



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
School of International Affairs

AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD

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ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS, CHRONOLOGY

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AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD

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ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS, CHRONOLOGY

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Preface

I am delighted to present to you, the reader, the fourth annual volume of the contents of *Azerbaijan in the World*, the electronic biweekly publication of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. Like its predecessors, it contains both a chronology of the diplomatic activity of Azerbaijan on a day-by-day basis, articles and interviews about that activity, and—what is especially important—historical studies, which provide the context for today's developments and tomorrow's.

2011, as the pages of *Azerbaijan in the World* show and as this assembled volume proves, was a year of remarkable successes and one continuing disappointment. Among the successes noted here were Azerbaijan's election to a two-year term on the UN Security Council, an especially impressive achievement for a country that has been independent only two decades and a tribute to President Ilham Aliyev's balanced foreign policy, the victory of two Azerbaijani singers in the *Eurovision* Competition, a triumph that has attracted ever more international attention to Azerbaijan and sets the stage for the holding of the next such competition in Baku in 2012, and the continuing expansion of Azerbaijan's diplomatic role marked not only by its participation in ever more international fora, but also by its opening of more missions abroad and the opening of more foreign embassies in Baku.

Unfortunately, and despite all these successes, the Armenian-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains unresolved. Despite growing international support for Azerbaijan's position, a position based on international law, Armenia has remained intransigent, and the international community, despite pledges to the contrary, has not yet been willing or able

to put the pressure on Yerevan necessary to end the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory and thus to allow the nearly one million refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes and resume their lives.

Despite Armenia's stalling, Baku remains committed to a peaceful settlement of this conflict as the negotiating record recounted in *Azerbaijan in the World* shows. But at the same time, and again as our journal tracks, Azerbaijan not only has built an economy which now forms 80 percent of the GDP of the entire South Caucasus and dwarfs Armenia's, but also has developed a military capacity fully capable of reclaiming Azerbaijani lands by force should that tragic necessity arise.

The coming year promises to be a full one for Azerbaijan. President Aliyev's program of expanding Baku's diplomatic presence will continue, there are growing tensions in adjoining regions, and the people and government of Azerbaijan are ever less willing to tolerate Armenia's continuing unwillingness to live up to its commitments to international law and abide by the decisions of the United Nations and other world bodies.

I believe that *Azerbaijan in the World* provides the most useful map of where Azerbaijan has been going and, consequently, of where it will be going next for readers of both the biweekly electronic version and the annual printed volumes. As such, it serves not only as a handbook for diplomats in training at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, an institution which is growing and will—within the next year—have a large new campus in Baku, and for experts and diplomats, both foreign and domestic.

With each year, we seek to improve our work. This year, *Azerbaijan in the World* has published historical studies of the founding period of the republic, studies which perhaps even more than daily headlines provide the basis for understanding what is taking place now and why. Both the editors and I are delighted that more and more people are reading our publication, and as always, we are delighted to hear from you the readers and encourage you to submit comments and articles for publication in the issues of the fifth year of *Azerbaijan in the World*.

H.E. Hafiz Pashayev
Rector
Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy

Introduction

The editors of *Azerbaijan in the World* are pleased to place before you the fourth annual volume, which brings together the chronology and key articles our electronic journal has published over the last year. For three reasons, we believe this year's volume should prove especially valuable.

First of all, the chronologies are significantly more detailed, with nearly twice as many events noted as in those published in earlier years. On the one hand, that simply reflects the increasing and increasingly diverse diplomatic activity of Azerbaijan itself in international affairs, with more embassies, more participation in international meetings, and more visits by senior leaders to Baku. But on the other, it reflects our commitment to ensuring that *Azerbaijan in the World* be as comprehensive as possible in reporting the ebb and flow of developments that constitute the diplomatic life of a country as important as Azerbaijan has already become.

Second, this year, more than in earlier ones, we have published often lengthy historical studies about the 1920s. For some, that may seem strange in a journal committed to tracking current developments, and we would like to take this opportunity to explain why we have made this change, one we plan to continue to expand upon in the years ahead. Almost every current problem in the South Caucasus has a long and complicated history, one that has often been distorted by politically motivated distortions. Only by going

back and following what the archives show can we understand not only what took place then, but also what the parameters of future development are likely to be.

And third—and this is the chief virtue of any continuing publication over time—we believe that the chronologies and the articles about events are increasingly valuable for the simple reason that they extend over a longer period of time. Those who read only the events of one day or one month often cannot see how those events emerged and what they are likely to mean, but those who follow events over several years can see the trajectories of these events and learn both what has worked and what will work.

Such insights are important for diplomats and for scholars, but they are especially important for those who are studying to become the representatives of their country, especially if, like Azerbaijan, it is a young and dynamic one. 2012 marks the 21st anniversary of the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence, the sixth anniversary of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, and the fourth anniversary of *Azerbaijan in the World*. From the perspective of long-established countries, those may seem terribly brief periods, but they are ones, in which Azerbaijan and especially Azerbaijan's role in the world has grown tremendously. Publications like *Azerbaijan in the World* thus exists not only to chronicle what has happened so far, a not unimportant task, but to help shape the thinking of future generations of Azerbaijani diplomats.

The editors of *Azerbaijan in the World* are delighted that our publication continues to grow and attract more readers and attention. As we note in each issue, we are pleased to receive your comments and submissions and look forward to intensified exchanges and cooperation in the year ahead and beyond.

Paul Goble & Murad Ismayilov
Co-Editors
Azerbaijan in the World

A SELECTION OF ESSAYS AND
ANALYTICAL ARTICLES

Volume IV, 2011

Nagorno-Karabakh:
History Behind and Realities on the Ground

MOSCOW AND THE DELIMITATION OF KARABAKH IN THE 1920s

Jamil Hasanly

Part I

Recently on the *Regnum* Russian news agency site was placed a series of essays of my landsman and fellow student S.N. Tarasov relative to the recent history of the mountainous portion of Karabakh. In these essays, the author cast doubt on its inclusion with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920). At the same time S.N. Tarasov attempted to recount the unique course of events in connection with the well-known declaration of N. Narimanov of December 1, 1920, and repeated the distorted idea about “the transfer by Stalin” in 1921 of the mountainous part of Karabakh to Azerbaijan. To back up his assertions, the author cited archival documents. However, this selection, instead of introducing clarity in the question under consideration in fact led to its distortion, and thus instead of clarifying these events calls forth only regret.

On April 28, 1920 Soviet forces occupied Baku. A month later, Karabakh was also occupied by Russian forces, and independent Azerbaijan ceased to exist. A little later, the same fate came to Armenia and Georgia. In this way, after a two-year break, the Trans-Caucasus again fell under the power of Russia, now already Soviet Russia. After Sovietization, Azerbaijan began to catastrophically lose its territories. In the first years of Sovietization, seeing how the central government of the Bolsheviks was transferring to Armenia lands that had been Azerbaijani from time immemorial and not being willing to put up with this injustice, N. Narimanov wrote to Lenin that the lands which under the Musavat government had been considered indisputably Azerbaijani, now under Soviet power had become subject of dispute, that the people saw this and was expressing its dissatisfaction. [1]

The activation of Armenians in Karabakh and other places of the republic from the first days of sovietization, the unpunished realization of

the policy of force against the Muslim population are to be explained in the first instance by the weakness of Azerbaijan and its army and the demobilization of its forces. On June 29, 1920 S. Kirov reported to G. Chicherin that the Dashnaks were persecuting not only Muslims, but also Russians. He wrote that, "Of the 30,000 Russians in Kars oblast remain only 15,000; the remainder either had dispersed to Turkey or to Russia or had died." [2]

On June 19, N. Narimanov, M. Mdivani, A. Mikoyan, and A. Nuridzhanyan sent to G. Chicherin a telegram, in which they reported about the advance of the Dashnak army and its successes in Gazakh and Gadabay. A copy of this telegram was sent to G. Ordzhonikidze in Vladikavkaz, and it included the following notable lines: "The Armenians in fact are in a state of war with Azerbaijan. As far as the supposedly disputed Zangazur and Karabakh territories, which already are within the borders of Soviet Azerbaijan, we categorically declare that these places beyond any question must stay within the borders of Azerbaijan." [3]

G.Chicherin, upset by the fact that authoritative Bolsheviks from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia who had worked for many years in the Caucasus were showing resistance to the policy of the Center, sent on June 22, 1920 a letter to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) with a complaint about "the indiscipline of Baku comrades and the disturbing contradiction between their actions and the political line established by the Central Committee." In his opinion, the transfer to Azerbaijan of the disputed territories, which had now been seized by Russia, would make impossible an agreement with Armenia. [4]

The reasoning of Chicherin on this point is interesting. He explained to Lenin that "up to now Russia has not given these lands to the Armenians so as not to offend the Tatars. When conditions are created for the sovietization of Georgia and Armenia, then all these problems will resolve themselves." [5] From numerous explanatory notes and telegraphs of Chicherin to Lenin, Ordzhonikidze, and Narimanov, one thing is clear: Chicherin viewed Karabakh as something to be traded, as a decoy, in the course of negotiations with Armenia.

The strengthening of Armenian claims on the mountainous part of Karabakh forced Bolsheviks well known in the Caucasus, such as N. Narimanov, M. Mdivani, A. Mikoyan, and B. Naneyshvili, as well as even

members of the military council of the XI Army Zh. Vesnik, M. Levandovsky and I. Mikhailov, to sign a letter to the Central Committee of the RCP(b), which stated that, "we consider it our duty to send to the Central Committee our single position on the question of Zangazur and Karabakh, the resolution of which during negotiations with Armenia is proceeding in ways that conflict with the interests of the revolution in the Caucasus. Karabakh under the Musavat government was entirely part of Azerbaijan. The unbroken nature of the cultural and economic ties of Karabakh and Zangazur with Baku, which provides support for thousands of workers from these provinces, and their complete separation from Yerevan was demonstrated at the peasant congress of Armenian Karabakh in 1919, which—despite the unbearable conditions for the Armenians under the Musavat regime and the provocative work of agents of Armenia—all the same decisively called for complete unity with Azerbaijan under conditions of a guarantee for the peaceful life of Armenians." At the end of this letter, it was noted that the Muslim masses consider a betrayal the inability of Soviet power to preserve Azerbaijan in its old borders and explain this as a reflection of the pro-Armenian nature or weakness of Soviet power. Thus, those signing the document warned the center against any vacillation on the issue of Karabakh and Zangazur. [6]

In order to give an official character to the recognition of Armenia by Soviet Russia, G. Chicherin attempted to convince G. Ordzhonikidze that for Soviet Russia, a compromise was necessary with the Armenia's Dashnak government. He wrote: "The Azerbaijan government declares disputable not only Karabakh and Zangazur, but also the Sharur-Daralagez district. The latter never has been declared a matter of dispute, and even the Musavat government always recognized it as part of Armenia. Without it, almost nothing would remain of Armenia. The Armenian peace delegation after lengthy resistance agreed to recognize Karabakh and Zangazur as disputable hoping that at the end of the day a significant portion of these localities will be given to Armenia, but they in no case agreed to recognize Sharur-Daralagez district as a matter of dispute. On the other hand, we must achieve agreement from the Azerbaijani government so that our treaty with Armenia will not be in contradiction with the demands of Azerbaijan. Given the enormity of your influence in Baku, we ask You to use it in order to get from the Azerbaijan government its assurance that it considered

Karabakh and Zangazur matters of dispute, but not Sharur-Daralagez district. [7]

After Chicherin's code cable of July 2, 1920 and discussion with the newly assigned plenipotentiary representatives of Soviet Russia in Armenia B. Legran and A. Gabrielyan, G. Ordzhonikidze by direct line reported to Moscow the following: "Azerbaijan insists on the immediate and unqualified recognition of Karabakh and Zangazur as part of its territory. In my opinion, this is necessary to do since both districts are economically drawn to Baku and are completely cut off from Yerevan, especially now with the Bayazet Turkish division cutting them off. ... According to the words of Comrade Gabrielyan, the Armenian delegation unconditionally will go along. With this resolution of the issue, Azerbaijan can be forced to agree to the cession of the remaining territories. My opinion is the following: Karabakh and Zangazur must be immediately joined to Azerbaijan. I will force Azerbaijan to declare these regions autonomies, but this must come from Azerbaijan and not in any case must be mentioned in the treaty [with Armenia]." [8]

In another report to V.I. Lenin, I. Stalin and G. Chicherin on direct line, G. Ordzhonikidze openly reported that the Armenian government was intentionally introducing confusion on these issues: "Today Gabrielyan declared to me that the Armenian delegation, if Azerbaijan dropped its claims on Sharur-Daralagez district and the Nakhchivan district, would agree to the immediate unification of Karabakh and Zangazur to Azerbaijan. We agreed that on our arrival to Baku we would discuss this with Narimanov. As you see, there is no lack of clarity or understanding here. I can assure you that we quite clearly represented our peace policy and will continue to carry it out. I am certain and this is my deep conviction that for the strengthening of Soviet power in Azerbaijan and out continued holding of Baku, it is necessary to unite Nagorno-Karabakh [with Azerbaijan] and that there cannot be any vacillation about the plain portion of it. It was always Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan will guarantee the security of the Armenian population of this district with its head. We will declare an autonomy here and promise the Armenian population that it will be protected and that Muslim military units will not be introduced there."

G. Ordzhonikidze warned that, "a different decision on this issue will threaten our position in Azerbaijan and will win us nothing in Armenia. I

completely well understand that the possibility cannot be excluded that we may need Armenia under certain political circumstances. Decide as you see necessary. We will follow all your directions. But permit me to bring to Your attention that such an attitude to Azerbaijan will strongly compromise us in the eyes of the broad masses of Azerbaijan and benefit to the highest degree our opponents.” [9]

After the April 1920 turn of events, G. Ordzhonikidze for a certain time in Azerbaijan-Georgian and Azerbaijan-Armenian relations took the side of Azerbaijan, which was considered “Soviet Russia’s firstborn in the East,” and this seriously disturbed some in Moscow and particularly in the Peoples Commissariat for International Affairs. G. Chicherin, who headed this group, opposed Ordzhonikidze and called his position “concealed Orientalist and Muslimophile.” In response to this, G. Ordzhonikidze said that his views had no relation to Muslim nationalism and that in his family there is not a single Tatar. [10]

G. Ordzhonikidze knew perfectly well who in the Center was muddying the waters and therefore in his transmission of the next reports by direct line he asked N. Alliluyeva to report to Stalin that Chicherin and Karakhan were again putting him “here in a hopeless position.” [11] G. Chicherin showed an entirely different position when he wrote to Ordzhonikidze a telegram on July 8, which said the following: “We know quite well that the moment for Sovietization is also coming to Armenia, but to go in that direction now is premature. The most important thing which can be achieved now is the declaration of Karabakh and Zangazur as disputed regions, and for this it is necessary that the Azerbaijani government give its agreement. We need this [because] we absolutely must conclude a treaty with Armenia. The world situation requires this, and for this we must declare Karabakh and Zangazur, but no more, subjects of dispute.” [12]

G. Chicherin and L. Karakhan directed the policy of the Peoples Commissariat for International Affairs concerning cooperation with Armenia at the expense of Azerbaijan. Not having been able to block this policy, G. Ordzhonikidze on July 16 sent a telegram to V.I. Lenin, I. Stalin and G. Chicherin containing a request that peace with Armenia not be concluded prior to the arrival of the Azerbaijani delegation. He wrote: “Peace with Armenia without the participation of Azerbaijan will seriously disturb comrades here.” [13] A. Mikoyan, a member of the Central

Committee of the ACP(b), shared these positions and on June 29, he wrote to Ordzhonikidze: "We are indignant at the policy of the Center as regards Karabakh and Zangazur. You also defend our point of view before the Center. We are not against peace with Armenia, but in no case at the price of Karabakh and Zangazur." [14]

As we can see, it looked very strange that Soviet Russia and Dashnak Armenia were conducting secret negotiations concerning Azerbaijan without its participation and agreement. What was taking place with Armenia was actually an exact reflection of what had occurred with Georgia a month earlier. Then, there were many interesting places in the coded portion of the telegram, which Ordzhonikidze and Kirov sent to Lenin and Stalin. They considered that the conclusion of an agreement with Georgia without the clarification of the position of Azerbaijan would lead to the failure of Soviet policy. Ordzhonikidze and Kirov wrote the following: "Why in concluding a treaty with Georgia are we refusing to conclude a treaty with fraternal Azerbaijan. If the Azerbaijani question is decided otherwise, please inform us." Then by special code, they warned the Center: "Not in any case should Karakhan be allowed to be the leader of eastern policy. The entire Zakatala scandal [a reference to the promise to transfer the Zakatala district to Georgia according to the Moscow Treaty of May 7, 1920] is understood here as the work of an Armenian." [15]

There is no doubt that L. Karakhan played an important role in the formation and implementation of the anti-Azerbaijani policy of the NKID of Soviet Russia. Both coded and open documents of that time point to his intrigues in the Karabakh question. For example, G. Ordzhonikidze openly wrote: "Karabakh is a second Zakatala of our foreign commissariat. Here is taking place a colossal provocation, which is being carried out by Armenians in Moscow." [16]

However, despite the strong pressure of the Center on Azerbaijan, it was not able to achieve its rapprochement with the position of Armenia. The negotiations of S. Kirov with Peoples Commissar M.D. Huseynov and the Armenian representatives in Tiflis failed to yield results. On August 6, he wrote to Chicherin that, as a result, he was able to gain only one thing from the Azerbaijanis: they were ready to yield to Armenians the Sharur-Daralagez district, but the rest, that is Nakhchivan district, Ordubad, Dzhulfa, Zangazur, and Karabakh, the Azerbaijanis decisively considered

their own. In their turn, the Armenian representatives insisted on all these areas. The chief argument of the Azerbaijanis was that these oblasts belonged to Azerbaijan at the time of the Musavat government and yielding them now would harm Soviet power in the eyes of Azerbaijanis, Iran and Turkey. [17]

As a result of the negotiations conducted in Moscow and Yerevan, on August 10, 1920 was concluded an agreement consisting of six sections. Four of them were devoted to the artificially created territorial dispute with Azerbaijan. In the second section of the treaty, it was noted that with the exception of areas defined by the current agreement for the dislocation of forces of Armenia; the forces of the RSFSR will be dislocated in the districts of Karabakh, Zangazur and Nakhchivan, which are to be considered matters of dispute. The third paragraph specified that, "the disputed territories occupied by Soviet forces do not pre-decide the issue about the rights on these territories of the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic. By its provisional occupation, the RSFSR has in mind the creation of favorable conditions for the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of the provisions which will be established by a peace treaty which is to be concluded by the RSFSR and the Republic of Armenia in the nearest future." [18]

As a matter of fact, the speed at which the treaty between Russia and Armenia was concluded is explained by the fact that on exactly the same date was concluded the Sevres Treaty between Turkey and the Entente. The Sevres Treaty promised the Armenians great dividends and Soviet Russian diplomacy was concerned that Armenia might entirely fall under the influence of the Entente. The Sevres Treaty became the chief external factor, which forced G. Chicherin speedily to conclude the agreement with Armenia. And the even not yet prepared as a diplomatic document, this agreement under pressure from Moscow was signed, and the Azerbaijani lands, which were transformed by Soviet Russia into disputed ones were promised to Armenia.

From the very first days of the Sovietization of Azerbaijan, preparations were carried out so that the indisputable lands of Azerbaijan were declared disputable, which is what we see in the Russian-Armenian accord. G. Ordzhonikidze, who had been sent to Azerbaijan, on June 19, 1920, sent a

telegram to V.I. Lenin and G. Chicherin reporting that in Karabakh and Zangazur, Soviet power had been proclaimed and that both these territories consider themselves part of Azerbaijan. He warned: "Azerbaijan cannot get along in any way without Karabakh and Zangazur. In general, in my opinion, a representative of Azerbaijan should be called to Moscow and together with him be resolved all questions concerning Azerbaijan and Armenia, and this should be done before the signing of an agreement with Armenia [because] a repetition of the Zakatala events by the Armenians would end with undermining our position here." [19]

The August 10 agreement concluded between Soviet Russia and Armenia without Azerbaijan being informed, however, was the result of a policy chosen by the Central Bolshevik government and particularly the Peoples Commissariat of International Affairs of Soviet Russia, which was directed at harming the interests of Azerbaijan.

In the territorial disputes of the two republics, someone very much wanted that Armenia would win. For this, certain leading workers at the Center were not averse to using deception or even provoking elements. Long before the signing of the accord [with Armenia], G. Chicherin in a report suggested to V. Lenin that "the Azerbaijan government has made a claim on Karabakh, Zangazur, and Sharur-Daralagez district along with Nakhchivan, Ordubad, and Dzhulfa ... To support this combination through the use of Russian units is totally impermissible. Our role must be absolutely objective and strictly dispassionate. It would be a fatal mistake for all our policy in the East if we were to begin to base ourselves on one national element against another national element. To take from Armenia some portions and hand them over to Azerbaijan would mean to give a false coloration to all our policy in the East." [20] Chicherin was then able to include part of his proposals in the official instructions sent to the Revolutionary Military Council of the Caucasus Front, where he in the name of the Central Committee of the party instructed them not to allow Azerbaijani or Armenian organs into the disputed territories. However, the territories he declared disputed were in fact the territories of Azerbaijan and were under the control of Azerbaijani organs of power, which means that the directive of Chicherin was a crude violation of the sovereign rights and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

As we see, difficult days had arrived for the new powers in Azerbaijan. On the one hand, giving itself over to revolutionary pathos, the Azerbaijani Soviet power considered itself close to Soviet Russia, but on the other hand, by the hands of its worker-peasant allies in Soviet Russia were being taken away lands, which indisputably belonged to Azerbaijan under the earlier government. This processes continued in such an unattractive form that even Soviet workers sent from Moscow to Azerbaijan recognized the injustice of such a relationship to the republic. One of these witnesses, the chairman of the Council of the National Economy of the Azerbaijan SSR N. Solovyev, in an extensive report to V.I. Lenin noted that, "There was hope in Moscow. But the peace treaties with Georgia and Armenia, the handing over to these republics of part of Azerbaijani territory with a Muslim population, have shattered, if not absolutely killed, this hope: according to the conclusion by the Muslim masses, not only did Moscow seize Azerbaijan, but is also endowing Armenia and Georgia at its expense. The treaty with Armenia—by which part of Azerbaijani territory with exclusively Muslim population was given to Armenia, the railway which had enormous strategic and economic importance was given up, and the single corridor directly connecting Azerbaijan and Turkey was destroyed—has been received particularly badly. What is one to say to ordinary Muslims when certain members of the Azerbaijan Communist Party explain such a treaty by saying that it has been drawn up according to directives from influential Armenians in the Center who call themselves communists, but who in reality are conscious or unconscious nationalists." [21]

Such high-handed actions by Soviet Russia in relation to Azerbaijan generated the anger of N. Narimanov. He well understood that the chief organizers of these provocative games were the Peoples Commissar of International Affairs G. Chicherin, who from the summer of 1919 had stood in opposition to the eastern policy pushed by Narimanov, and the assistant peoples commissar L. Karakhan. Both occupied leading positions, which allowed them to define and in practice to carry out the foreign and especially the Eastern policy of the Soviets. In the struggle with Chicherin, N. Narimanov viewed the intervention of Lenin as the only way out because Lenin had before Sovietization given many beautiful promises. Still believing in the justice of Lenin's position concerning Azerbaijan, N. Narimanov in the middle of July wrote the following: "With the telegram of

Comrade Chicherin, it is clear that Your information is one-sided or that the Center is being subjected to the influence of those who even now act jointly with the Denikin forces against Soviet power in Azerbaijan. If it is profitable to the Center to sacrifice Azerbaijan and to retain for itself only Baku with its oil and to stop conducting any Eastern Policy, then this can be done, but I warn: It is impossible to hold Baku without all of Azerbaijan in the neighborhood with the traitor Dashnaks and Georgian Mensheviks. On the other hand, I would like to find out how the Center view us, Muslims, and how it can resolve such important questions without us. The Center can relate to us with a lack of trust, but then even such responsible workers as Ordzhonikidze and Mdivani will not agree with such a decision. I say directly that the Center has taken the weapon from our hands and by its decisions about Karabakh and so on intensified, and provided support for, the provocation of the Musavat, which all the time insists that Muslim Communists have sold Azerbaijan to Russia, which recognizes the independence of Armenia and Georgia and, at the same time, considers for some reason the hitherto indisputable territories of Azerbaijan matters of dispute. Comrade Chicherin speaks about subordination to the policy of the center, but does the Center realize that this very same center is forcing us into an untenable position. ... People here tell us directly: 'You cannot secure for Azerbaijan completely undisputable territories, but continue talking about the liberation of the East.'" [22]

In another letter to V.I. Lenin, N. Narimanov warned about the serious danger threatening Azerbaijan: "A terrible situation is being created. The Center recognized the independence of Georgia and Armenia and recognized the independence of Azerbaijan, but at the same time, the Center is giving totally indisputable territories of Azerbaijan to Armenia. If these same territories were given to Georgia, it would be possible somehow to struggle to win over public opinion, but to give them to Armenia, this is an unjustified and fatal mistake" (Narimanov 1990, p. 117).

Despite the tough and even at times sharply oppositional position of N. Narimanov, Soviet Russia chose to prefer the policy of denigrating Azerbaijan that had been developed by the Peoples Commissariat of International Affairs. In a diplomatic dispatch sent on July 20 by G. Chicherin to N. Narimanov, there was the following sarcastic comment: "Up until now not in one telegram was clarified to us by you or

Ordzhonikidze why the occupation of Karabakh and Zangazur by Russian forces does not satisfy you and other local communists and why is required their immediate annexation to Azerbaijan. ... We need to develop relations with Armenia for it could happen that if Turkey turns against us, Armenia, even a Dashnak Armenia, could be an advanced post in the struggle against the attacking Turks.” [23] In another letter, G. Chicherin warned the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) that one should approach Armenian-Azerbaijani relations by taking the position of Turkish policy into account. He wrote: “In the discussion of Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute, I have all the time indicated that in the case of a turn in Turkish policy toward the path of conquest in the Caucasus, Armenia will be a barrier against it and will defend us.” [24]

As the position of Soviet Russia in Azerbaijan strengthened, this republic was step by step transformed into an advance post for the regional policy of the Bolsheviks, and on account of its natural resources, the position of the Georgian and Armenian bourgeois republics was weakened, and favorable conditions were created for the Sovietization of Armenia. In a code cable to V.I. Lenin sent by Legran on September 23, 1920, the intentions of Soviet Russia relative to Azerbaijani territories were defined in the following way: one should not be concerned about the transfer of Zangazur and Nakhchivan to Armenia. The very thought that these territories are needed by us for liberation military operations in the Turkish and Tabriz directions is utopian. And thus it is impossible to disagree with the territorial claims of Azerbaijan. The objective and well-based support from Moscow undoubtedly will satisfy Azerbaijan. As for Karabakh, it is possible to insist on its unification with Azerbaijan. [25] In another telegram on October 24, 1920, sent to G. Chicherin, B. Legran described his agreement with Armenians concerning Azerbaijani territories in the following way: “The Armenians have made the immediate recognition of their position with regard to Nakhchivan and Zangazur a categorical condition. I indicated that without Azerbaijan, this question cannot be resolved and that only by Armenia’s dropping of claims to Karabakh could we put this before Azerbaijan. The Armenians agreed after long discussions and with inessential qualifications to withdraw as far as Karabakh is concerned.” [26] But this refusal turned out to be premature, and at the end

of November 1920, with the establishment of Soviet power in Armenia, the struggle for the mountainous part of Karabakh entered a new stage.

Part II

The establishment of Soviet power in Armenia on November 29, 1920, created suitable conditions for the communists to again put the Karabakh problem forward for discussion. In connection with the proclamation of Soviet power in Armenia, Nariman Narimanov, the president of the Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee, and Mirza Davud Huseynov, the Peoples Commissar of Foreign Affairs, sent on November 30, a telegram of greeting to the Armenian Revolutionary Committee. There was a serious difference between the text of this telegram and the decision of the joint session of the Politburo and Orgburo of the Central Committee of the AKP(b). A whole list of contradictory moments were contained also between the well-known speech of N. Narimanov at the celebratory session of the Baku Soviet on the occasion of the establishment of Soviet power in Armenia and the declaration read out by him on December 1, 1920.

The declaration read that "Soviet Azerbaijan, in support of the struggle of the fraternal Armenian toiling people against the power of the Dashnaks which have shed and continue to shed the innocent blood of our best comrade communists in the borders of Armenia and Zangazur declares that from now on, no territorial issues can become the course of mutual bloodletting of the two neighboring peoples, the Armenians and the Muslims, that the territory of the Zangazur and Nakhchivan districts are an indivisible part of Soviet Armenia, that the toiling peasantry of Nagorno-Karabakh is given the complete right of self-determination, and that all military actions in the borders of Zangazur are to be stopped and the forces of Soviet Azerbaijan withdrawn." [27]

It should be immediately noted that the text of the December 1 declaration contradicts the decisions taken by the Central Committee of the AKP(b) of November 4 and November 30. At the session of November 4, when the corresponding paragraph of a draft Russian-Armenian Treaty was discussed in the presence of I. Stalin and G. Ordzhonikidze, it was decided that "the paragraph with the proposal about the transfer of Nakhchivan and Zangazur to Armenia is not profitable either from a political or from a strategic perspective." However, in contradiction to this decision, in

connection with the victory of Soviet power in Armenia, a decision was taken at a the November 30 session of the Central Committee of the AKP(b) to transfer Zangazur to Armenia, but there was no mention of Nakhchivan. This is why B.V. Legran on December 2 of the three designated territories speaks only about the inclusion of Zangazur within the borders of Armenia as a fact recognized by Soviet Russia. [28]

But in the Declaration read out by N. Narimanov on December 1, along with Zangazur is also mentioned Nakhchivan as territories handed over to Armenia. Iorg Baberovsky, a professor of Humboldt University, asserts that already in the summer of 1920, under pressure from Ordzhonikidze, Narimanov was forced to promise to concede Zangazur, Karabakh and Nakhchivan to Armenia (Baberovski 2010, p. 237).

The text of the Declaration published in the Baku media was distorted by Ordzhonikidze even before it reached the press. On December 1, in a code cable to B. Legran and G. Chicherin, he wrote that, "Azerbaijan has already conceded and transferred to Soviet Armenia Nakhchivan, Zangazur and Nagorno-Karabakh." [29] He sent a similar report on December 2 to V.I. Lenin and I.V. Stalin. In that message, he said, "Azerbaijan yesterday already declared in favor of transferring to Soviet Armenia Nakhchivan, Zangazur and Nagorno-Karabakh." [30]

On December 4, this "happy" news on the initiative of I. Stalin was published in *Pravda*, and on the basis of the distorted telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze on the same day on the pages of this same paper was published an article of I. Stalin in connection with the proclamation of Soviet power in Armenia. Then, that article passed into the fourth volume of the collected works of I. Stalin, which remains often cited to this day. The question arises: Was G. Ordzhonikidze fully informed or did he intentionally make this error?

After the establishment of Soviet power in Dilizhan, G. Ordzhonikidze had a conversation by direct line with Amayak Nazaretyan, in which, referring to the Declaration of N. Narimanov, he said, "Today in Baku was a celebratory meeting of the Soviet at which Narimanov read the Declaration of the Azerbaijani government indicating that borders between Soviet Armenia and Azerbaijan no longer exist, that from today, the territory of the Zangazur and Nakhchivan districts have become an indivisible part of Soviet Armenia and that the Armenians of Nagorno-

Karabakh are offered the right of self-determination. The wealth of Azerbaijan, oil and kerosene, are the common property of both union republics.” Delighted by this, A.M. Nazaretyan exclaimed “Bravo, Azerbaijanis!” [31]

This is how the December 1 Declaration of N. Narimanov, the president of the Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee, underwent an “easy” correction by the Bolsheviks. In the Baku newspapers, *Kommunist* on December 2 and *Bakinsky rabochy* on December 3, there was reference to offering the toiling peasantry of Nagorno-Karabakh “the right to self-determination,” but in the *Kommunist* published in Armenia on December 7 there was reference to “the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as a constituent part of the Armenian Socialist Republic.”

Such a crude falsification of the text of the Declaration infuriated N. Narimanov. In the course of a discussion of the Karabakh question at the session of the Kavburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), he assigned M.D. Huseynov, the peoples commissar of international affairs, who was in Tiflis in June 1921 to inform the Caucasus Bureau of his opinion about Nagorno-Karabakh. [32]

Thus, the question arises: did anyone in Armenia and in Russia see the true text of the Declaration? In addition to the notes and correspondence of G. Ordzhonikidze, there was also a telegram with the text of the Declaration sent to the Armenian Revolutionary Committee over the signatures of N. Narimanov and M.D. Huseynov. Precisely on the basis of this document, Askanaz Mravyan, a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee, reported to Saak Ter-Gabrielyan, the Armenian representative in Moscow, that Azerbaijan had declared about the unification [with Armenia] of Zangazur and Nakhchivan and about a referendum in Nagorno-Karabakh. [33] And even later, in the collection of documents published in Yerevan in 1957 entitled *The Great October Socialist Revolution and the Victory of Soviet Power in Armenia* was published the correct text of the December 1 declaration as preserved in the Central State Archive of Armenia. [34]

Despite all this, from the mid-1980s, Armenian authors, and recently Russian political scientists as well, have preferred to refer not to the original of the text, but to its “corrected” version. Unfortunately, this operation with documents about Karabakh is not the first and not the last such case.

Why is it that the idea of transferring Zangazur to Armenia was mentioned in N. Narimanov's Declaration at all? In fact, this idea came from Moscow, from the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b). The initiator of this declaration was G. Ordzhonikidze. And why did G. Ordzhonikidze, who before this had recognized the attachment of Zangazur to Azerbaijan, suddenly change his convictions? The answer is that by means of transferring Zangazur to Armenia, he wanted to drive a wedge between Azerbaijan and Turkey, which in the future would reduce the threat from Turkey to Azerbaijan. While traveling from Baku to Moscow, I. Stalin on November 23, 1920, from Rostov-na-Donu by direct line reported to Lenin that according to Ordzhonikidze, at that moment the basic danger consisted in the striving of the Turks to have a common border with Azerbaijan. In connection with this, Ordzhonikidze proposed to block the intentions of the Turks by means of the transfer of Zangazur to Armenia. [35] Therefore, the Turks considered the treaty between Soviet Russia and Dashnak Armenia and also friendly relations between these countries after the Sovietization of the latter as an obstacle on the path of Turkey to the Muslim peoples of the Caucasus. [36]

However, already on November 4, 1920, during the well-known trip of I. Stalin to the Caucasus, a joint session of the Central Committee of the AKP(b) and the Kavburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) took place, at which the report of B. Legran on the situation in Armenia was heard and a corresponding resolution adopted. Point B of this document, which concerned the treaty under discussion between Russia and Armenia, noted, "at the same time, to communicate to the Politburo that the point proposed in the treaty about the transfer to Armenia of Nakhchivan and Zangazur [which Moscow had proposed] is unsuitable politically and strategically and can be carried out only in an extreme case." In point G, N. Narimanov was assigned the task of composing the opinion of the Politburo about Nakhchivan and Zangazur. [37]

As we see, at this time, the Nagorno-Karabakh problem in general did not exist and therefore it was not discussed. On November 20, 1920, the diplomatic mission of Soviet Russia arrived in Yerevan. One of the first steps of the mission was the tracking of the course of negotiations between Turkey and Armenia in Gyumri, as well as investigating the territorial claims of Armenia against Azerbaijan and Georgia. G. Chicherin, the peoples

commissar of foreign affairs of the RSFSR, received a report that “now, the existence of the Armenian people depends not so much on military force as on diplomacy. It is necessary to avoid party romanticism and arm oneself with tough realism.” As concerns Armenian claims to Karabakh, the diplomatic mission reminded Chicherin: “In Batumi, Kachaznuni and Khatisan, while conducting talks with the Turks [this refers to the peace conference in Batumi in May-June 1918], agreed to give Karabakh to Azerbaijan.” [38]

Despite the declaration of N. Narimanov on December 1, Nakhchivan and also Karabakh with both its lowland and mountainous parts continued to be left within Azerbaijan. However, after the signing of the Moscow treaty between Soviet Russia and Kemalist Turkey on March 16, 1921, according to which the Nakhchivan oblast was formed as an autonomous territory under the protectorate of Azerbaijan with the condition that Azerbaijan would not yield its protectorate to a third state, the question relative to the mountainous part of Karabakh was again advanced to the first place in the order of the day in the relations of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

On June 3, 1921 a session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) took place with the participation of Ordzhonikidze, Makharadze, Narimanov, Myasnikov, Orakhelashvili, Nazaretyan, Figatner, as well as a secretary of the Azerbaijan KP(b) Kaminsky and a member of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Georgia Eliava. At its evening session, three questions were discussed: 1. The Azerbaijan question; 2. The Zangazur question; and 3. Concerning nomads. The decisions on the first and third questions are reflected in protocol Number 6; but concerning the second question, in place of a decision there is the note “see the attachment to the protocol.” [39] Here, as they say, is the root of the evil.

First of all, the decision of the Kavburo of the Central committee of the RKP(b) on the Zangazur question, which consists of seven points, was adopted with the mark “top secret,” although protocol number 6 as a whole does not have this classification. Second, of the seven points of this secret decision, only six concern Zangazur and point five is exclusively about Nagorno-Karabakh. The latter reads as follows: “to note in the declaration of the Armenian government that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Armenia.”

[40] That is, in a “top secret” form, Armenia was directed to issue a government declaration, where it would specify that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Armenia.

