occupation of one-fifth of Azerbaijan's national territory.

In the latest installment of his "Historical Prism" series on the *Day.az* portal, I. Niftaliyev provides a concise description of what may seem to many long ago events. He begins his survey by citing the November 30, 1920, decision of the *Politburo* of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijani Communist Party of Bolsheviks, a text that has been much misunderstood and misused because it appears to acknowledge the transfer of the Azerbaijani-dominated Nakhchivan region to Armenia. [1]

"If one attentively reviews the text," Niftaliyev says, "one can see" that the supposed transfer of Nakhchivan to Armenia was never intended. Instead, the declaration spoke only of the withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces from Zangazur. Indeed, the Armenians themselves on December 2, 1920, recognized that reality when they together with the Turks declared that "the districts of Nakhchivan, Shakhtakhty and Sharur are to be under local self-administration of Turkey" and that "Armenia does not have the right to interfere," pending the results of a plebiscite.

That, in turn, means, Niftaliyev continues, that units of the Turkish Army should remain in Nakhchivan and in this way "Nakhchivan de facto remained within the Azerbaijan SSR and the plan about its transfer to Armenia, the author of which was Soviet Russia's Commissar for Foreign Affairs G. Chicherin, was condemned to failure in advance."

Officials in Baku understood this very well, Niftaliyev suggests, and the November 30 declaration about "transferring Nakhchivan to Armenia" represented no more than the hope of the Bolsheviks to demonstrate in propaganda their "proletarian solidarity" with the new communist regime in Yerevan. That conclusion is further suggested, he says, by the declaration of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee, which on December 28 spoke of Nakhchivan as "an independent Soviet republic." But because Yerevan addressed this directly to Nakhchivan rather than to Baku, "the leadership of Armenia did not consider Nakhchivan to be part of the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR and as before hoped to join it to Armenia." Moreover, as the Azerbaijani historian points out, the Armenian SSR government even included a post for "the extraordinary commissar and plenipotentiary representative of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) for Nakhchivan."

"The problem of the future status of Nakhchivan," Niftaliyev continues, "as a constituent part of the much-ballyhooed 'Armenian question,' became one of the barriers to the establishment of a firm union between Turkey and Soviet Russia." The individual who played the key role in converting Moscow to the idea that it needed to support Azerbaijan's position in Nakhchivan if it wanted good ties with Turkey was Boris Shakhtakhtinsky, then the plenipotentiary representative of the Azerbaijan SSR to the RSFSR. He bombarded Soviet leaders like Lenin and Stalin with telegrams and letters insisting that Moscow would gain nothing and lose much if it came out in support of Armenia regarding the status of Nakhchivan.

The Azerbaijani diplomats had their effect, even though many Bolshevik leaders retained "certain distrust" to the Turkish government. Indeed, in January 1921, Ordzhonikidze and Kirov sent a cable to the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) arguing that "the Turks could create in Nakhchivan their own buffer zone; they want to establish their own khanate here. Then the railroad will be in their hands, they will cut us off from Tabriz and Iran and dismember Armenia."

By his own charges, Niftaliyev says, Ordzhonikidze "in fact revealed the future military-strategic plans of the Bolsheviks for exporting revolution to the Muslim East." But his views were challenged by Azerbaijani leader Nariman Narimanov who cabled Lenin in mid-February saying that in his view, "there is no doubt that the Ankara government sincerely wants to connect its fate with us against England." For Turkey, the Armenian question is extremely sensitive, and any suggestion that Moscow is siding with Yerevan against Baku would undermine everything the Soviets were trying to do in the East.

That observation played a key role in changing minds in Moscow, especially in advance of the arrival in the Russian capital of a Turkish delegation to negotiate a peace treaty. Significantly, Niftaliyev notes, the delegation went to Moscow via Baku, where Narimanov gave them advice on how they should deal with Soviet officialdom. He told its members that Georgy Chicherin, the Soviet foreign affairs commissar, was on the wrong side of many issues in the East and that the Turks

should do everything possible to deal directly with Lenin or “if this was not achieved, to turn to I. Stalin for help.”

The Moscow talks began on February 26, 1921, and it devoted two sessions to the Nakhchivan issue on March 10 and 12. At the insistence of the Turks, the first of these meetings agreed to a point to be included in the final treaty stating that Nakhchivan oblast “forms an autonomous territory under the protection of Azerbaijan with the condition that Azerbaijan not yield this protectorate to any third state.” But the March 12 meeting was contentious—and ultimately even more important in defining the borders of the autonomy.

The Turkish side, “seeking to strengthen the security of its borders with Armenia,” called for expanding the territory of Nakhchivan to include Azerbaijani-majority districts adjoining the region. But the Russian side rejected that, noting that Turkey was proposing more than even Azerbaijan had ever sought. The Russians said that “the border between Nakhchivan should be considered provisional” and subject to future talks.

Had the Turks accepted this Russian position, there would have been “serious consequences above all for Azerbaijan since that would allow Armenia at some future point to reopen the question about the review of its borders with Azerbaijan and of the status of Nakhchivan.” The Turkish side recognized this “real danger,” Niftaliyev says, and insisted that Nakhchivan be declared a part of Azerbaijan. In the March 16 treaty, the borders between Turkey and the South Caucasus republics were declared fixed for all time. And because that happened, Turkey has remained a guarantor of the status of Nakhchivan, something that allowed Ankara to withdraw its forces in the late spring of 1921.

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/357819.html> (accessed 29 September 2012).

THE REBIRTH OF THE CHANG

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This year, at the direction of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijanis will continue to mark the 870th anniversary of the great Azerbaijani poet, Nizami Ganjavi, whose works—masterpieces of world literature—are increasingly attracting the attention of musicologists, because the poetry of Nizami refers so often to the musical instruments of his time—most particularly, *the chang*—and because his references so often have led artists to illustrate his manuscripts with precise pictures of those instruments.

By the nineteenth century, the chang had ceased to be used and was almost completely forgotten. Its second life began during the last quarter of the 20th

century when in 1975 Majnun Karimov, then a music school teacher in *tar*, became interested in medieval instruments and their restoration. His first instrument, which appeared in 1978, was the chang. Other instruments followed. And at the present time, Karimov and the scholars at the Baku Musical Academy have so far restored 10 instruments, the last of which appeared in 2010.

The State Museum of Musical Culture of Azerbaijan has been very interested in the preservation and use of the chang and thus purchased, in 1989, the replica of this instrument made by Karimov. (Subsequently, the museum has purchased several other restored instruments.) In 1996, then-President Heydar Aliyev, having heard the ensemble playing the chang and other revived instruments at the jubilee of outstanding scientist Yusif Mammadaliyev, issued a directive providing state support for the ensemble and its work. Since that time, the ensemble, as part of the museum, including the chang, works with government support. One of its outstanding achievements was the inclusion of its playing on the UNESCO disk "Forgotten Voices of the Past" in 2002.

Public knowledge about the chang has been promoted by the works of Majnun Karim and the author of this note. Musicians from Turkey followed suit, including Feridun Ozgoren, Fikret Karakaya (whose chang was created in 1995) and later Mehmet Soylemez (who created the chang for leading Turkish harpist Shirin Pancharoglu). In 2012, Azerbaijani engineer Mammadali Mammadov, who works in the Azerbaijani National Conservatory, created his own acoustically improved version of the chang with 44 strings. At the present time, Fazila Rahimova in Azerbaijan, Fikret Karakaya and Sekhvar Besiroglu in Turkey, and Prof. Robert Labaree in the United States are among the leading players of the chang.

Despite what has been achieved, research on the chang continues. New questions are appearing and arguments about its authenticity are common. The existence of various forms of this instrument suggests that its creators were involved in a search. Studying the iconography of the chang in the art of miniatures, it is clear that the chang was a most specific instrument. But that only adds to the questions worthy of research: Why in the majority of miniatures is the chang shown with a long support-like leg as it is, while none of its modern replicas features the same? Moreover, the technique used to play the chang today, including the specific way of holding it, is not always correspondent with that used in earlier centuries as shown in the miniatures.

The overwhelming majority of miniatures suggest there were two main ways of playing the chang. However, not one of our contemporary players holds the chang as did its original users. Why has there been this change? What were the varieties of playing in the past? All these questions require more research. However, even the existence of such questions, disagreements and arguments only confirm that the chang is once again in a focus of the musical tradition of Azerbaijan and that the Azerbaijani State Museum of Musical Culture is playing a small role in promoting that development.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "building bridges between various cultures is one of the important directions of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357483.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the UN General Assembly that Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan has led to damages to every architectural and cultural monument in the occupied territories and that "the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is a serious challenge to security in the region and the world" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357728.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that other international organizations ought to be involved "in parallel with the OSCE Minsk Group," in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/356763.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group say they are concerned by "the lack of tangible progress in talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in recent months" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357501.html>).