Following such a decision, on June 12, the Soviet of Peoples Commissars of Armenia published a decree about joining the mountainous part of Karabakh to Armenia. It said that “on the basis of the declaration of the Revolutionary Committee of the Socialist Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and agreement between the socialist republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan it is proclaimed that from now on Nagorno-Karabakh is an inalienable part of the Socialist Republic of Armenia.” [41] This decree signed on June 12 by A. Myasnikov (Martuni) and M. Karabekyan was discussed in the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Armenia on June 14, after which a decision was taken about its publication. There it was stated: “To publish the decree about the unification of Nagorno-Karabakh to Soviet Armenia.” At this same session, the fifth point of order was the question “about the direction of a representative to Karabakh.” In the decision it was written: “Comrade Mravyan together with Pirumov, Akop Ioanisyanyan, Ter-Simonyan and a group of other comrades are to be sent to Karabakh. [42] In correspondence with this decision, only on June 19, that is after a whole week had gone by, the Armenian Revolutionary Committee published in the press the government decree. Askanaz Mravyan was confirmed as the extraordinary plenipotentiary to Nagorno-Karabakh.

An examination of the text of the June 12 decree of the Sovnarkom of Armenia reveals some interesting moments: In spite of what was written in the decree, neither in the declaration of the Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee was anything said about the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, nor between the republics was there formed any juridically significant agreement. Apparently, the authors of the decree were inspired by the “top secret” decision on the “Zangazur question,” adopted by the Kavburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) under the chairmanship of G. Ordzhonikidze and the secretaryship of Y. Figatner of June 3, 1921. And somehow, the decision of the Kavburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) is not mentioned in the June 12 decree. Apparently, first of all, the “top secret” stamp prevented such a reference, and second, the Kavburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) did not have the power to take such a decision.

In reality, it was immediately after the Moscow Treaty of 1921 that the government of Armenia made the first step toward annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh. At the time, the government circles prepared a six-point document called "The Basic Provisions on the Annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh to the Republic of Armenia."

The document noted that Nagorno-Karabakh was separated from lowland Karabakh by a natural border in the form of a low mount ridge. As one would certainly expect, the Armenians took care of this mountain ridge as well and substantiated its attachment to Nagorno-Karabakh by two arguments. First of all, the document said, this zone supposedly is used by the Armenian population, and second, there is not so much land in the mountainous zone which is suitable for sowing. The most interesting portion of the document is its fifth paragraph, which says that, "with the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to the Republic of Armenia, so-called Kurdistan which occupies a narrow point band between Karabakh and Zangazur should naturally be transferred to it as well. However, because of the specific situation of this district and the continued existence of nationalistic tendencies in the population, certain complexities were possible. To mitigate the latter problems, decisions must be taken according to the following guidelines. This region is located above the northern Shusha-Gerusin highway and consists of six rural communities, with a total of 27,000 residents. A special canton under the administration of the Republic of Armenia or, in the extreme case, under the protectorate of Azerbaijan could be established out of this district." The sixth, concluding, paragraph of the document clearly reveals the intention of the Armenian government. It notes that, "to the south of Kurdistan along the valley of the Akkara are situated the Kaladaras and Jamilla societies, a large portion of the population of which consists of Armenians. This is the zone through which the highway passes, and Nagorno-Karabakh can only be united with Zangazur—and a single administrative unit and a single administration could therefore only be created—by and through this path. There is no sense of annexing Nagorno-Karabakh to the Republic of Armenia without this unit." [43]

Based on these considerations and without any legal foundation, the Armenian government in May 1921 unilaterally took a decision about the unification of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. On May 23, 1921, the

Plenum of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Armenia appointed Akop Ioanisyanyan the plenipotentiary of Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh. Following the hearing of Pirumov's report about the declaration of the Zangazur Commission, that body adopted the following decision: "To hold off from presenting a note to Azerbaijan until the question of Nagorno-Karabakh will be clarified at the upcoming plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the RKP(b)." [44] As we see, already in May, Armenia had begun to take practical steps toward the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh to itself and concerning this, it was informed about the upcoming discussion of the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh at the June plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b).

What were the reasons behind such rapid and illegal actions toward the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and what was the subtext of the actions of the Armenian leadership and the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) in May-June 1921? The point is that a meeting of the commission on the regulation of border issues among the Caucasus republics was scheduled to take place in Tiflis on June 15. To clarify the internal borders of the Caucasus republics, a designated commission consisting of representatives of the three republics and headed by S. Kirov was created at a plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), on May 2, 1921. [45] Thus, the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) by its decision of June 3 and the Armenian government by its decree of June 12 about the inclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh within Armenia wanted to put before Azerbaijan a *fait accompli* in advance of the Tiflis discussions.

At its June 26 session, the Azerbaijan Council of Peoples Commissars discussed the report of A. Karayev about his trip to Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhchivan. It was recognized as useful to study the claims of Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh and to prepare a detailed report for the Council of Peoples Commissars. A group of three people—Shakhtakhtinsky, Vazirov, and Aliyev—was created to that end. They agreed that they ought to end the plenipotentiary powers given to Mravyan by the Armenian government until the work of this group was completed and to inform about this G. Ordzhonikidze; Masnikov, the president of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee; Karayev, the naval commissar of Azerbaijan; and Mravyan himself. [46] Following this decision, on June 27, N. Narimanov sent a

telegram to Ordzhonikidze and Masnikov that the Council of Peoples Commissars of Azerbaijan unanimously considered the unilateral resolution of the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh by the Armenian revolutionary Committee and the appearance in Nagorno-Karabakh of Mravyan as the extraordinary representative of Armenia an outrageous political and tactical mistake. At the same time, it requested the immediate withdrawal of Mravyan. [47]

On June 27, a joint session of the Political and Organizational Bureaus of the Central Committee of the AKP(b) took place. Following the discussion of the question "On the Borders Between Azerbaijan and Armenia," the *Politburo* and *Orgburo* considered improper the way in which the question about Nagorno-Karabakh was put by A. Bekzadyan, given the indisputable economic linkage of Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan; the proposal about the division of places of settlement of the Armenian and Azerbaijan population between Armenia and Azerbaijan, correspondingly, cannot be accepted from the point of view of administrative and economic considerations; the only plausible resolution of the issue is seen, as was mentioned in Narimanov's declaration, in the involvement of the Armenian and Muslim population in the villages in wide-ranging Soviet construction; the further discussion of this question must remain open until information is received from Tiflis. N. Narimanov directed to inform Tiflis about this decision taken by the *Politburo* and *Orgburo*. [48]

This session was still continuing, when A. Shirvani already reported this decision to M.D. Huseynov in Tiflis, adding as well that, "the Council of Peoples Commissars also joins this decision. Comrade Narimanov asks to report that the question must be resolved only in this vein, otherwise the Council of Peoples Commissars will disavow responsibility; for if Soviet Armenia by this act wants to make an impression on the Dashnaks and the non-party masses of Armenia, one must not forget the fact that by acting this way we are boosting in Azerbaijan other anti-Soviet groups of the Dashnak kind." At this time, Narimanov came to the telephone and continued the conversation with M.D. Huseynov: "Say that this is the opinion of the *Politburo* and *Orgburo*. If they refer to my declaration, then the declaration literally reads as follows: 'Nagorno-Karabakh is offered the right of free self-determination.'" Following this, N. Narimanov reported that, "today a telegram addressed to your name was sent, with copies to

Sergo, Masnikov and Karayev, about the recall from Karabakh of Comrade Mravyan.” N. Narimanov asked M.D. Huseynov to tell Ordzhonikidze that “our comrade Armenians think exclusively in terms of territory, but not about the well-being of the poorest population of Armenians and Muslims and about the solidification of the revolution.” [49]

Who then gave the Armenians the occasion to refer to the Azerbaijan political leadership? The subsequent course of events showed that the “anonymous” agreement in the name of Azerbaijan was given to the Armenians by people who concentrated in their hands real power in the Caucasus—G. Ordzhonikidze and S. Kirov. They were looking for a path of transferring Karabakh to the Armenians and, in their June 26 telegram to N. Narimanov, presented the idea promoted by A. Bekzadyan about the division of Karabakh on a national-ethnic line: “If you are interested in our opinion, then it is as follows. In the interests of the final resolution of all tensions and the establishment of truly friendly relations following the resolution of the question about mountainous Karabakh, one should be guided by the following principle: not one Armenian village must be joined to Azerbaijan, just as not one Muslim village must be joined to Armenia.” [50]

Having received the directive of N. Narimanov, M.D. Huseynov on the very same day, June 27, presented the question for the discussion of the Caucasus Bureau, which decided: “To convene an extraordinary Plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP and to send to comrades Narimanov and Masnikov the following telegram: ‘The Presidium of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP proposes that, on receipt of this message, you immediately come to an extraordinary session of the Caucasus Bureau. The session will focus on the delimitation of the republics. There are six members of the Caucasus Bureau in Tiflis. In the case of Your non-appearance, the six members of the Caucasus Bureau now in Tiflis will be considered sufficient. Therefore, we insist on Your immediate appearance.’” [51]

On June 28, a new session of the Council of Peoples Commissars under the chairmanship of N. Narimanov took place. The declaration of A. Masnikov that proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh to be part of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic was discussed and rejected. At the same session, the issue of the recall of the extraordinary representative of Armenia in

Nagorno-Karabakh A. Mravyan was finally resolved. Following this decision, N. Narimanov left for Tiflis for the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), which was set for July 4, 1921.

Part III

The well-known session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) on June 27, 1921 adopted a statute about the objectively existing economic linkage of Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan, while leaving the historical and ethnographic factors aside. However, a week later, on July 4, the next session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), one held with Stalin's participation, featured another voting in which S. Kirov, the future leader of the party organization of Azerbaijan (three weeks later he became secretary of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Azerbaijan), and G. Ordzhonikidze who directly controlled the Trans-Caucasus republics, voted "in favor of" the resolution which said "to include Nagorno-Karabakh in the Armenian SSR and to conduct a plebiscite only in Nagorno-Karabakh." [52]

Among those who took part in the work of that plenum were: Stalin, a member of the Central Committee of the RKP(b); Ordzhonikidze, Makharadze, Narimanov, Myasnikov, Kirov, Nazaretyan, Orakhelashvili, and Figatner, all of the latter being members of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b); Bretiman, the secretary of the Caucasus Bureau RKP(b) Komsomol; as well as Tsintsadze, Mdivani and Svanidze, members of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Georgia. Two different perspectives were voiced during the session in the course of discussions over the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and the following questions were put to a vote: a) to keep Karabakh within the borders of Azerbaijan (those voting in favor were Narimanov, Makharadze, and Nazaretyan; those opposed: Ordzhonikidze, Myasnikov, Kirov, and Figatner); b) to conduct a plebiscite throughout Karabakh with the participation of the entire population of Armenians and Muslims (those voting for: Narimanov and Makharadze); c) to include the mountainous part of Karabakh (Nagorno-Karabakh, that is) within Armenia (those voting for: Ordzhonikidze, Myasnikov, Figatner, and Kirov), and d) to conduct a plebiscite only in

Nagorno-Karabakh (those voting for: Ordzhonikidze, Myasnikov, Figatner, Kirov, and Nazaretyan). [53]

There is a note in the protocol indicating that during the voting on the question of Nagorno-Karabakh, Comrade Orakhelashvili was absent. This seems to have been a more honest approach than the one adopted by S. Kirov—then the most likely candidate to assume leadership of the party organization of Azerbaijan—and G. Ordzhonikidze—who had previously written to Lenin and Chicherin numerous times with appeals to retain both the mountainous and lowland portions of Karabakh in Azerbaijan—both of whom now voted for the inclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh within Armenia, an act which in the first instance compromised the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

An interesting question arises here: Why would G. Ordzhonikidze and S. Kirov, who had both only a few months earlier insisted in the preservation of Nagorno-Karabakh within Azerbaijan—because “they could not imagine Azerbaijan without Karabakh”—now, beginning in June and July 1921, changed their opinion in a fundamental way? Were both of them, as trusted representatives of Moscow in the South Caucasus, fulfilling a secret directive from the Center by simultaneously voting against Azerbaijan at the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) on July 4? Indeed, the transformation of Nagorno-Karabakh in June-July 1921 into an object of secret—and shortly afterwards open—discussions of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) and the efforts to forcibly hand over Nagorno-Karabakh were connected with the conclusion—on March 16, 1921—of the Moscow Treaty between Soviet Russia and Kemalist Turkey, the latter document featuring a clause specifying that the Nakhchivan *oblast* is formed as an autonomous territory under the protectorate of Azerbaijan with the condition that Azerbaijan not concede its protectorate to a third state.

The text and the political meaning of the decision of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) were subjected to varied readings and even falsifications from the very first day of its adoption on July 4, 1921. What happened was that Armenian authors replaced the verb “include” in the text with the verb “leave.” N. Narimanov’s statement calling for transferring consideration of the Nagorno-Karabakh question to a final decision of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) put a *fait accompli*

before the participants of the session. To be precise, he said the following: "In view of the importance, which the Karabakh question has for Azerbaijan, I consider it necessary to transfer it for final decision to the Central Committee of the RKP." Only thanks to the sharp protest of Narimanov, the wording of the final decision that the assembly adopted came to be as follows: "In view of the fact that the question about Karabakh has called for a serious disagreement, the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee considers it necessary to transfer it for a final decision to the Central Committee of the RKP." [54]

As we can see, one and the same session featured the discussion over the Karabakh question under the fifth point, followed by the discussion—under the sixth point—of Narimanov's statement concerning the fifth point of the plenum's decision about that question. That is, the decision taken on the sixth point superseded the results of the previous voting. One way or the other, a majority of the participants of the plenum voted for the decision called for by N. Narimanov. Subsequently, however, this issue was not transferred to discussion in the Central Committee of the RKP(b) in the first instance, because G. Ordzhonikidze decided to retreat from his mistaken position and along with A. Nazaretyan a day later raised the question about the review of the decision of the previous plenum about Karabakh. [55]

On July 5, the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the RKP(b) continued its work. As noted, during that session, G. Ordzhonikidze and A. Nazaretyan raised the question about the review of the decision of the previous plenum about Karabakh. Following the discussions, the plenum decided: "a) in view of the need for national peace between Muslims and Armenians and the economic ties of Upper and Lower Karabakh and its continuing linkages with Azerbaijan, to keep Nagorno-Karabakh within the borders of the Azerbaijan SSR and give it broad *oblast* autonomy with its administrative center in the city of Shusha located within the borders of the autonomous oblast. Four attendees vote in favor; three abstain; b) to assign the Central Committee of Azerbaijan to define the borders of the autonomous oblast and to present them for confirmation by the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP; c) to assign to the Presidium of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee to negotiate with the Central Committee of Armenia and the Central Committee of Azerbaijan

about a candidate for the role of the extraordinary *commissar* of Nagorno-Karabakh; d) to have the Central Committee of Azerbaijan define the extent of the autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh and to present this for confirmation to the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee.” [56]

The Armenian side tries to connect the fact of the replacement of the first “just decision” about the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia with the “unexpected” arrival in Tiflis of I. Stalin, who—they argue—must have offered protection to Azerbaijan in his own unique manner. We, however, know that Stalin had been in Tiflis since the end of June and could not therefore “unexpectedly” come to the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) on July 5. Why then do Armenian historians, when falsifying the well-known documents of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), ascribe primarily to Stalin “the leaving” (“the transfer,” according to the Armenian treatment of the term) of Nagorno-Karabakh within the confines of Azerbaijan? The answer is simple: given the background of the revelation of new Stalinist crimes during the period of the collapse of the USSR, the Armenians wanted to profitably present themselves to the entire world as victims of the Stalinist regime and in this way, by eliciting pity, to demand the restoration of what they understand to be historical justice.

Armenian authors and politicians who try to place all the blame on Stalin must certainly be familiar with the documentary picture of those dramatic sessions of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b). Every detail of what happened is made explicit in Protocol No. 11 of the session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) on July 4 and in Protocol No. 12 of the session on July 5. While it is clear that I. Stalin was present at both sessions; neither on the fourth nor on the fifth of July did he speak on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. Besides, Protocol No. 8 of the session of the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) of July 2-3 is kept in the very same file of the very same archive that holds the protocols of July 4 and July 5.

If one pays attention, one could see that among those present Stalin’s name is listed first in all these protocols. [57] Moreover, it is precisely in the attachment to Protocol No. 8 that attention is drawn to “the fact of the formation of nationalistically ‘communist’ groups in the communist

organizations of the Transcaucasus, stronger in Georgia and Armenia and weaker (in quantity and quality) in Azerbaijan.” [58]

Indeed, the discussion on June 3, 1921 of the Zangazur issue and on July 4-5 of the Nagorno-Karabakh question were directly linked to the fact that the Nakhchivan issue was reflected in the Moscow Treaty of March 16, 1921 between Soviet Russia and Kemalist Turkey, an accord which generated a wave of communist nationalism in Armenia and with attempts by the Center to break this wave. Suffice it to direct one’s attention to the text of the extensive protest addressed by the chief of the Armenia delegation at the Moscow negotiations, Armenian Commissar of Foreign Affairs A. Bekzadyan, to G. Chicherin on April 15, 1921. A. Bekzadyan accused Soviet Russia of failing in the talks with Turkey to stick up for the interests of Armenia. He wrote that “the Armenian delegation considers it vitally important to note that the Turkish delegation to the conference at all times speaks in the role of the defender and protector of the Muslim population of the Transcaucasus and in particular of the interests of Soviet Azerbaijan.” [59]

Bekzadyan was especially disturbed by the fact that Turkey was able to retain Nakhchivan as part of Azerbaijan, something Turkey considers very important for ensuring security of its eastern borders. He stressed that, “Given the way in which the Nakhchivan and Sharur-Daralagez issues were resolved, Armenia is deprived of the possibility to administer Zangazur, which belongs to it, in a normal fashion.” [60]

On this occasion, G. Chicherin wrote to Ter-Gabrielyan, the representative of the Armenian Soviet Government in Russia, that he was quite surprised by the attempt of Bekzadyan to whitewash the actions of the Armenian delegation at the conference in Moscow and to lay all the guilt on the Russian delegation. Chicherin noted that the Armenians were perfectly well informed about the chief goal of this conference. Moreover, at the time of Chicherin’s special and continuing contacts with the Armenian delegation, the latter never complained about the decisions taken. [61]

Chicherin used this similar wording in a telegram he sent to B. Legran in Tiflis. More specifically, he wrote that he “protest[s] against the effort of Bekzadyan who is attempting, first of all, to transfer blame to the Russian delegation and, second, to clear the Armenian delegation from accusations by some unknown to me readers or listeners by means of distorting the

facts and concealing something which the Armenian delegation could not fail to be aware of.” [62]

Apparently, by such deception, the Armenians were attempting to use the conditions created by the closed discussion around the Moscow Treaty for the advancement of their own claims on Karabakh and to enlist the Center’s support in this game. Behind the actions of the Armenian leadership, which was silent during the Moscow Conference but now spoke out with claims to Soviet Russia, stood the desire to receive compensation. In more concrete terms, “the subject of compensation” would have to be Karabakh. As concerned the repeated introduction of the discussion of the question about Nagorno-Karabakh on July 5, this as we see took place precisely at the insistence of G. Ordzhonikidze and A. Nazaretyan. Certain Armenian authors for obvious reasons mistakenly write that it was not A. Nazaretyan, but N. Narimanov who on July 5, together with G. Ordzhonikidze, raised this issue (Melik-Shakhnazarov 2008, p. 311).

The mistaken view that the decision-making on the Nagorno-Karabakh part of Azerbaijan happened on July 5 only because of the pressure of I. Stalin is again repeated in the article by V.A. Zakharov and S.T. Sarkisyan, published in Moscow (Zakharov & Sarkisyan 2008, p. 221). However, it is known that Stalin was in Tiflis already from the end of June 1921. Apart from this, why at all did I. Stalin arrive in Tiflis at that time? This question is answered by materials of the plenum of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Georgia, which took place at the same time as the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b). Thus, on July 7, the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) continued its work and, with I. Stalin present at the session, the decision was adopted to join to Armenia the neutral zone between Georgia and Armenia. At the very same session, the second issue taken up was the proposal to unite to Armenia the districts of Akhalkalaki and Khram. That issue was transferred for consideration by the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Georgia so that it could be addressed at the next plenum.

The documents reveal that a plenum of the Central Committee of the KP(b) also took place on that same day, one at which all members of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) except for N. Narimanov were present. There is even a note featured in the protocol that all members of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the

RKP(b) arrived at the session at 11:00 and that I. Stalin and G. Ordzhonikidze arrived at 12:25. The first issue discussed was the Batumi issue. I. Stalin was asked to make a report about the course of his talks with the Adzhar delegation. The next issue was related to N. Narimanov's declaration at the July 5 session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) about the need to intensify work among the Muslim population of Georgia. The plenum proposed to the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Georgia to use Omar Faig [Nemanzade] to this effect.

The agenda of the plenum of the Central Committee of the party on July 7 included the issue "on the establishment of a peoples Commissariat for the affairs of Muslims of Georgia." The plenum, however, only approved the establishment of a special institution for the affairs of Muslims of Georgia, while for the definition of the organizational forms and functions of this institution a commission was established, with Omar Faig in charge and Kavtaradze, Kvirkeli, and Tumanov as its members. A request was also forwarded to the Central Committee of Azerbaijan to send three or four Communists-Muslims meant to form the nucleus in the institution being organized.

The plenum then discussed two additional issues ("On the press" and "On the activity of the Extraordinary Committee of Georgia") and passed on to the main question, which was the reason I. Stalin had come from Nalchik to Tiflis, namely, the issue of the replacement of the leadership of Georgia. Filipp Makhardze, the chairman of the revolutionary Committee of Georgia who had been sticking to a relatively independent line in administering Georgia and had therefore been in tense relations with G. Ordzhonikidze, did not satisfy the Central Committee of the RKP(b). Under the pretext of the difficult situation in the country, I. Stalin proposed removing F. Makhardze from the post of chairman of the Revolutionary committee of Georgia and naming to this position Budu Mdivani. By a majority of votes—six votes in favor, four abstentions; including the members of the Caucasus Bureau nine votes in favor and four abstentions—B. Mdivani was named the chairman of the Georgian Revolutionary Committee.

For many years, Armenian and certain Russian historians sought to find a "Karabakh" link in Stalin's arrival from Nalchik in Tiflis in July 1921, but

clearly the real goal of this trip was to remove Filipp Makharadze from a position of power in Georgia and to install Budu Mdivani, someone more closely linked with Moscow, in his place. And even in November of the same year, G. Ordzhonikidze raised the question about distancing F. Makharadze not only from Georgia, but from the Caucasus as a whole. On November 2, 1921, he wrote to Lenin and Stalin that “Filipp absolutely must be immediately taken from the Caucasus.”

In the middle of August 1921 in a conversation over the direct line with G. Ordzhonikidze, A. Myasnikov noted that a sufficiently loyal attitude about the Karabakh question had been established in Armenia. [63] On July 19, 1921, the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan discussed the decision of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) of July 5 and more generally the results of N. Narimanov’s trip to Tiflis. Concerning the report of N. Narimanov, the following statement was recorded: “Nagorno-Karabakh remains an inalienable part of Soviet Azerbaijan with the right of internal self-administration within the limits of the Soviet Constitution with an oblast Executive Committee at its head.” [64]

N. Narimanov also made a report on the establishment of the external borders between Azerbaijan and the other republics of the South Caucasus. He reported that Nagorno-Karabakh was to remain an inalienable part of Soviet Azerbaijan within the framework of the Soviet constitution with the right of internal self-administration. Following this meeting of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan, a joint session of the *Politburo* and *Orgburo* of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party was held. The session heard A. Karayev’s report about Karabakh and adopted a decision to establish a commission consisting of representatives of the commissars of internal affairs, justice and foreign affairs to work on the preparation of the constitution of the autonomous oblast. [65]

Starting on the very first days of August, a special campaign was launched in Azerbaijan to explain the July 5 decision of the Caucasus Bureau of the RKP(b). On August 1, 1921, an extraordinary congress of Soviets of the second section of the Shusha district was held in the village of Kendkhurt at which Levon Mirzoyan, the representative of the *Sovnarkom* was invited to make a presentation. In his speech, Mirzoyan showed that Karabakh from an economic, spiritual and political, as well as from a

national point of view, was closely connected with Baku, the center of Azerbaijan. L. Mirzoyan stressed the rightfulness of the decision of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) concerning the establishment in the mountainous part of Karabakh of a special administrative unit immediately subordinate to Baku. [66] He promised that once there was an autonomy, all problems would be resolved. Following his return from this trip, L. Mirzoyan wrote a detailed report, in which he particularly pointed out that his deep conviction was that the Karabakh question had been created and continued to be sustained by party and Soviet leading workers, on one hand, and by nationalistically inclined members of the Armenian intelligentsia, on the other. [67]

Following July 5, the nationalistically inclined Armenians that L. Mirzoyan's report mentioned began to disseminate rumors according to which the Armenians had been resettled from Karabakh to Armenia. These rumors reached even the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b). One additional trend was noted: after the election of S. Kirov as the first secretary of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Azerbaijan, all those who remained dissatisfied with the July 5 decision of the Caucasus Bureau of the RKP(b) now realized their destructive actions against Azerbaijan through his medium. Yuri Petrovich (Yakov Isakovich) Figatner, the secretary of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), for example, wrote to S. Kirov in August 1921 that after the July 5 decision of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), supposedly "many Armenian villages from Nagorno-Karabakh began to be resettled in Armenia." [68]

Having received this news, S. Kirov immediately sent a query to A. Karayev and L. Mirzoyan who were in Karabakh at that time. Their response testified to just the reverse: not the Armenians, but the Muslims were being resettled from Nagorno-Karabakh to various other places in the first months of the Sovietization of Azerbaijan.

Following the well-known decision of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP (b) about giving the mountainous portion of Karabakh autonomy, the Center carefully followed the smallest nuances in this direction. On May 22, 1922, Stalin in a letter to S. Kirov, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan KP(b), inquired with sarcasm: "They say that 'the true Karabakhite' Fonshteyn represents

Karabakh in the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan?” [69] In a response on June 18, Kirov explained to Stalin that someone had misinformed him and therefore listed by name the members of the Central Executive Committee from Karabakh. [70]

At the same time, while yielding to the Armenian demands, the Center made certain attempts not to allow the subordination of the party organization of Nagorno-Karabakh to the Azerbaijan party organization. In response to this, on August 1, 1922, Kirov and Matyushin, the chief of the organizational department, telegraphed to Moscow: “The territory of Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan and its party organization is thus part of the Azerbaijan Communist Party.” [71]

Following three years of preparatory work, the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan published a decree, on July 7, 1923, concerning the formation within Azerbaijan of the Autonomous Oblast of Nagorno-Karabakh. This marked the end of the struggle over the territorial membership of Nagorno-Karabakh, one that broke out in the first years of Soviet power in the Transcaucasus. N. Narimanov, having analyzed this process, on May 27, 1924, wrote to Stalin: “Nagorno-Karabakh under the intense pressure of Mirzoyan has been declared an autonomous oblast. While I was in power, this was not done not because I was against this autonomy, but simply because the Armenian peasants themselves did not want this. Mirzoyan at that time with the help of his Dashnak teachers prepared the groundwork for the creation of the autonomy and raised the question in the Transcaucasus *kray* committee” (Narimanov 1992, p. 59).

N. Narimanov very well understood that the misfortunes of Azerbaijan would not end with this. He foresaw that the offering of autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh was not the end, but only the beginning of a great tragedy.

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Notes

[1] "The Results of Soviet Construction in Azerbaijan," The Report of N. Narimanov to V.I. Lenin, 15 September 1921, *Russian State Archive of Social-Political History* (hereafter RSASPH), f. 5, op. 1, d. 1219, l. 12; The Letter of N. Narimanov to V.I. Lenin, *Political Documents Archive under the President of Azerbaijan Republic* (hereafter PDA PAR), f. 609, op. 1, d. 71, l. 51.

[2] Telegram of S. Kirov to G. Chicherin, 29 June 1920, RSASPH, f. 5, op. 1, d. 2178, l. 1.

[3] Telegram of N. Narimanov, M. Mdivani, A. Mikoyan, and A. Nuridzhanyan to G. Chicherin, 19 June 1920, *State Archive of Azerbaijan Republic* (hereafter GA AR), f. 28, op. 1, d. 211, l. 115.

[4] Letter of Peoples Commissar of International Affairs G. Chicherin to the Politburo of the CC RCP(b), 22 June 1920, PDA PAR, f. 1, op. 1, d. 2a, l. 9.

[5] Response of G. Chicherin to a query by V. Lenin, June 1920, RSASPH, f. 2, op. 1, d. 1451, l. 1.

[6] Letter of Narimanov, Mdivani, Mikoyan, Naneyshvili, Vesnik, Levandovsky and Mikhailov to the Central Committee of the RCP(b), 10 July 1920, PDA PAR, f. 1, op. 44, d. 118, l. 25-27.

[7] Code Cable of G. Chicherin to G. Ordzhonikidze, 2 July 1920, RSASPH, f. 85, op. 3s, d. 2, l. 3.

[8] Response of G.K. Ordzhonikidze by direct line to the statement of Chicherin on 2 July concerning territories in dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia, July 1920, RSASPH, f. 85, op. 3s, d. 2, l. 6.

[9] Reminder by Ordzhonikidze by direct line to V. Lenin, I. Stalin, and G. Chicherin, July 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 3s, d. 2, l. 8-9.

[10] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to G. Chicherin, 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 17, l. 53.

[11] Note by direct line to Allilueva, 7 July 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 3s, d. 2, l. 20.

[12] Telegram of G. Chicherin to G. Ordzhonikidze, 8 July 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 17, l. 60.

[13] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to V.I. Lenin, I.V. Stalin and G.K. Chicherin, 16 July 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 3s, d. 2, l. 12.

[14] Telegram of A. Mikoyan to G. Ordzhonikidze, 29 June 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 17, l. 134.

[15] Code cable of G. Ordzhonikidze and S. Kirov to V. Lenin and I. Stalin, 12 June 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 2s, d. 2, l. 9-11.

[16] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to G. Chicherin, 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 17, l. 304.

[17] Letter of S. Kirov to G. Chicherin, 6 August 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 80, op. 4, d. 102k, l. 1-2.

[18] The text of the agreement between the RSFSR and the Republic of Armenia, 10 August 1920, *PDA PAR*, f. 1, op. 169, d. 249/II, l. 11-12.

[19] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to V.I. Lenin and G. Chicherin, 19 June 1920, *PDA PAR*, f. 1, op. 169, d. 249/I, l. 34.

[20] Copy of a note to V.I. Lenin, 29 June 1920, *PDA PAR*, f. 1, op. 1, d. 2a, l. 13-14.

[21] Information of N.I. Solovyev to V.I. Lenin, "Our Policy in Azerbaijan for Two Months (May-June) after the Revolution," 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 17, op. 84, d. 58, l. 15.

[22] Letter of N. Narimanov to V.I. Lenin, July 1920, *PDA PAR*, f. 609, op. 1, d. 71, l. 41-42.

[23] Dispath of G. Chicherin to N. Narimanov, 20 July 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 5, op. 1, d. 2097, l. 1.

[24] Letter of G. Chicherin to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RCP(b), 5 October 1920, *Foreign Policy Archive of Russian Federation* (hereafter FPA RF), f. 04, op. 39, folder 232, d. 52987, l. 40.

[25] Telegram of B. Legran to V.I. Lenin, 23 September 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 21, l. 144.

- [26] Secret telegram of B. Legran to G. Chicherin, 24 October 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 5, op. 1, d. 2178, l. 20.
- [27] *Kommunist*, 2 December, 1920.
- [28] Radiogram of B. Legran to G. Ordzhonikidze, 2 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 33, l. 16.
- [29] Cable of G. Ordzhonikidze to B. Legran and G. Chicherin, 1 December, 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 33, l. 12.
- [30] Report of G. Ordzhonikidze to V. Lenin and I. Stalin, 2 December, 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 33, l. 20.
- [31] Conversation of A.M. Nazaretyan and G.K. Ordzhonikidze by direct line, 1 December, 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 37, l. 1.
- [32] *On the History of the establishment of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of Azerbaijan Republic: Documents and Material* (K Istorii Obrazovaniya Nagorno-Karabakhskoy Avtonomnoy Oblasti Azerbaydzhanskoy Respubliki: Dokumenty i materialy), in Russian, Baku, 1989, p. 89.
- [33] From the member of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee (A. Mravyan) to the representative of Soviet Armenia in Russia Ter-Gabrielyan, 4 January, 1921, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, papka 232, d. 53001, l. 14.
- [34] *The Great October Socialist Revolution and the Soviet Victory in Armenia* [Velikaya Oktyabrskaya Sotsialisticheskaya Revolyutsiya i Pobeda Sovetskoy Vlasti v Armenii], in Russian, Yerevan, 1957, pp. 437-438.
- [35] Conversation of I. Stalin by direct line with V. Lenin, 23 November, 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, papka 232, d. 52987, l. 47.
- [36] Letter of B. Legran to G. Chicherin, 22 December, 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 5, op. 1, d. 212733, l. 5.
- [37] Protocol Number 4 of the joint session of the Central Committee of the AKP(b) and Kavburo, 4 November, 1920, *PDA PAR*, f.1, op. 1, d. 22, l. 20.
- [38] To People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Chicherin from the diplomatic representation of Soviet Russia in Yerevan, November 1920, *State Archive of Azerbaijan Republic* (hereafter SA AR), f. 28, op. 1, d. 38, l. 15.
- [39] Protocol Number 6 of the Evening session of the Plenum of the Kavburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 3 June, 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 76.

[40] Attachment to protocol number 6 of the evening session of the Plenum of the Kavburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 3 June, 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 77.

[41] *Bakinsky rabochy*, 22 June, 1921.

[42] Protocol number 8 of the session of the Central Committee of the KP RKP(b), 15 June, 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 105, l. 11.

[43] Basic Propositions on the Annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh into the Republic of Armenia, 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 137, l. 7-7ob.

[44] Protocol No. 4 of the session of the Central Committee of the KP Armenia, 23 May 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 105, l. 5 ob.

[45] Protocol No. 2 of the session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 2 May 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 57.

[46] Protocol of the Session of the Council of Peoples' Commissars of Azerbaijan, 26 June 1921, *SA AR*, f. 411, op. 1, d. 12, l. 1.

[47] Telegram of N. Narimanov to G. Ordzhonikidze and A. Masnikov (copies to A. Mravyan and A. Karayev), 28 June 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 13, d. 98.

[48] Protocol No. 20 of the session of the *Politburo* and *Orgburo* of the Central Committee of the AKP(b), 27 June 1921, *PDA PAR*, f. 1, op. 74, d. 1231, l. 64.

[49] Conversation of A.G. Shirvani and N. Narimanov by direct line with M.D. Huseynov, 27 June 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 215, l. 14.

[50] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze and S. Kirov to N. Narimanov, 26 June 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 18, d. 229, l. 1-2.

[51] Protocol No. 5 of the session of the Presidium of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP, 27 June 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d.2, l. 73.

[52] Protocol No. 11 of the evening session for the Plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 4 July 1921, *Russian State Archive of Social-Political History* (hereafter *RSASPH*), f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 118.

[53] Protocol No. 11 of the evening session for the Plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 4 July 1921, *Russian State Archive of Social-Political History* (hereafter *RSASPH*), f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 118.

[54] Protocol No. 11 of the evening session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP, 4 July 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 114.

[55] Protocol No. 12 of the session of the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP, 5 July 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 122.

[56] Protocol No. 12 of the session of the plenum of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP, 5 July 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 122.

[57] Protocol No. 8 of the session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 2-3 July 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 1, l. 87-88; Protocol No. 8 of the session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP with the representatives of local party and professional organizations, 2-3 July 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 18, d. 59, l. 14.

[58] Protocol No. 8 of the session of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP with the representatives of local party and professional organizations, 2-3 July 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 18, d. 59, l. 12, 14.

[59] Letter of A. Bekzadyan to G. Chicherin, 15 April 1921, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 53001, l. 58-59.

[60] Letter of A. Bekzadyan to G. Chicherin, 15 April 1921, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 53001, l. 62.

[61] Letter of G. Chicherin to Ter-Gabrielyan, 21 April 1921, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 53001, l. 63.

[62] Telegram of G. Chicherin to B. Legran, 22 April 1921, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 53001, l. 65.

[63] Conversation of A. Myasnikov by direct line with G. Ordzhonikidze, August 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 18, d. 177, l. 4.

[64] Protocol of the session of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan, 19 July 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 31, l. 122.

[65] Protocol No. 22 of the session of the Political and Organizational Bureau of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Azerbaijan, 20 July 1921, *PDA PAR*, f. 1, op. 2, d. 18, l. 94; *RSASPH*, f. 64, op. 1, d. 92, l. 51.

[66] Protocol of the Extraordinary Congress of Soviets of the second section of the Shusha district, 1 August 1921, *PDA PAR*, f. 1, op. 2, d. 18, l. 120-120 ob.

[67] Report of L. Mirzoyan to the Central Committee of the AKP (copy to the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP) about a visit to the mountainous part of Karabakh, 3 August 1921, *RSASPH*, f. 84, op. 1, d. 95, l. 3 ob.

[68] See the Information of the Secretary of the Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the RKP Figatner to Kirov, August 1921, *PDA PAR*, f. 1, op. 129, d. 107, l. 58.

[69] Letter of I. Stalin about the situation in the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and about the representation of Karabakh in the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan, 22 May 1922, *RSASPH*, f. 558, op. 11, d. 746, l. 1.

[70] Secret letter of S. Kirov to I. Stalin, 18 June 1922, *RSASPH*, f. 558, op. 11, d. 746, l. 2.

[71] Telegram of Kirov and Matyushin to the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 1 August 1922, *RSASPH*, f. 80, op. 25, d. 2, l. 1.

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HOW THE KARABAKH KHANATE WAS JOINED TO THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE: HISTORICAL MYTHS AND REALITIES

Jamil Hasanly

After the Kazan meeting of the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, stories about the history of Nagorno-Karabakh began to increase in number on the pages of various media outlets. As a rule, in most of them, the history of Nagorno-Karabakh both in the Soviet period and in the period of its being joined to the Russian empire in the first half of the 19th century was seriously distorted. Distortion, and at times crude falsification of the history of actual events by professional historians, causes deep regret. Who profits from this reworking of real events and the creation of invented history in order to support present-day political circumstances, when a factually correct history has been scrupulously prepared by Russian officials and when the actual correspondence of the military and diplomatic services of Russia, has been preserved in Russian archives?