Former Turkish Prime Minister Mesud Yilmaz says that if the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict depended on Turkey alone, it would have been resolved long ago (<http://news.day.az/politics/357624.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry says that Iranian and Azerbaijani officials are working to improve bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/355435.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

29 September

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu tells the UN General Assembly that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be resolved "within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357729.html>).

The foreign ministers of the Islamic Cooperation Organization meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly adopt a resolution demanding that Armenia end its occupation of Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/357843.html>).

28 September

Vice Prime Minister Yagub Eyubov represents Azerbaijan at a session of the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Yalta (<http://news.day.az/politics/357573.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meets with the foreign ministers of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/357684.html>).

Communications and Information Technology Minister Ali Abbasov and Fuad Iskandarov, head of the Azerbaijani representation to the European Union, say that Azerbaijan has great prospects for developing cooperation in communications and technology with the EU (<http://news.day.az/society/357611.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Metsamor atomic power station in Armenia represents a threat to the region and must be closed (<http://news.day.az/politics/357478.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy hosts the 40th world forum of rectors and deans of diplomatic academies and institutes of international relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/357296.html>).

The Culture and Tourism Ministry reports that the number of foreign tourists visiting Azerbaijan has risen by 7.1 percent compared to last year (<http://news.day.az/society/357637.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that Washington will continue to work with the governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/357622.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan can become "an even more important transit point between Europe and Asia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357609.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU ambassador to Baku, says that the European Commission hopes that Azerbaijan will soon begin negotiations with the EU on aviation issues (<http://news.day.az/economy/357716.html>).

27 September

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "building bridges between various cultures is one of the important directions of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357483.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group who say that they are concerned by "the lack of tangible progress in talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in recent months" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357501.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his GUAM counterparts on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357431.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Serbian counterpart Ivan Mrkić on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357479.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357479.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Halil Akinci, secretary general of

the Cooperation Council of Turkic Language States on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357479.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his Singapore counterpart Law Shanmugam on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357324.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Slovenian counterpart Ivo Vajgl on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357324.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives French Ambassador Pascual Meunier (<http://news.day.az/politics/357395.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives a German foreign ministry delegation to discuss bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/357485.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the periodic visits of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to the South Caucasus have not resulted in more progress because of Armenian obstructionism (<http://news.day.az/politics/357346.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev says that Azerbaijan at present does not plan to join the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/357356.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says Yerevan at the present time is prepared to discuss only aspects of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, but not its essential feature (<http://news.day.az/politics/357313.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis and head of the Azerbaijan delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that Azerbaijan's relations with the OSCE are developing, but will remain less complete than they could be as long as the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territory continues (<http://news.day.az/politics/357400.html>).

Ayten Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Baku should draw on international experience and seek compensation from Armenia for the latter's harm of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/357307.html>).

The Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan issues a protest concerning the opening of an office of the Forum of European Students in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/357402.html>).

Latvian President Andris Bērziņš tells the UN General Assembly that Riga is concerned about the growing number of clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh and wants to see steps taken to avoid a broader conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/357377.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, tells more than 250 Azerbaijan exchange students that they are "playing an important role in strengthening" ties between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/357275.html>).

Ismayil Alper Coskun, incoming Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that "Azerbaijan is an extremely important state in the region and that Turkey is interested in the

further development of relations with it" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357463.html>).

Former European Commission President Jacques Santer says that, "Azerbaijan has demonstrated that it is an important strategic partner of the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357440.html>).

Former Slovenian Foreign Minister Ivo Vajgl says that Azerbaijan and the European Parliament must devote joint efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/357345.html>).

Former Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz says that Armenia is totally responsible for the failure to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/357321.html>).

26 September

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Albanian counterpart Edmond Panariti on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357197.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Liberian counterpart Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357197.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Lamberto Zannier, secretary general of the OSCE, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/357200.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets his Greek counterpart Dimitris Avramopoulos on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/economy/357135.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives US Ambassador Richard Morningstar (<http://news.day.az/politics/357173.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov tells Pascual Meunier, French ambassador to Baku, that the existing status quo in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict does not correspond to anyone's interests and must be changed (<http://news.day.az/politics/357226.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the programmatic speech of President Ilham Aliyev to the fourth conference of heads of the organs of the diplomatic service of Azerbaijan defines the strategic and tactical tasks of Baku's foreign policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/357175.html>).

Officers of the Azerbaijani armed forces take part in a staff exercise in Germany (<http://news.day.az/society/357148.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU ambassador to Baku, says in reaction to the decision of the European Parliament concerning Ramil Safarov that "the European Parliament has the right as an absolutely independent organization to express its opinion on this or that issue. Sometimes we share the opinion of the European Parliament, and sometimes not. The case of Ramil Safarov is already in the past; we must look to

the future” (<http://news.day.az/politics/357039.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the US government played no role in the production or distribution of the video film *The Innocence of Muslims* (<http://news.day.az/politics/357246.html>).

The Georgian Statistics Committee says that Azerbaijan is responsible for 12.2 percent of Georgia’s foreign trade (<http://news.day.az/economy/357062.html>).

25 September

President Ilham Aliyev named Mir-Hamza Efendiyev Azerbaijan’s ambassador to the Hague (<http://news.day.az/politics/357012.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev named Fuad Iskandarov Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Brussels and head of the representation of Azerbaijan to the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/357012.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev named Emin Eyubov Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/357015.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appointed Gabriel Valentina Komanescu as Azerbaijan’s honorary consul in Constanza, Romania (<http://news.day.az/politics/357012.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, president of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Russia and founder of IDEA, says that, “Azerbaijan and Russia have preserved and multiplied their historically evolved ties” (<http://news.day.az/politics/356889.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives incoming Turkish Ambassador Alper Cosgun (<http://news.day.az/politics/356878.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov takes part in the Conference of Justice Ministers of the Council of Europe Countries in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/356896.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the Azerbaijani embassy in Washington will study and respond to the appearance of an article in *The New York Times* that included advice to those who want to visit the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/356862.html>).

Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Chisinau, is awarded a special diploma by the Moldovan culture ministry for his book *International Law and the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict* (<http://news.day.az/politics/356964.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he and other deputies are considering the possibility of forming joint Azerbaijani-Turkish armed units (<http://news.day.az/politics/356993.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that honest democratic elections cannot be held in Armenia because “for the last 15 years, the political map of the country has depended on external factors” (<http://news.day.az/politics/356808.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the situation in all aspects of life in Armenia is bad and that in the government is especially so

(<http://news.day.az/politics/356780.html>).

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz says that the Shah Deniz consortium will determine the final export route of Azerbaijani gas after considering the TAP and Nabucco proposals (<http://news.day.az/economy/356987.html>).

Pascual Meunier, French ambassador to Baku, says that Paris "believes in the negotiating process and in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. However, progress depends in the first instance on the political will of the sides. We can help, but without the political will of the sides themselves, the [resolution of the] conflict cannot be moved forward" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356856.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU ambassador to Baku, says that the European Union considers the construction of a Trans-Caspian gas pipeline to be in the interests of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan and to be subject to a decision by the governments of those two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/356868.html>).

Fahd bin Ali al-Dusari, Saudi ambassador to Baku, says that Riyadh and Baku will soon sign 10 cooperation agreements (<http://news.day.az/economy/356806.html>).

Former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Merkel says that the US has not devoted sufficient attention to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/356776.html>).

24 September

President Ilham Aliyev receives Serge Bozhenov, governor of Russia's Vologda oblast (<http://news.day.az/politics/356754.html>).

The Council of Ministers allocates additional resources for security at the Azerbaijani embassy in Islamabad (<http://news.day.az/politics/356626.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev receives representatives of the Turkish media (<http://news.day.az/economy/356734.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that over the last decade Azerbaijan has invested 563 million US dollars in the Russian economy (<http://news.day.az/economy/356713.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City, says that Mexicans have a deep understanding of the Khojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/356431.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the *Euronest* Parliamentary Assembly, issues an appeal to the head of the European Parliament concerning the distortions of Azerbaijan's reality in that body's decision on Ramil Safarov (<http://news.day.az/politics/356724.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that other international organizations ought to be involved "in parallel with the OSCE Minsk Group," in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/356763.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the European Parliament is read to support the Nabucco project (<http://news.day.az/economy/356747.html>).

Musa Gasymlı, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Armenia's own economic problems rather than rising prices for grain on the world market are responsible for rising prices in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/356314.html>).

Azerbaijani officers take part in command staff exercises in Ankara (<http://news.day.az/politics/356590.html>).

An Azerbaijani-Russian business forum takes place in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/356781.html>).

Passenger bus service opens between Nakhchivan and Iran's Western Azerbaijan Province (<http://news.day.az/society/356689.html>).

23 September

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva participate in the opening ceremony of the FIFA women's world championship (<http://news.day.az/politics/356481.html>).