With the arrival of Russia in Karabakh at the beginning of the 19th century, a new political situation arose. The policy of Russia, directed toward the establishment of a social-ethnic base in the form of Armenians, led to the strengthening of the Christian element in Karabakh. The essence of the disputes observed today, have roots that reach precisely to those times. Having finally conquered Georgia in 1801, Russia moved toward the borders of Azerbaijan. General P.D. Tsitsianov, who commanded Russian forces in the Caucasus, laid siege to Ganja, the largest of the cities of Azerbaijan, in March 1803. Having overcome the serious resistance of the population led by Javad-khan, Russian forces entered the city on January 3, 1804. In order to strengthen his position in the Transcaucasus, Tsitsianov had to conquer the Karabakh, Sheki, and Shirvan khanates, which were considered the strongest in this region. During the course of long negotiations, Tsitsianov threatened these khanates, demanded that they

consider the sad experience of Ganja and, taking into consideration the military might of Russia, accept its protection without resistance. In doing so, Tsitsianov understood perfectly well that Iran had interests in the region and therefore did not push events. Moreover, he had to consider the far from small military potential of the Muslim khanates themselves.

Finding himself constantly “between the hammer and the anvil” (Russia in the North and Iran in the South), Ibrahim Khalil-khan, the ruler of Karabakh, decided to conclude with Russia “a solemn promise,” a treaty which in fact became the first legal document on the path of the joining of Karabakh to Russia. The treaty between the Karabakh Khanate and the Russian Empire about the transition of the khanate under the power of Russia was signed on May 14, 1805 in the military encampment at Kurakchay, and therefore it passed into history as the “Kurakchay Treaty.” The document consists of 11 articles and gives Russia a one-sided primacy. From then on, the Karabakh Khanate passed under the protection of Russia and rejected any attempt at independent international ties with third countries. More than that, it was especially noted that the Karabakh Khanate lost the right of independent communication with the neighboring khanates. And the Karabakh khan was also obligated to contribute to the Russian treasury every year 8,000 *chervonty* (24,000 Russian rubles) and also to pay for the expenses of his grandson who was kept in Tiflis in the residence of the commander in chief as a hostage. One of the most difficult conditions of the treaty was an agreement on the dislocation in the Shusha fortress of 500 Russian soldiers with cannon.

The only article of the Kurakchay Treaty, which could be considered as favoring Ibrahim Khalil-khan, was the obligation by Russia not to interfere in the internal affairs of the khanate. It is interesting to note that immediately after the signing of the treaty, Ibrahim Khalil-khan by a decree of Aleksandr I on July 8, 1805, was given the rank of general and from that time forward as a lieutenant general he was forced to subordinate himself to the commander-in-chief of Russian forces in the Caucasus. This treaty, being a diplomatic document, testifies that the Karabakh Khanate became a protectorate of Russia precisely as a Muslim state. [1]

The seizure of the strategically vital Karabakh Khanate, in fact, meant the beginning of the complete subordination of all the khanates of northern Azerbaijan. The mountainous part of the khanate allowed for the exercise

of real control over all the western districts of Azerbaijan. Subsequent actions did not represent a major problem for Russia. At the same time, while considering each in his own way the historical fates of the people, the khans could not create a single union. Justly assessing the importance of the joining of Karabakh to Russia, Prince P.D. Tsitsianov after the conclusion of the Kurakchay Treaty on May 22, 1805, reported to the Russian emperor that Karabakh by its geographic location is the gate to Azerbaijan and that Karabakh brings Georgia closer to Baku, the seizure of which was planned for the fall. [2]

The Azerbaijani khans followed with interest the course of the first Russian-Iranian war (1804-1813). While they desired the victory of the southern neighbor, they were also afraid of it and did not cease to hope that by the results of the war they would be able to increase their own independence. In its turn, the Russian Army did not especially trust the local Muslims. In 1806, when Iran attempted an attack on Shusha, Major Lisanevich, the chief of the fortress garrison, wary of the unexpected actions by the Karabakh khan, slaughtered the entire family of Ibrahim Khalil-khan with the exception of one son, Mehdi Guli-aga. This event only confirmed the symbolic nature of the appointment of the Karabakh khan to the rank of lieutenant general of Russian forces. At the same time, having dealt summarily with Ibrahim Khalil-khan, Russia did not change the status of his khanate. Mehdi Guli-aga by order of the Emperor Aleksandr I of September 10, 1806, was named ruler of Karabakh in place of his father. [3]

As a sign of Mehdi Guli-aga's status as the administrator of the khanate, Emperor Aleksandr I presented him with a banner and sword set with precious stones. And just as in the Kurakchay Treaty, so too in the emperor's appointment of Mehdi Guli-aga as ruler of Karabakh, there is reference to the Javanshir family as the rulers of Karabakh, both mountainous and lowland, and to the fact that all strata of the population of these regions are subordinate to Mehdi Guli-aga. The new khan was filled with hatred to the Iranians and distrust to the Russians who had slaughtered his family, but in the end, the anti-Iranian attitudes came out on top.

The victory over Napoleon led to a toughening of the Eastern Policy of Russia. General A.P. Yermolov, who was appointed governor of the Caucasus in 1816 from the very first days did not trust the Muslim people,

seeing them as a potential enemy. For this reason, he sought the opportunity for the formal liquidation of the khanates, which he thought at any moment could become the nucleus of a movement for independence. The representative of Yermolov in Northern Azerbaijan, an Armenian General V.G. Madatov, actively helped him in this. Slowly, but faithfully, they realized their plan. In 1819, they liquidated the Shaki khanate. Not being able to resist Russian pressure, Mehdi Guli-aga fled to Iran, and the Karabakh khanate was converted into a Russian province. A. Griboyedov wrote that together with the khan, three thousand Muslim families moved to Iran. And, thus, in spite of what had been written in the various treaties, the process of the liquidation of the khanates reached its logical conclusion.

In 1826, the second Russian-Iranian war began. And again, the main events developed in Karabakh. For 48 days, the Iranian forces laid siege to Shusha, but they were not able to take the city. On February 10, 1828, in the settlement of Turkmanchay near Tabriz, the two sides concluded a new peace treaty, according to which all the khanates of Northern Azerbaijan, including Karabakh, Nakchivan and Irevan khanates finally became part of the Russian Empire.

There were many interesting moments in the process of uniting the South Caucasus to Russia. In recent times, a number of Armenian and Russian historians, as well as certain political circles, have been asserting the Karabakh was joined to Russia as an Armenian district. Certain contemporary Russian and Armenian scholars insist that in the course of the entire 18th century, the Armenians of Karabakh made up 97 percent of the total population of this region. A question arises in this case: if this was really so, why then wasn't it an Armenian state that arose in Karabakh in the middle of the 18th, but it rather was the Karabakh khanate, which was headed by representatives of the famous Turkic tribe of the Javanshirs? Indeed, there is no single case in history where three percent of the population could create a state on the backs of the other 97 percent.

However, a careful study of the international legal documents of this period raises some interesting questions concerning the form of the inclusion into Russia not only of Karabakh, but also of Armenia itself. Thus, Georgia, according to the Georgian treaty of 1801 and the Azerbaijan khanates by the Gulistan (1813) and Turkmanchay (1828) treaties were included in Russia. A reasonable question arises: According to what treaty,

agreement or declaration did Armenia and the territories to which it makes claims pass into Russia? Well-known Armenian historians have found a very easy answer to this question. Not observing scholarly ethics and historical evidence and not being restrained by long established historical truth, they write that “According to the Gulistan Treaty of 1813 which ended the Russian-Persian War of 1804-1813, along with other northeastern provinces of Eastern Armenia (Lori-Pambak, Shamshadin, Zangazur, Kafan and Shoragel districts), the Ganja and Karabakh khanates were transferred to Russia as well ... According to the terms of the Turkmanchay Treaty (February 1828), which ended the second Russian-Persian War (1826-1828), the Yerevan and Nakhchivan khanates and Ordubad district passed to Russia. This completed the final unification of all eastern Armenian lands to Russia.” [4]

In an effort to support their falsification of history, they cite the collection of documents published by G. Yusefovich in Petersburg in 1869. [5] They do so even though they know perfectly well that neither in the Gulistan nor in the Turkmanchay treaties published in Yusefovich’s collection, there is no reference to any Armenian lands—neither eastern nor Western; nor is there even a single reference to Christian lands. There is only reference to Muslim khanates and their unification with Russia. The absolute majority of the population of the Irevan khanate consisted of Muslims and this was reflected in Russian sources. In 1828, for example, when the “Armenian oblast” was created within the borders of the Irevan and Nakhchivan khanates, three-quarters of its population consisted of Muslims. This is confirmed by a letter of General Paskevich to the chief of the General Staff, in which he expresses his dissatisfaction with the actions of General Krasovsky, who was named chief of the “provisional administration” of Irevan and of Archbishop Nerses, a member of this administration. Paskevich criticizes Krasovsky for allowing Nerses to exercise unlimited influence over all affairs and in the harmful protection of Armenians, when “three quarters of the population of the oblast consist of Muslims.” [6]

The khanates’ loss of their special status meant the transformation of Karabakh into a colony, and this process lasted for decades. Over the course of this period, the administrative division of the Trans-Caucasus was frequently changed and only had finally formed by the second half of the

19th century. Following the liquidation of the khanates, the *comendant* system of administration was introduced in Northern Azerbaijan. All of Karabakh with a center in Shusha was included in the Military-Muslim District. However, such distribution certainly did not correspond with the ethnographic, historical, and religious peculiarities of the local population. In Karabakh, this took place in a particularly sharp way.

Demography was gradually converted into an instrument of policy. At the dawn of Armenian resettlement into these areas, a document of July 19, 1811—one that was prepared for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia—noted that there lived 12,000 families in Karabakh oblast, of which 2,500 were Armenian and the remainder were followers of the religion of Muhammad. [7] In 1823, the Russian administration prepared “A Description of the Karabakh Province,” which contained statistical data about the population of this district and its ethno-religious composition. Judging by the statistical data prepared by Russian institutions and included in this valuable source, there were 600 settlements in the Karabakh oblast at that time, of which 450 were Muslim and only 150 registered as Armenian. [8] According to this reliable source, 20,095 families lived in Karabakh oblast in 1823, of whom 15,729 were Muslims and only 4,366 (21.7 percent) were Armenians.

According to the 1832 census, the number of families in Karabakh reached 20,456, but the number of Armenian families over these very same ten years rose to 31.6 percent. [9] In Shusha, which was considered the center of Karabakh, of the 1,532 families in 1823, 1,111 were Muslim (72.5 percent), 421 were Armenian (27.5 percent), but already by 1832 because of Armenian re-settlers, this figure reached 44.9 percent. The Russian military historian V. Potto notes that the first major resettlement of Armenians to Karabakh took place in 1828. He writes that on March 16, 1828, 40,000 Armenian families left Persia for Irevan oblast. However, because of a shortage of bread, 5,000 families—the first group of re-settlers—were forced for a long time to wait on the shores of the Araz, but were eventually sent to Karabakh. [10]

The Russian writer S.N. Glinka provides some interesting data on the movement of Armenians from Iran to Karabakh. The political character of the resettlement of Iranian Armenians in Muslim lands just seized by Russia is clearly evident in the appeal to the Persian Armenians by an active

participant of this resettlement, G. Lazarev: "Christians! According to reliable rumors which have reached me, badly intentioned people are trying to disseminate not only foolish and false news, but even to sow fear in those seeking resettlement about Russia's good intentions and thus to change the desire of their hearts." [11] He writes further that "Armenians from various settlements, emboldened by Turkmanchay, moved toward Karabakh," [12] and in the course of three and a half months, "more than 8,000 families crossed the Araz." [13] In the spring of 1828, when the flood of Armenians moved toward the Araz, a directive from Paskevich was issued to resettle the poorest in Karabakh, and this also found reflection in the Russian literature of that time. [14] As a result, in 1832, Armenians formed 31.6 percent of the population of Karabakh, with Muslims still retaining their majority of 68.4 percent. [15]

After 1828, the resettlement of Armenians into the Muslim provinces of the South Caucasus was regulated by Paragraph XV of the Turkmanchay Treaty. [16] By a decree of Emperor Nikolay I on March 21, 1828, "an Armenian oblast" was established on the lands of the former Irevan and Nakhchivan khanates. [17] The Russian general and Georgian Prince A. Chavchavadze was named the head of "the Armenian oblast." [18]

In the second volume of the historical novel of Catherine's time, "The Favorite" by V. Pikul, the well-known author of historical novels, there is an interesting conversation between Count G. Potemkin and Catherine II, in which the former advises that the appearance of new Armenian communities in the Transcaucasus will create problems if not now then in the future. When he was creating his historical works, Pikul scrupulously worked in the archives and strictly guided himself on the basis of historical documents. At the moment of the formation of this oblast, 75 percent of its population consisted of Muslims. If during the period of the Russian conquest, 49,875 Muslims lived with 20,073 Armenians, then immediately after the formation of "the Armenian oblast" 45,200 Armenians were resettled from neighboring countries. [19] The situation in Nakhchivan oblast evolved in a similar way. At the moment of the completion of the Russian occupation, 17,138 Muslims and only 2,690 Armenians lived there. With the liquidation of the khanate, 10,670 Armenians in a short interval of time resettled there. In an analogous way, in the Ordubad part of Nakhchivan, where initially 7,247 Muslims and 2,388 Armenians lived,

1,340 Armenians were resettled in order to change the balance between them. [20]

The Russian researcher N.I. Shavrov in 1911 published a book in which, basing himself on documents, he noted that 40,000 Armenians from Iran and 84,600 from Turkey resettled in the Caucasus in 1828-1830, and they were settled in Yelizavetpol and Irevan guberniyas, where before this, the number of Armenians was almost equal to zero. N. Shavrov wrote that, "of the 1.3 million Armenians who are living in the Transcaucasus, more than a million are re-settlers. We resettled them here." [21]

Apparently, the desire to completely Christianize the Transcaucasus was strong. But the specific features of the situation led the Russians to act carefully, and A. S. Griboyedov, the Russian ambassador to Persia, warned that the Armenians would remain permanently in the lands to which they were resettled, something that could trigger problems with the indigenous Muslim population. [22] Such concerns, which were shared by the Azerbaijanis, were justified. The Armenians settled down on Azerbaijani lands and a little later began to display hostility toward the masters of these lands. I. Chavchavadze justly noted in his appeal to Armenians seeking to settle in Georgia that they must not view those accepting them as enemies. [23]

In the course of the entire 20th century and especially in the last two decades, Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani people have experienced and are experiencing pain and suffering for their "hospitality" in relation to Armenians, one which A. Griboyedov and I. Chavchavadze so precisely predicted.

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Notes

[1] "The Treaty between the Karabakh Khan and the Russian Empire concerning the transfer of the khanate under the power of Russia of May 14, 1805," State Historical Archive of the Azerbaijan Republic, f. 130, d. 14, ll. 245-248.

[2] "Akty Kavkazskoy Arkheograficheskoy Komissii," Arkhiv Glavnogo Upravleniya Namestnika Kavkaza, in Russian, ed. by A.D. Berzhe, Tiflis, 1868, vol. 2, p. 698.

[3] "Akty Kavkazskoy Arkheograficheskoy Komissii," Arkhiv Glavnogo Upravleniya Namestnika Kavkaza, in Russian, ed. by A.D. Berzhe, Tiflis, 1868, vol. 2, pp. 336-337.

[4] *Nagorny Karabakh: Istoricheskaya Spravka*, in Russian, Yerevan, 1988, pp. 14-15.

[5] *Dogovory Rossii s Vostokom, Politicheskiye i Torgovyye*, in Russian, assembled and published by T. Yusefovich, St. Petersburg, 1869, pp. 208-214.

[6] See Potto, V.A. (1993) *Kavkazskaya Voyna. Persidskaya Voyna 1826-1828 gg.*, in Russian, Stavropol, vol. 3, pp. 594-595.

[7] *The Unification of Eastern Armenia to Russia*, Yerevan, 1972, pp. 560-561.

[8] "Opisaniye Karabakhskoy provintsii, sostavlennoye v 1823 gody, po rasporyazheniyu glavnoupravlayushchego v Gruzii Yermolova, deystvitelnym statskim sovetnikom Mogilevskim i polkovnikom Yermolovym," in Russian, two volumes, Tiflis, 1866.

[9] *Grazhdanskoye Upravleniye Zakavkaz'ym ot Prisoedineniya Gruzii do Namestnichestva Velikogo Knyazya Mikhaila Nikolayevicha*, in Russian, Istoricheskiy Ocherk, p. 146.

[10] See Potto, V.A. (1993) *Kavkazskaya Voyna. Persidskaya Voyna 1826-1828 gg.*, in Russian, Stavropol, vol. 3, p. 591.

[11] Glinka, S. N. (1831) *Opisaniye Pereseleniya Armyan Adderbidzhanskikh v Predely Rossii*, in Russian, Moscow, pp. 107-111.

[12] Ibid, p. 48.

[13] Ibid, p. 92.

[14] Ibid, pp. 90-91.

[15] *Obozreniye Rossiyskikh Vladeniy za Kavkazom v Statisticheskoy, Etnograficheskoy, Topograficheskoy i Finansovoy Otnosheniye*, in Russian, Tiflis, 1836, p. 267.

[16] *Polnoye Sobraniye Zakonov Rossiyskoy Imperii*, in Russian, St. Petersburg, 1830, vol. 3, p. 130.

[17] *Polnoye Sobraniye Zakonov Rossiyskoy Imperii*, in Russian, St. Petersburg, 1830, vol. 3, pp. 272-273.

[18] “Akty Kavkazskoy Arkheograficheskoy Komissii,” Arkhiv Glavnogo Upravleniya Namesnika Kavkaza, in Russian, under the editorship of A.D. Berzhe, Tiflis, vol. VII, p. 487.

[19] *Obozreniye Rossiyskikh Vladeniy za Kavkazom v Statisticheskoy, Etnograficheskoy, Topograficheskoy i Finansovoy Otnosheniya*, in Russian, Tiflis, 1836, p. 229.

[20] Ibid, p. 229.

[21] Shavrov, N. I. (1911) *Novaya Ugroza Russkomu Delu v Zakavkaz'ye: Predstoyashchaya Rasprodazha Mugani Inorodtsam*, in Russian, St. Petersburg, pp. 59-60.

[22] Griboyedov, A. S. (1971) *Sochineniya v Dvukh Tomakh*, in Russian, Moscow, vol. 2, pp. 340-341.

[23] Chavchavadze, I. (1902) *Armianskiye Ucheniya I Vopiyushchiye Kamni*, Tiflis, p. 123.

THE KARABAKH CONFLICT IN THE DISCOURSE OF POST-MODERNISM:
THE CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS OF PRECONCEIVED
INTERPRETATIONS

Rauf Garagozov

So much has been written about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that it is difficult to imagine that there is anything new to be said, but as an investigator not of the conflict itself but rather of one of its interpretations as offered by a recent BBC program entitled “Karabakh: History is Written in Two Versions,” I believe we have still more to learn not only about the conflict itself but also about the cultural predispositions which underlie ostensibly neutral discussions of that event.

To help us in this task, I believe we can usefully draw on certain new means of understanding and analysis of social phenomena which have arisen in the contemporary period of post-modernism. Of particular utility is the notion of social reality as a process of social construction (Luckmann & Berger 1966). According to this new epistemology, events and facts are the product of our narrative rather than something directly accessible, any narrative is the result of a specific act of construction (Martin 1986) and always contains an interpretation (Gergen 1998), skillful recountings can become more credible than reality (Bennett & Feldman 1981), and visual and sound cues in the media may contain more content than the accompanying words (Kress & Leeuwen 1996). Drawing on these principles and the methodology we have used elsewhere (Garagozov 1996), in which we subject individual parts of a narrative to separate examination, we can learn a great deal by examining reporting that at one level may not appear to tell us much that is new.

The BBC program begins with a picture showing fields that are lying fallow because local residents are afraid of mines. [1] The obvious meaning given in this fragment is that there are real “difficulties in conducting agriculture in Karabakh.” Then a voice advises that “now, the capital of the

unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is like any other provincial center. But one needs only to turn off the main street, and recent history recalls itself," with accompanying pictures of houses that have been shelled. And this fragment too, entirely focused on the difficulties of life of the Armenian population of Stepanakert during the "hot" phase of the conflict, can be described as "the crisis situation in [that city] produced by shelling from Shusha." What follows reinforces this point, with various Armenian leaders talking about what they have done to "overcome the crisis" in large part thanks, in the words of the narrator, to "the seizure of the city of Shusha and the driving out of the previous residents (Azerbaijanis)."

However, judging from the next portion of the program, it is still too early for the Armenians to feel comfortable. Their idyllic situation is being violated by Azerbaijan, which "for some reason or other" does not want to come to terms with the existing situation. And the program continues in the same town. The message is clear: "not wishing to make their peace with the situation, Azerbaijan is interfering with the peaceful life" of the Armenian residents. And further frames showing cooperation at the individual level by people of the two nationalities clearly send the unspoken message that the problem lies with Azerbaijan as a state rather than Azerbaijanis as individuals. That message that "Azerbaijan is interfering with the restoration of life in Nagorno-Karabakh" is further reinforced by discussion of Baku's opposition to the opening of an international airport there.

The next frames of the BBC program reinforce all these unspoken points. The narrator begins in almost epic language with the following observation: "When the time came to defend his native village, Aleksandr (in the frame is shown a wheelchair-bound invalid) went up to the hills and together with others defended against the enemy." Further, the narrator says, "In February 1992, along this valley flooded refugees." It is not clear why the Azerbaijanis from Khojaly would begin to flee from it if one were not talking about the defense by the Armenians of their own village. Then Aleksandr speaks again: "And then when they passed by Agdam, the Azerbaijanis began to attack us. And the artillery shelling began." (Here again, there is no discussion about how refugees might have done this). "Aleksandr speaks about the bloodiest events of this war. But this is only one of two opposing versions of what happened," the BBC narrator

continues. "Over the course of two days, about 500 residents of Khojaly were killed or later froze to death." The Armenians assert, the narrator says, that Azerbaijani refugees shot at them, while the Azerbaijani side is certain that the Armenians intentionally destroyed the peaceful residents.

Because this fragment suggests that there are two sides to the story, it deserves special attention as one of the key elements of the reporting. Although the program's title suggests "two versions," only in this fragment from the narrator do we learn for the first time that there exist "conflicting versions of what happened." This assertion, we suggest, has particular significance for the understanding of the entire report. We deal with that in more detail below.

But let us consider what else the BBC narrator says. "The traces of the battles are such that it is as if they took place only yesterday," he says. But that observation is used to make the argument that it is important to look forward rather than past and that "the Azerbaijanis must agree to [Armenian] conditions" because the latter reflect the facts on the ground, whatever principles may have been violated. Moreover, the imagery of the program sends the message that "Karabakh is an ancient Armenian land" and that what the Armenians are asking for now is nothing more than the restoration of the status quo ante as well.

Using the methodology we have developed elsewhere, it is possible to describe the messages of the BBC program in terms of four categories: First, there was "a period of crisis and suffering for Armenians which has been overcome," there is now "the restoration of peaceful life," but "the crisis has still not entirely passed since Azerbaijanis who do not want to acknowledge the current situation are interfering with the restoration of the peaceful life," and "Azerbaijanis must recognize and come to terms with the situation as it exists at the present moment."

Thus, as can be seen from our analysis, the BBC report talks about the Karabakh conflict almost exclusively from the Armenian perspective, a constructed narrative that is clearly intended not just to report but to advocate and one that must be the basis for any assessment of the BBC narrator's claim of objectivity. That is all the more so the case because the destruction of Khojaly, one of the most horrible and tragic events of the Karabakh war, is not a version but a fact which is well known and well documented.

As the post-modernist approach suggests, any historical narrative fulfills a large number of social functions, including making possible the construction of our identity and the imposition on us of a particular moral position. Such preconceived and distorted reporting about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is of course nothing new. In that sense, the current program does not provide us with new insights. However, the narrative analysis of this reporting is useful to us because it provides an opportunity to see the cultural bases of these preconceived interpretations.

Research has shown (Bennett & Feldman 1981) that a well-constructed narrative, which relates an intentionally devised story, often strikes those without more information as more true to life than the actual facts of the case. And while the BBC program is not without its shortcomings—it is internally inconsistent on several points—its overarching message is clearing intended to cause viewers and listeners to reach the position preconceived by the Armenian side and by the narrator as well. As is well known, Armenian culture has a long tradition of constructed historical narratives including those, which stress the “victimhood” of that nation. Azerbaijani culture, in contrast, has a far less well-developed set of narratives (Garagozov 2005). But as any objective observer should realize, a history which describes only the position of one of the sides to the conflict can hardly help us understand this conflict, to find bases for dialogue and to achieve a genuine resolution. “Reality,” as the theorists of post-modernism teach us, is the product of precisely such dialogue-based communication and the bringing together of the points of view of the various sides.

In conflict situations like that of Nagorno-Karabakh, special types of “dialogue” narratives are needed, narratives that reveal rather than conceal the truth. It is clear that for the development of dialogue, one must include the voices of the other side, in this case of the Azerbaijanis. It is important to listen to their version of history even if it is not so compellingly packaged. And it is also clear that only by establishing a space for dialogue and thus a deeper understanding of the problem will one be able to generate the conditions for a hopeful overcoming of that mutual hatred and distrust which the BBC narrator says at the end is the requirement for progress.

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Note

[1] Because the BBC program does not include texts, the author has tried to retain in his translations as much of the style of the presenters as possible. The words reproduced below in quotes are those of the program.

WITNESSING THE WAR IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH: SHUSHA'S IDPS TESTIFY

Parvin Ahanchi

Those who were forced to flee their homes as a result of the Armenian occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory represent an important and as yet largely untapped resource of information about that conflict and the formation of ideas and identities of a far broader community about the war. To remedy this lacuna, I interviewed elderly Azerbaijani internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Shusha about their experiences, elderly now because all were 30 years of age or older when the conflict began in the late 1980s. This article provides some preliminary findings from that research.

By telling their stories, the Shusha IDPs are involved in constructing what scholars call "communities of memory." These communities of memory, or shared experiences, bind Karabakh IDPs across economic and geographical lines, but they are not monolithic. Instead, they vary at least somewhat along class, gender, generational, and location lines. In my conversations with them, I was especially interested in learning about the way in which the individual IDPs used their memory to give meaning to the traumatic and life-transforming events they experienced.

So far, I have conducted 84 interviews with Shusha IDPs, as part of a larger and continuing project on Oral History Archives of the Displaced Witnesses of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Occupation and Displacement. In addition to these interviews, I employed a questionnaire to record characteristics such as personnel data (name surname, DOB, nationality, social origin, home town address, education and profession), as well as information on geography of settlement, deaths of relatives, adaptation processes, access to humanitarian aid, and their more general views on the conflict.

These voices to highlight the conflict and occupation from multiple sides go behind and beyond of an entire set of documentaries, archival pages, and published articles and books, to tell real life stories. With all their

diversity, they are voices that, whether excited or sad, blame, demand, and call for justice. In almost all cases, those I approached were pleased to share their personal histories and memories of the conflict, something that they indicated gave them a rare chance to share their feelings with a larger public.

Do not ask me, "Who I am: IDP or refugee!"

Do not ask me, "How are you doing?"

Just hug me warmly from all your soul

And do not ask me, "How are you doing!"

-A Song Popular Among the IDPs

Despite the last line, I found they were willing to talk about that, especially as I myself was born and raised in Shusha before studying history in Moscow and then returning to Azerbaijan. Many of those with whom I spoke were very emotional about what they had gone through but gradually calmed as they realized that our conversations were giving them a chance to create a historical record about the events of the past.

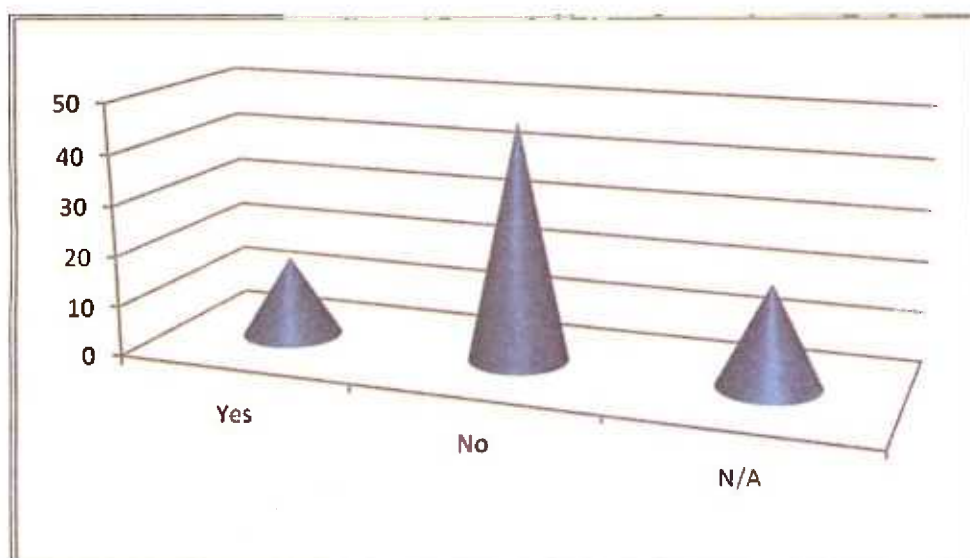
My very first respondent, a 65-year-old woman cried when I asked her to speak with me. "This is unbelievable," she said; "finally, [ordinary people are being asked] to give their opinion. We left our places almost 20 years ago, and nobody has bothered to ask us how we are doing, how we became IDPs, how we managed to survive. Every year, we hear officials talk about this on television and in the newspapers but now an ordinary old woman is being asked for her views." Other interviewees expressed similar feelings.

Another common theme running through all the interviews was a desire to "be back home" as soon as possible. Many cited the Azerbaijani proverb that "one can put a city in another city, but not a family into another one." And they often referred to their "stable" lives in Soviet times, a period when their relations with Armenians were not always bad. Indeed, positive feelings toward some Armenians have continued with respondents recalling that not all Armenians behaved badly toward Azerbaijanis.

Some respondents also noted that in their experience their Armenian neighbors were very sorry that the war had come and that the Azerbaijanis felt compelled to flee. But these same people noted that other Armenians had been actively involved in preparing for the violence, working with special organizations from abroad for "the sake of greater Armenia." Such

people, respondents said, showed themselves very early in the conflict by providing Armenian forces with information about the strategic points in Azerbaijani cities. As far as a future in which Armenians and Azerbaijanis would live together again is concerned, most were prepared to live with their former neighbors but not with other Armenians who have moved in since the war began.

Table I. Distribution of Shusha IDPs' perspectives on the possibility of living together with Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh in the future

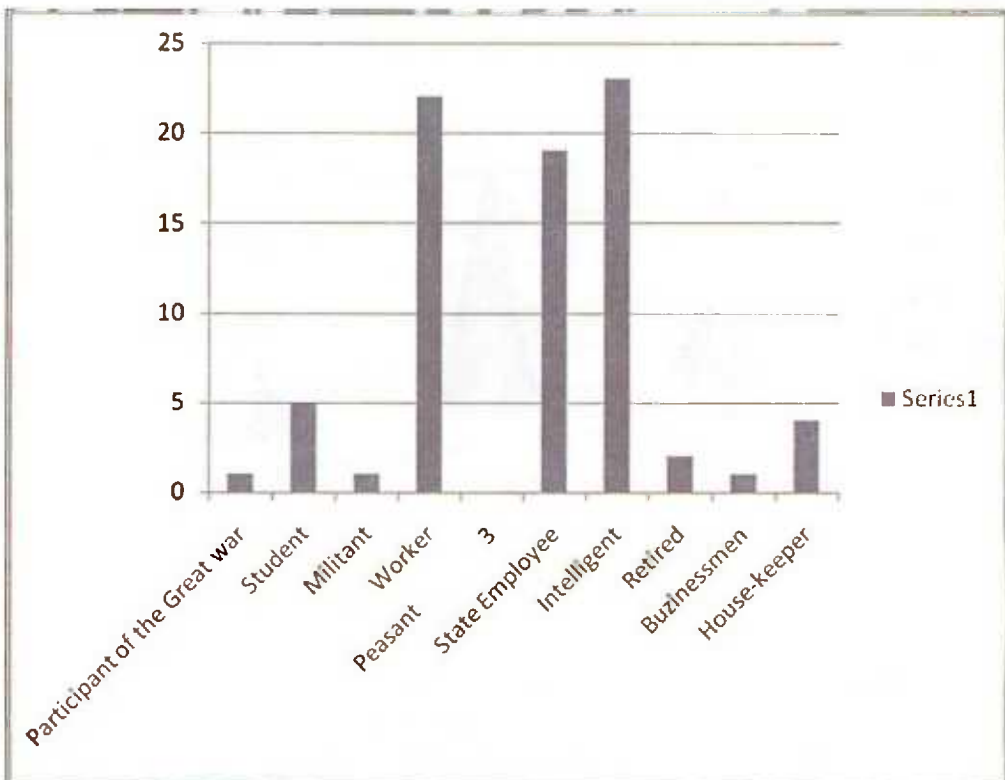


Perhaps the most moving testimonials concerned the sense among respondents that “time stopped” for them when Shusha was occupied on May 8. Azerbaijanis had begun to flee the city even before that because of rumors of an imminent air strike. But the violence of that and the mass killings have left a deep impression in the minds of the IDPs. While they would welcome peace and a return to the *status quo ante*, they cannot forget and in most cases cannot forgive what happened. But some noted that among the victims were not only Azerbaijanis, but also Armenians.

As for Azerbaijani efforts to defend Shusha, most respondents recalled that there was great enthusiasm, but little order. The Armenian attackers

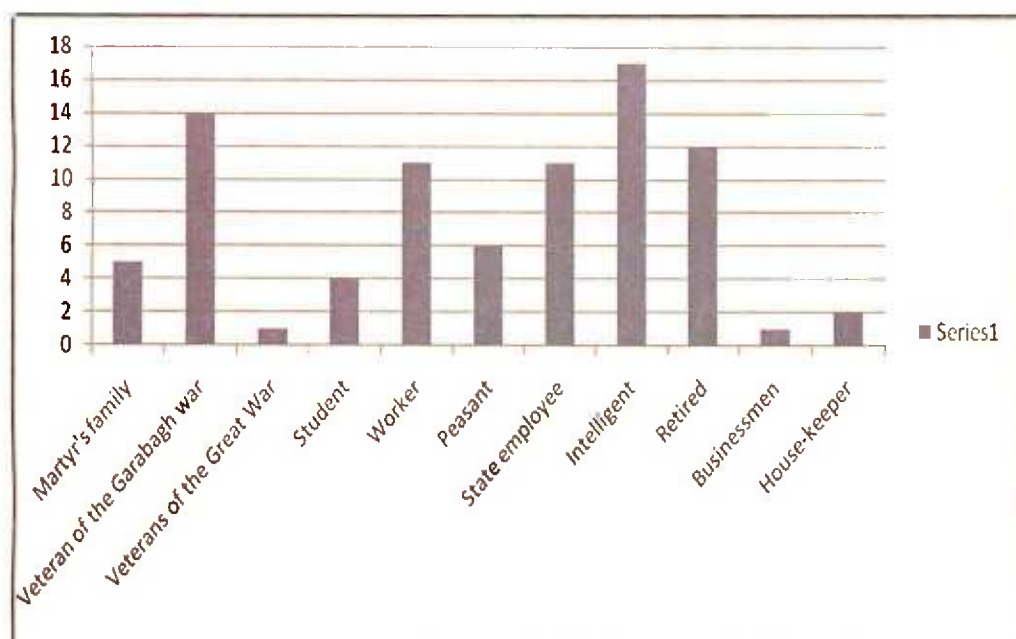
were well-equipped, thanks to Russian help, and disciplined, possibly because of their service in combat units of the Soviet military. The Azerbaijanis who were generally confined to construction battalions before 1991 did not have real military experience. Many respondents noted, however, that both sides seemed to be waiting for guidance from Moscow concerning what they should do next.

Table II. Social composition of Shusha IDPs before the conflict



People from Shusha ended up not only in other parts of Azerbaijan but also in Russia, and even in the West. Those who had been villagers suffered the most because they generally ended up in cities. They are still in a waiting game, hopeful that things will return to normal and fearful that conditions may become even worse. The respondents say that their properties in Shusha are valuable but cannot be sold, and they also say they want to hold them for future generations if things work out.

Table III. Current social composition of Shusha IDPs, 2011



All the Shusha IDPs with whom I have spoken work hard to maintain ties with others from their area, using the Karabakh press, the Shusha newspapers, and telephones. Significantly, they reaffirm their ties not only on traditional holidays and family events, but also on black days when their cities and villages were occupied. That, too, defines how they think about the past and hence about the future as well.

Azerbaijan Meets Turkey:
Revisiting the Past, Gazing Ahead
Into the Future

AZERBAIJAN AND THE REVISION OF TURKEY'S REGIONAL POLICY

Itir Bagdadi

Azerbaijan has always played a special role in Turkey's foreign policy, a role that reflects what Heydar Aliyev famously called their existence as "one nation, two states." Indeed, over the last century, Turkey's foreign policy cannot be understood without reference to Azerbaijan, and in the last several years, Baku has played a key role in prompting the Turkish political elite to revise its plans for a "zero problem" situation with its neighbors, first and foremost Armenia.

The relationship between the two Turkic countries in fact predates both of the modern states that exist today. The short-lived Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR), established in 1918, was the first democratic and secular Muslim state, predating Republican Turkey. But even before that, given the close linguistic and cultural ties between Baku and Istanbul, Azerbaijan had played a significant role in the development of nationalism in the Ottoman Empire through the works of writers such as Mirza Feth Ali Ahundzade (or Akhundov, to stick with the Russified version of the name). Other representatives of Azerbaijani intelligentsia, such as Hüseyinzade Ali Bey and Ahmet Agaoglu, were members of the Ottoman Committee of Union and Progress in the late 19th—early 20th centuries. Furthermore, Hüseyinzade Ali Bey, of Azeri Turkish origin, was the first Turkish-speaking intellectual to call for the unification of all Turkish speaking peoples into a single Turkish nation—a project that inspired Ziya Gökalp, a principal Turkist ideologist in the Ottoman Empire (Arslan and Bagdadi 2005).

In the years leading up to World War I, Azeri and Turkish nationalist intellectuals worked together, with many opposing socialism and preferring nationalism to "unite all the classes of a community" (Swietochowski 1988, p. 87). During that war, the region became a war zone among the rival Ottoman and Russian empires and with the October Revolution and ultimate Bolshevik takeover of the Russian Empire in 1917, Committee of

Union and Progress government served as a mediator between Moscow and the Georgians, Armenians and Azerbaijanis, all seeking independence from Russia in the Peace Conference of Batumi in May 1918. On September 16, 1918 Ottoman and Azerbaijani forces defeated a coalition of British-Armenian-Russian forces and occupied Baku, albeit for only a short period of time. By 1920, Azerbaijan had forcibly subordinated to Soviet Russia along with Georgia and Armenia. While with the 1921 Treaty of Kars, Turkey recognized Azerbaijan's incorporation into the USSR, the treaty also gave Turkey a special guarantor status over Nakhchivan, the exclave territory of Azerbaijan which shares a 9 km border with Turkey. [1]

Turkey and Azerbaijan had relatively few contacts during most of the Soviet period, but in the late 1960s, Turkish Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel led a large delegation to Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, a visit that caused many in Turkey to believe that if Moscow were to loosen its grip on the Turkic republics, Ankara could become the major source of inspiration for them (Harris 1995). Subsequent events proved them to be correct. After visiting Moscow in March 1991, Turkish President Turgut Özal received Soviet agreement to re-establish a consulate general in Baku. With the collapse of the USSR, Turkey rapidly expanded its contacts with the Turkic republics, a trend that brought it into conflict with Moscow's desire to retain the dominant position there (Kardas 2010).

Turkey tried to avoid an open confrontation with the Russian Federation, but the Karabakh war forced Ankara to choose sides. In 1993, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, invoking the 1921 Kars Treaty, even declared that if Armenian forces entered Nakhchivan, Turkey would have no option but to respond (Harris 1995). Then, following the Armenian occupation of the Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan later in that year, Turkey officially closed its border with Armenia, and it remains closed to this day. At the same time, while Turkey did not officially provide military assistance to Azerbaijan, Turkish volunteers and informal aid from various Turkish sources did flow to Baku.

In support of Azerbaijan's quest for territorial integrity, Turkey became its most important partner, even to the point of upsetting Russia. Even Iran, which shares the Shia faith of the majority of Azerbaijanis, was reluctant to choose sides, preferring instead to promote economic ties with both Azerbaijan and Armenia. As a result, to this day, Iran and

Azerbaijan at most have cordial relations, a situation that also reflects Tehran's concerns about the roughly 20 million Azeri Turks who live in northern Iran and Baku's wariness about Iran's religious influence on Azerbaijanis (Demirtepe 2011).

Turkey's support of Azerbaijan in the Karabakh war, of course, did have benefits, as the oil-rich Azerbaijani state needed to find outlets for getting its natural resources to the world market. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline in fact made Turkey a major energy transit hub. That contributed to a growing closeness in relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan, with scholars, tourists, and others going back and forth between the two Turkic countries. But this relationship was strained when Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party began its quest to implement Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu's principle of zero-problems with neighbors.

The zero-problem policy, by definition, required that Turkey have no problems with Armenia, a neighbor with which it had no official trade or diplomatic relations. In 2009, once the news was leaked to Azerbaijan by the Russians that Turkey was having secret negotiations with Armenia and planned to open its borders, Azerbaijan began to question its relations with Turkey (Erhan 2010). Although Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sought to persuade Azerbaijan that these protocols could not be implemented without tangible advancement on the Karabakh issue, Azerbaijan was very much offended by Turkey's actions (Eurasianet 2010).

Indeed, the 2009 Protocols signed by Turkey and Armenia made no mention of the Karabakh conflict, even though Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan and Turkish President Abdullah Gül repeatedly stated that no advancement in normalizing relations with Armenia could be made without Armenia evacuating some of the districts of Azerbaijan that it had occupied (Today's Zaman 2009). After Turkey began negotiating with Armenia, Baku showed its displeasure by announcing that it was planning to boost the price of natural gas Turkey was receiving at outdated prices (Finchanel.com 2010). Erdogan immediately visited the Azerbaijani capital and again stated that there would be no change in Turkey's policy of full support for Azerbaijan and that Ankara would consult with Baku before taking any steps to fulfill the protocols. Several months later, in April 2010, Turkey and Azerbaijan signed a strategic partnership agreement calling for further cooperation in military, political, security, humanitarian, economic

and civil society issues (Zaman 2010). In this way, Azerbaijan underlined the limits of the AKP's zero-problem policy, having made it clear that at a time your neighbors have problems with each other, it may well be impossible to enjoy zero problems with both at the same time.

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Note

[1] Archives du Service Historique de l’Armée de Terre, Carton No. 7 N 1639, “Les Nouveaux Etats du Caucase, Interview of Ahmet Djevdet Bey, le premier secrétaire de la délégation de l’Azerbaïdjan à la conférence de Constantinople”, 24 June 1918. As cited in Arslan and Bagdadi (2005).

AZERBAIJAN, TURKEY, AND ENERGY MARKETS: THE EVOLUTION OF A COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP

Samuel Lussac

Over the last 20 years, Azerbaijan and Turkey have experienced a complex evolution of their relationship in the energy sector, with now one and now the other taking the leading and with shifts sometimes coming because of changes in each of their capitals but more often happening because of pressure from third countries. The very complexity in this sector helps to provide texture to the overarching spirit of cooperation between the two Turkic states.

After Azerbaijan emerged as an independent country, Turkey was among the very first outside powers to get involved with Azerbaijan's energy sector. In early 1993, the Turkish state company BOTAS produced a map of potential export routes for Azerbaijani oil and gas and argued that the one with the greatest potential was between Baku and the Turkish port on the Mediterranean, Ceyhan. At the same time, the other Turkish state oil company was part of the international consortium negotiating for the production of the Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli fields.

At that time, Turkey believed that it could benefit from the pro-Turkey and pro-Western foreign policy of President Abulfaz Elchibey, but his replacement by Heydar Aliyev in June 1993 changed the situation. President Aliyev insisted on a more balanced foreign policy, especially in the area of energy; and Azerbaijan thus stopped viewing Ankara as its only strategic partner. As a result, TPAO obtained less than a two percent share in the consortium of AIOC, a blow for Ankara's policies and one, which many felt pointed to the direction Azerbaijan's foreign policy was likely to take (Hemming 1998).

Turkish leaders were especially resentful that President Aliyev planned to allocate five percent of AIOC to the Iranian oil company NIOC, a share more than twice the size of the one Turkey was being given. As a result, Ankara decided that its best hope for the future was to focus on transport

routes, and in early 1995, it became a leading advocate of exporting Azerbaijani early oil through Georgia, an approach that Turkish officials believed would lead to the ultimate implementation of the Baku-Ceyhan project.

Baku's original AIOC plan collapsed because of pressure from the US government and the threat of US-based companies to pull out of AIOC if an Iranian firm were to be part of it. As a result, in early 1995, SOCAR sold half of its share in AIOC, with TPAO buying half of it, thus raising its AIOC share to 6.75 percent. But that still left open the question of the pipeline route that would carry the oil to foreign markets.

The founding president of AIOC, Terry Adams, favored using both the Baku-Supsa and Baku-Novorossiysk pipelines, even though after February 1995 the institution had to argue in public for the Russian option (Adams 2009). And after almost a year of tense discussions, President Heydar Aliyev opted for such a compromise and asked that early oil be sent both north and west. That constituted a major victory for Turkey; indeed, one could describe this decision as the high point of their energy involvement in Azerbaijan. Building on that success, Ankara succeeded in obtaining a nine percent share for TPAO in the giant gas field of Shah Deniz in June 1996.

As a result of these maneuvers and of Azerbaijan's growing income, Turkey became more an energy partner with Azerbaijan than an energy investor in that country. In November 1999, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey signed an Intergovernmental Agreement on the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline. Construction began in 2004 and was completed in June 2006. In the meantime, this new relationship opened the door for a gas line—the South Caucasus Pipeline (SCP)—thus paving the way for a new Silk Road.

While this East-West Energy Corridor reinforces political and economic cooperation between Ankara and Baku, it has not led to increasing Turkish investments in Azerbaijan. Turkey has been purchasing up to 6.6 billion cubic meters of Azerbaijani gas a year, but Turkish companies play a largely passive role in Azerbaijan. Having the smallest share in Shah Deniz, TPAO never had a large voice on strategic matters. The situation has deteriorated since Ankara and Baku started to renegotiate the 2001 gas contract. Because TPAO is a state-owned company, other members of the operating consortium—led by BP—asked it to stay away from the discussions. As a

result, within TPAO, no one is specifically in charge of Azerbaijani gas transportation issues anymore.

In the last few years, Turkish investments in the Azerbaijani energy sector have been quite limited. The two largest state-owned companies—BOTAS and TPAO—are not investing at all. Frustrated with the outcomes of Azerbaijani oil prospects, these companies are now looking at Iraq. BP and Statoil respectively own 25.5% of the Shah Deniz field, while the Iranian NICO and the Russian Lukoil have a 10% share each in it. According to this contract, it was planned that Azerbaijan and Turkey would renegotiate the purchasing price of Azerbaijani gas a year after the delivery began. This process thus started in April 2008.

Because of dry holes in Azerbaijan in the last decade, many of the majors have left the exploration area. Turkish companies have followed such a trend and rather focused on other components of Azerbaijan's energy sector. TEKFEN Construction, for example, has been regularly awarded contracts for the building or rehabilitation of energy infrastructures in Azerbaijan. It most notably built the gas export terminal of the SCP in Sangachal in 2007. A transportation company—IKRA—also acquired AzTransRail in 2006 (Lussac 2010). This Azerbaijani firm manages the transport of oil through the Baku-Batumi railroad. Despite this and despite increasing cooperation between Baku and Ankara, new Turkish investments in the Azerbaijani energy sector have remained relatively small during the last few years.

There are two main reasons for this outcome. On the one hand, only upstream gas is still attractive in Azerbaijan, and no Turkish company has the technological capacity or financial resources to produce gas in the challenging Caspian environment. And on the other hand, Turkey's other neighbors have become more attractive investment areas, with Iraq having become a major site of Turkish investment given its huge gas potential.

Turkey's limited investment in Azerbaijan has followed limited Azerbaijani investment in Turkey for the first decade of their relations. Until about 2005, Azerbaijan was unable to invest in Turkey, especially in the energy sector. Until 2000, most of the oil payment bonuses were allocated to compensate state budget deficits (Bagirov 2007). And after the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan began functioning, some oil revenues were used to support the Azerbaijani economy. But, becoming the largest

contributor to the state budget, SOCAR used its increasing net profits to expand beyond Azerbaijan's borders.

SOCAR first started to invest in Georgia, but in the last several years, it has been investing more often in Turkey. In late 2006, for example, it formed a strategic partnership with Turcas Petrol, which is deeply involved into the Turkish petroleum distribution market. The two companies then set up a joint venture called STEAS (SOCAR Turcas Enerji AS) in order to pursue opportunities in Turkey. The first of these came in July 2008 when the Turkish government decided to privatize half of the petrochemical company PETKIM. A consortium consisting of SOCAR, Turcas and the Saudi company Injaz sought to purchase a 51% share, but its bid of \$2.04 billion fell short. Subsequently, however, the Turkish Privatization Administration (OIB) decided to reverse its decision and gave this consortium the victory, even if Injaz left the project.

PETKIM is supposed to become the cornerstone of Azerbaijani investments in Turkey. STEAS has launched an ambitious business plan for the company for the next decade, including the construction of a new refinery in Aliaga, with a capacity up to 200,000 barrels a day. This four billion US dollar plant should enter service in 2014. PETKIM will also diversify its petrochemical production in the hopes of earning the largest market share in Turkey. STEAS fits into a larger strategy aiming at making SOCAR the leader in petrochemicals in the Black Sea region. In April 2010, President Aliyev issued a decree incorporating the state-owned petrochemical company Azerkimya into SOCAR.

Azerbaijan thus hopes to improve the efficiency of its company. In this perspective, it appointed Mukhtar Babayev, former vice-president of SOCAR in charge of ecology, as the new president of Azerkimya. By 2020, this company should closely cooperate with PETKIM, thereby optimizing the cost and production of petrochemicals in the region. In the meantime, SOCAR Trading, established in December 2007 in Switzerland, is in charge of purchasing naphtha for both firms. In this way, PETKIM stands in the middle of an ambitious SOCAR strategy for the petrochemical market in the Black Sea. Thanks to its partnership with STEAS, SOCAR may play an even stronger role in the Turkish energy market in the out years.

In December 2010, the Turkish Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EPDK) granted a 30-year gas-marketing license to STEAS. This is the

logical outcome of the memorandum of understanding signed between SOCAR and BOTAS in early June 2010. It then stated that the Azerbaijani company would be allowed to deliver up to 1.2 bcm of gas a year to PETKIM and the Turkish domestic consumers. The remainder will then be sold by STEAS to Turkish consumers. This is a rare privilege for a foreign company while local Turkish companies and state monopoly still dominate the Turkish gas distribution market and is a reflection of the difficulties in negotiations about Azerbaijani gas supplies to Turkey and Europe. Azerbaijan would have linked low purchasing gas prices to Turkey and the right to directly sell gas to Turkish and European consumers. It obtained both according to the memorandum. Therefore, Azerbaijan is experiencing a new dawn in Turkey. After settling down in Georgia, SOCAR is likely to hold an increasingly active role with the Turkish energy markets, either in the refining sector, the petrochemical one or even the gas one (Roberts 2010).

The shift in the investment practices in both Azerbaijan and Turkey reflects the new economic position of these countries. After failing to economically establish in the post-Soviet space, Turkey has progressively limited its energy investments in this region, favoring cooperation with the hydrocarbons-producing states. In the meantime, recovering from economic and political meltdown, Azerbaijan has begun to invest in the energy sector beyond its borders, including in Turkey. From a Turkish investments recipient, Azerbaijan has been transformed into an investment-maker in Turkey. Such a trend falls into the framework of the rising regional economic leadership held by Baku in the Black Sea region. It also lays the basis for a new relationship based on energy partnering.

With the completion of the BTC pipeline in 2006, Azerbaijan and Turkey became energy partners. Subsequently, the SCP pipeline helped them to reach a new level of cooperation with SOCAR being allowed to sell 1.2 bcm a year to Turkish consumers through its STEAS and 2 bcm a year to either Bulgaria or Syria. The next step will be the implementation of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad and the Southern Gas Corridor. The former is scheduled to be completed by late 2012. It aims at linking Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey and, more broadly, Central Asia and Europe. Mostly funded by Azerbaijan, this project will reinforce the energy partnership between Ankara and Baku.

At present, three major projects—the Interconnection Turkey-Greece-Italy, the Nabucco project and the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline—are underway that will further link Azerbaijan and Turkey in the energy sector. All of them require an expansion of the capacity of the SCP pipeline to at more than 20 bcm a year, and that too will increase the energy partnership between Azerbaijan and Turkey. In this situation, while it may be unlikely that Turkey will be a major investor in the Azerbaijani energy market anytime soon, Baku almost certainly will continue to play an active role in that market in Turkey.

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AZERBAIJAN AND RECENT SHIFTS IN TURKISH-IRANIAN RELATIONS

Alex Jackson

Relations between Turkey and Iran are in flux, and changes in the longstanding dynamics of cooperation and competition between them, amplified by the upheaval in the Middle East, Turkey's foreign policy shifts and the new Eurasian energy calculus, are certain to be significant for the entire region and for Azerbaijan in particular.

Since the Iranian revolution of 1979, the relationship between Turkey and Iran has alternated between subtle competition and public cooperation. For Turkey's leadership, the spectre of revolutionary Islam in Iran and fears about a possible "Iranian scenario" at home have informed the thinking of many in Ankara. And for the post-1979 Iranian leadership, the presence of a secular, pro-Western NATO country on its Western border has been a cause for concern.

After the collapse of the USSR, Tehran and Ankara competed for influence in the newly independent states of Eurasia, with Iran playing the religious card and Turkey the ethnic one. This competition limited cooperation between them and at times led each to back Kurdish separatists on the territory of the other. However, after the AKP took power in Turkey in 2002, this changed. That party's Islamist and populist roots opened the way to a warmer relationship with Iran at an ideological level, and the AKP government's policy of "zero problems with neighbors," alongside a desire to find markets and energy suppliers, provided pragmatic reasons for closer ties. Indeed, despite the tensions between Iran and the international community, Turkey in this period has sought to manage this relationship rather than engage in confrontation.

Disagreements, however, remain. Both Ankara and Tehran, for example, support the Arab revolutions, but they do so from different standpoints and for different reasons. The two countries cooperate closely on energy, but they disagree over the route Caspian hydrocarbons should

take to world markets. They share some common interests in the Caucasus, but at the same time, they compete for influence and have very different approaches to regional security issues.

Recent events have both encouraged expanding cooperation and intensified competition in three key areas: the Middle East, missile defense, and security (including energy security) in the South Caucasus.

The Middle East

Iran's antagonistic relationship with Israel has been a major difference between Tehran and Ankara, but the rapid deterioration of Turkish-Israeli ties has caused a significant shift in the geopolitics of the region. Turkey's motivations in this case are mixed, but alongside genuine anger and domestic politics is the desire of Prime Minister Erdogan to become a champion of the "Arab street" and of the Palestinians in particular. Criticizing Israel and embracing the revolutionaries is enabling Turkey to outflank Iran. Tehran has traditionally seen itself as a key player in the region, but the bloody repression meted out by its Syrian ally and the secular nature of the revolutions is marginalizing Iranian influence and boosting Turkey's. Put in simplest terms, Turkey appears to be on the side of the revolutions, while Iran does not.

Turkish-Iranian relations will be profoundly affected by the course of the Arab Spring. Civil war in Syria or Turkish intervention there would damage ties. If the AKP succeeds in setting itself up as "a model" for the revolutionary states, Tehran will become suspicious about losing regional influence.

These shifts have consequences for Azerbaijan. For years, Azerbaijan has endured complaints from Iran about its burgeoning defense and economic relationship with Israel; now it may have to endure them from its close ally Turkey, too. On September 19, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, Hulusi Kılıç, stated that "the problem of a brotherly state should be a problem for Azerbaijan, too" and suggested that Azerbaijani oil exports to Israel via Turkey should be reconsidered. Worsening relations between Turkey and Israel might also lead Israeli pressure groups to align themselves with the Armenian diaspora, a move that would in turn worsen ties between Tel Aviv and Baku.

This places Azerbaijan in an awkward position. An escalation would leave Azerbaijan's relationship with Israel without Turkish support: for although Azerbaijan is mature enough to deal with other states alone, it has benefited from Turkey's close cooperation with Israel, which served as a springboard for Baku's own relationship, particularly in defense and joint industrial ventures. The harmonizing of Turkish and Iranian views on the Israel issue may therefore make it increasingly difficult for Azerbaijan to maintain close ties with the Israeli state.

Missile defense

Despite concerns about the AKP's alleged slide into anti-Westernism and Islamism, Turkey has recently agreed to host part of NATO's planned missile defense network, a network assumed to be aimed at Iran. The decision has provoked anger in Tehran, with Tehran warning that the system "will definitely have complicated consequences" and will not improve Turkey's security. This is a serious, "hard security" issue which Tehran views as a direct threat and it may lead to a significant deterioration in ties.

The fact that Turkey has agreed to host the missile defense shield speaks volumes about its threat perception of Iran. Officially, both states have warm and peaceful ties, and to a large extent this is true; but clearly, officials in Ankara believe that Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile program is a threat. Consequently, unless Turkey saw a real and direct benefit to its national interests, it would not provoke Iran by signing up to the project. Iran, as a result, is clearly revising its opinion of Turkey.

A breakdown in the security relationship between Iran and Turkey clearly affects Azerbaijan. Baku's warm, multidimensional relationship with Ankara would take precedence, of course, but its ties with Iran would also have to be taken into account. Balancing between them would be difficult.

Security and Energy in the Caucasus

Ankara and Tehran are often portrayed as engaging in a kind of "soft war" in the Caucasus, with Turkey backing Azerbaijan and Iran backing Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The reality is more complex, but Iran does represent a vital lifeline to Armenia, a bridge that allows it to partially offset the Turkish-Azerbaijani closure of borders with Yerevan. At

the same time, Turkey's support is integral to Azerbaijan's security strategy. Moreover, Iran's support for pro-Islamic groups in Azerbaijan is countered by the normative example of Turkey as a secular Muslim state.

Both Turkey and Iran are publicly committed to a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but have different approaches. Turkey, after its attempt to promote a rapprochement with Armenia without consulting Azerbaijan, has linked improvement of bilateral ties with progress on Nagorno-Karabakh. Essentially, Turkey follows Azerbaijan's line. Iran's aim in contrast is twofold: to prevent Azerbaijani irredentism in northern Iran, and to limit the involvement of outside powers like the US and the EU in the region. Its main contribution is to insist that the conflict be settled through the negotiations of regional powers. At the same time and more subtly, both Turkey and Iran seek to decrease the others' influence through promoting their own model of conflict resolution. Turkey conspicuously avoided including Iran in its Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform idea in 2008, while Iran has lobbied for a more active role in the peacemaking efforts.

Competition could emerge here, particularly if a peace settlement driven by Turkey reduced Iranian regional influence. By itself, that would not be sufficient to significantly damage Turkish-Iranian ties, but given the fragility and complexity of security in the South Caucasus, it could lead to a sudden shift in regional dynamics and spark confrontation.

Ultimately, security in the South Caucasus is in major ways a matter of perceptions. If Iran perceives that a successful, Turkish-led resolution to Nagorno-Karabakh increases the influence of Turkey—and by extension of NATO and anti-Iranian elements in Azerbaijan—it is likely to oppose it and act accordingly. For similar reasons, relations between Tehran and Ankara would deteriorate, if Turkey begins backing the EU in supporting a Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline (TCGP) to bring Central Asian gas to Europe. Iran and Russia staunchly oppose the project, as it would limit their influence as “gateways” to Central Asia; but for Turkey, a TCGP would be a further step toward achieving its ambition of being a Eurasia-wide energy hub. An active Turkish embrace of this project would likewise be seen in Tehran as an unwanted Western penetration of the region.

In both these cases, Iran would likely stop viewing Turkey as a “Muslim” state and start seeing it—again—as a “Western” one, the agent of

European and US expansion into the region. This tendency or the countervailing tendency would be reinforced and amplified by other aspects in their bilateral relationship. On its own, Turkish support for a Caspian gas pipeline is unlikely to be seen as a threat in Iran. But if it is coupled with NATO radar and missile bases in Turkey, closer cooperation with the US in Iraq, opposition to Iranian allies in the Middle East and warmer ties with Israel, then it would be viewed very negatively indeed. Turkey and Iran have a multidimensional partnership, and the alignment of multiple factors is a necessary condition to seriously affect ties.

The implications for Azerbaijan are twofold. On the one hand, Baku is more than capable of acting independently and balancing between the two powers even during temporary or one-dimensional disputes. Azerbaijan is an important state and has the capacity to sit tight during an argument between neighbors. But on the other, the reverse is also true. When Turkish-Iranian relations are good, Azerbaijan can enjoy better ties with both states, but if they deteriorate, Azerbaijan may be forced to make an either/or choice between them. Baku almost certainly would choose Turkey, given the nature of their relationship, but it would contribute to the polarization of geopolitics in the region. The constant challenge for Baku's foreign policy is to balance between these two poles, as well as between many more in its neighborhood.

PAX TURCICA INSTITUTE:
A PLATFORM FOR TURKIC ADVOCACY AND
RESEARCH

Javid Huseynov

Over a century ago, the idea of Turkic unity contributed to the liberation of Turkic-speaking subjects of the Russian Empire and to the establishment of a modern Turkish Republic in the Ottoman heartland. Such Turkic idealism also formulated the success of the first Azerbaijani democracy in 1918 (Altstadt 1992, p. 708) and promoted the development of national consciousness among the Turkic peoples of Central Asia in 1920s. The fall of Soviet Union in 1991 and the emergence of five newly independent Turkic states opened avenues for reviving the old ideals of unity; and while the classical definition of Turkism no longer has a role, the forces of globalization and networking have offered new opportunities for a conceptual redefinition of Turkic solidarity. The growing cooperation of Turkic expatriate communities in third countries is an important part of this process.

In the representative democracies of the West, émigré communities often wield a significant influence over bilateral relations between their homelands and place of residence as the cases of the Jewish, Greek and Armenian communities in the United States demonstrate.

Up to now, Turkic-American communities have played a relatively smaller role, the result of both their shorter histories and the diversity of their national interests. Nevertheless, as ever more members of these diasporas recognize, cooperation among them is essential—for advancing

the interests of Turkic-Americans as a whole, on one hand, and facilitating ties between the United States and the Turkic nations, on the other—and that conviction lies behind the establishment of the Pax Turcica Institute (PTI).

Although formally registered only in 2011, the Pax Turcica initiative dates back to 2008, when a group of Turkish and Azerbaijani community leaders and scholars called for the creation of a unified Turkic-American research and advocacy platform. The idea was not to create another supra-grassroots organization, but rather to facilitate working relations and the networking of existing Turkic-American organizations and communities. The choice of the title was not incidental. The term *Pax Turcica* (or “Turkic peace” in translation from Latin) dates back to 16th century, to the period of tranquility, tolerance, cooperation, prosperity and reform following the largest Ottoman expansion into the European heartland under Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (Lamb 1956).

Given its mission, the *Pax Turcica* initiative has flourished through the cooperation of various Turkic organizations, including the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations, the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), the Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA), the Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), and the Uzbek Initiative. In addition, PTI also engages several non-Turkic organizations interested in cooperation. For example, Pax Turcica’s most recent action campaign in support of Turkey and Macedonia was held in collaboration with the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD), the leading grassroots organization of Macedonian-Americans. [1]

The First Pax Turcica Conference held in May 2009 at Columbia University was the first and so far the only academic grassroots event that brought together scholars, community leaders, diplomats, and students from Turkish, Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Kazakh, Tatar, and Kyrgyz communities. Apart from that, it was the only all-Turkic conference co-hosted by the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University. [2] Subsequently, PTI organized—in cooperation with TCA, ATAA, ASA—another conference on the history of Jewish communities in the Turkic world at the Center for Jewish History in New York. [3] More recently, Pax Turcica—together with ATAA and AAC—organized Khojaly memorial presentations at the George Washington University (GWU) [4] and the University of Toronto (UofT), [5] and held a US Census Workshop

in Washington, DC. And last year, Pax Turcica supported the major issue of the first Turkic magazine *Birlik*, issued at the University of California, Berkeley. [6] That same year, AAC issued the Pax Turcica US Postal Service-approved stamp to raise awareness of Turkic heritage in the 2010 US Census. [7]

In 2011, the Pax Turcica initiative made a big step forward by institutionalizing and engaging in Turkic-American grassroots advocacy. For this reason, the organization acquired a market-leading Capwiz online advocacy system and launched its first letter campaign in February, one dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. [8] PTI Capwiz ability allowed the Pax Turcica Institute to build a nationwide grassroots membership, which now counts in thousands, and to more consistently represent the Turkic communities and organizations in the U.S. Congress, government and local media. In the past six months, PTI—in cooperation with ATAA, ASA, and AAC—launched 15 different action campaigns, including the “March 31—Day of *Soyqırım*, the Azerbaijani Genocide,” “April 23—Turkish National Sovereignty and Children’s Day,” opposing each of the five anti-Turkish bills—House Resolutions 304, 306, 2587, 180, and Senate Resolution 196—introduced in Congress during 2011. Within those six months, over 20,000 letters were sent to members of Congress and other public officials—with dozens of responses being received every week—and more than ten articles were published in the US media. [9] The latter represents a major achievement for less than 180 days of activity.

Building upon the annual Congressional testimonies by ASA and AAC, the PTI also pioneered its 2011 action campaign regarding foreign assistance by focusing on the direct U.S. aid to the occupied Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The PTI campaign letter argued that the US aid was initially intended by Congress for all victims of the Karabakh conflict, but for the last several years, under the influence of the Armenian-American lobby, US aid was directed only to Armenians in the occupied Karabakh, depriving displaced Azerbaijanis of any help. Moreover, the amount of this aid allocation was elevated from 3 million USD to 8 million USD, while the actual consumption in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh never exceeded 2 million USD. Hence the aid allocation was simply a big waste of US taxpayer dollars with a view to satisfying the whim of a single special ethnic interest group. In July 2011, within just five months of the PTI advocacy

efforts, House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs omitted the wording and amount of direct aid to Nagorno-Karabakh in the FY 2012 budget proposal. This is not a final victory until the full House Appropriations Committee vote (and some might argue that the omission was due to the reduction of overall budget spending), but the developments show that the Turkic community is being heard and Pax Turcica is proud of its role in this effort.

In the coming months, PTI will focus on actively engaging Turkic communities to raise awareness of their issues in local constituencies. This may be a challenging task, especially in areas with major influence of Armenian-American ethnic interest groups. But it is a key to building an equally influential community that can overcome such obstacles. For instance, in 2008, AAC became the first Azerbaijani-American grassroots organization to organize a community visit to California State Assembly and to observe the Azerbaijani flag rising to honor AAC delegation in California Senate chambers.

PTI also plans to expand its activity on the academic front by organizing educational programs at major U.S. and Canadian universities throughout the year. In past, PTI group partnered with Turkish and Azerbaijani student associations at George Washington University, University of Toronto, University of California Berkeley, University of California Irvine, and Columbia University. These partnerships will be taken to a qualitatively new level via the Pax Turcica academic grassroots network. Finally, PTI also works to build partnerships with Tatar, Kazakh, Uyghur and Kyrgyz communities and organizations in the US in order to expand the range of focus of its advocacy.

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AZERBAIJAN IN THE NEW GEO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Tedo Japaridze & Ilia Roubanis

The increasing importance of oil and gas in both domestic and international affairs presents Azerbaijan with enormous opportunities—and equally enormous challenges. As a major oil and gas producer in its own right and an important transit country by virtue of its location, Azerbaijan has seen its own economy boom and its importance internationally rise dramatically over the last two decades. Precisely because of its importance as an oil and gas supplier, however, Azerbaijan must navigate among a variety of other power centers—including China and India, which with their rising markets are shifting the balance of the international order; the Russian Federation and the desire of its leadership to use oil and gas as the country's most important foreign policy tool; Turkey and its interests as a rising power in its own right; as well as the European Union member states and the United States with their increasing energy dependence—in order to maintain its ability to define its own future.

In this new geo-economic environment, Azerbaijan in particular—and the wider Caspian/Black Sea region more general—are far more significant than their collective four percent of the world's oil and gas reserves would otherwise suggest. That is because the European Union, overwhelmingly dependent on Russia for its gas, now views Azerbaijan not only as a supplier, but as a transit country for gas that is not subordinate to Moscow. This new reality is underlined not only by the content of the EU's 2006 Action Plan for Azerbaijan under the European Neighborhood Policy, but also by the European Commission's Memorandum of Understanding with Azerbaijan on Energy Partnership and its current mandate to negotiate a treaty between the EU, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to build a Trans-Caspian Pipeline System.

From the point of view of the EU as a consumer, Azerbaijan is geopolitically important, because it can help limit European dependence on

Russian fuel exports and thus serve as a hedge against Moscow's use of "soft power" to promote its broader agenda in Europe and elsewhere. As Europeans are well aware, Russia's August 2003 *Energy Strategy* bluntly states that "the role of the country in world energy markets to a large extent determines its geopolitical influence." To that end, then-President Vladimir Putin nationalized the oil and gas sectors, gaining a near monopoly leverage in the European fossil fuel market by promoting two major pipeline projects bypassing Ukraine, North Stream and South Stream. Most seriously from the EU's perspective, Moscow has effectively weakened the Union's common front by pursuing bilateral arrangements with its member states on energy supplies.

The European Commission subsequently published a policy paper *An Energy Policy for Europe* (2007) and a *Strategic Energy Review* (2008) calling for a series of steps to loosen *Gazprom's* grip on the European market. But to date, these steps have had little impact. Vladimir Putin signed deals with the major German energy companies and even secured the services of former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder as *Gazprom* lobbyist-in-chief. As a result, the Baltic Sea pipeline project seems secure, despite Commission objections, and on the South Stream front, Vladimir Putin has made deals with Austria, Bulgaria and Greece, as well as Turkmenistan, clearly intending in this way to diminish the significance of the EU Commission-preferred Nabucco pipeline (Roubanis & Koppa 2010; Cameron 2010). Given this state of affairs, the EU has little choice but to expand its engagement with Azerbaijan.

Closely related to the importance of Azerbaijan for the EU in this regard is the European Union's relationship with Turkey. At present, Turkey mediates EU-Azerbaijan relations in significant ways. First of all, Turkey is bounded to Azerbaijan geographically, and more often than not, Turkish analysts stress the centrality of Turkey as an energy hub, since it is the indispensable transit country connecting the EU market with the Russian Caucasus (Blue Stream Pipeline) and the Caspian basin (South Caucasus Pipeline, BTC). For Europe, the road to Baku goes through Ankara. However, Turkey is not single-mindedly committed to enhancing EU's energy security. Instead, it is boosting its geopolitical significance as a complementary building block to Russia's in the European energy-security

architecture, even as it keeps its options open for future business ventures at variance with Moscow's preferences.

In the words of the former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (2010) and chief Nabucco-project lobbyist:

"It can't be said often enough: Turkey is situated in a highly sensitive geopolitical location, particularly where Europe's security is concerned. The eastern Mediterranean, the Aegean, the western Balkans, the Caspian region and the southern Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East are all areas where the West will achieve nothing or very little without Turkey's support. And this is true in terms not only of security policy, but also of energy policy if you're looking for alternatives to Europe's growing reliance on Russian energy supplies. (...) Europe's security in the 21st century will be determined to a significant degree in its neighborhood in the southeast—exactly where Turkey is crucial for Europe's security interests now and, increasingly, in the future. But, rather than binding Turkey as closely as possible to Europe and the West, European policy is driving Turkey into the arms of Russia and Iran."

All competing scenarios for the emerging European energy architecture are built around the notion of Turkish centrality. However, and this is the key point, that outcome is the result of Turkish diplomacy, rather than the country's location alone. Turkey only reluctantly endorsed the official Russian offer for the Blue Stream II project in 2005, giving priority to the US-EU sponsored Nabucco project. In response, Russia turned to the Balkans, established an alliance with Italy, and pursued the design of an alternative route from the Russian Black Sea coast via an offshore pipeline to Bulgaria (Yurdakul 2010). Bulgaria, however, is stalling the project either on the basis of economic or environmental considerations, which seems to be favoring the Nabucco project (EuroActiv2009). Until a final investment decision is made, neither Russia nor the EU can afford to exclude Turkey from their fossil fuel grand strategy (Roubanis & Koppa 2010).

The second reason that Baku's relationship with the EU is mediated by Ankara is political, and—like the first—reflects Turkish arguments rather than underlying realities. Starting from the premise that the ENP is a system intended to foster progressive integration with its neighbors on the basis of

(EU) values, norms and practices, Turkish analysts are at pains to suggest that this is not possible in Azerbaijan or the wider Caspian region. For example, Turkish commentator Unar Eris (2010) routinely argues that Azerbaijan will fail to meet the Action Plan because, he says, European standards and values are not “shared values.” But his argument is undercut by his equally frequent assertion that Turkey as the only secular Muslim democracy in the region can somehow help “these countries,” including Azerbaijan, to meet these standards.

Many in Turkey share Eris’ views, although none of them has made it clear how Turkish proximity will help “bridge the gap” between the two political cultures they point to. Indeed, as Katharina Hoffmann (2011) argues, the Azerbaijani culture of multilateral engagement is informed by structural realities not uncommon to former CIS countries: Projects directly and immediately benefiting Azerbaijan are welcomed, with little attention to those devoted to long-term structural integration projects and steps toward supranational structures. Hence, a cooperation practice within a regional Organization is preferred, which does not limit the sovereignty of Azerbaijan on any issue.

Viewed in broadest terms then, the EU-Azerbaijani relationship is an independent variable in the equation of EU-Russian relations and, a dependent variable in the EU-Turkish relationship. As a result, there is a compelling need to address the theme of threats and opportunities for Azerbaijan in the current geopolitical environment. Recently, Philip Hanson (2011) prepared a briefing paper that helps us do just that. He examines the shifting dynamic of EU-Russia-Turkey relations and discusses how the transformation of this geopolitical environment should inform Azerbaijani foreign policy. Hanson argues that the EU remains for both Russia and the EU an unparalleled economic and gravitational force both politically and economically. At the same time, he suggests, the dynamics of these two relationships are neither homogenous nor necessarily parallel to EU’s objectives.

In fact, Hanson continues, the European Union is losing its gravitational pull in the region for two reasons. On the one hand, its economic clout is increasingly uncertain. Both Turkey and Russia doubt that European recovery, if and when it occurs, will sustain their current growth and are “hedging their bets” by cultivating relationships with other markets.

And on the other, the EU's community-building policies have been discredited, because there is ever less belief that the *acquis* provide a common basis for ties and because many countries, especially Russia, favor bilateral ties over multilateral ones.

In this environment, what is Azerbaijan to do? There is no right theoretical framework in diplomacy. More often than not, the theoretical perspective or "diplomatic culture" of a state tends to operate as a self-fulfilling prophecy. The spill-over of a human rights agenda to energy decisions is obviously daunting for many states that engage with the EU; it is less of a concern for Russia. The differences in style and traditions of diplomacy are linked to the self-perception of individual "actors." And quite obviously, as an ever-closer union founded on theoretical assertions of functionalism, the EU has emerged as a post-state actor that regards itself as one of the most advanced organizations of multilateral governance in the world. Russia in contrast has always perceived itself as a post-imperial Great Power of global or regional gravity, as Russians themselves admit. In sum, rather than opting for one paradigm or another, it is worth noting that different diplomatic cultures are applicable in a different context.