22 September

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "no outsider can influence the will and policy of the Azerbaijani state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356336.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Armenian plans to open an airport in Khankendi are a violation of the Chicago convention on civil aviation and that Baku will oppose them as such (<http://news.day.az/politics/356441.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, meets with Riccardo Migliori, president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, who tells him that the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group is unsatisfactory (<http://news.day.az/politics/356448.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that, "Armenia and the Armenian lobby want to preserve the status quo in the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356454.html>).

21 September

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva take part in the opening of the new complex of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (<http://news.day.az/politics/356318.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Li Jao-Sin, former Chinese foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/356311.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Joseph Blatter, president of FIFA (<http://news.day.az/politics/356311.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict requires the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the

occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/356276.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives incoming Bulgarian ambassador Maya Khristova who tells him that Sofia is interested in cooperating with Azerbaijan in all spheres and especially in the energy sphere (<http://news.day.az/economy/356281.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives incoming Turkish ambassador Ismail Alper Cosgun, who says that, "Turkey will support Azerbaijan on all questions" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356280.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that, "we have never rejected the idea of defining the status of Nagorno-Karabakh; however the status can be discussed only after the return of Azerbaijanis to this region under peaceful circumstances" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356170.html>).

Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Chisinau, says that the Moldovan government has stopped the sale of arms to Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/356205.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Budapest, says that bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Hungary continue to develop and that the exchange of notes on the Ramil Safarov case has had no impact on them (<http://news.day.az/politics/356196.html>).

Tofiq Zulfugarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tallinn, says Estonia is interested in the development of economic relations with Azerbaijan and is ready to propose a variety of projects (<http://news.day.az/politics/356251.html>).

Mahir Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, says that his residence will be provisionally transferred to Beirut (<http://news.day.az/politics/356262.html>).

Aytan Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that in Armenia people consider the murder of any individual "in the name of Armenian ideals" as "heroism" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356079.html>).

Khady Rajably, a Milli Majlis deputy, says any attempt to double the minimum wage in Armenia would have "serious economic consequences" for that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/356014.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia's "fantasies" have cut that country off from the outside world (<http://news.day.az/politics/356219.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, director of the Presidential Center for Strategic Research, says the difficult economic situation of Armenia is intensifying as result of that country's isolation from the outside world (<http://news.day.az/politics/356212.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that recent statements by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of Russia make him "an enemy not only of the Azerbaijani people, but of the entire Turkic world" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356176.html>).

Georgian Deputy Economics and Sustainable Development Minister Irakly Matkava

says that Azerbaijan and Georgia must unite their efforts to attract tourists to the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/economy/356103.html>).

Bob Blackman, a British parliamentarian, says that the threat of war from Armenia has grown over the Ramil Safarov case (<http://news.day.az/politics/356084.html>).

Hikmet Cetin, former Turkish foreign minister, says that, "the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is important for Armenia as well" (<http://news.day.az/politics/356287.html>).

20 September

Labor and Social Security Minister Fizuli Alakparov signs a cooperation agreement with his Austrian counterpart Rudolph Hundstrofer (<http://news.day.az/society/355928.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, says Armenia does not have the legal right to open an international airport in Khankandi in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/355946.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that, "Armenia is not only an aggressor, but a country that at the state level supports terrorism" (<http://news.day.az/politics/355935.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian journalists have misstated the views of the Czech foreign minister in order to suggest that Prague supports Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/355840.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, receives incoming Korean ambassador Jo Shu-In (<http://news.day.az/politics/355949.html>).

Mikhail Shvydoy, special representative of the Russian President for international cultural cooperation, says that the International Baku Humanitarian Forum has become "a valuable place for the discussion of the humanitarian aspects of human development, multiculturalism, and the interrelationships of dialogues of civilizations" (<http://news.day.az/society/356032.html>).

A delegation of legislators from the US state of Ohio visits Baku to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/355977.html>).

19 September

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva participate in the opening of the Azerbaijani Cultural Center in Paris (<http://news.day.az/politics/355207.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that the European Parliament resolution on the pardon of Ramil Safarov contained distortions (<http://news.day.az/politics/355648.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov and Ukrainian Ambassador Aleksandr Mishchenko reach agreement on broadening the legal basis of cooperation between their two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/355662.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that recent statements by Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan are provocative and do not correspond to the facts (<http://news.day.az/politics/355600.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that efforts by Armenia to open an airport in Khankandi will harm the negotiations seeking a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/355762.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives US Ambassador Richard Morningstar (<http://news.day.az/society/355763.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev receives US Ambassador Richard Morningstar (<http://news.day.az/economy/355780.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev receives his Slovenian counterpart Radovan Zerzhav to discuss expanded bilateral cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/355669.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Pakistan hosts the opening of a school for girls in Muzaffarabad that was constructed by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and that bears the name of First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva (<http://news.day.az/politics/355757.html>).