If Hoffman's (2011) assessment is right, Azerbaijani diplomatic culture is informed by a realist or actor-centered perspective. This has not prevented Azerbaijan from creating «an impressive list" of Regional Organization (RO) memberships: the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Organization for Economic Development and Democracy (GUAM), the Council of Europe, the Non-Alignment Movement and, since 2004, a corporate relationship with the EU within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy. In short, even though Azerbaijan has a culture oriented toward the fortification national sovereignty, it has established a nexus of RO memberships, which—as Hoffman notes—fortifies its sovereignty. But, the question is of course how.

First of all, by gaining access to a number of international policy forums, Azerbaijan has managed to transcend the nexus of bilateral relations, sidelining their inherent asymmetry. It has been able to attract Foreign Direct Investment in the energy sector through projects like

Nabucco, by dealing simultaneously with the EU and Turkey; which has vastly increased the negotiating leverage of Azerbaijan more generally. Moreover, this variable membership has allowed Azerbaijan to capitalize on its strategic significance as an energy producer in order to promote a greater foreign policy agenda. As Hoffman notes, within the realms of OIC and GUAM alone, Azerbaijan has managed to gain a legal or ethical upper hand in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Thus, multilateral engagement has clearly benefited Azerbaijan. The “unprecedented commitment” of the European Commission to elevate the status of diplomatic engagement with Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to a bilateral Treaty—committing all parties to the construction of a Trans-Caspian pipeline system—for example, is especially promising. And on the other hand, because such infrastructure promises to offer Caspian nations a more substantial alternative to the Russian pipeline network (Tsereteli 2008), it will help smoothen relations with other states in the region.

Of course, a treaty calling for infrastructural development is not a substitute for real infrastructure, and given the current decline in EU’s economic weight, there are entirely reasonable doubts as to whether envisioned projects can actually materialize. If that proves to be true, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan are being asked to potentially alienate Russia for a project that is still on the drawing board with no certain financial foundations. Moreover, as Turkey distances itself from the EU over Cyprus, Azerbaijan risks becoming a hostage to this collision. Meanwhile, as promising and flourishing the relations between Ankara and Moscow are, the solidity of this relationship for the future to come should not be taken for granted.

At the same time, on the part of the EU, “upgrading” the framework of bilateral relations to a treaty status probably signals that the Turkish “political argument” for a politically mediated relationship between Baku and Brussels is also currently losing currency. In the near future, the EU will be able to negotiate with Azerbaijan without a rigid set of value/normative demands. In addition, Azerbaijan and other Caspian nations cannot really afford to invest either Moscow or Ankara with an effective *veto* over market access.

In this situation, Azerbaijan faces a difficult task of hedging its strategic policy risks. Any grand strategy policy recommendations by analysts need to

be treated skeptically, because analysts usually lack the kind of critical intelligence available only at the highest levels. However, as Azerbaijan-EU relations are structurally tied to EU-Russian and EU-Turkish relations, it is clear that the road toward the realization of much needed investment in the energy sector of the Black Sea/Caspian region will remain filled with uncertainty, even though at least at a tactical level, the combination of relatively high fossil fuel prices—that has kept Azerbaijani growth going at a healthy pace—combined with the unfolding public debt crisis in the EU, may indeed offer significant opportunities for Azerbaijan.

On the one hand, following the Kazakh example, Azerbaijan is now presented with the unprecedented opportunity for asset acquisition in Southern Europe and the Balkans at low prices. Such “strategic acquisitions” would allow for the replenishing of know-how reserves of the Azerbaijani energy industry. At the same time, direct access to transit infrastructures and the European retail market would “enlarge the pie” of negotiation with regional energy powers, transcending the seemingly inescapable determinism of geographic location. SOCAR could even expand the scope of this strategy. That would provide Azerbaijan with the opportunity to make a qualitative leap in the diversification of its economic foundations and limit its dependence on FDI and foreign know-how.

On the other, Azerbaijan could pursue a more active engagement in the political process at sub-state level, that is, a self-referential capacity to be present, lobby and gather intelligence in major energy-decision power centers: Moscow, Ankara, Washington, and Brussels. This will enable Baku to participate in strategic policy development, rather than simply face a series of either/or dilemmas. Baku has a competitive advantage in this particular power-game, which is non-other than its traditional cultural ties with the former FSU space, the Turkic communities of the Black-Sea/Caspian region and the close ties with the Euro-Atlantic community that it has so laboriously cultivated.

** The ideas expressed in this article reflect the personal views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the institutions of which they are a part. Written largely in a polemical style, the article is meant to introduce some food for thought and remains open for further elaboration and discussion.*

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AZERBAIJAN'S REGIONAL POLICY: THE EURASIAN AND EUROPEAN DIMENSIONS

Katharina Hoffmann

Membership in regional organizations (RO) and other multilateral groupings has been a major but largely unexamined component of Azerbaijan's foreign policy since the restoration of the country's independence in 1991. As one analyst notes, Azerbaijan managed to become «a full member of the majority of international and regional organizations» (Musabayov 2009). This article aims to discuss the meaning this achievement has for Azerbaijan and the ways in which the country's engagement in a variety of regional organizations serves its perceived foreign policy objectives.

Immediately and shortly after becoming independent, Azerbaijan joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). Moreover, on Azerbaijan's initiative, what today is the Organization for Economic Development and Democracy—GUAM took shape in 1997. [1] Except for the OSCE, all of these organizations have a strong economic focus, while lacking a humanitarian, political and security dimension. An ultimate aim for most of them is the establishing of security communities (Deutsch 1954) through in-depth regional economic and soft-security integration. The geographic dimension of what is viewed as a “region” ranges from varying alliances of former Soviet republics and Black Sea neighbors (CIS, [2] BSEC, [3] GUAM) to Central and Western Asian States (ECO, [4] OIC) [5] and beyond (OSCE).

Azerbaijan's place in the landscape of regional and international organizations, however, did not assume final shape during that decade. In 2001 Azerbaijan joined the Council of Europe and in 2011 the Non-Alignment Movement. Since 2004, Azerbaijan has been a partner of the

European Neighborhood Policy, which in 2009 launched what has come to be called the Eastern Partnership Program (EaP), a regional format bringing together former Soviet states: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Although not formally organized as an RO, the EaP shares some of their features, based as it is on four loosely institutionalized platforms created for multilateral cooperation in democracy and good governance, people-to-people contacts, energy security and economic integration. [6] Apart from these regional groupings, Azerbaijan is also a member of the UN and is seeking WTO membership, with negotiations on the latter still pending in their 14th year.

This impressive list of memberships reflects Baku's interest in multilateral regional cooperation and integration, but evaluating the extent to which these serve Azerbaijan's goals is complicated by the fact that the activities of some of these organizations are in conflict with those of others. Indeed, to a certain extent, it appears that Azerbaijan's decision to join ROs is driven by a catch-all principle rather than a genuine commitment to the kind of integration many of these organizations call for.

For example, the OIC frames its cooperation agenda as linked to protection and support of the Islam, while the OSCE and EU promote an understanding of society, human rights and political organization based on values of the enlightenment. The notion of democracy and good governance is specifically important for Western driven RO's like OSCE and the EU, while the CIS, BSEC and GUAM lay much less stress on democracy as a core value. Yet another difference between the post-Soviet (Libman 2007) and European or Western models of regional cooperation (Mitrany 1975; Moravcsik 1993) concerns the way they are organized, top-down in the case of post-Soviet RO's as opposed to bottom-up in Western regional formats: unlike the OSCE, EU and EU-driven initiatives, the CIS, GUAM and BSEC only hesitantly involve non-state economic and societal actors in the development and implementation of regional projects.

Literature on regional cooperation suggests that multiple overlapping memberships may prevent in-depth cooperation and create integration competition (Bremmer and Bailes 1998; Sakwa 2007). Up to now, however, there is little indication of such integration competition in the case of Azerbaijan, almost certainly because Azerbaijan's interest in RO's follows a logic other than integration. Instead, Azerbaijan uses these memberships to

consolidate sovereignty and to restore the country's territorial integrity. As a result, most of its cooperation activities so far have been short-term in character, with only a limited structural impact.

Multilateral agreements like the free trade agreements in CIS and GUAM are weakly enforced (Godzimirski 2007; Tolstov 2008). This mode of cooperation, however, is highly valued by Azerbaijan. Projects directly and immediately benefiting Azerbaijan are welcomed, with little attention devoted to long-term structural integration projects and steps toward supranational structures. [7] Hence, a cooperation practice within the RO's is preferred which does not limit the sovereignty of Azerbaijan on any issue. Azerbaijan's approach is shared by the majority of post-Soviet republics as dynamics within CIS, BSEC and GUAM show. As a result, although cooperation practices often overlap in the different RO's, they hardly impede each other.

With the so-called third wave of regionalism, core international actors like the UN increasingly promoted the emergence of RO's and positively sanctioned regional multilateral cooperation commitments of states (Fawcett 2008). From this perspective, Azerbaijan has viewed RO's in the first instance as platforms for raising international awareness of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Azerbaijan has had the most success in this regard with the OIC and GUAM, with both of these organizations issuing declarations in support of Azerbaijan's position. Azerbaijan has also used the CIS as a platform to raise this issue. To the extent that Azerbaijan views its international memberships in this way, having as many memberships as possible makes eminent sense.

Such use of ROs is far easier to reconcile with the post-Soviet model of regionalism than it is with the European approach. To be sure, both Azerbaijan and the European Union recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the secessionist conflicts on Georgian and Moldovan territory as serious obstacles to multilateral cooperation among the members of the Eastern Partnership. However, while Azerbaijan calls for conflict resolution before cooperation, the EU takes the opposite track.

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Notes

- [1] GUAM was founded in 1996 as a loose alignment among Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. In 1999, Uzbekistan joined the group, only to leave in 2005. In 2006, the first four initiators transformed GUAM into a regional organization.

[2] The CIS includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan as its members.

[3] BSEC member states are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

[4] The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) includes Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan as its members.

[5] Sometimes regarded as International Organization, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) brings together as many as 56 geographically widely spread member states.

[6] For more information on the Eastern Partnership see http://www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index_en.htm (accessed 9 July 2011).

[7] Interviews of the author with state officials involved with the CIS and GUAM.

THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AND EU-AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS

Licinia Simão

From the early days of preparations for the European Union 2004/07 “big bang” enlargement, relations between the EU and the states in its Eastern borders have been problematic. Not only did the expansion of EU borders and governance models to Central and Eastern Europe affect the long established relations of these countries with their immediate neighbors who were left out; but a new and broader security reality arising after September 11th also heightened concerns within the EU about possible security threats from outside the organization. The European Union’s response was the establishment of the European Neighborhood Policy in 2003.

The main goal behind the initiative was to create an institutional framework for deeper and closer relations with countries neighboring the enlarged Union. Trade and visa facilitation immediately became two central areas of interest to the countries in the periphery of the EU; some countries such as Ukraine and Georgia even ventured into accession hopes, whereas for the EU there was a clear security agenda, as expressed in the European Security Strategy of 2004. The EU’s interest in engaging closely with its neighbors, however, was explicitly linked to concerns about the possible impact of protracted conflicts in Moldova and in the South Caucasus, as well as broader security threats like smuggling of nuclear materials, terrorism, and illegal immigration. All these issues demanded a closer partnership, through which the EU could nourish democratic reforms, mediate regional tensions, and gradually improve the economic and social conditions in its neighborhood and thus stabilize its periphery.

The EU’s relations with its Eastern neighbors can therefore be approached from two complementary perspectives. The first relates to the organization’s increased strategic interest in entering the Caspian energy game. This has become a major issue for the EU and for some of its

member states' individual foreign policies toward the South Caucasus, Central Asia and the broader Black Sea area. The goal has been to diversify oil and gas supplies while also investing in new clean and renewable energy. Relations with Russia and Turkey have been central in this respect, but Azerbaijan stands out as a leading partner for many western companies involved with the extraction and transportation of oil and gas in the region. As one German publication noted, "[Azerbaijan] is the 6th major oil supplier to Germany today, and also the biggest recipient of German FDI that flows into the South Caucasus" (Meister 2010). Azerbaijan has also been a committed partner in the EU's policy of energy diversification, one meant to decrease the EU's dependence on Russian exports.

The second perspective through which one could assess the EU's relations with its Eastern neighbors concerns the EU's role as a transformative power (Popescu 2009). The Union acted to promote what some have called the "lite-version of enlargement" (Popescu & Wilson 2009), one in which limited integration and increased political dialogue were meant to promote political, economic and social reforms, with clear security outcomes. The EU invested a great deal of political and financial capital in promoting dialogue between Georgia and Abkhazia, for instance, hoping to set in motion long-term transformative dynamics (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty 2007), but as far as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is concerned, the EU has been conspicuously absent and has taken a backseat role to the OSCE's Minsk Group, while refraining from developing confidence building measures between the parties of the conflict.

The EU has also built on the ENP's potential for reforms, pushing for new legislation to be adopted, for the development of civil society and the rightful conduct of elections, in line with the commitments undertaken by its neighbors in different *fora*, such as the ENP, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The track record, so far, has been very poor, across all the EU's neighborhood. Overall, the balance of the EU's engagement has been fairly modest, at best, and counterproductive, at worst. Perceived competition for influence in the former Soviet space deteriorated relations with Russia and left countries in their shared neighborhood vulnerable to power displacements. The brief war in Georgia, in 2008, illustrates just that. The competition, however, has also provided these countries with leverage over

external influence and pressure, enabling them to bandwagon among powerful external players to their short-term advantage. Azerbaijan managed to do just that, drawing Russia closer, by committing increased energy sales to Russian pipelines, and simultaneously putting pressure on the EU to overcome its internal divisions and seriously commit to the Nabucco and other Southern Corridor projects.

Given this track record, what can Azerbaijan and its neighbors expect from the European Union's Eastern Partnership program (EaP)? That project, launched in 2009, was intended to clearly differentiate between the southern neighbors and the eastern ones and was meant as a response to the French initiative of creating the Union of the Mediterranean. It has focused on increased economic integration and visa facilitation to be negotiated in the framework of new Association Agreements set to replace the existing Partnership and Cooperation Agreements. These new agreements will also promote an expansion of the institutional capacity of the neighbors, including through the Twinning and TAIEX instruments, and simultaneously facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of reforms. The initiative's multilateral dimension, on the other hand, is based on four platforms, ones dealing with democracy, economic development, energy security and people-to-people contacts. To a large extent, the EU maintains its structural approach to regional stability, in that it seeks to develop efforts aimed at consolidating long-term relations with the countries in the Eastern neighborhood, guided by commonly agreed goals and methods (Simão and Freire 2008).

For Azerbaijan, the benefits of this program have not been immediately clear. Baku's deputy foreign minister, Araz Azimov, has suggested that the EaP is inadequate from Azerbaijan's perspective since it fails to provide a framework for the discussion of strategic issues like energy and transportation infrastructure. These issues remain within the prerogative of EU member states, thus leaving the EaP a soft-policy framework. Even more troubling from Baku's perspective, the new program's multilateral dimension has consistently remained underdeveloped and, therefore, energy security can only be discussed at the bilateral level, leaving the regional challenges unaddressed. While the issue of the Southern Corridor, for example, could certainly be facilitated through a swift and consistent dialogue among consumer, transit and producing states—within the EaP—

neither Russia nor Turkey, two fundamental partners in EU energy security, are included in the EaP, a fact that renders the EaP framework inefficient in terms of addressing these issues. Furthermore, neither Baku nor its neighbors see any near-term prospect for establishing a comprehensive free trade area between the EU and its eastern neighbors, given the costs involved, regional conflicts, and the fact that a few of the neighbors—including Azerbaijan—are not members of the World Trade Organization (Boonstra & Shapovalova 2010).

These shortcomings notwithstanding, the EaP has come up with a number of parallel initiatives, such as the Civil Society Forum, one meant to bring together civil society organizations (CSOs) from the EU and the Eastern neighborhood to develop a network of partnerships, which could assist these countries in reforms and could contribute to capacity-building among CSOs in the East. The Forum has also assumed responsibility for monitoring reforms and providing feedback to the European Commission. Despite the dynamic role of the Forum, the situation in the region remains problematic, as regards democracy and human rights. All in all, the challenges for the EaP remain as high in the political and human dimensions as they are in the security and strategic ones.

One way or the other, EU-Azerbaijan relations rest on a common understanding of the relevance each has in the strategic interests of the other. Azerbaijan is proceeding along a path of economic development and political activism that could have important regional implications, both for its neighbors in the Caucasus and for the broader Eastern dimension of the EU's regional relations. New business opportunities are emerging throughout the region, providing an opportunity for greater integration and dialogue. Nevertheless, the obstacles to such successful partnership are evident and go well beyond the institutional fragilities of the EaP. The current financial crisis is making the European economy less competitive and the political and institutional reforms that need to accompany economic growth have been missing in the South Caucasus.

A final area of contention, which the EaP fails to properly address, is represented by the protracted conflicts. The current period of transition of the EU's external relations toward the Lisbon Treaty institutional arrangements has already dealt the first blow to the EU's policy toward the conflicts in the South Caucasus. The likely extinction of the post of EU

Special Representative for the South Caucasus will make the coherence of an EU action in this regard even harder to achieve, when the three EU Delegations in Tbilisi, Yerevan and Baku are to coordinate their actions on the conflicts. Moreover, the visibility of the EU will be much reduced in this respect. The EaP does not provide for a forum in which to address the potential role of the EU as a conflict mediator, nor is there a conflict-aware approach to either bilateral or regional relations. Confidence-building mechanisms have remained complementary ideas to the broader development of closer relations, rather than the backbone of the EU's approach to the South Caucasus. All the expectations of development will certainly be frustrated if war erupts again in this region.

Azerbaijan's interest in the EaP has been tempered by the EU's lack of effective tools and political will to advance a clearer role for itself in conflict resolution, as well as in the commitment to the Southern Corridor. Naturally, Baku's leadership have an interest in deepening relations with the EU, but these limitations could prove important set-backs in the fast-developing partnership with the EU and some of its individual member-states. For the Azerbaijani civil society, on the other hand, the EaP represents, undoubtedly, an important qualitative change as compared with the previous EU engagement in democracy and human rights, representing a real opportunity for diversification of voices and views regarding Azerbaijan's future.

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AZERBAIJAN AND THE EU EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: TOWARD A RELATIONSHIP OF EQUALS?

Samuel Lussac

The European Union and Azerbaijan have cooperated since the fall of the Soviet Union. Since July 16, 2010, the two sides are committed to discussing a future Association Agreement within the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership program. That agreement will build on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement the EU signed with Azerbaijan earlier as well as on the special relationship Azerbaijan enjoys with the EU thanks to its energy resources.

If the relationship between the EU and Azerbaijan has been strong in the energy area, bilateral cooperation in other fields including rule of law and economic diversification has been much less developed. Obviously, both the EU and Azerbaijan hope to broaden and deepen the level of cooperation, especially given the EU's Eastern Partnership project.

Because the EU has accepted many former socialist bloc countries as members, the Union is not completely united on how to approach the former Soviet republics. The new EU members support a differentiated approach to these countries given their variety, and they achieved a victory in November 2006 when they secured EU backing for the development of Individual Action Plans with each of the three South Caucasus states. Subsequently, these Eastern European EU members, led by Poland and Sweden, have pushed for a special relationship with each of the former Soviet republics.

The so-called Visegrad Group which consists of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia backed the Polish-Swedish proposal and argued that Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and the South Caucasian states are part of "Eastern Europe," a view that not all the other EU members shared, but with the support of the United Kingdom, Poland and Sweden submitted a proposal for the establishment of an Eastern partnership to the

European Commission in May 2008, and despite some reluctance the Commission ultimately agreed.

This process accelerated after the Russian-Georgian war in August 2008. During the extraordinary European Council of September 1, 2008, which convened to address this conflict, the European member-states strongly reiterated their support for the Eastern Partnership and underscored that they did not wish to leave their Eastern neighbours facing Russia alone. As a result, the Eastern Partnership Program was launched on May 7, 2009, at the EU Prague Summit.

In addition to this bilateral approach, which calls for the elaboration of Association Agreements with each of the six countries, the Program calls for the creation of a multilateral framework encompassing the relationship between the EU and its six partners that will ultimately allow for the establishment of an Economic Community for the Neighborhood.

Until 2003, the EU did not define Azerbaijan or its neighbors in the South Caucasus as a neighbor of Europe. Baku was added to that category only then, and that became the basis for the talks that have occurred since that time, talks that have focused on energy issues more than anything else given Azerbaijan's natural wealth.

Taking advantage of the institutional turmoil generated by the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, DG Energy from the European Commission has decided to take the lead in policy-making towards Azerbaijan. It knows that this country is the only one that in the short run, that can provide gas to the South Corridor project and is thus willing to build a special partnership between Baku and Brussels. In this perspective, Roland Kobia, who previously worked with former Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, was appointed as the new head of the EU delegation in Baku in October 2009.

The future Association Agreement could break this energy dominance in the Azerbaijani-EU relationship. First of all, Baku hopes that Brussels will take into account its domestic evolution. The Azerbaijan the EU used to deal with in the mid-1990s is very different from the Azerbaijan it is negotiating with today. In the 1990s, it was one post-Soviet state among others, struggling to promote its interests abroad. Now, it is a wealthy country that uses its enormous oil revenues to build a coherent and

consistent foreign policy in the Caspian and the South Caucasus. It has proved its ability to sustain external pressures from great powers.

Second, Baku hopes the EU will take into account Azerbaijan's role as a regional economic leader. The Azerbaijani oil company SOCAR is now the largest taxpayer in Georgia, where it controls all the gas distribution system. Azerbaijan also funds the Georgian section of the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad, which may be an important axis of transportation across the South Caucasus in the next decade. Moreover, the role of Baku in the energy field in Turkey is also becoming increasingly important. Thus, in the economic sphere at least, Azerbaijan is becoming a major player in the South Caucasus.

Brussels does want the Association Agreement to update its relationship with Azerbaijan. Such an agreement is firmly needed insofar as the EU lacks leverage over Baku given that Azerbaijan does not want to join the EU. Thus, Brussels needs to find other incentives to build a strong partnership with Azerbaijan. The Association Agreement is intended to provide such an opportunity. At the very least, it may help Baku and Brussels revise their economic and political dialogue. On the one hand, the EU needs Azerbaijan to be a door opener in the South Corridor project, and on the other, Baku needs the EU to play a stronger role in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Association Agreement could lead to a win-win situation, but for that to happen, both the EU and the Azerbaijani government will have to work hard to turn these hopes into realities.

Culture and Public Diplomacy

SONG AND FIRE: MUGHAM REACHING WEST

Nick Naroditski & Inna Naroditskaya

Mugham as a mode of Azerbaijani creative thinking (Rena Mammadova)

Fire and songs have been entwined in Azerbaijani lands from the antiquity of Zoroaster and his fireworshippers, who recited *gatas* in open-air temples under velvet skies, to the today of the modern industrial Azerbaijani state. Central among a variety of musical genres is *mugham*, a classical tradition that weaves refined written poetry and musical improvisation, the intricacy of poetic formulas, and the complex formula of *mugham* modes, passed orally. *Mugham* entered the twentieth century in a wide variety of regional traditions and individual masters' lineages, mainly located in three geo-cultural areas: Shirvan, Garabagh, and Absheron. *Mugham* is typically thought to be associated with urban culture and accordingly with three cities: Shamakha, Shusha, and Baku.

The early 20th century and the mugham-opera

The oil boom in Azerbaijan at the dawn of the 20th century [1] brought to the capital Baku an international crowd of investors, engineers, and entrepreneurs (including the Nobel Brothers, Robert, Ludwig, and Alfred)—among them Russians, Tatars, Armenians, Persians, Jews, Germans, Georgians, Poles, Greeks, British, and Turks—and transformed that city from an old unpaved town on the periphery of the Russian empire into a multi-cultural hub with touring troupes, world performers, rapidly built theaters, and an opera house. This development, in turn, helped to create Azerbaijan's modern national culture, including the beginnings of inter-“marriage” between Azerbaijani and Western musical forms. Local and traditional cultural forms began to flourish as the city became more affluent and opportunities in Baku arose for national artists, musicians, and intellectuals.

Among them, Uzeyir Hajibayov, the son of a couple from the household of the Garabakh princess and poetess Natavan, in 1908 created the first Azerbaijani opera, *Leili ve Majnun*. The hybrid genre, *mugham*-opera, united improvised mugham solo numbers with composed ensembles, choruses, and orchestral episodes, combining an orchestra with native *tar*, operatic vocal technique with the intense raspy recitations of a *kbanande* (singer of mugham). *Leili ve Majnun* thus bridged Western musical theater with a widely-known, endlessly recited Eastern story of love akin to *Romeo and Juliet*. This opera and the aspirations of its creators paved the way to the coexistence, juxtaposition, and fusion of western and native musical traditions.

The collapse of the Russian Empire enabled Azerbaijani political elites to form a secular republic. The state was short-lived. In 1920, Bolshevik forces had re-taken the oil-rich region, soon remaking it into an “autonomous republic” of the Soviet Union. Both Azerbaijan and oil-rich districts in the north Caucasus would become essential to the rapid industrialization of the USSR, with Russian national poet V. Mayakovsky writing poems referring to Baku as the oil-provider to the “engine of socialism.” Moscow’s political elite endorsed and shaped the development of Azerbaijan’s native culture envisioning it as both a nation-building tool and an instrument of centralized control, hoping to create an Azerbaijani national culture that fit into a larger EuroAsian—Soviet—cultural context.

The Soviet concept of socialist art was quite complicated. Artistic works were to correspond to European models but to reject “degenerate” values of the West. While some forms of Westernization were associated with progress, it had to be reshaped and remolded to benefit socialist ideology. The process of doing that proved to be particularly complex in Azerbaijan, where an ancient and re-awakening artistic national consciousness had only sporadically interacted with Western cultural traditions and had cooperated with cultural forces brought to the country by Western capitalists. Inheriting the territorial vastness of the Russian empire, Soviet officials promoted both internationalism and nationalism, urging artists to create art, “socialist in content and national in form.” The success of the first mugham-opera inspired a chain of compositions, mainly on the theatrical stage with literary programs or stories that would appeal to the diverse population of Azerbaijan and lead to the creation of a unique

national compositional school. The first graduates of the Azerbaijani Conservatory (now Baku Music Academy)—opened in the first month of Soviet Azerbaijan—transcribed and notated *mugham* melodies, adapting them for western instruments, even as the ensembles of Azerbaijani instruments, learning notation, performed arrangements of European classics.

From Mugham Symphony to Jazz-Mugham

The generation of native musicians following Hajibayov—among them a large number of his students—adopted the fusion of *mugham* and Western music with more abstract musical forms of purely instrumental music and specifically with the symphonic genre. A son of Jamil Amirov, a legendary tar player of the early twentieth century, conservatory trained Fikrat Amirov excelled in fusing symphonic sound with the melodies and dramatic processes of *mugham* in his *Shur* (1946) and *Kurd Ovshari* (1949).

Some twenty years after these symphonic *mughams* and also twenty years after the persecution and death of Azerbaijani jazz saxophonist Piro Rustambayov, Amirov created his symphonic *Gulistan Bayati Shiraz* (1968); one of the two solo instruments is voice or saxophone (during parts of the Soviet period, the saxophone was seen as a “dangerous” instrument signifying a connection with the capitalist West). No longer did the composer “translate” a single *mugham* into symphonic media. Instead, he fused several *mughams* (including Humayun, Segah, and Shur), inserted elements of the bardic tradition of *ashiks*, and integrated different strings into a passionate dynamic unfolding. Not confined within an established *mugham* formula, his complex of different elements epitomized a powerful unified national consciousness.

The *gulistan* (rose garden) is associated with motherland, the tone of the composition is dramatic and joyless. The two solo instruments—piano and voice (or saxophone), a romantic duet sustained separately throughout the piece—converge only in the painful long-dying final chord. The composition conveys a craving that emerged in Azerbaijan by the late 1960s, marked by increasingly rampant corruption and nepotism, as well as slowing of economic growth. The response provided from Moscow was the appointment of Heydar Aliyev the First Secretary of Azerbaijan (1969). Under Aliyev, according to Tadeusz Swietochowski (1995), Azerbaijan by

1974 “had risen to fourth position among union republics in industrial labor productivity and national income growth.”

The year Amirov composed *Gulistan Bayati Shiraz*, a young group from Baku won the prime spotlight in the First International Jazz festival in Tallinn. Among them was Vagif Mustafa-zadeh, who would become known as the creator of another fusion, mugham-jazz. The unstoppable fingers of this virtuoso pianist—who played concertos by Edward Grieg and jazz classics by Thelonious Monk and who learned mugham from his mother, a music teacher—wove together harmony and rhythm, the driving force of jazz, with the intricate melodic filigree of *mugham* arabesque. This was an act not only of musical innovation, but of artistic separation from the Soviet hold on Azerbaijani culture: Soviets generally held jazz in contempt, linking it with “degrading American capitalism;” Mustafa-zadeh’s rebellious personality, appearance, and behavior challenged socialist conventions and carved for him a somewhat ambiguous space in the socialist frame.

The end of the Soviet century and the beginning of an independent Azerbaijani state

As the Soviet era approached its end, war broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Azerbaijan’s Nagorno-Karabakh, an historical center of mugham. Major musicians living in Baku cherished Karabakh as their musical ancestral origin. Among them, the late Vasif Adigozal, a celebrated composer (and student of Shostakovich), the son of Zulfi, a beloved Karabakhi *khanande*, travelled to the area in the early days of conflict on a peace mission. Afterwards, he created the oratorio *Karabakh Shikestesi*. His monumental composition exemplifies a seemingly impossible combination of the Eastern *mugham* and *ashiq* music with the Western genre of liturgical oratorio, performed by a full orchestra, large chorus, bel-canto soloists with a small mugham ensemble, a native tar solo, female and male *khanandes*, the imagery of *ashiks*, and folk songs. In this multifaceted all-embracing musical canvas, the composer poeticized Karabakh gardens, an old mulberry tree, and a local flower, the *ayangul*. The 1990 premier of the composition in Moscow turned into communal, familial, deeply personal expression, with Elchin Adigozal (the composer’s son) conducting and Tofiq Adigozalov (the composer’s brother) singing one of the solos. In 2006, Azerbaijan saw the premier of Adigozal’s last opera, whose title bears

the name of *Natavan*. The first act, picturing late nineteenth-century Garabagh, brings on the stage Hajibayov as a boy. *Natavan*, an operatic soprano, is situated in both Western and Eastern contexts. A European-type ball in the second act of this opera, in the style of grand opera and with a historical twist in the style of French historical novels, shows an encounter between *Natavan* and French novelist and traveler Alexander Dumas. The following act relocates spectators to the *majlis* Urs, a school of *mugham* opened by *Natavan*. No longer does *mugham* serve only as a basis of musical expression of characters, their feelings, and the storyline. Rather, it becomes a central character, the focus of a scene that portrays traditional gatherings of *mugham* singers, older masters competing, younger students learning from them. In this way, post-Soviet Azerbaijanis made *mugham* not only the language of their expression, but the personification of their cultural self-concept.

Experiments with modern composing techniques and native musical lingua are apparent in the works of Faraj Garayev, an Azerbaijani professor of composition and a member of the experimental musical studio of Moscow Conservatory. In his symphonic *Hutba, Mugham ve Sura* (1997), he included *mugham* (Second Movement) and taped Qur'anic chant interspersed with orchestral episodes (Third Movement). Firanghiz Alizadeh, a winner of many International prizes and currently the chairwoman of the Azerbaijani Union of Composers, created *Mugham Sayagi* (In the style of *mugham*, 1994), which received its American premiere in Julliard and was recorded by the Kronos Quartet.

The decline of the socialist empire led to wars and to Azerbaijani demographic, cultural, social changes, some invigorating, others ambiguously transformative. Most importantly, however, Azerbaijan developed the agency, both in the political and social spheres, to choose and to carve out its own political, economical, and cultural destiny. The 1994 signing of the "contract of the century" regarding the ACG fields reminds one of the late 19th-early 20th centuries, with international companies forming consortia to develop Caspian reservoirs. However today, Azerbaijan itself is a key player in its own resource development, with the state-owned SOCAR (the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic) developing and profiting from reservoirs and Azeri leaders signing contracts and treaties with international business and political partners.

The country's successful effort after the fall of Soviet power to make itself a subject and not just an object of history in the economic and political spheres was paralleled by similar drives in culture and music. As it had a century earlier, cosmopolitan Baku again fostered an unmatched atmosphere of paralleled, overlapping, rivaling, and mutually enriching cultures. In addition to multiple ethnic musical venues existing prior to the 1990s, Baku's classical musical realm discussed above included *mugham*, Western classical culture, a national unique composing school, different ethnic folk traditions, and *mugham-jazz*. While becoming a part of global culture and having an open and direct communication with the outside world, Azerbaijan turned into a rather homogeneous society.

In recent years, the state has demonstrated strong support of multiple musical areas, *mugham* in particular. The UNESCO recognition of *mugham* as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of the World (2003) and the commitment of the Azerbaijani state led to construction of an architectural marvel, the Mugham Center in the shape of tar on the Caspian Sea, and to the patronage of large-scale International Mugham Festivals.

In various Western and Eastern cultures alike, musical traditions fall into two separate musical domains, which scholars identify as oral and written, improvised and composed music. By contrast, during the last century, Azerbaijani composers and performers have acquired striking fluency in both, navigating and integrating these two. Alim Gasimov, a beloved Azerbaijani *khanande*, well known in Europe and America, brings to international arenas a short piece by Firanghiz Alizadeh, *Dervish*. Against the combined ensemble of European strings and Azerbaijani *mugham* group, Gasimov dialogues with Yo-Yo-Ma—voice and cello, the dramatic incantation of the *khanande* sitting cross-legged on a woven patch of carpet-*gulistan* and the human-like song voice of cello. At the end of the performance on the stage of the Chicago Symphony, Alim invites Yo-Yo-Ma to improvise, and the latter holds a drone, while the “dervish” utters a short expressive solo.

Oil and music, American West and Azerbaijani East entwined in the 2011 premiere of Alizadeh's chamber opera, *Your Name Means the Sea*. Commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera's Song of Houston: East and West project, this opera portrays a romance between a young female artist from Texas, an American oil industry hub (Houston, a sister city of Baku)

and an Azerbaijani *mugham* singer. Her image and story, conveyed by a quartet of strings and flute, is wedded with his, expressed by tar, kamancha, and *mugham* singing.

In the early twentieth century, Hajibayov introduced Azerbaijan to the opera by bridging the genre with national lore. At the rise of the twenty-first century, Alim and his daughter, adapting Hajibayov's first opera by "re-translating" it to *mugham* duet, introduced *Leili and Majnun* to American audiences. Once "national in form," Azerbaijani music today is complex, woven of many strands each affected by and reflecting the conflicting political and social texture of the last hundred years. The twenty-one-year-old Azerbaijani state celebrates the dreams, inspirations, and energy of its youth, contemplates the wisdom and sadness of the long centuries, thinks through the intense drama of recent history, as it is lit by Zoroastrian fire with the oil flowing in the national pipelines—all expressed in the ever-changing and ever-intimately familiar all-embracing *mugham*.

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Notes

[1] International development of Baku's oil industry under the purview of the Russian Imperial government created economic partnerships that resulted in major technological developments that would become vital to the oil industry worldwide: the *Zoroaster*, the first oil tanker in the world, built in 1878 by the Nobel brothers, and the first transit pipeline, carrying oil from the Caspian reservoirs at Surakhany to the Nobel refinery in Baku. By the beginning of the 20th century, Azerbaijan was responsible for more than fifty percent of the world's oil production, surpassing American production with a total of 11.5 million tons of oil produced per year between 1899—1901. The city became a crucible for a number of world prime financial and energy players, with participants including the Royal Dutch Shell company and the Rothschild, a vital European banking family.

NOT JUST A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP: A LITERARY EXCAVATION INTO 'ALI AND NINO'

Paul Goble

Every nation has at least one piece of literature by which its people and others immediately recognize its nature. Russia has *Yevgeny Onegin*, the United States has *Huckleberry Finn*, and France has *The Red and the Black*. Azerbaijan has a similarly iconic novel through the pages of which everyone can view that nation, but unlike the others, its literary masterpiece has followed a more complicated path to its readers than have the others, a reflection of the complicated history of Azerbaijan in the twentieth century. That book is Kurban Said's *Ali and Nino*, a love story between an Azerbaijani youth and a Georgian princess set against the violent upheavals of revolutions in the Caucasus in 1920.

Originally published in German in 1937, the book has since appeared in more than 100 editions in more than 30 languages, attracting an audience around the world and causing Azerbaijanis to instantly recognize themselves and others to understand what Azerbaijanis are. While everyone knew that "Kurban Said" was a pseudonym—most but not all the editions helpfully pointed that out—few readers beyond the small expert literary community gave much thought to the author: the story was too true and whoever wrote it had both extraordinary literary talents and an amazing insight into the nature of Azerbaijanis and the remarkable world of Baku nearly a century ago.

That all changed six years ago when Tom Reiss, an American writer, published a book entitled *The Orientalist*, which argued that Lev Nussimbaum (1905-1942), who often used the pen name Essad Bey, was the creator of *Ali and Nino*. Reiss's book attracted a great deal of attention in the West and also in Azerbaijan, where many had long believed that the author of the great novel was in fact Yusuf Vazir Chamanzaminli (1887-1942), a gifted Azerbaijani writer and diplomat who perished in Stalin's GULAG. And challenged by Reiss's claim, these people, who included aging relatives of

the author and Azerbaijani literary scholars, spoke out in defense of Chamanzaminli.

That debate has now been chronicled, expanded and, in the minds of many settled, as a result of the work of the indefatigable efforts of Betty Blair, the editor of *Azerbaijan International* in the current issue of that magazine. [1]

Drawing on the memories and insights of dozens of Azerbaijanis, ranging from surviving relatives of Chamanzaminli to literary experts to ordinary people concerned about the fate of their nation, Blair concludes that behind the pseudonym Kurban Said was a composite person just as complicated as Azerbaijani history has been: that the basic story was written by Chamanzaminli but that Nussinbaum/Essad Bey or someone else had added many parts to the novel before it reached its readers.

Such a both/and rather than either/or approach may not satisfy the extreme partisans on either side, but it is almost certainly the most just. On the one hand, as the articles and memoir materials in *Azerbaijan International* make clear, Chamanzaminli had both the literary technique and the personal experience in Baku both generally and with interethnic families to allow him to come up with this story; while on the other hand, Nussinbaum/Essad Bey left Baku as a teenager and wrote a series of books which showed great skill in attracting publicity but often featured passages that do not square with reality.

Many people are likely to read this issue of *Azerbaijan International* only for the information it casts on this dispute, but that would be a mistake. This excavation of Azerbaijani literary life in fact provides an insight into the history of Azerbaijan, both at the time the novel is set and in the years since, including the period after the recovery of independence in 1991. This issue is filled with information not only on the authors involved but rather on the entire range of life in Baku nearly a century ago and on the nature of Azerbaijaniness and the Azerbaijani experience.

At one point in the issue (page 20), Betty Blair provides a summary, which is far more precise than any this writer could give. She says of the issue that “the result [of her efforts and those of the others involved in this volume] is insight—not only into the authors under investigation—but into the world in which the novel was set, Azerbaijan and Europe in the early 20th century, characterized by the chaos brought on by the collapse of

empires, the rise of authoritarian systems, and the desperation of confused, impoverished refugees and citizens, struggling to survive.”

Consequently, just like *Ali and Nino*, this issue of *Azerbaijan International* must be required reading for all those who care not only about Azerbaijan but about the human condition in our time.

Notes

[1] “Ali and Nino, The Business of Literature, Who Wrote Azerbaijan’s Most Famous Novel?”, *Azerbaijan International* 15:2-4, 2011 [364 pages].

MAY I INTRODUCE AZERBAIJAN? THE KARABAKH FOUNDATION'S INDIVIDUAL APPROACH TO CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Diana Cohen Altman

In the competition for the hearts and minds of Americans, the Karabakh Foundation recognizes the power of personality. Few Americans can describe Azerbaijan. And yet anywhere in the United States where *mugham* is played or a magnificent Azerbaijani carpet is unveiled, Americans stand ready to welcome the “newcomer.” Enter the Karabakh Foundation.

The Karabakh Foundation launched in 2010 as a 501(c) (3) U.S. cultural charity foundation. The foundation’s mission is to “increase awareness and understanding in the United States of the cultural heritage and traditions of the country of Azerbaijan, the Caucasus area, and the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.”

The foundation’s outreach approach embraces the range of factors that influence anyone’s decision to embark on a friendship with a newcomer. *Mugham* and carpets serve as outstanding calling cards, no doubt. But it is experiences and not products of culture that bond peoples. The “exotic” fascinates, and the familiar endears.

In just a year, the Karabakh Foundation has captured a loyal following that defies classification by age, gender, or other background. The foundation has accomplished this not simply by hosting world-class concerts for hundreds and thousands of individuals (such as Natig Rhythm Ensemble and the Rast Group), presenting dance performances at one of Washington’s premiere cultural festivals, mounting professional exhibits of art by Azerbaijani artists, presenting the record-breaking Azerbaijani Radio Hour, or by publishing a thoughtful publication series entitled *Karabakh: Looking Back, Looking Forward*, among other outreach programs. Rather, the Karabakh Foundation has engaged Americans in a relationship that each participant designs according to tastes and interests.

Rather than demand full attention, particularly in this age of information overload, the foundation's outreach allows for varying degrees of commitment. Staff designs each program to reach specific audiences without trying to appeal to everyone. For those who sustain a deep interest in the topic, the foundation is ready to suggest follow-up, from reading materials on www.KarabakhFoundation.org to becoming a foundation's «cultural ambassador» by participating in substantive program initiatives. The intended outcome of all activities remains Azerbaijan's presence in U.S. consciousness.

The Azerbaijani Radio Hour is somewhat emblematic of the foundation's «cafeteria-style» approach to sharing Azerbaijani culture. Each week's one-hour show focuses on musical accomplishments, cultural themes, and/or personalities that translate Azerbaijani culture for U.S. audiences. Estimates suggest that some 1,000 individuals listen to or download the show each week—many more listen to the show on the Web. The friendly, somewhat informal, presentation style highlights the foundation's conversational approach to outreach.

The 2011-12 iteration of the Azerbaijani Radio Hour will feature more short segments and more unexpected themes and pairings. Entertainment and education, as always, will complement one another in the show. Plans include special features on U.S.-Azerbaijan friendships over the years, a conversation about the foundation's initiative in digital mapping of Azerbaijani historic sites, some musical performances gearing up for next year's Eurovision, and more.

The foundation's focus on easily accessible programs has not meant sacrificing the interests of serious dilettantes or of scholars. The organization's *Azerbaijani Rug Initiative* embodies the foundation's «layered» approach to programming. Rug programming began with a talk in the showroom of longtime Washington, D.C., carpet dealer David Zahirpour. Several participants expressed amazement at the extensive role of Azerbaijan in the design and production of «Oriental carpets.» The foundation followed up with the celebrations at the Textile Museum, including a modest display about Azerbaijan's role in the world of oriental carpets. The foundation now is publicizing an invitation for individuals to become part of the *Azerbaijani Rug Initiative*, which is planned to be a virtual and in-person forum.

A diverse corps of volunteers plays a vital role in the foundation's cultural diplomacy. Via the individual passions and expertise of each volunteer—who have come from Azerbaijan, from other countries, from across the United States—the foundation again engages the human dynamic. These cultural ambassadors are helping to build, among other things, an online exhibition entitled *Azerbaijan Artifacts* that will allow others to explore their own interests. This exhibition focuses on material artifacts showcasing Azerbaijani culture. From musical instruments to coins to postage stamps, the story emerges of a country with much to tell.

The foundation's cultural diplomacy will be enriched as the foundation continues to build its Board of Advisors. Content experts have made outstanding contributions to many of the foundation's activities to date. Culinary historian Amy Riolo led the development of the foundation's soon-to-be-published Karabakh cookbook. The book is a compendium of food and culture that is guaranteed to expand world consciousness of Azerbaijan's ancient and modern legacy.

The foundation is fortunate to have several “big personalities” to draw on in engaging Americans. The enthusiasm of Azerbaijan's youth, manifested recently in the post-Eurovision exuberance of Azeri students in the United States, permeates many foundation activities. The foundation recently sponsored outdoor performances of Azerbaijani music and dance at the Celebration of Textiles at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. The videotape of this event reveals a mostly young Azeri demographic eager to share the beauty and sophistication of their culture. The foundation has launched a *Young Professional* division that emphasizes “bring an American friend” to the group's casual get-togethers and other programs.

Just as foundation staff and volunteers seek to engage stakeholders in a dynamic relationship, we each derive inspiration from personalities who inhabit our world. Several of us Americans have become enamored of Azerbaijani musical icon Uzeyir Hajibayov. Breathtaking musical compositions aside, Hajibayov seems to us a first-class practitioner of cultural diplomacy. He did not stop at preserving and furthering Azerbaijani musical tradition; he recognized the need to keep culture flowing for his contemporaries. Had Hajibayov worried simply about posterity, who would have experienced the culture firsthand in order to pass it along to future generations?

As the foundation takes stock of our impact on Americans, we have in mind a historic-personality construct. That is, we envision an Azerbaijani born in 1917, who would have experienced the Russian Empire, the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union, and the Republic of Azerbaijan. This person also would carry a sense of Azerbaijan's ancient legacy, and, ideally, the country's modern persona. How convenient would that be—to introduce such a person to fellow Americans. In the meantime, the Karabakh Foundation has endless material with which to celebrate Azerbaijan here in the United States.

Looking Forward To 2012

AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY IN 2012: TEN ISSUES TO WATCH

Paul Goble

Having just completed its most successful year in foreign affairs since the restoration of independence, Azerbaijan enters 2012 with many new opportunities and the challenges that come with them. No one can say exactly what the next twelve months will bring, especially in the area of foreign affairs, but below are ten issues that are certain to be at the center of attention in Baku in the coming months.

1. A New Format for Karabakh Negotiations?

Azerbaijan's overriding foreign policy goal now as it has been for 15 years is to end Armenian occupation of 20 percent of its territory. There have been many moments of hope and despair over that period, but at the start of 2012, the stage appears set for a major change either in the composition of the OSCE Minsk Group or even in its displacement by other forums as the center of talks on a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Like Turkey, Azerbaijanis are furious at France, one of the Minsk Group co-chair countries, whose parliament has just passed a law criminalizing the denial of the so-called "Armenian genocide" of 1915. Like their Turkish counterparts, Azerbaijani officials and politicians have suggested that at the very least this action means that Paris can no longer claim to be an even-handed player in the talks, and some in Baku and Ankara have suggested that at the very least Paris should be replaced as a co-chair.

At the very least, such calls will reinforce Azerbaijani feelings that the Minsk Group has not lived up to its promise. More likely still, it will lead to calls for a change in the group's membership or format. And even more probably, it will mean that other venues, such as the role now being played by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will expand. At the very least, this latest controversy suggests that a settlement based on international law may

be further away than it was only a year ago, even though Armenia's position domestically and internationally is weaker now than ever before.

2. UN Security Council Membership.

Official Baku and the Azerbaijani people celebrated Azerbaijan's election this past fall to a two-year term on the UN Security Council as a reflection of its rising status in the world and its successful diplomatic outreach to regions such as Latin America to which other candidate countries devoted less attention.

Beyond any doubt, Azerbaijan's election will enhance both its international standing and its ability to promote its national interests, but these gains will pose challenges. On the one hand, as a member of the UN Security Council, Azerbaijan will have to take positions on many issues it has not had to in the past, something that will put it in the spotlight more often and make the continued prosecution of its highly successful balanced foreign policy somewhat more difficult. And on the other, Baku will find itself drawn into numerous and intense negotiations on many of these issues, an involvement that will place burdens on Azerbaijan's still-growing diplomatic apparatus.

At the very least, as officials in the Presidential Administration and Foreign Ministry have indicated, Baku will have to expand its permanent representation in New York and other United Nations centers and increase the size of its foreign policy institutions even more rapidly than it has done over the last five years under the direction of President Ilham Aliyev.

3. Escalating Tensions around Iran.

One issue that Azerbaijan will have to confront not only as a member of the UN Security Council, but also more generally is the rapidly escalating tensions between Tehran and the international community over Iran's nuclear program. While it has opposed nuclear proliferation, Baku has been very clear that it will never allow its territory to be used to attack Iran, and it continues to have close relations with the Iranian government while also maintaining good relations with the United States, the European Union and Israel, three of international actors who are currently involved in a standoff with Tehran over its nuclear program.

If tensions around Iran continue to escalate and particularly if they lead to military actions by any of the sides, Baku could be forced to choose, but more likely, it may become a central player in the drama, with each side viewing Azerbaijan as a bridge or mediator whose leaders and diplomats could prevent the crisis from deteriorating further. That, too, will place new burdens on Azerbaijan, but it may prove to be the opportunity to elevate Baku from being a major regional power into one with far more influence beyond its immediate neighborhood.

Other countries, including China and India, clearly see this, and they are likely to seek to work with Baku lest things get out of hand, a positive development beyond question, but one that will also pose new challenges to Azerbaijan's balanced foreign policy.

4. The End of the Turkish-Armenian Rapprochement.

No single action so far unsettled Azerbaijan more than the apparent opening of a rapprochement between Armenia and Turkey with the signing of the so-called Zurich Protocols in October 2009. Azerbaijan viewed Turkey as its closest ally in Baku's efforts to end the Armenian occupation of its territory, and Ankara's willingness to sign an agreement with Yerevan struck many in Baku as an act of betrayal—or at the very least as an action that would allow Armenia an opportunity to refuse to abide by international law and withdraw its forces from Azerbaijani territories.

Because of Armenian intransigence and Azerbaijani criticism, Turkey has backed away from these protocols with the Grand National Assembly refusing even to consider them for possible ratification. Now it is clear that the Protocols are a dead letter and that Turkey will not open its borders with Armenia until Yerevan ends the occupation, a reflection of Turkish attitudes toward Armenia and even more of Ankara's appreciation that it went too far by signing the accords without carefully considering the views of Azerbaijan.

On the one hand, this means that Armenia cannot hope to expand its economy by exporting its goods through Turkey unless and until it withdraws from Azerbaijan, a situation that—given the increasingly disastrous economic and political situation within Armenia—should force Yerevan to negotiate a settlement more quickly. But on the other, this development means that Armenia is more, not less, dependent on the

Russian Federation and that the key to any solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict lies in Moscow.

5. Uncertainties in Moscow.

Given the growing importance of Moscow in this regard and the presence of more than a million Azerbaijanis in the Russian Federation, upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections there and the uncertainties they are already generating are going to be matters of first concern for Baku.

6. A New Wave of Instability in the North Caucasus.

Azerbaijan lives in what remains a very unstable neighborhood. No part of that is more unstable than the North Caucasus, and that region is likely to become more troubled in the year ahead. The amount of Russian aid and outside investment are uncertain, and various groups in the region are prepared to challenge Moscow's appointed representatives there, especially in the run-up to the Sochi Olympics planned for 2014.

Trouble in the North Caucasus affects Azerbaijan in two ways. On the one hand, trouble there has a tendency to cross borders either as the result of refugee flows or the perception of regional difficulties that problems in the North involve. And on the other, Russia has never been able to stabilize the North Caucasus without establishing a dominant position in the south. Consequently, if there are problems in the North Caucasus in 2012, Azerbaijan and its neighbors will have to cope with expanded Russian interest in using the South Caucasus to defend Moscow's position in the North.

7. Echoes of the Arab Spring.

Perhaps the greatest of unknowns for 2012 is the possible echoes of the Arab Spring of 2011. The revolutions in Egypt and elsewhere have inspired popular revolts in many countries, both politically and technically, and they have also forced governments to take new measures, with some seeking to find common ground with the population and others invoking the need for stability to crack down on their populations.

Azerbaijan has been far less affected by the Arab Spring than many countries in the region; not only because its government enjoys more

support and has greater legitimacy than others, but also because Baku under President Ilham Aliyev—as was the case under his father Heydar Aliyev—has invested in promoting the welfare of the population. Given the inevitability of a revolution of rising expectations and a growing population, Baku will find itself under even more pressure to make such investments in the future.

8. Eurovision and More Intense International Attention to Azerbaijan.

All Azerbaijanis welcomed their country's victory in the *Eurovision* competition and look forward to Baku's hosting of that competition in 2012. The victory attracted expanded international attention to the country, and the upcoming competition promises to attract even more.

Because Azerbaijan has a good story to tell, most of this attention has been and will be positive, but no country is without problems—and problems more than achievements make for better media stories. Since the victory at *Eurovision* 2011, Azerbaijan has been the subject of many critical stories, some of which offer a distorted picture of life in the country. And in the coming months, Azerbaijan is likely to be the subject of many more.

What many people around the world will be watching is how Azerbaijanis react. Some Azerbaijanis will undoubtedly see such stories as the work of “the Armenian lobby,” but most will recognize that such stories are a reflection of the way the world media works and understand that the more important their country becomes, the more likely at least some journalists will try to play up the negative. At the same time, however, Azerbaijani representatives, including diaspora organizations, will have an expanded role to play in correcting false reporting about the country.

9. Expansion of Azerbaijan's Diplomatic Presence Abroad.

More than any other leader in the post-Soviet region, President Ilham Aliyev has committed his country to the expansion of its diplomatic presence abroad, particularly in regions like Asia and Latin America that many other countries have fewer contacts with. That policy which lay behind Azerbaijan's election to the UN Security Council has led to a doubling in the number of Azerbaijani missions abroad over the last five years and—what is equally important—a dramatic growth in the number of resident embassies and missions in Baku is set to continue.

Few international observers thought it would be possible for Azerbaijan to expand so quickly, but Baku's program for training new diplomats at institutions like the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy has managed to keep up. As its network of missions increase and as demands on those which already exist grows, Azerbaijan will have to do even more in this regard, perhaps doubling the size of its foreign service over the next two years. That, too, will be a major challenge.

10. Growing Economic and Military Power.

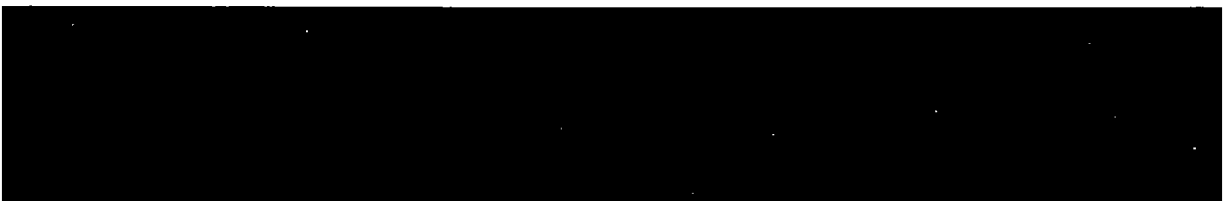
At the foundation of Azerbaijan's expanding influence in the world is its economy. Its oil and gas resources and its role as an exporter and transporter of hydrocarbons already have made Baku a serious player in Europe. That role will only expand as various pipeline projects come on line and the true extent of new gas field finds is defined. That could set Baku on a collision course with other exporters; at the very least, Azerbaijan's officials and diplomats will have to work hard to defend Azerbaijan's interests in this most important sector.

In 2011, Azerbaijan's GDP formed 80 percent of the total GDP of the three South Caucasus countries. That share will likely rise still further in 2012 given the economic disaster in Armenia and troubles in Georgia. And that economic power will add weight to its influence not only over its neighbors in the South Caucasus, but in Central Asia and the Greater Middle East more generally.

One area that is likely to become increasingly important over the next year will be Azerbaijan's export of weapons and military hardware. Thanks to joint production agreements with Turkey and its own military industry, Azerbaijan is now posed to take its place as a major arms exporter, a status that will only give additional weight to its diplomacy.

* * *

In short, 2012 is likely to be an exciting and challenging one for Azerbaijan and its relations with the world. But as President Ilham Aliyev recently said, the strength of the Azerbaijani government combined with the strength of the Azerbaijani people means that there is no task, foreign or domestic, that the country cannot hope to achieve.



A SELECTION OF INTERVIEWS

Volume IV, 2011

AZERBAIJANIS LOOK BACK TO 2010 AND FORWARD TO 2011

Azerbaijan in the World: Please give your review of the main foreign policy achievements of Azerbaijan in 2010.

Elin Suleymanov [Consul General of Azerbaijan to Los Angeles, California]: Azerbaijan continued to reinforce its position of an independent, pragmatic player as well as its position as a regional leader. Indeed, the country's consistent pursuit of its national interests has become a hallmark of Baku's foreign policy. Among its successes in 2010 were the conclusion of gas talks with Turkey and the signing of a strategic partnership accord with Ankara, visits by the secretaries of state and defense from the United States, President Ilham Aliyev's meeting with US President Barak Obama in New York, the Caspian Summit in Baku, and the NATO declaration on unresolved conflicts.

Rasim Musabayov, Dr. [MP, member of the Milli Majlis international and inter-parliamentary relations committee]: Azerbaijan's foreign policy was active as can be seen from the number of international visits by Azerbaijani officials led by President Ilham Aliyev, as well as from visits by the foreign leaders to Baku. We took part in all major international forums. We received in Azerbaijan and productively conducted summits on the Caspian Sea, World Religious Leaders, and the AGRI energy summit. Among the important agreements, I would note the Treaty on Strategic Partnership and Mutual Assistance with Turkey, as well as the Treaty on Borders with Russia.

Fikrat Sadykhov [Professor of Political Science, Western University, Baku & Political Analyst]: In the past year, we witnessed many events, which have significant interest for Azerbaijan and demonstrate the growth of its diplomatic activity. Azerbaijan peacefully and confidently developed, firmly occupying the leading positions in the region and strengthening its relations with its allies and partners.

Thanks to the political firmness and diplomatic flexibility of Azerbaijan, the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border, about which Yerevan had so long dreamed, did not happen. Moreover, in 2010, Azerbaijani diplomacy developed a broad campaign to attract the attention of the international community to the problems of the region. That is clearly and convincingly shown by the speech of President Ilham Aliyev at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September, where he directed the attention of the chiefs of states to the non-fulfillment of four resolutions of the UN Security Council, as well as to the many activities conducted by the Armenian side on the territory of the occupied regions of Azerbaijan, ones which contradict the norms of the international law. In connection with this, a serious achievement of Azerbaijani diplomacy was the organization of a fact-finding visit of the international mission headed by the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to the occupied territories which had as its goal the assessment of the situation connected with the destruction of natural resources and the cultural heritage, as well as the illegal settlement and violation of property rights.

In 2010, the bilateral and multi-lateral ties of Azerbaijan significantly broadened. The number of our embassies and consular institutions abroad increased, a development that allowed us more fully and widely to present our country in the international arena and to gain wider support for our national interests.

Among the high points of Azerbaijani diplomacy during the past year was the Caspian summit, which took place quite constructively in Baku. The agreement on security and also the joint declaration of the summit became an important stage in the development of cooperation in the Caspian basin. This was an important step in the further progress toward the agreement on all questions concerning the Caspian, an agreement which is now being developed.

In a definite sense, the Baku summit exceeded expectations. Mutually acceptable positions and common points of view on the most important problems of the region were agreed upon. And these found expression in the words of the joint declaration about issues concerning security, the struggle with terrorism and separatism, as well as with extremism and drug trafficking. But the main thing was the positive background and friendly atmosphere, which was created by the summit.

AIW: Please list what you see as the main shortcomings of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan in 2010.

Suleymanov: As always, Azerbaijan's diplomatic corps can and must do more in the area of public diplomacy in order to win broader support for Baku. This is a learning process and the curve is, understandably, steep. Yet, there is room for improvement in this area.

Musabayov: On the whole, Azerbaijan's foreign policy was adequate to the existing international conditions, tasks and possibilities of the country. However, in my view, there was insufficient effort in the direction of European integration. Moreover, talks with the WTO were too drawn out. The potential of our country, the financial and cadres possibilities of the foreign ministry should allow for the conduct of a more creative foreign policy, one that would find and achieve additional possibilities to strengthen the foreign policy position of the country.

Sadykhov: I consider that broader and deeper cooperation of Azerbaijan with the countries of Latin America and the Middle East would more fully correspond both to our national interests and to those priorities, which form the basis of our balanced, multi-vector foreign policy. The countries of these regions have significant potential both in international regional organizations and in influencing Armenian diaspora organizations, which operate in them.

AIW: How do you assess the progress achieved in 2010 in the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict? How do you assess the chances for resolving the conflict in 2011?

Suleymanov: The Muskoka statement of the presidents of France, Russia and US at the G-8 Summit was an important reaffirmation of the main principles for the settlement of the conflict. There was also a certain intensification of actions by mediators, most notably by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. However, as it has been the case for over 18 years, these efforts have yet to produce any tangible sign that Armenia is ready for peace. We should remain hopeful that in 2011 we shall see some real progress in the settlement, but obviously, Armenia's shortsighted inability to see its own future strategically and to move beyond narrow ethnic notions

continues to pose a major threat to our region. Every year the conflict remains unresolved, this threat is becoming greater.

Musabayov: Unfortunately, no breakthrough on the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict took place in 2010, an unfortunate result of the unconstructive position of Yerevan. The Armenian side did not accept—even with reservations—the renewed version of the Madrid Principles officially proposed at the OSCE Ministerial in Athens back in the summer of 2009. And it did not do so despite the several meetings of the two presidents organized and mediated by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

At the same time, to call the past year useless in this regard would be a mistake. In all basic diplomatic forums, Azerbaijan received support for its position, including from the European Parliament, the NATO summit, and the OSCE summit. That is, the European Parliament adopted on May 20 a special resolution on “The need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus”—one based on the report by the Bulgarian Member of Parliament Yevgeni Kirilov—demanding the withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The NATO summit in Lisbon—one which the Armenian president did not even attend—proved even more important. In the Declaration adopted there, NATO reaffirmed its commitment to support “the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova” and ignored “the right to self-determination,” a principle to which the Armenians constantly appeal to cover their territorial pretensions.

Finally, the declaration which was adopted in Astana at the OSCE summit on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the “three-plus-two” format—one which was signed by the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan—confirmed their readiness for a final resolution of the conflict in conformity with the principles of international law, the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, as well as on the basis of the joint declarations that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and US President Barak Obama made on July 10 at L'Aquila and on June 26 at Muskoka. Let me also remind that, judging by the latter two declarations of the presidents of the US, France and Russia concerning Nagorno-Karabakh, the basic Madrid Principles say nothing about the possibility of

its separation from Azerbaijan, while they do make clear the need for the liberation of the occupied territories and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

The world has still not put tough pressure on Armenia, but taking into consideration the very difficult economic situation of this country, it simply lacks the resources—economic, military and demographic—in order to hold out against a just resolution of the conflict based on international law. Consequently, if the international community moves to exert pressure on Armenia—something that could also become a result of our diplomatic activity—there could be a breakthrough in 2011, although more probable appears to be an inertia scenario, with the sides continuing their tactical diplomatic and information struggle without decisive success.

Sadykhov. Let us be open. Radical changes concerning the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the resolution of the fate of Nagorno-Karabakh did not take place in 2010. Official Yerevan as before marched in place, refusing to respond to the proposals of intermediaries and ignoring the norms and principles of international law. In this way, Armenia drove itself ever more deeply into the dead end.

At the same time, the position of official Baku on the resolution of the conflict remained unchanged: the problem must find its resolution in the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. It is important to note that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was again confirmed both at the NATO summit in Lisbon and at the OSCE summit in Astana. Moreover, in May, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the territories of Azerbaijan, a serious slap by Europe at the prestige of Armenia.

The development of the situation shows that the resolution of the conflict will be possible only in the case of serious pressure from the leading states on the aggressor country. In this context, Azerbaijan must work actively in three directions: First, it must devote its efforts to the realization of the resolutions and decisions adopted by international structures. Second, it must intensify its diplomatic activity in work with leading states. And third, it must develop its defense potential and economic possibilities.

AIW: How do you assess the energy diplomacy of Azerbaijan in 2010 and what in your view are the prospects in this area in the future?

Suleymanov: Azerbaijan continued its consistent policy of diversification of export routes and its contribution to European energy security. As already mentioned, the transit agreement with Turkey is a major accomplishment. In general, the Azerbaijani energy diplomacy in 2010 was built on Baku's long-term strategy of developing Caspian energy resources and promoting regional cooperation.

Musabayov: The diversification strategy is completely correct and is being implemented in a consistent way. That Russia and Iran are now listed among the customers of our gas only serves to make our position stronger in the eyes of our major partners and transit states, that is Turkey and Georgia. The realization of projects which will allow for Azerbaijan to enter the LNG market have good prospects for realization. That will allow us to broaden the circle of our customers to include Romania, Hungary and Ukraine. It is also a positive development that the question about a Trans-Caspian pipeline, at the initiative of Turkmenistan, has been brought back to the agenda. Moreover, negotiations on NABUCCO are moving into a decisive phase, something of which the forthcoming visit by the European Commission President José Manuel Barroso to Baku and further on to Ashgabat in the beginning of 2011 is indicative.

Sadykhov: Situated at the crossroads of major trade and transport networks, occupying a strategically important role in the region, and having significant oil and gas resources, our country has become a potentially important regional energy and infrastructure center. Azerbaijan has demonstrated that it plays an important role in energy security as a whole. In order to achieve its own energy goals, Azerbaijan will devote first order importance to the questions of the diversification of routes for energy flows, something that is important both for the European and Eurasian directions. The gas factor will assume significance in Azerbaijan's energy diplomacy in the coming year, one linked to the opening of the major *Umid* field in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian shelf, the reserves of which are estimated at approximately 200 billion cubic meters of natural gas and 30 billion cubic meters of gas condensate.

AIW: How do you assess the trend in relations of Azerbaijan with its nearest neighbors—Russia, Iran and Turkey—in the past year and what in

your view are the prospects for the further development of these relations in 2011?

Suleymanov. Azerbaijan's relations with all its neighbors, except Armenia, continued to develop positively. With Turkey, the recent agreements are indicative of the high-level of cooperation. Azerbaijani-Iranian and Azerbaijani-Russian relations, too, led to some positive results this year. The Caspian Summit in Baku attests both to this and to Azerbaijan's growing regional role. Importantly, Azerbaijan also further strengthened its already excellent relations with Georgia and with partners across the Caspian, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The outlook in all these areas looks bright for the year ahead.

Musabayov. With these countries and also with Georgia, Azerbaijan has been conducting an intensive dialogue. Trade and economic relations have been developing along an ascending line. Yet again I note the importance of the treaty on strategic partnership and mutual assistance signed with Turkey and the border treaty with Russia. Relations with Iran did not deteriorate, which, taking into consideration the situation around this country given its nuclear program, can also be considered an achievement. The main thing is that Azerbaijan was able to make its relations with the neighbors stronger in such a way that none of them will manifest an "elder brother" syndrome in their relations with Baku.

Sadykhov. The activity of Russia toward our region increased in the course of 2010. Three meetings of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia took place with the participation and mediation of Russian president Dmitry Medvedev—in Sochi, Saint Petersburg, and Astrakhan. And it is particularly worth noting that in 2010, for the first time since independence, Azerbaijan and Russia signed an agreement on their state border, something which has enormous historical and political importance. It seems to me that the growing weight of Baku's economic and defence potential and its influence in the region will have the collateral effect of keeping the Russian Federation actively involved with Azerbaijan in 2011, including in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

During 2010, Azerbaijan actively and fruitfully developed its allied and partnership ties with Turkey. A treaty on strategic partnership and mutual assistance was signed, which is now an important factor for the further rapprochement of the two countries. It seems to me that the dynamism of

bilateral relations in the new year will be distinguished by a high level of closeness and mutual understanding. At the same time, one cannot exclude the possibility of new efforts toward achieving a rapprochement between Ankara and Yerevan as a result of the pressure of a number of leading states.

As far as Iran is concerned, relations between Azerbaijan and this country in 2010 retained their stable, good-neighborly character given the historical, cultural, and religious closeness of the two. There was an active political dialogue at both the bilateral and multi-lateral level, and economic cooperation increased. An important event in the social-political life of the two countries was the visit to Azerbaijan by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, one that resulted in the signing of a memorandum on mutual understanding in the area of energy and transport.

Iran, which is under strong pressure as a result of the international sanctions against it, will keep on searching for diplomatic levers to escape its existing situation and will attempt to do so by getting further closer with nearby countries and in the first instance with Azerbaijan in the coming year.

In short, relations with these countries will be developed within the framework of the bilateral agreements already signed and in correspondence with the realities of geopolitical circumstances.

AIW: How do you assess the trend in relations between Azerbaijan and the United States during 2010 and what in your view are the prospects for the further development of these relations in 2011?

Suleymanov: The New York meeting of Presidents Aliyev and Obama was an indication of the strong relations the two nations enjoy. Azerbaijan's importance was also underscored by the Baku visits of Secretaries Gates and Clinton. Azerbaijan has been doing its part to deepen and expand the partnership we have. For instance, we recently inaugurated Azerbaijan's first honorary consulate in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The prospects for the bilateral relations are very promising and wide open. The ball in this case is in Washington's court.

Musabayov: Here progress was minimal. Although the Obama administration became somewhat more active in the South Caucasus, as the visits of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and of Defense Secretary Robert

Gates showed, American attention did not increase. Washington also was unable to overcome the intrigues of Armenian lobbyists and secure Senate confirmation for Matthew Bryza, although later President Obama gave him a recess appointment. It is obvious that as long as the United States keeps on considering its relations with the countries of the region exclusively in the context of Russia, Iran or Afghanistan, to expect a significant change is unwarranted.

Sadykhov: While one could still describe US-Azerbaijani relations, as they evolved in 2010, as those of strategic partnership, as a result of a number of circumstances, these ties were not distinguished by closeness and active cooperation. In the course of 2010, in fact, one could observe a certain abstraction of Washington from the problems of the region and in particular from the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Nevertheless, people in Azerbaijan regarded with understanding the political priorities of the US connected with the presence of its forces in Afghanistan and Iraq and with its concerns about the nuclear program of Iran.

At the same time, as a result of the active diplomatic efforts of Azerbaijan, the United States intensified its foreign policy vector in the Azerbaijani direction and at the end of the last year, the US president bypassing Congress named an ambassador to Baku. All this demonstrated the interest of Washington in the continuation of partnership relations with Azerbaijan and its understanding of the growing role of our country in the region. Proceeding from the above, one can predict that US-Azerbaijani relations will develop in the framework of partnership relations and strategic cooperation in 2011.

AIW: How do you assess the activities of Azerbaijan in public diplomacy in 2010?

Suleymanov: As noted, there is a room for improvement in the area of public diplomacy, and it is encouraging to see the Foreign Ministry focusing on capacity-building in this area. I very much hope that these efforts, including the programs at the ADA, will continue also in preparing the cadre for Azerbaijan's diplomatic corps.

Musabayov: Public diplomacy, if anything, declined in 2010—especially in the second half of it—at least from my subjective point of view. It seems to me that the dead-end which the conflict settlement process faced as a

result of the unconstructive position of the Armenians has objectively put in place obstacles for the broadening of activity in the civil society sector as well. Nevertheless, there were meetings among NGO activists, journalists and others in bilateral and multilateral settings, including in Moscow, Istanbul, and Izmir. I myself participated in a majority of these meetings and can say that I observed a definite “stagnation” in them similar to the one in official talks. Azerbaijan needs to find fresh and unexpected moves in order to increase its activities and make public diplomacy more productive.

Sadykhov: In the course of the entire year at the level of the expert community and public organizations, Azerbaijan took part in the work of various international forums, congresses, conferences, and roundtable meetings. An important event in this regard was the international symposium in Baku in October on “The South Caucasus in a Changing World,” in which more than 150 foreign and local experts took part. The declaration adopted by that meeting underscored the leading role of Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus.

It is important that such meetings have a systemic character and assist the development of regional ties and cooperation and also promote the national interests of Azerbaijan.

AIW: In your view, what challenges stand before Azerbaijani foreign policy in 2011 and what actions must Azerbaijan take in order to be able to respond to them?

Musabayov: Questions about the Iranian nuclear program and the continuing dead end in talks about Karabakh will define the foreign political agenda in 2011. The risks and opportunities in both are interconnected. As Azerbaijan increases its defense potential, it will be in a better position should circumstances dictate a force majeure resolution. It is important to develop to the maximum extent possible mechanisms of strategic partnership with Turkey and to support at a high level dialogue with Russia and other leading and neighboring countries in order to minimize risks and push forward the resolution of priority questions for our country. In the first instance, this concerns the Karabakh conflict and the division of the Caspian.

Sadykbayev. Beyond any doubt, the main challenge standing before Azerbaijan and its foreign policy apparatus is represented by the continuing occupation by Armenia of Azerbaijani territories and the lack of a resolution of the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh. It is also important not to forget the fact that the leading states of the world will again try to promote Turkish-Armenian rapprochement, which cannot fail to elicit an adequate reaction from Azerbaijan. Naturally, official Baku is not indifferent to such a development and will take all diplomatic, political and economic steps to block this process.

As before, the threat of military actions against Iran initiated by the United States will continue, but the involvement of the US in military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the pragmatism of European countries will hardly allow that in the near term. At the same time, official Tehran has displayed a sufficient level of flexibility in critical situations so as to ward off such an action anytime soon.

I consider one of the serious threats in the region to be the sharpening of the situation in the North Caucasus. Circumstances in the North Caucasus republics of the Russian Federation remain extremely unsettled and explosive. Azerbaijan, given its location, will work to cooperate more fully with both the official structures of Russia itself and with the leaders of the republics of the North Caucasus. All this to a certain extent will help neutralize the challenges and threats emanating from this region.

AZERBAIJANIN 2010

An Interview with Dr. Aleksandr Karavayev
Deputy Director General of the Information-Analytical Center at
Moscow State University

January 10, 2011
Baku, Azerbaijan / Moscow, Russian Federation

Azerbaijan in the World: Please give your review of the main achievements of Azerbaijan's foreign policy in 2010.

Dr. Karavayev: I would highlight the following cases where Azerbaijani diplomacy through the efforts of the foreign ministry and president as well as of others was able to achieve major goals. First of all was Turkey's refusal to continue the policy of rapprochement with Armenia. Then was the acquisition of the S-300 defense systems—although this was never confirmed officially, it had a significant resonance in the media and signaled the existence of military-technical support from the side of the Russian Federation. Yet another important event was the decision of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan not to go to the NATO summit. That too was a success for Azerbaijani diplomacy, albeit an indirect one.

One must also mention the spring resolution of the European Parliament (No. 2216) concerning the situation in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Its contents backed Baku's position, which was especially significant given that it was adopted while elections were being conducted in the separatist enclave.

Sometimes international summits also can be considered as serious achievements of national diplomacy. In this connection, it is necessary to call attention to the Third Caspian Summit in Baku and the world inter-religious summit, which took place last spring and was organized by the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus with the support of the Russian

Orthodox Church. That event included the visit to Baku of Garegin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians.

Finally, one should also note the significant strengthening of relations with neighbors in the former USSR, with Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

AIW: Please list what you see as the main shortcomings of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan in 2010.

Dr. Karavayev: There were probably certain technical and cadres shortcomings, but for me, in any case, they were not notable. At the strategic level, Azerbaijan's diplomacy developed correctly as it attempted to include in its arsenal an ever greater quantity of means and to develop all main directions. Let us assume there were indeed some shortcomings: the weak relations with the countries of South America and with South East Asia and China, but these are not so much deficiencies as only the first steps in the correct direction.

AIW: How do you assess the progress achieved in 2010 in the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?

Dr. Karavayev: There is still no progress. That the powers in their joint declarations (G-8 and otherwise) have spoken of the necessity of the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied districts is difficult to call progress. It did not lead to any practical movement. Nor did two major attempts, one by Turkey and the other by Russia, to push the process off its current stalemate bear any fruit.