Azar Huseyn, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tbilisi, takes part in a Georgian celebration of the professional holiday of Azerbaijani oil workers (<http://news.day.az/economy/355768.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that 18 Azerbaijani political parties have signed an appeal to the European Parliament criticizing that body's resolution on the pardon of Ramil Safarov (<http://news.day.az/politics/355699.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia must seek an end to its isolation by withdrawing from the occupied territories and ending its claims against Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/355585.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "the main thing for Armenia is the occupation of the territories of neighboring countries rather than the fate of its own citizens" (<http://news.day.az/politics/355538.html>).

Gunay Efendiyeva, first secretary of the National Commission of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, takes part in a UNESCO conference in Bratislava of the secretaries of UNESCO national commissions from the European and North American region (<http://news.day.az/politics/355733.html>).

Lithuanian Interior Minister Artūras Melianas says that Lithuania, like other members of the European Union, is ready to make a contribution to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/355678.html>).

Slovenian Economic Development Minister Radovan Zerzhav says that his country supports the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/355801.html>).

Marcelo Cabalero Torres, outgoing Cuban ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan and Cuba have always had good relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/355653.html>).

18 September

President Ilham Aliyev says that Azerbaijan "having already become one of the alternative centers of energy for the world, at the present time thanks to its powerful infrastructure and diversified network of oil and gas pipelines is playing an important role in guaranteeing the energy security of Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/355569.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that an American and a Swiss astronaut who visited the occupied territories without Baku's permission will be put on a watch list and denied entry to Azerbaijan in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/355536.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets with Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius in Vilnius to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/355560.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev says that Indonesia is interested in energy cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/355424.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev says that the construction of the TANAP pipeline will allow Azerbaijan for the first time to extend its gas distribution to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/355413.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev and Indonesian Minister Coordinator for Economic Issues Hatta Rajasa say that the two countries are examining the possibility of mutual investments (<http://news.day.az/economy/355416.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan is known among the post-Soviet states not only for its energy resources, but also for its support for major trans-national projects (<http://news.day.az/politics/355418.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov summons Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, to deliver a protest against the anti-Azerbaijani statements of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a member of Russia's State Council and the Duma (<http://news.day.az/politics/355568.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets Uzbekistan Deputy Foreign Minister Komil Rashidov to discuss bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/355151.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin (<http://news.day.az/politics/355589.html>).

The Communications and Information Technology Ministry says that the southern districts of Karabakh will be included in the fiber optic system of Trans-Asia-Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/355548.html>).

Salim Muslimov, chairman of the State Social Security Foundation, says he has discussed cooperation with his Moldovan counterpart

(<http://news.day.az/society/355573.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Ramil Safarov was pardoned in full correspondence with the laws of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/355440.html>).

Farhad Tagizade, deputy head of the State Border Service, takes part in an EU and SCIBM conerence in Brussels on integrating the administration of borders in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/355355.html>).

Culture and Tourism Ministry officials take part in the Top Resa 2012 exhibition in Paris (<http://news.day.az/society/355502.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry says that Iranian and Azerbaijani officials are working to improve bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/355435.html>).

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President Ilham Aliyev receives Indonesian Economic Minister Hatta Rajasa (<http://news.day.az/politics/355334.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a revised military cooperation agreement with his Lithuanian counterpart Rasa Juknevičienė (<http://news.day.az/politics/355298.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the head of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, is "an instructive model of the provocateur" for his comments in support of Armenian terrorism (<http://news.day.az/politics/355271.html>).

The Permanent Representation of Azerbaijan to UN Geneva takes part in the Open Day program there (<http://news.day.az/politics/355296.html>).

An Azerbaijani-Indonesian Business Forum in Baku leads to the signing of three cooperation memoranda (<http://news.day.az/economy/355268.html>).

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili attends the ceremonial groundbreaking for a SOCAR plant in Kulevi (<http://news.day.az/economy/355259.html>).

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz says that Turkey is purchasing Azerbaijani gas for the lowest possible price (<http://news.day.az/economy/355158.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.