AIW: How do you assess the energy diplomacy of Azerbaijan in 2010 and what in your view are the prospects in this regard for the future?

Dr. Karavayev: Let us see what the results from the visit to Baku of European Commission President Barroso will be. If one talks about prospects, then Azerbaijan has adopted a correct approach by promoting the export of liquefied natural gas through Georgian and Turkish ports, the broadening of foreign investments by the State Oil Company in the network and development of pipelines. Of course, it is also important to develop for export oil distillates as produced by Azerbaijani refineries.

AIW: How do you assess the dynamics of relations of Azerbaijan with its nearest neighbors—Russia, Iran and Turkey—in 2010 and what in your view are the prospects for the further development of these relations in 2011?

Dr. Karavayev. The relations of Azerbaijan with Russia and Turkey of course have their own dynamic, but they are brought closer together by a common interest in, and the existence of, an atmosphere of political stability which supports the development of business. Of course, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has an impact on both sets of relations, but Baku at a practical level divides its foreign policy moves in such a way that the Karabakh impasse does not block the development of political contacts and the rest of the spectrum of relations with other international subjects. Therefore, in my view, mutually profitable stability will be preserved on both these lines.

As in the past, relations with Iran will continue to be unsettled. It is a difficult neighbor, and for Azerbaijan, not to have major problems with Iran or with the Western coalition because of cooperation with Iran is already an accomplishment, something Baku has been able to achieve through its skillfully effected multi-vector foreign policy.

AIW: How do you assess the dynamics of relations of Azerbaijan with the United States in 2010 and what in your view are the prospects for the further development of these relations in 2011?

Dr. Karavayev. This is quite a complicated and multifaceted issue. There are no obvious problems between the US and Azerbaijan. More than that, there is a large list of well-known lines of cooperation involving regional problems and Washington-sponsored initiatives. But at the same time, it appears that Washington, despite that, has ignored the growing ambitions of Baku. The impression is thus created that in Washington they do not know what line to follow and thus give contradictory signals. What line will dominate in the coming year is difficult to say.

AIW: How do you assess the activity of Azerbaijan in public diplomacy in 2010?

Dr. Karavayev. The soft power mechanism is not a discovery for Azerbaijani diplomacy, for, in essence, any positive activity of the Azerbaijani diaspora in the world is a manifestation of public diplomacy and brings significant fruits in the task of forming a positive image of the country. But systematically and in an organized fashion, this diplomatic tactic has been employed relatively recently. Among the successful achievements of public diplomacy of Azerbaijan on the post-Soviet space, I would note the opening in Ulyanovsk of a general education school that

was refurbished by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, something that no other foreign diaspora has done in Russia. Also noteworthy is the activity of the small Azerbaijani diaspora in Crimea. At one time, I conducted research on that subject and know the leader of the community. Without having serious financial and other means of influence on the local authorities, they have been able to attract attention to the destruction by vandals of a memorial complex to Soviet soldiers at Sapun-Gore in Sevastopol, where a large number of Azerbaijani soldiers died. Therefore, the restoration of this memorial is the direct result of public diplomacy of the local diaspora.

One also needs to recall the successes of the *Justice for Hojaly* program that has resulted in actions in many countries of Europe and in the United States.

However, one must not forget that public diplomacy to a significant degree is an element of inter-cultural dialogue. Politics in this case should play a secondary role. It is necessary to broaden the geography of exhibits of Azerbaijani artists and to develop its film industry in order to allow it to play a larger role in the world market. In this direction, there is a great deal of work to do. There is a need for greater inventiveness, and it would be wise to try in the major cities and capitals of the world to open a network of Azerbaijani cultural centers, which could host exhibits, conduct forums and presentations, and serve as offices of national commercial brands of Azerbaijan, from tourist firms to producers of food products.

AIW: What challenges in your view stand before Azerbaijani foreign policy in 2011 and what actions should Azerbaijan undertake in response?

Dr. Karavayev: There is clearly a need for new approaches to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Baku needs to bring the Azerbaijani plan for the post-war reconstruction of the social and economic life of the currently occupied territories, including Nagorno-Karabakh, to the attention of world public opinion. And even if this project cannot be carried out in the near term, then at any case, it will become an additional argument for Baku's diplomacy. This concerns general strategy.

If one makes a prognostication about the practical development of the conflict, then in 2011 there is a growing chance of a major provocation by Armenia with the goal of drawing Azerbaijan into a major armed conflict and thus present it to the world as an unrestrained militarist power.

At the same time, and as usual, the main global challenges, connected with the situation around Iran remain important. In both cases, restraint is needed.

AZERBAIJAN AND POLAND

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Michal Labenda
Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic
of Azerbaijan

January 25, 2011
Baku, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan and the World: What do you see as the central core of relations between Azerbaijan and Poland?

Ambassador Michal Labenda: Like the relations between any two close, prospering and independent countries, the relationship between Poland and Azerbaijan involves many things. There is no one center of gravity. Of course, some areas attract more public attention, but that doesn't mean we neglect others. But what is especially important is that the foundation of our very good and friendly relations is a similar history and understanding of the transformation process, even though not everyone in either country fully appreciates this.

In Poland, people have only a limited knowledge about Prometheanism, Warsaw's ideology and program of support for newly independent nations in the east in the early 1920s. But that approach is bearing fruit today. Like others, we Poles know what it means to be left to our fate in the hands of a cruel regime, and we are proud that the very first movement, *Solidarnost*, directed at dismantling the Evil Empire was set up in Poland. Now, after a very successful two decades of transformation, Poland is in a position to be the very best advocate for Azerbaijan in the European Union. That is why our friendship and cooperation is so strong and why we work hard to strengthen both.

Our two countries have had a similar geopolitical and historical set of experiences. Owing to its complicated and tragic history, Poland

understand the value of peace, something that is always better than war, and the importance of negotiations which are always more profitable than angry silence. At various points in our history, Poland has disappeared from the map of Europe. The last time—in 1939 (!)—was not so long ago. And at the Yalta Conference at the end of World War II, we lost a large segment of our territory, including some places of utmost important for Polish nationhood. So we understand the pain of nations at war and we also are certain that there is no other way to solve conflicts except within the framework of the international law.

AIW: How have the Azerbaijani-Polish relations evolved since 1991, and how would you describe their current status?

Amb. Labenda: Our bilateral ties were established in 1992 after both our countries regained their independence for the second time in the 20th century. We began our cooperation from scratch, but for Poland, the eastern dimension of our foreign policy has always been a matter of the highest priority. At the same time, Azerbaijan has always viewed Europe as near the top of its foreign policy priorities. In 1998, Poland opened an embassy in Baku, and since that time, we have been working hard to promote trade and cooperation in various sectors. This effort was especially visible during the presidency of the late Lech Kaczynski, who viewed Azerbaijan as a trusted and friendly partner in the region.

I would like to highlight one relatively new aspect of our relationship. Poland is one of the six largest members of the European Union and our voice counts, and—this being the case—its membership means that the Polish-Azerbaijani relationship can develop into something larger and interwoven with a larger set of global politics. Being part of the *Eastern Partnership* then opens a broad range of possibilities for Azerbaijan.

AIW: What do you think is the essential feature of the *Eastern Partnership* initiative your country and Sweden have advanced and what future do you see for it?

Amb. Labenda: The most important achievement of the *Eastern Partnership* in the short run should become a new perception of the six countries not only as our geographical and political neighbors but also as our close and friendly partners. Along with other European countries, Poland believes that only through such partnerships can we create a better international environment, one based on political dialogue, a shared

economic space, and truly friendly relations. We very much hope that the Polish Presidency in the European Council in the second half of 2011 will give us the opportunity for deeper cooperation and even faster development of the *Eastern Partnership* initiative as one of our priorities. The successful implementation of the *Eastern Partnership* project should—and no doubt will—lead us toward our ultimate goal, which is in prompting the formation of prosperous democratic countries in Europe's eastern neighborhood, ones with their economic and political systems fully compatible with the standards and values that Europe espouses.

AIW: What is the state of energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and Poland?

Amb. Labenda: I am always asked this question when I give interviews. It is important to note that energy cooperation often has less to do with bilateral relations than with multi-lateral arrangements because many states are involved in the extraction, transport, and consumption of energy. Obviously, some countries are more interested than others in promoting a diversified network of suppliers or export routes. Our bilateral cooperation involves both institutional and commercial dimensions.

The EU's *Eastern Partnership* initiative and specifically its third platform on energy security provides additional opportunities to realize such projects and boost energy cooperation between the European Union and the *Eastern Partnership* countries. At the same time, Polish companies have their own relations with their Azerbaijani counterparts via separately concluded agreements like one between Lotos and Socar, and bilateral trade in this sector reflects not only Azerbaijani exports of oil to Poland but Polish exports of oil products to Azerbaijan.

AIW: What are the other main components of trade and cooperation between Azerbaijan and Poland?

Amb. Labenda: Azerbaijan's rapidly growing economy has provided many opportunities for Polish companies, and over the past four years, we have organized two national exhibits in Baku, taken part in four sessions of the intergovernmental commission on economic issues, and assisted in visits by officials and business people in both directions. The results of this effort can be seen in statistics. In 2009, for example, nearly 60% of all Polish trade with Caucasus region was with Azerbaijan, and in the first half of 2010, Polish exports to Azerbaijan grew by 26 percent and imports from

Azerbaijan grew by 112 percent compared to the year earlier. In addition, we have significantly extended our cooperation into investment and technical assistance projects.

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

Amb. Labenda: Promoting cooperation in this area is one of the priorities of the Polish Embassy in Baku. On the one hand, we support cooperation between the relevant ministries and cultural institutions. And on the other, we encourage artists and other individuals to establish and develop personal contacts and to carry out joint projects. We bear primary responsibility for ensuring cultural contacts between our two countries, and our experience in 2010 with the Chopin Year in Azerbaijan shows that there are many more opportunities in this area.

The Embassy also pays close attention to educational issues. Since its opening in 2006, the Polish Culture and Language Centre at the Baku Slavic University has been conducting language courses for Azerbaijani students. Many of these students have taken advantage of exchange programs offered by Polish universities and some continue their career in Poland. Even more important, many of them use these experiences in Poland back in Azerbaijan. We are in process of creating an organization of these people to help them maintain ties with Poland. If anyone who has studied in Poland would like to join this effort, please contact our embassy. For more information on this and other activities, please go to our website at <http://www.baku.polemb.net>.

AIW: What in your view should be the next steps in relations between Azerbaijan and Poland?

Amb. Labenda: We need to build on what we have already achieved. Our bilateral contacts are quite frequent, and we are planning many new visits, including follow-up visits after the visit to Baku by our Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak in November last year. The Polish Presidency in the European Council in the second half of 2011, on the other hand, will add further momentum to bilateral relations between Poland and Azerbaijan.

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

Amb. Labenda: They should learn as much as possible about different countries—their culture, traditions and language—because in order to have

good relations, you need to understand others. That is the most important thing, and you can do it only by learning their culture, meeting people, and talking with them. Many people have a romantic view of diplomacy, but the truth is that it is an ordinary job like many others, with many documents to be read and boring meetings attended. What I like best about it is the knowledge it gives, about politics, about other countries and peoples, and about some behind-the-scenes mechanisms in the decision-making process.

AZERBAIJAN AND BELARUS

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Nikolai Patskevich
Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of Azerbaijan

March 28, 2011
Baku, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan in the World: In your opinion, what forms the basis of relations between Belarus and Azerbaijan?

Ambassador Patskevich: It is obvious that the capstone, which lies at the foundation of Belorussian-Azerbaijani ties, is the friendly, mutually respectful character of relations between the heads of Belarus and Azerbaijan, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Ilham Aliyev. I am convinced that to a large extent thanks to their positive efforts, the existing interaction between our countries has successfully developed into a truly fraternal and trusting relationship.

One also needs to take note of several other objective factors involved. This is the way in which the economies of our countries fit together, with each stimulating the continuing growth of the other and of bilateral trade and productive cooperation, as well as a commonality of approaches on key issues of the contemporary world, and the similarity of social policies which the leaderships of Belarus and Azerbaijan are conducting. No doubts, we are also unified by our Soviet past however we evaluate it today.

AIW: How have Azerbaijani-Belorussian relations developed in the post-Soviet period? How would you rate the level of these relations at present?

Amb. Patskevich: The collapse of the Soviet Union led to a breakdown in the economic and human ties among the former republics of the USSR. This was unfortunately also the case for Belarus and Azerbaijan. One must openly admit that the inertia of centrifugal forces in “the wild nineties” to a

definite degree distanced our countries from one another. That trend was compounded by serious internal problems to the solution of which we focused our attention, as well as by geographic distance. Nor should one ignore geopolitical aspects. It is no secret that the newly independent states actively were drawn into the orbit of influence of the stronger players in the world arena. The "iron curtain" which existed in Soviet times played a role in this regard and its fall generated a natural desire of people to see and find out about another world.

Having passed through the far from simple historical stage of "growing up," our states received the chance to develop their relations on the basis of their own national priorities and mutually acceptable compromises.

The first practical steps of Minsk and Baku in developing a dialogue dates back to August 2001, when the first governmental delegation of the Republic of Belarus was dispatched to Azerbaijan. In 2004, there occurred an exchange of visits by governmental delegations. At that same time the inter-governmental Belarus-Azerbaijan commission for trade and economic cooperation was established which has made a significant contribution to the development of relations between our countries.

2006 became a signal year for Belorussian-Azerbaijani partnership. Diplomatic representations of the two countries were opened in the capitals of the other at the level of embassies, which underscored the interest of the sides in an effective and dynamic format of bilateral cooperation.

In October 2006, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made his first official visit to the Republic of Belarus, an event which marked the beginning of intensive dialogue at the highest level and the establishment of special relations between the heads of our states. In May 2007, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko paid an official visit to Baku. In 2009-2010, the second round of visits by the chiefs of state of our two countries took place.

These two rounds of visits led to the adoption of a number of principle decisions on the development of bilateral relations. The specific directions of work have been defined, ones that found expression in the agreements signed by the two chiefs of state concerning friendship and cooperation and long-term social-economic cooperation, as well as the joint declarations of the two presidents. Since that time, there have been more than 60 international agreements signed by Belarus and Azerbaijan.

The number of visits at the ministerial level between the two countries has increased significantly. Annually, only via the Belorussian Embassy in Azerbaijan more than 100 various delegations arrive in Baku. Such visits have been reflected across the entire spectrum of bilateral relations.

Indicative as well is the growth of trade, which in 2002 stood at 6.7 million US dollars and had already crossed the psychological barrier of 100 million by 2008. During the two first months of the present year, the extent of bilateral trade exceeded 300 million US dollars. All this allows one to say that relations between Belarus and Azerbaijan are on the rise, and there is every reason to think that all the necessary conditions are in place for further growth.

AIW: What is the status of Azerbaijani-Belorussian cooperation in the energy sphere?

Amb. Patskevich: Energy both for Belarus and for Azerbaijan is a key, life-supporting system, a basic element which guarantees the integrity and effectiveness of work for all branches and subjects of the economy; and relations between our two countries in this sphere are conducted in a mutually profitable way. In April 2011, the processing of Azerbaijani oil is going to begin at the Mozyr Oil Processing Factory in Belarus. This has now become possible thanks to the fact that the Odessa-Brody pipeline began its operation in a reverse mode. As provided by the contract between the Belarus Oil Company and Azerbaijan's SOCAR, up to four million tons of Azerbaijani oil will be delivered to Belarus in 2011. This oil will first be delivered to the Yuzhny Port and then be taken via the Odessa-Brody pipeline to Mozyr. Supplies from Azerbaijan will be realized simultaneously with supplies of oil from Venezuela. This allows for swap agreements between Azerbaijan and Venezuela to the benefit of both given transport costs.

AIW: What are the main directions of cooperation between Belarus and Azerbaijan, in addition to energy?

Amb. Patskevich: The start of supplies of Azerbaijani oil to Belarus in 2011 undoubtedly is an important stage of Belorussian-Azerbaijani cooperation. At the same time, the tasks, which the presidents of the two countries have put for the development of a strategic partnership in the two economies, include a large number of other mutually profitable directions of cooperation, many of which are already being realized over the course of

the last five years or more. And it is no accident that today this task involves increasing trade to more than one billion US dollars a year in the near term.

Sales by Azerbaijan to Belarus of machine tools, the products of the petroleum chemical complex, and agricultural goods (including fruits, vegetables, juices, grapes, pharmaceuticals and tobacco) are dynamically increasing. In 2010 alone, Azerbaijani exports to Belarus grew more than 1.5 times.

Also actively developing is the Belorussian component of this mutually profitable cooperation. More than 300 Belorussian enterprises, including more than 40 Belorussian producers representing practically all branches of the economy, are represented in Azerbaijan.

Work is continuing on the broadening of the list of mutually profitable projects of productive cooperation. One can now find in Azerbaijan Belarusian tractors, trucks, optical equipment and elevators. Today with pride we speak about such breakthrough projects of bilateral cooperation as the production of Belorussian tractors and cars at the Ganja automobile factory, something President Aliyev has spoken about.

Belorussians are ready to share with our Azerbaijani friends all our experience and technology which our economy now possess in such branches as automobile construction, agricultural machinery construction, petroleum chemical industry, electronic and electrical machinery, food, forest and wood processing industries and the agro-industrial complex. Cooperation is broadening in the services sphere as well. Agreements have been reached concerning the training of Azerbaijani students in Belorussian universities, regular flights between Baku and Minsk, the opening of a direct railway route between the two cities beginning in June this year, and the development of large-scale projects in information technology at the two national Academies of Science.

Thus, one can point to the active development of Belorussian-Azerbaijani cooperation in practically all branches of the economy.

AIW: What is the status of Azerbaijani-Belorussian cooperation in the social and cultural sphere?

Amb. Patskevich: The high-level visits, which have taken place and received wide coverage in the Belorussian and Azerbaijani press, have given a powerful impulse to the development of cultural and humanitarian ties.

While becoming acquainted with the rich historical heritage of Belarus and Azerbaijan and contemporary achievements in the areas of culture, science and education, we are discovering each other anew and these discoveries are beautiful.

The last year was marked by an essential activization of bilateral cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. The signal event was the opening of the Center of Belorussian Language and Culture at the Baku Slavic University. This took place with the participation of President Lukashenko in the course of his visit to Azerbaijan and generated enormous interest in Belarus among Azerbaijani society. In its turn, at the end of 2010, an analogous Center of Azerbaijani Language was opened in the Belorussian Pedagogical University.

A significant contribution to the development of ties in the area of culture, education and science is made by the Azerbaijan-Belarus Society of Friendship and Cooperation headed by the respected academician Arif Mehdiyev. Since its creation in October 2009, the society has organized about 20 activities in various areas. For the second year in a row, there has been a successful exhibit of miniature books produced by Zarifa Salakhova and dedicated to the visit of the President of the Belorussian state to Azerbaijan.

I am very glad about the establishment of close ties between people of the theater of our two countries. In Azerbaijan, during the past year took place a premier of a musical show based on the Tales of Hoffman directed by Belarus' N. Basheva. And the Belorussian viewer in turn has seen the Azerbaijani comedy "Arshin mal alan." As directed by Hafiz Guliyev, this became an important event in the cultural life of the Belorussian capital. I hope that similarly fruitful will be the cooperation between the Kupala National Theater of Belarus and the Azerbaijani Drama Theater. Corresponding agreements were reached in the last year.

Arts collectives, members of the creative intelligentsia, and sportsmen of both countries take the most active part in various cultural activities, which are carried out in Belarus and in Azerbaijan. In 2010, representatives of Azerbaijan participated in the Slavic Bazaar in Vitebsk, and Belarusians in the Second Baku International Competition of Children's Drawings. Belorussian pupils successfully appeared in the 44th International Mendeleyev Chemistry Olympiad which took place in Baku last year.

The growing interest of Belarussians in Azerbaijan generated a noticeable increase in the activity of representatives of the Belorussian mass media in the Azerbaijani direction. Traditional have become visits by creative groups of the Belorussian State Television and Radio Company, which has visited Azerbaijan for the eighth time this year. In addition to numerous articles on social and political themes and interviews with leading Azerbaijanis, Belorussian journalists made documentary films about the history of Christianity in Azerbaijani and about historical-architectural monuments of the Lagich village in the Ismayilly district. I am convinced that the more we learn about one another, the broader the horizons of our cooperation will get.

AIW: In your opinion, what should be the next steps in the relationship between Azerbaijan and Belarus?

Amb. Patskevich: We have achieved a considerably high level in our bilateral relations, and now it is important to foster this development by supporting dialogue at all levels and broadening the spectrum of our mutual activity.

There are many directions of cooperation where mutual interest is obvious but a practical realization for various reasons has not been achieved, although real steps have been taken. There are good prospects in my view for cooperation in investment. The favorable conjunction of world prices for energy and the far-sighted policy of the leadership of Azerbaijan which has prevented the onset of the Dutch Disease have made possible the growth of the investment potential of the country. Belarus can be a space for Azerbaijani capital investments.

A favorable investment climate exists in Belarus. In the "Doing Business 2011" report, Belarus ranks 68th in terms of the simplification of the conditions for conducting business and has joined the top three countries which have most actively carried out reforms in the sphere of regulating entrepreneurial activity over the last five years. Already today, projects for the construction in Belarus by Azerbaijani businessmen of trade and logistical centers, restaurants, tea factories, and other plants are being worked out.

Belarus in its turn is ready for a breakout year in the creation of joint production enterprises. In particular, the Belorussian side has proposed the joint production of quality Belorussian combines for the Azerbaijani

Agricultural Ministry. Some joint production is already taking place at the Ganja automobile factory.

I also think that there is significant potential for the development of cooperation between the youth organizations of our countries. An inter-governmental agreement between Belarus and Azerbaijan on youth policy has been signed. Using this document as a base, it is possible to establish mutually profitable ties between the youth wings of the *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party and the Belorussian Republic Union of Youth, which today unites in its ranks about 480,000 young people and is the largest youth organization in Belarus.

Tourism is another area waiting to take off. Here, it seems to me, the greatest interest of the two sides involves the medical component. Belorussian sanatoria and pensions attract foreigners with their moderate prices for high quality service. Hospitable and highly qualified personnel, specialized programs of cure, picturesque nature, mineral sources, and the possibility to become acquainted with the unique monuments of Belorussian history is an incomplete list of the attractions which leads visitors to come back again and again. Belarusians in turn are interested in the Azerbaijani curative resort of Naftalan. And, of course, beautiful Baku, if given the necessary information support, could become a desired tourist destination for residents of Belarus. Direct air connections assist this process, and we must use them more effectively.

Cooperation in information technologies looks to be a much-promising area as well. The first Belorussian-Azerbaijani business forum in the area of information and communications technologies, which took place last year, demonstrated this. The first results are already in evidence: joint products of Belorussian and Azerbaijani IT companies are already being introduced into the banking sector of Azerbaijan.

Thus, the field of activity is enormous, and it inspires us in our daily work.

AIW: Considering your own diplomatic experience, what advice could you give to young Azerbaijani diplomats who are only beginning their own diplomatic career?

Amb. Patskevich: One recalls Talleyrand's observation that a young diplomat should begin his career by "dressing all in gray, keeping in the shadow, and not showing initiative." To be sure, this is a universal formula

for the careerist, but for an individual who sincerely wants to push forward the national interests of his country abroad, and that is how I see a real diplomat, I would advise taking exactly the opposite track. Of course, I am not calling for such people to dress in carnival-colored outfits and overwhelm those around them. In that regard, generally accepted standards exist and these should not be forgotten. But to show oneself as anything but indifferent and to attract others to oneself—this is how an individual should make a career as a diplomat.

When interacting with representatives of other countries, remember that it is possible you will be the only representative of your country with whom your interlocutor will encounter in his lifetime, and precisely this conversation will shape his view of your country.

AZERBAIJAN AND BULGARIA

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Vasil Kalinov
Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of Azerbaijan

April 14, 2011
Baku/ Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan in the World: What do you see as the focus of relations between Azerbaijan and Bulgaria?

Ambassador Kalinov: The most important thing is that after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the entire Eastern bloc, Azerbaijan entered on the path of independent development. And we view Azerbaijan both as an independent state striving to define itself in terms of its new post-Soviet identity and to strengthen its sovereignty and independence. We have great respect for Azerbaijan and look forward to a mutually profitable partnership.

In the history of our states there is much in common since Bulgaria also in the course of 45 years was under the influence of the Soviet Union and was part of various political and economic structures created and controlled by Moscow after World War II. As a result, for Bulgaria just as for Azerbaijan, the period immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union was a period of self-definition and finding one's place in the system of international relations.

Despite this similarity in our histories, there are serious differences between us. Azerbaijan for us is a very wealthy country with various natural resources, while Bulgaria on the contrary is a state, which does not have such broad possibilities. Nevertheless, we have defined our path toward European integration and have become a member of the European Union and NATO. Hence, while there is much in common between our two countries, there are also differences.

Most importantly, we have friendly relations and our peoples have common mentalities. Both our peoples are very hospitable. Both Bulgaria and Azerbaijan have populations of approximately eight million, both states are striving to the institutionalization of democratic principles of state formation and good neighborly relations. At the same time, we understand that each country has its own path of development. We know that Azerbaijan is in conflict with Armenia, as a result of which the latter occupies part of the territory of Azerbaijan and that the government of Azerbaijan is expending much effort and energy to achieve the liberation of its lands.

AIW: What is the level of energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and Bulgaria?

Amb. Kalinov: Already during the times of Heydar Aliyev, good relations were developed between our two countries. Agreements on cooperation were signed, and diplomatic missions were opened both in Baku and in Sofia. When the question arose about European energy security and when Azerbaijan began to look beyond Russia regarding the export of its natural resources and the question arose about the construction of corresponding oil and gas pipelines, the energy question became part of the strategic relationship between our countries.

Bulgaria shares the view of official Baku that diversification is the most powerful instrument of strengthening the real sovereignty of the state. And I consider that the basis of our relations is the fact that the direction of relations is defined by the market and not by a monopoly. When the market is the defining factor, there is little place for voluntaristic decisions. If and when Azerbaijan finds it profitable to sell energy to the East, it will sell them to the East; if and when it will be profitable for Azerbaijan to sell to the West, it will do that. And for us, as a European country, this is the defining factor. For that reason, Bulgaria shows great interest in all energy projects being developed by Azerbaijan.

There are three such projects in which Bulgaria is directly involved. First, this is Nabucco, a European project to which Bulgaria devotes enormous importance and which has a great future and one which, on the other side, will allow Azerbaijan to strengthen its independence to a still greater degree. I am certain that the Nabucco project at the end of the day will be realized despite the existing economic and political difficulties.

The second project in which Bulgaria has a direct interest is the Turkey-Italy-Greece interconnector, which is expected to have a branch going into Bulgaria. And the third such project on which for two years a joint Azerbaijani-Bulgarian working group has been operating concerns the transport of compressed natural gas from the Georgian port of Kulevi, which Azerbaijan currently rents, and the Bulgarian port of Varna. This project is complicated since it would be the first project in the framework of which compressed methods will be used. I hope that in this year, the working group will complete its work and we will witness progress in this area as well.

While it is directly involved in these three projects, Bulgaria also supports all projects of Baku involving diversification, including the AGRI project with Romania. And in principle, these three projects, which I have enumerated, form at the present time the heart of our relations.

AIW: What are the main components of trade and areas of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Bulgaria, apart from energy?

Amb. Kalinov: At present, we are living through a period of developing the potential for cooperation in many other sectors as well. The first of these is a wide range of cooperation between various state institutions. We have already prepared for signing a number of such cooperation agreements. We also, for example, have a great readiness for cooperation in science and education, in disaster response, in the protection of confidential information, ecology, transportation, and other important areas. A key moment in this will be, I consider, the session of the inter-governmental commission which is to take place in the first half of November of this year in Baku where there will be a push toward the finalization of all these accords and the beginning of their realization. Thus, in this year and in the next, we expect the signing of inter-governmental accords in all areas of cooperation, a serious achievement which shows that our relations are growing and reaching a new level. I also hope that we in the near future will achieve a high level of cooperation between civic structures and the individual citizens of our countries. Thus, possibilities for tourism are developing. I have said many times and, using this opportunity, will again stress that Bulgaria offers broad possibilities for tourism. Why should Azerbaijani citizens spend vacation only in Turkey and Dubai? There is a beautiful sea with wonderful beaches in Bulgaria as well.

Some seven million tourists from various countries such as France, the UK, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Scandinavian countries and others visit Bulgaria. Why shouldn't Azerbaijani tourists also come to vacation in my country, especially since there should not be a language barrier as the overwhelming part of the population of Bulgaria understands Russian which as I know a majority of Azerbaijani citizens do as well?! In this connection, there are also no transportation problems as flights between our countries connect through Istanbul and are only 3.5 hours long. If tourist ties will deepen, then there will be no problems for developing direct flights between our two countries, especially since there were preliminary negotiations about this about two years ago. Then, there was not an economic basis for this, but if we are able to increase the flow of tourists, then this question can be taken up again. An agreement of this kind, for example, was already reached between Georgia and Bulgaria, and in a short time, direct flights between them will begin.

Another sphere in which there are possibilities for the broadening of cooperation is education. Why should Azerbaijani young people not come to Bulgaria for their higher education? The diplomas of all the institutions of higher education of Bulgaria are recognized throughout Europe. Bulgarian institutions offer a broad selection of educational programs in various languages, including English, German and French. The broadening of cooperation in this sphere will create opportunities for the broadening of cooperation and interaction between the young people of our countries. Thus, I appeal to the youth of Azerbaijan that they not view Bulgaria as a country they know little about: Bulgaria is a friendly European state where the young people of Azerbaijan can acquire a good education. At present, 12 Azerbaijanis are studying in Bulgaria, and this figure can and must increase, all the more so because thousands of students from countries like Turkey, Romania and Greece are already studying in Bulgaria. Students can apply to these universities directly through their websites, but the embassy is also happy to help in arranging the necessary contacts.

In addition, Azerbaijanis can acquire in Bulgaria very good real estate. Citizens of Romania, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus are very actively buying property in Bulgaria. Why should not Azerbaijani citizens turn their attention in this profitable direction?! Property in Bulgaria is less expensive than in Baku. Besides this, Azerbaijanis can purchase property in the best

resorts of Bulgaria. Having bought property in Bulgaria, Azerbaijani citizens can acquire favorable conditions for visas, which they can receive for periods up to three years. This offers a good chance for spending time in Bulgaria.

The next potential direction of cooperation involves trade. Bulgaria can offer an enormous variety of high-quality production of food, including wines, and medicines, which can find their place in the corresponding markets of Azerbaijan. We have invited Azerbaijani wine experts to Bulgaria and they have given high marks to Bulgarian wine. Why not develop this? I hope that businessmen in both countries will make the efforts for this cooperation to be achieved. Two years ago, we organized an Azerbaijani-Bulgarian business forum and I hope that the participants will devote more efforts for the realization of the initiatives, which were discussed at that meeting. At present, there is movement in the area of the food industry and pharmaceuticals, but a lot more needs to be done in this direction.

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

Amb. Kalinov: Earlier this month, Abulfaz Garayev, the culture minister of Azerbaijan, and his Bulgarian counterpart signed an agreement about cooperation in this area. Next year, Bulgaria will host an Azerbaijani cultural festival and soon after that I hope there will be a similar measure for Bulgarian culture in Azerbaijan. So that in this direction, one can say that the necessary steps are being taken right now.

AIW: What is the state of cooperation between the two countries within the Eastern Partnership framework?

Amb. Kalinov: Bulgaria positively supports the initiative of Poland and Sweden. We understand that the more active participation of Azerbaijan in this initiative in a multilateral format is complicated by the ongoing conflict of this country with its neighbor Armenia. We very well understand the position of Azerbaijan on this issue. Moreover, we positively evaluate any initiative in which Azerbaijan is ready to participate or which Azerbaijan itself initiates. In the framework of the Eastern Partnership, Bulgaria cooperates with Azerbaijan in the area of legislation and legal activities.

In addition, speaking in concrete terms, we want to cooperate in the area of ecology. We had a meeting with your ecology minister Bagirov who with very great respect invited his Bulgarian counterpart to visit Baku, a visit

which could give a definite push forward for the development and signing of a corresponding agreement on ecological cooperation. The construction of ecological stations and the development of renewal sources of energy are very popular in Bulgaria. The most important thing for us is that Azerbaijan define for itself the priority directions which it wants to develop in the framework of the Eastern Partnership. The existence of such understanding would broaden the possibilities for bilateral cooperation within the Eastern Partnership, but at the present moment, we consider that there are good possibilities for cooperation in the area of ecology.

AIW: Some Eastern European states, because of their experience in the Soviet bloc and now in the EU, seek to position themselves as a bridge between the former Soviet states and the West. Does Bulgaria also define itself in this way and envisage such a role for itself?

Amb. Kalinov: I do not consider that this position is correct. A democratic approach by definition rejects pressure from the outside. No one in Bulgaria will ever attempt to impose something on Azerbaijan or to speak in some way as an intermediary for Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan does not need such intermediaries; it is a sufficiently solid international partner and a sovereign state with a quite developed political system.

Of course, there are directions in which Azerbaijan should still be developed on the path to democratization, but is there any state in the world about which that could not be said? In all countries, further democratization is necessary. We look at Azerbaijan with understanding, knowing the inheritance and baggage it has and with what difficulties a country encounters in the building of a sovereign state practically from zero. At the present moment, Azerbaijan has already restored its production and political stability; the people has received the opportunity to develop and the government has guaranteed the development of education, health and cultural development. Thus, we view Azerbaijan as a modern developed European state. Being a European country itself, Bulgaria supports democratic values, but on the other hand, we understand that democracy is a process. For us the main thing is to ensure continuing and effective dialogue between Azerbaijan and Bulgaria.

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

Amb. Kalinov. In general, I do not like to give advice, but I would like to stress that for young diplomats, at the basis of diplomacy and all diplomatic life there should be a love for their motherland. They must be true to Azerbaijan and believe in the path of development of Azerbaijan. And secondly, let young diplomats know that between our countries there exist good friendly relations and that Bulgaria is a state that is one of the most friendly toward Azerbaijan.

AZERBAIJAN AND GREECE

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Ioannis Metaxas
Ambassador of Greece to Azerbaijan

May 18, 2011
Baku, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan in the World: How have Azerbaijani-Greek relations evolved in the post-Soviet era and how would you describe their current status?

Ambassador Metaxas: Both states belong to the same geographical area, the broader Black Sea area. This proximity produces common interests and brings both countries and their peoples ever closer. Diplomatic relations were established in 1992, and thus next year, we will mark their 20th anniversary. The Embassy of Greece in Baku began work in 1993, and the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Athens opened its doors in 2004.

Our bilateral relations are very good, with a high-level political dialogue developing in recent years. Presidential and ministerial visits in both countries have been instrumental in this. Last April, the state visit to Baku of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Dr. Karolos Papoulias, was very successful and further deepened our relations to the point of a real partnership. I am confident that this partnership will continue to develop benefiting both our people.

AIW: What is the state of energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and Greece? What is your assessment of the importance of, and prospects for, the Southern Corridor gas projects?

Amb. Metaxas: On 2007, both countries signed a memorandum of cooperation in the area of oil and gas. Greece also declared that we wanted to be the first EU member-state to directly import gas from Azerbaijan. This wish may become a reality during 2011, since it is in principle agreed that the Turkish Company BOTAS will transfer to SOCAR its obligations

arising from its contract with the Greek Public Gas Company DEPA for the purchase of 0,75 bcm/year. In addition, Greece stands ready to cooperate with Azerbaijan, in order to build the ITGI and IGB pipeline projects, which can allow your country to directly export, through Greece, gas to Italy, Bulgaria, maybe also Romania and other countries of South East Europe.

The overall Southeastern European Market, which can be reached through my country, will have a supply gap of 8 bcm/year by 2020 and 12 bcm/year by 2025. The combination of the design capacity of 9 bcm/year for ITGI and 3 bcm/year for IGB pipelines, with a maximum capacity of 12 bcm/year and 5 bcm/year respectively, will provide a perfect solution for matching the future supply of Azerbaijani gas with the demand in the markets of Greece and its neighboring countries. Let me also stress that the energy sector in Greece offers a lot of investment opportunities and may be interesting for your country.

AIW: What are the main components of trade and areas of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Greece, apart from energy?

Amb. Metaxas: According to the Greek Statistical Authority, during 2010 Greece exported to Azerbaijan goods valued at 12,84 million USD, while we imported from your country goods valued at 13,21 million USD. These figures do not correspond to the potential of both countries. Our economies are complementary. Therefore, bilateral trade can further expand to mutual benefit. Moreover, a lot of opportunities exist for the development of our business relations. Azerbaijani investors can take advantage of current opportunities in Greece and make profitable investment. For instance, some Greek Hotels are on sale. The real estate area in general offers great opportunities. Prices are now low and will start to climb again, once the economic crisis is over, a year or two from now. A lot of opportunities for investment exist in other sectors as well. Our Authority *Invest in Greece* can provide useful information and administrative support to any interested Azerbaijani investor.

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

Amb. Metaxas: We have had a bilateral culture agreement with Azerbaijan since 1997. On the basis of that accord, the second bilateral program on cooperation in the fields of science, education and culture for the years 2011-2013 has been agreed to and is now being implemented.

Among its provisions are scholarships for Azerbaijani students wishing to study in Greece. We also support the operation of the *Center of Modern Greek Language and Culture*, set up in 2004 within the Baku Slavic University. In this Center, Azerbaijani students learn modern Greek, with very good results. We believe that this Center constitutes a true bridge between our two people.

AIW: What is the state of cooperation between the two countries within the Eastern Partnership framework? What future do you see for this initiative?

Amb. Metaxas: The Eastern Partnership, along with the Black Sea Synergy, are EU policies that aim to enhance our relations with our eastern neighbors, including of course Azerbaijan. Greece, being an EU member-state geographically very close to Azerbaijan, actively supported the establishment of these policies. And Greece wishes to also use this opportunity to enhance bilateral cooperation with your country. One EU twinning project on *Capacity Development for Enhancement of Copyright and Related Rights in the Republic of Azerbaijan* has already been awarded to a consortium with Greek participation. Moreover, as part of the Eastern Partnership initiative, negotiations for an EU-Azerbaijani Association agreement have begun. The next step will be an accord on visa facilitation and readmission. If Azerbaijan becomes a WTO member, it will be offered the chance to conclude with the EU an agreement for a deep and comprehensive free trade area. I therefore believe that the Eastern Partnership has a bright future and your country can effectively use this EU policy to get ever closer to the European Union.

AIW: What in your view ought to be the next steps in relations between Azerbaijan and Greece?

Amb. Metaxas: After such a successful visit of the President of the Hellenic Republic in Baku, last April, it is very difficult to plan equally important steps. However, relations between two countries belonging to the same geographical area never stop. In this context, I can anticipate the visit of the Azerbaijani friendship group of the Milli Majlis to Athens and the organization of bilateral political consultations there as well. I also wish that bilateral trade continues to increase. Last but not least, I hope that, among the decisions for the export of the Shah-Deniz-2 Azerbaijani natural gas, one part will be exported through the ITGI project, giving, as I said, to

Azerbaijan the possibility to have access to new customers in Southeast Europe.

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

Amb. Metaxas: The wish to serve his or her country is the basis for the decision of each person to become a diplomat. This career is a sort of adventure, having little in common with other careers in the public sector. A prerequisite for the success of a diplomat is to respect the law of his country, the law of the country where he is appointed and the international law. Of course, a diplomatic career can complicate family, something a young Azerbaijani needs to take into account as well.

RUSSIA AND AZERBAIJAN

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Vladimir Dorokhin
Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of
Azerbaijan

September 28, 2011
Baku, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan in the World: What is the central core of relations between Azerbaijan and Russia and how has it evolved over the last 20 years?

Ambassador Vladimir Dorokhin: Over and in the course of the last 20 years, we have managed to build the most optimal model of relations, one based on the unconditional respect for the sovereignty and independence of each other. After a rather complex path in the course of which we had some difficult moments, we have now reached an understanding that we should accept each other the way we are. At present, we do not want anything beyond what Azerbaijan can give Russia; and Azerbaijan only wants from Russia what we can give within the system of our own international obligations.

On all issues, Azerbaijan conducts itself without consultation with Russia. Indeed, we neither expect nor want nor demand this. At the same time, Russia follows its own course, one which we believe Azerbaijan takes as our sovereign right. This may seem a very trivial point, but it took us some time to get to this point. And in fact, Russia does not have this “clean” model of relations with every country. Why that is the case is a separate question. There may be objective reasons, including that Azerbaijan is developing in a way that makes it a force to be reckoned with. But there are also subjective reasons, including not unimportantly that the Azerbaijani government clearly knows how to speak with Moscow and with the Russian government. This has affected Moscow’s response to Baku.

Putin started to develop relations with Azerbaijan in this way, and Medvedev followed. As a result, I think we have developed a good philosophy and a good balance in our bilateral ties. Now, on the basis of that, I think we can move further forward in our relations being very confident that there will not be any unpleasant surprises on our southern frontiers with our very stable neighbour, Azerbaijan.

AIW: What is your assessment of the current status of bilateral relations? Which direction of bilateral relations do you consider most successful; which directions need additional attention?

Amb. Dorokhin: Our relations are developing in a very harmonious manner. In the political realm, if one counts the number of bilateral meetings, including those at the high and highest level, as well as inter-parliamentary relations and ministerial visits, Azerbaijan probably does not have as high a set of statistics with any other country—except perhaps only with Turkey—as it does with Russia. Russia is the most important trade and economic partner of Azerbaijan in the non-oil sector. Indeed, today Russia provides the biggest market for Azerbaijani goods from the non-oil sector and is at the same time the biggest source of non-oil products that Azerbaijan imports. We had a record turnover of 2.4 billion US dollars in 2008, and despite a decline during the economic crisis, this year we can see a rise to 2,7/2.8 billion. Economic developments are always the key factor, and because the Russian market is so large, the potential for growth in this sector is limitless.

Second, we have recently begun to encourage Russian Federation regions to become more involved in foreign ties and especially foreign economic ones. Azerbaijan has not opposed this, and we have found out that in this special sphere, there is also a huge potential. At the level of regions one can solve issues that are harder to address at the state-to-state level.

Third, we of course have very special cultural ties, links based on the fact that we lived together in one state and had experiences in common. Although we have now gone our separate ways—which is entirely normal and should not be dramatized—we retain mutual sympathy and respect for one another. I say this in absolute confidence, for I have the experience of working with other countries as well. And it is not with every country, post-Soviet or otherwise, that this positive element in relations can and has

been kept. With some countries, for example, we have longstanding debates about our past, something that luckily we don't have in the case of Azerbaijan. And this is a huge resource that we should fully make use of in the national interests of each.

Not surprisingly, the carriers of this positive element are found primarily among the middle-aged and older generations. Thus, our task is to pass these positive views on to the younger generation, something that—if we do—will have a positive impact on our relations. To achieve this, we need programs at the state level as well, and history tells us that countries pay considerable attention to such issues.

The regions of the two countries can indeed achieve a lot in this direction, I mean youth exchange. Informal linkages are needed, and we should encourage and support them. As the ambassador of my country, I view such work as among our most important tasks. Some progress has been made. This month, for example, a Russian-Azerbaijani youth forum has been launched, attracting 70 people from each side. Such cooperation and inter-linkage projects may indeed take many other forms as well—even including a Russian-Azerbaijani discotheque. The emotions such events have the potential to generate can have very definite political consequences.

AIW: Now that you touched upon the cultural aspect of our relations, are there any other concrete projects carried out in this direction?

Amb. Dorokhin: There is huge and I would say naturally evolving work going on even without the involvement of governmental bodies like the Ministry of Culture. Russian artists, for example, are constantly being invited by your theatres and other cultural institutes to give master classes to Azerbaijani artists. There are many other analogous contacts in other parts of the cultural realm. And such cultural representatives find each other on their own, without the involvement of any government. This work and these connections often do not attract much attention, all the more so because those involved don't do it for propaganda purchases. Instead, this is a natural process, and its very naturalness is the major characteristic of the cultural ties of our two states.

AIW: Speaking about cultural affinity, in what way do you think the Russian language contributes to the current state of relations between our countries, especially as compared to the role of language in Russia's relations with other states in the post-Soviet space?

Amb. Dorokhin: It is hard for me to judge on the situation in Central Asia, because I haven't served there, but I was indeed involved with Ukraine and know the situation there. And I should say that we have deep political problems with Ukraine because of the Russian language. Indeed, one of the questions which separate Russia and Ukraine is the question of the Russian language. We do not have a similar dispute with Azerbaijan. The Russian language has found its own place in Azerbaijan. And what I value most is that it is not in pursuit of the Kremlin's favour that the Azerbaijani government works to create conditions for the development of the Russian language in the country. Instead, it is because the Azerbaijani government understands—in a very pragmatic way—that this bilingualism arising from the past is good for Azerbaijan and for its future development. Today, nobody in Azerbaijan, forces anyone to learn the Russian language, but no one prevents anyone from doing so either. There are favourable conditions created in the country both for those who want to read Azerbaijani-language newspapers, for example, and also for those who want to read the newspapers in Russian. The situation in schools and universities is similar. While this situation has evolved in a natural way, it definitely adds to the current status of bilateral relations between our countries and creates a favourable environment for their further development. And Russia values this normal attitude towards the Russian language. Nobody is afraid of it here; people take it as given. And it is Azerbaijan itself, as well as Azerbaijani-Russian relations, which win from this development.

AIW: What is your assessment of Russia's evolving role in the settlement process of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?

Amb. Dorokhin: There is a lot to say about this issue. There was a time when Russia was the only mediator in the process, with Kazimirov as its official representative. Then the situation evolved in such a way that the Minsk Group was formed within the OSCE, with Russia—along with the United States and France—becoming a co-chair of this group. The most characteristic feature of the latest period has been that the Russian mediation has reached an unprecedented level, with the Russian president personally involved in resolution of the conflict. As you may know, there have been 10 meetings so far between the presidents of the two countries. But again, even when the Russian president was leading the negotiations process, it was being done in coordination with the Minsk Group. Both the

United States and France were kept informed throughout. The latest of those meetings, one held in Kazan earlier this year, did not meet the expectations of many. At this point, we now need some time to assess the developments so far.

As far as Russia's real willingness and ability to resolve the conflict is concerned, one hears many different views expressed in the pages of Azerbaijani newspapers. Russia's position is, in our view, fair and correct and reflects both moral considerations, as well as purely political ones. First, the moral considerations—the ones that I believe prompted our president to get directly involved—derive from the fact that Russia stood at the roots of the conflict which emerged in the country in which we all lived.

Second, the political causes arise from the fact that the conflict restricts our relations with Azerbaijan, as well as with Armenia. The conflict also has a negative impact on cooperation within the CIS. These three relationships—with Azerbaijan, with Armenia and with the CIS—are priorities for Russia, and thus resolving the conflict is simply a matter of pragmatism.

And third, the north Caucasus is currently one of the most troublesome of the country's regions. We in Russia understand that peace in the Caucasus can be achieved only if it is a comprehensive one. Consequently, as we seek to resolve the problems in the North Caucasus, achieving peace in the South Caucasus will certainly have an additional positive impact.

Given this, we believe that we have genuine and objective goals in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that charges against us of playing at peacemaking rather than seeking a real settlement are without foundation. Regardless of what anyone may say, Russia has a definite position on the conflict, one that it has been seeking to promote at various levels over many years.

AIW: In one of your recent speeches, you mentioned that “now we can quite openly say that the leadership of the Soviet Union with Gorbachev at the head made a mistake [in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict]. It simply incorrectly evaluated this conflict and took incorrect measures.” What did you have in mind?

Amb. Dorokhin: You know, I was surprised by how much reaction this statement generated, for it seems so obvious. There is a great deal one can say about this, because the history of the conflict is very interesting. At the

time the conflict broke out, I was working as the adviser on Hungary, Romania, and Czech Republic in the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and thus was more or less close to politics. The biggest mistake I was referring to in my recent statement is that the leadership in Moscow failed to recognise the level of the threat the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict represented. Although the conflict in fact unleashed the process that eventually led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union, no one could see that outcome at the time. Indeed, this possibility would have never even occurred to anyone at that time.

I remember when the first news arrived about instability in the Nagorno-Karabakh, *Pravda* reported it only two days later, in three lines, and on the second page, a very evasive report akin to *The Central Committee has discussed the issue and shall work on it further*. Hence, *Politburo* really believed at the time that these three lines could resolve the conflict. Then the situation deteriorated further, with different advisors advising different moves and strategies. As you know, Gorbachev could not even pronounce the word *Azerbaijan* correctly. Hence, for him this was a case of the 15th or 20th degree of importance, and most of the decisions taken at that time were *ad hoc* and hurried without any strategic reflections. But again, what is most important is that they misperceived the potential danger of the conflict in its inception.

AIW: What is the current state of energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia and how the new gas discovery in “Absheron” has affected, or can potentially affect, this cooperation?

Amb. Dorokhin: The reality is that Russia is by no means a serious and big player in Azerbaijan’s energy market. In the Contract of the Century, Russia’s *Lukoil* had only a 10% share, which for some reason it subsequently sold. As a result, Russia in the form of the private Russian company *Lukoil* currently has only a 10% share in Azerbaijan’s Shahdeniz gas project. And such a share is incomparable with the stake western companies as BP, Total, or Statoil have. Of course, the 10% that *Lukoil* has do give it some influence over the energy policy through the voting in the shareholders’ meetings, but the key role in defining the country’s energy policy is played by SOCAR, that is, by the Azerbaijani government, and Russia does not play a defining role in this respect. Why the situation

developed in this way is a separate and a very interesting question, one worth a separate study.

The second direction in which our energy cooperation develops concerns the start of Azerbaijani gas flows to Russia since January 2009. Last year, Azerbaijan exported a billion cubic meters of gas to Russia; this year, we expect two billion. Let us see how much gas will be exported in this direction next year. You are willing to sell, we are willing to buy; and we have a contract through 2015 that allows us to do so. And there is on the table a proposal by Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller that Gazprom in principle can buy as much Azerbaijani gas as Azerbaijan is willing to sell, even including all Azerbaijani gas. To date, Azerbaijan has not responded to this, a situation we view as quite normal. It is Azerbaijani gas and it is therefore up to Azerbaijan to decide such questions. In addition, of course, there are consultations between our two countries on energy issues, but they are of an applied and practical nature and do not represent a strategically defining element in Azerbaijani-Russian relations.

Given all this, one cannot say that the energy sector is the one in which our two countries enjoy strategic cooperation. In a certain sense and to a certain degree, we are even competitors, for both of us export fossil fuel internationally. But one should not exaggerate the degree of this competition, for the amount of gas exported by one and the other is incomparable: Russia sells hundreds of billions cubic meters of gas and hundreds of millions tons of oil, while Azerbaijan certainly exports less. Hence, no conflict can result from this.

As far as the Absheron gas deposit is concerned, I don't know how it will be used in future or whether its development might involve outside investors or alternatively whether all subsequent moves will be realised within the framework of the agreement with Total. Moreover, even if there are opportunities for others, I don't know whether Russian oil and gas companies—who are independent in their decision-making—will show an interest in getting involved in the project.

AIW: Would you then suggest that energy cooperation between Russia and Azerbaijan is completely depoliticized?

Amb. Dorokhin: Certainly, Yes. What kind of politics can one speak of when Russia currently holds only a ten percent share in Azerbaijan's Shahdeniz project?

AIW: What is your attitude to and assessment of the Nabucco and trans-Caspian gas projects?

Amb. Dorokhin: First of all, my attitude towards these projects is irrelevant, for these are not my projects; these are not our projects. There is much speculation in press about this, of course. The reality, however, is that if and when Europe returns to the normal pattern of economic development, all gas flowing through the currently existing pipelines and gas expected to flow through Nabucco and the South Stream will not be enough. Given that reality, Russia and Azerbaijan will not be competitors in this respect. And no one in Russia these days makes political statements regarding such a competition except for some journalists and independent experts. Never over the course of two and a half years of my tenure as the Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan have I received the instructions from Moscow to go to Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any other relevant body and deliver the message that Russia does not view positively Azerbaijan's support for Nabucco. Never. And I am certain that my president has never said anything to this effect either. And by the way, your president has confirmed this in an interview he gave to *Euronews*.

The trans-Caspian gas pipeline, however, is a different matter. There is one very unpleasant aspect of that project. We are currently involved in negotiations about the legal status of the Caspian. There are still some five or six questions left open including the width of the territorial waters, the issue of the free passage of military ships, demilitarization, and the like. There is also an article in the draft agreement, which concerns the ways in which a trans-Caspian gas pipeline could be built. There are two brackets in that article, one reflecting the position of three countries involved (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan) and the other reflecting the position of two countries (Russia and Iran).

The latter two argue that a trans-Caspian pipeline can be built only if all five littoral states agree that such a project will not have negative ecological consequences. The former three, however, insist that a trans-Caspian pipeline can be built if the two states the pipeline is going to connect agree to do so. The European Union knew perfectly well that this disagreement exists. But despite that, the EU virtually asked Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to ignore Russia and Iran and to proceed. Russia considers this position incorrect and not well thought-out, which is why Russia made

a statement it made when the EU announced that it was going to enter into negotiations with Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan about a trans-Caspian gas pipeline. If the EU really needs the Turkmen gas, let us sit down and discuss this. Perhaps, before starting the discussions about the actual pipeline, we should agree on the ecological issues and make a joint examination thereof. For example, in the case of the Russia-sponsored North Stream project, the ecological question was one of the most important ones. And Russia agreed on the toughest kinds of ecological standards and paid enormous amounts of money for different kinds of environmental examination carried out to that effect. In this case, however, the EU doesn't mention the need to consider the ecological issue. This seems politically incorrect to us. Again, whether this project will materialise or not is not our business. We don't want to start guessing about it; but again, even if it does materialise, it will not considerably undermine Russia's position as a gas exporter to the international markets.

AIW: Would you then suggest that Russia is not conceptually against the trans-Caspian gas pipeline?

Amb. Dorokhin: If the pipeline is going to be built in a way that will allow all five littoral states to agree, then Russia certainly has nothing against it. When we were building the North Stream pipeline, we were required to take into account the opinions of every single country in the region, including Poland, for example.

AIW: What is your assessment of the current status of cooperation within and prospects for the North-South corridor?

Amb. Dorokhin: Everybody says this is a very important project, referring to the huge amount of goods one could ship through this corridor. And Russia believes in the potential of this project, too. There are two directions in which the North-South corridor is supposed to go: one through Turkmenistan along the Caspian's eastern coast, and the other through Azerbaijan along the Caspian's western shores. The pathway through Azerbaijan is shorter and thus economically more viable, but the work on the passage through Turkmenistan is going on faster. The point is that the project we have is trilateral; that is, there are three states involved: Russia, Azerbaijan, and Iran. And the most complicated part of work falls on Iran's shoulders. That is, while there are only some eight kilometres of rail line that need to be built on the Azerbaijani part and Russia has little to

do to make this project work, Iran must build some 150 kilometres of rail line through mountainous regions. It is not clear whether they actually are building it. On some occasions, Iran suggests that the railroad is going to be completed within some two months, but at others, it becomes clear that very little work has been done at all. Things have been dragging on like that for some six to seven years. So, much depends on the Iranian side and on whether it will complete its part of the work. There is probably a financial aspect to it as well.

AIW: What is your assessment of the current role the CIS plays and its future prospects?

Amb. Dorokhin: The most correct thing one could say about the CIS is that it is a dynamically developing area. In what direction it is developing and what state it is going to end up in, however, is difficult to say, for there are different processes going on within the CIS, something we call multi-speed integration. We think that is entirely normal. You also know there is a customs union within the CIS, one uniting Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belorussia; and there are also more ambitious plans to establish a common economic area among these three states, a sort of mini-EU within the CIS. Several Central Asian states show an interest in the Customs union as well. How that process will go and how the customs union—which began operations on July 1 this year—will function is yet to be seen.

In addition, we have an ambitious plan to establish a common state with Belarus. We already have a constitution and some joint documents. The process is not an easy one, but nobody has taken this issue off the agenda. Then, we have EurAsEs in the economic dimension of the CIS, which involves other forms of integration. Hence, everything within the CIS is in motion; everything is in process. No one can predict what is going to happen in five or ten years.

In any case, however, two things are clear about Russia's position: On the one hand, Russia views the CIS as a priority. If at some points some in Russia thought that Moscow no longer needed the post-Soviet states and should start looking towards the West and the US, now we have come to realize that we need to be friends with our near abroad. And on the other, we have developed in recent times a tolerant attitude toward our partners in the former Soviet space and are not trying to impose our will on anyone. That being the case, I believe that the CIS will be a positive zone, especially

if we manage to resolve the conflicts on its territory, including the one between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

AIW: Do you then think the CIS has lived up to expectations people had originally?

Amb. Dorokhin: There were times when people viewed the CIS as the facilitator of a civilised divorce. There were also those who viewed it as a new form of cooperation and integration among the former Soviet states. Deng Xiaoping was once asked his opinion about the impact of the French Revolution. He responded by asking when the revolution had taken place. Told it was 1789, he responded saying that that was only 200 years ago and therefore it was too soon to judge. Viewed in this way, I think it is too soon to make a judgment about the CIS. Personally, I did not expect that we would drift apart as far as we have. I assumed that we would at least retain a common military. But despite the dashing of those hopes, the CIS has created the conditions for a civilized divorce, although now we see that some states have chosen to get back into a marriage and a family once again. Some are even building a common state. Whether this will in fact work out or not remains to be seen.

AIW: What, in your opinion, should be the next steps in relations between Azerbaijan and Russia?

Amb. Dorokhin: There are currently no issues in bilateral relations that demand urgent attention. Our relations are developing on a stable basis. Last year, we resolved the important question of our state borders. It is not accidental that it took us very long to arrive at this point: the negotiations lasted for 15 years. For to come to this understanding, we needed to accumulate experience, including the positive experience of bilateral relations, and to generate trust in relations with each other. This is therefore a very important historical moment, one difficult to overestimate especially in terms of the formation of Azerbaijani statehood. And Russia is the only neighboring country with which Azerbaijan actually has this kind of agreement.

Now, our relations develop on a stable basis. With so many Azerbaijanis living and working in Russia and so many families connected in other ways, our relations touch upon and reflect the interests of specific concrete people.

AIW: Given your diplomatic experience, what would you advise young Azerbaijani diplomats as they begin their diplomatic careers?

Amb. Dorokhin: Azerbaijanis have already shown themselves prepared to stand up for their national interests. They never feel embarrassed with anyone or about anything. This is a very good quality. There is thus only one thing I could recommend, which is universally applicable to diplomats from any nation; that is, while a diplomat certainly has many things on his mind, he must recognize that he serves the interests of his nation and state. And the more fully a diplomat recognizes that and recognizes the direction these interests require, the better it will be for him and for his country.

CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY IN 2011

Key Government Statements on
Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

Volume IV, 2011

DECEMBER

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan will be restored” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306245.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells an informal summit of the CIS that “Azerbaijan is inclined toward constructive and active participation in all the processes within the framework of the CIS” (<http://news.day.az/politics/305308.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijani embassies abroad must give priority to the struggle with issues involving official recognition of “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/307331.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev telephones Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to congratulate him on the victory of United Russia in the Russian parliamentary elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/302734.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan is ready and able to supply the European market with large amounts of natural gas and is conducting talks with the European Union on pipeline routes (<http://news.day.az/economy/303273.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku hopes for a peaceful resolution of all problems connected with the nuclear program of Iran and that “the territory of Azerbaijan will never be used as a place des armes” against Tehran (<http://news.day.az/politics/303756.html>).

NOVEMBER

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the level of [Azerbaijan’s] strategic partnership with Russia merits an extraordinarily high rating” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300924.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev, rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, tells a conference in Baku on the foreign policy achievements of Azerbaijan since the recovery of independence that “the interest of the United States in Azerbaijan is greater than it is in Armenia” and that “the Armenian diaspora cannot achieve its goals in the US” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300879.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “Azerbaijan supports” the inclusion of the more than ten member countries of the OSCE Minsk Group who “want to actively participate in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299198.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Bulgarian President Georgy Parvanov that “Azerbaijan is ready to make its contribution to guaranteeing the energy security of Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298756.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “a meeting of the communities of Nagorno-Karabakh is one of the means of resolving the conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299054.html>).

The Foreign Ministry describes as “a provocation from the Armenian side” Yerevan’s reported plans to “build a city in occupied Zangilan for Armenians resettled at one time from Azerbaijan into Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298431.html>).

OCTOBER

President Ilham Aliyev tells the first Cooperation Summit of Turkic Language States in Almaty that “we must act so that the Turkic world will be still more closely united” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294301.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Azerbaijan can raise the question of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the UN Security Council” now that Baku has been elected a member of that body for 2012-2013 (<http://news.day.az/politics/295662.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that it is necessary to begin talks on a general peace accord for Nagorno-Karabakh, rather than focus on issues where disagreement remains (<http://news.day.az/politics/294985.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells Al-Jazeera’s Arabic Service that Azerbaijan “has the complete right by any means to establish [its] territorial integrity” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292890.html>; <http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/frostovertheworld/2011/10/20111015143746924445.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that at present “the main goal” of talks is the return to Azerbaijan of the occupied territories and not the definition of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, something that “will require the return there of internally displaced people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292601.html>).

Yevda Abramov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says “neither Jewish politicians, nor financiers, nor cultural figures recognize as genocide the events of 1915 in the Ottoman Empire” and that “the recognition of ‘the Armenian genocide’ would be an insult to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust” (<http://news.day.az/politics/293471.html>).

SEPTEMBER

President Ilham Aliyev says that “all problems concerning energy security in Azerbaijan have already found their solutions” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289444.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly that “Azerbaijan remains committed to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in correspondence with international principles and norms and on the basis of corresponding decisions and resolution” by various international bodies (<http://news.day.az/politics/290194.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the oil and gas fields of the Caspian are capable of supporting Europe for 100 years” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289817.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “after a few years, Azerbaijan will join the ranks of developed countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286841.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev welcomes the discovery of a new gas field in the Caspian Sea off the Absheron peninsula (<http://news.day.az/politics/287594.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan will not stop negotiating to seek a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/286133.html>).

AUGUST

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan today plays in the region a stabilizing role which will grow step by step” (<http://news.day.az/politics/283226.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells diplomats from Muslim countries accredited in Baku that he is glad that “the number of embassies of Muslim countries in Azerbaijan is growing” and underscores that his government “is striving to raise” Azerbaijan into the ranks of developed countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/282762.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the states of the South Caucasus must escape from conflicts which were created by outside forces” (<http://news.day.az/politics/285762.html>).

JULY

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan that “Azerbaijan either by peaceful or by military means will restore its sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280633.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski that “Azerbaijan is ready to play its role in providing for the energy security of the European continent” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280098.html>).

Kamran Aliyev, the head of the Administration for the Struggle with Corruption in the Prosecutor General’s Office, says that “international organizations highly rate the anti-corruption struggle carried out in Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/society/278865.html> and <http://news.day.az/society/278860.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells a meeting of the council of ministers that “a change of the status quo requires the liberation of Azerbaijani lands from occupation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278213.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku is ready to begin work on a peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/278395.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the opinion of the Armenian leadership that Nagorno-Karabakh will be given “an intermediate status” and that this status “will be recognized by the international community is completely absurd and illogical” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278380.html>).

JUNE

President Ilham Aliyev, on the occasion of the 93rd anniversary of the formation of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, says that Azerbaijan “lives under conditions of war. The war is not yet ended. Only its first stage is completed, and a country living under conditions of war must devote attention to the building of the army.” In other remarks, he reaffirms that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is not, was not and will not be a theme of negotiations. However, this occupation cannot last for long” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275340.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the Kazan summit was “one of the longest” of such meetings among the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia, but that “unfortunately,” despite progress on some issues, on a number of “principle questions, we were still not able to achieve a compromise resolution because the Armenian side required maximum concessions from Azerbaijan by distorting the essence of the negotiation process begun seven years ago” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275307.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that providing Azerbaijani citizenship to ethnic Azerbaijanis who had to flee from Armenia will not create any problems for their return to their former place of residence after the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/273535.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the status quo must be changed and the occupation forces of Armenia must leave the lands they have seized” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272335.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “there has been “definite progress” in the course of talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem with agreement on some issues and a reduction in differences on others, but “the main principle” of Azerbaijan remains “the achievement of a result and not the process of the talks” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272892.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration says that “Baku had been bitterly disappointed by international mediation efforts” on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/01/world/asia/01azerbaijan.html>).

MAY

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Czech President Václav Klaus that “Azerbaijan leads on the post-Soviet space in terms of per capita investment” (<http://news.day.az/politics/267816.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says in Bali that the Non-Aligned Movement, which Azerbaijan has now joined will give “an additional platform” for advancing Baku’s position on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict internationally (<http://news.day.az/politics/269888.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to Moscow, says that the joint declaration of the presidents of the Russian Federation, the United States and France is “very important,” because “for the first time is established a definite time for results in the talks about the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.” In other comments, Bulbuloglu says that “a special role in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict belongs to Russia and to [its] President Dmitry Medvedev” (<http://news.day.az/politics/270233.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the extent of investment in Azerbaijan is approaching 100 billion US dollars” (<http://news.day.az/politics/265774.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is the main threat to regional security and stability” (<http://news.day.az/politics/265193.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the majority of reports of international organizations connected with freedom of the press are not disinterested” but rather “pursue the goal of putting pressure on the Azerbaijani government and influencing its policies” (<http://news.day.az/politics/266698.html>).

APRIL

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Romanian President Traian Basescu that “relations of strategic partnership have been laid down between Azerbaijan and Romania” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262696.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says in an interview with Moskovskiye novosti that Azerbaijan and Russia are cooperating closely on Nagorno-Karabakh at a variety of levels (<http://news.day.az/politics/263878.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku is against a military resolution of the Iranian nuclear question (<http://news.day.az/politics/263879.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says in a message to the 14th Eurasian Economic Summit that “Azerbaijan has always devoted particular importance to such forums which create additional opportunities for the development of international economic and political cooperation and the strengthening of the ties of friendship and brotherhood among peoples” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261785.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue that “tolerance in Azerbaijan is one of the achievements which have been acquired over centuries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260939.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijan by its traditions of tolerance and secularism is possibly one of the best models for the Islamic and Turkic world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261139.html>).

MARCH

President Ilham Aliyev says that Nagorno-Karabakh will never be offered independence” (<http://news.day.az/politics/258482.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that “Azerbaijan supports the appeal of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group who have called for the avoidance of any actions which could lead to a change in the demographic, social and also cultural character in the territories occupied by Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259142.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that visits by the OSCE Minsk Group are “necessary” but that “there are so many such visits that in Azerbaijani society they are viewed as ‘the visits of tourists’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/258169.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says at a reception for visiting Swiss Confederation President Micheline Calmy-Rey that “the agreements achieved in the negotiations and the declarations adopted are being violated by Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257484.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice chairman of the Milli Majlis, says that “the export of the events in the countries of the Middle East to Azerbaijan is impossible” because “Azerbaijan is a democratic country and it would be naïve to suppose that here everyone thinks the same way” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257715.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Sochi meeting of the Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian presidents was marked by “an insignificant change of the position of Yerevan in a positive direction” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256622.html>).

FEBRUARY

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan is already considered as a factor of political stabilization of the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/253652.html>).

Rafael Ibrahimov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Stockholm, says that “Azerbaijan is ready to grant a high level of autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh; however this is possible exclusively in the framework of the territorial integrity of the country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254591.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan’s consul general in Los Angeles, says that “the integration of Armenia into the region could take place with the participation of Azerbaijan and Turkey” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254151.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev reaffirms that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is not subject to negotiation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/252279.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev tells the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs that “Azerbaijan is carrying out serious preparation for the liberation of its lands from occupation” and that “no one can accuse Azerbaijan” in this regard (<http://news.day.az/politics/252738.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, condemns attempts by Iran to interfere in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/251505.html>).

JANUARY

President Ilham Aliyev, while attending the Davos Conference, meets with his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich whom he tells that “relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine are developing very actively and dynamically” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249928.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the term, “Azerbaijani-Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh problem,” has been adopted as “a compromise” on the basis of proposals by the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/250103.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan, despite its diplomatic relations with Israel and an Israeli embassy in Baku, does not have an embassy in Jerusalem because it supports the existence of two states, Israel and Palestine (<http://news.day.az/politics/249511.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” must be the basis of any resolution of the conflict with Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/247996.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the Southern Gas Corridor has strategic importance for us” (<http://news.day.az/politics/247838.html>).

The Foreign Ministry issues its annual report on Azerbaijan’s diplomatic activities for 2010 (<http://news.day.az/politics/246838.html>).

Key Statements by Others
about Azerbaijan

DECEMBER

The Russian Foreign Ministry says that mutual understanding was reached during 2011 on a number of “knotty questions” concerning the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/306847.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says France should withdraw as co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group following its decision on “the Armenian genocide” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306025.html>).

Iulian Chifu, advisor to the Romanian president for strategic questions, security and foreign policy, says that “the European Union could be an honest mediator for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/307129.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and French Minister for European Affairs Jean Léonetti, together with Elmar Mammadyarov and Edvard Nalbandyan, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, issue a joint statement in Vilnius on the importance of achieving a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/302877.html>).

Grigol Vashadze, Georgia’s foreign minister, says that all the member states of GUAM confirm that “rumors about its premature end are baseless” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303963.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that “the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by military means is impossible, but at the same time the current status quo is unacceptable” (<http://news.day.az/politics/304391.html>).

NOVEMBER

Daniel Stein, advisor to the US Department of State senior advisor on energy issues in Eurasia, says that “if Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan agree” to build a pipeline across the Caspian, “no country will have the right to block this decision” (<http://news.day.az/economy/299362.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says that “the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is headache for the entire Caucasus” (<http://news.day.az/politics/301794.html>).

Nikolay Bordyuzha, the secretary general of the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty, says that the Gabala radar station “is used in the interests of Russia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300689.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy, says that if necessary, the European Union is prepared to exert itself in support of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/299051.html>).

Lamberto Zannier, the OSCE’s new secretary general, says that Turkey is “an important player in the region” and “can offer political support in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296891.html>).

The International Monetary Fund says that the holdings of the Azerbaijani Central Bank and the State Oil Fund are “sufficient for overcoming the consequences of the world financial crisis” (<http://news.day.az/economy/296815.html>).

OCTOBER

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that Moscow will “continue to help in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but both peoples must strive to agreement.” He adds that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is one of the few frozen conflicts in Europe which can be resolved” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294668.html>).

Turkey’s Energy Minister Taner Yildiz says that “after the signing by Turkey and Azerbaijan of an inter-governmental agreement on the transit of gas, no obstacles remain on the path of supplying Azerbaijani gas to Europe” (<http://news.day.az/economy/295629.html>).

Reshat Dogru, a deputy of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that the Zurich principles agreed to between Turkey and Armenia “must be approved by Azerbaijan” before they can go into effect (<http://news.day.az/politics/296385.html>).

Aleksandr Khloponin, deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation and plenipotentiary representative of the President of Russia in the North Caucasus Federal District, says that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict “is a matter of concern for everyone” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291829.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry says that if Azerbaijan and Armenia are interested, Tehran is ready to propose a solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem (<http://news.day.az/politics/293590.html>).

Herbert Quelle, Germany’s ambassador to Baku, says that Germany “just like other member countries of the European Union” supports the Southern Gas corridor “independently of which pipeline will be built within the framework of this project” (<http://news.day.az/economy/291319.html>).

SEPTEMBER

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that if anyone attempts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force, Russia is “ready to take all necessary measures for the restoration of peace in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290527.html>).

Leon Cook, a representative of the The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS), told a conference in London hosted by Azerbaijani Ambassador Fakhraddin Gurbanov and British parliamentarians Lord Hermann and Stephen Gilbert that “25 percent of the supplies for the coalition forces in Afghanistan are delivered through Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289516.html>).

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi says that Azerbaijan and Iran have “great potential” for the development of relations in various spheres including cultural, religious and historical” (<http://news.day.az/politics/288680.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the United States “will remain in solidarity with friends who extended to it the hand of help at the difficult moment” of September 11, 2001 (<http://news.day.az/politics/287954.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that “nothing can have an impact on the fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Iran” and that “Iran is a fraternal state to Azerbaijan and supports its independence” (<http://news.day.az/politics/288449.html>).

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, a member of the Israeli Knesset and former defense minister, says that he does not think that the current state of relations between Turkey and Israel will influence Israeli-Azerbaijani relations, because the latter are “strong and deep” and thus not affected by “external factors” (<http://news.day.az/politics/288389.html>).

AUGUST

Turkey's Grand National Assembly removes the protocols on relations between Turkey and Armenia from its agenda thus depriving them of any juridical force (<http://news.day.az/politics/284746.html>).

The US Department of State annual report on terrorism says that Azerbaijan "actively opposed terrorist organizations seeking to move people, money and material through the Caucasus" (<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/170479.pdf>).

Moody's Investors Service says that its prognosis for the Azerbaijani banking system remains stable (<http://news.day.az/economy/281573.html>).

JULY

Štefan Füle, EU commissioner for enlargement and European Neighborhood policy, says that the European Union wants to increase its involvement in the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and is ready to provide the necessary financial means for supporting such a resolution and the restoration of the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/279867.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev “made a mistake on the Karabakh question” and that “Azerbaijan deserves to know more about this” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279658.html>).

Revaz Gachechiladze, former Georgian ambassador to Yerevan, says that “one must not compare the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with the conflict in Abkhazia or the conflict in Abkhazia with the conflict in South Ossetia. Georgia will never resolve the Karabakh question behind the back of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Nor will Russia, the US, or Western Europe do this” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279608.html>).

Gabriel Keller, French ambassador to Baku, says that it is “irresponsible” to move away from the Madrid Principles for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/278353.html>).

Göran Lindblad, the former chair of the political affairs committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Russia and the international community must intensify their pressure on Armenia so that Yerevan will pursue a more productive policy on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/277879.html>).

Nikolay Bordyuzha, secretary general of the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty, says in Yerevan that he “wants to repeat the words of the president of Russia that Armenia is a strategic ally of Russia

with all the consequences that flow from that” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277130.html>).

JUNE

Michal Labenda, Poland's ambassador to Baku, says that "the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is not frozen; what is frozen is its resolution" (<http://news.day.az/politics/276059.html>).

The US Department of State says that it is disappointed that the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia were unable to reach agreement on the basic principles for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at their Kazan meeting, but expressed the hope that they will be able to build on the measure of agreement they have achieved so far at future meetings (<http://news.day.az/politics/275547.html>).

Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad tells Azerbaijan's National Security Minister, Eldar Makhmudov, that Tehran and Baku will be expanding cooperation in the struggle against terrorism (<http://news.day.az/politics/275328.html>).

Bernard Fassier, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that "the main thing which we have been able to achieve is not to allow a new war." His US counterpart Robert Bradtke adds that the Minsk Group has "shown itself to be effective" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273396.html>).

US President Barak Obama in a message to President Ilham Aliyev says that "thanks to the far-sighted" policies of Heydar Aliyev were "laid the foundation of the East-West energy corridor" and cooperation on energy matters between Azerbaijan and Western countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/271725.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the United States is beginning "a new phase of cooperation with Azerbaijan in the security area in order to help better defend the energy structure of the country in the Caspian" (<http://news.day.az/politics/272704.html>).

MAY

President Ilham Aliyev's amnesty of May 26 is praised by international organizations and "evaluated as an important step toward the protection of freedom of speech and information in correspondence with the course of the democratic development of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/270087.html>).

The presidents of the Russian Federation, the United States and France, the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group call on the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia to "demonstrate political will and complete work on the Basic Principles (on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict) in the course of the upcoming Armenian-Azerbaijani summit in June" (<http://news.day.az/politics/269656.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says that that body "supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268540.html>). He adds that "the European Parliament conducts dialogue with Azerbaijan as an equal partner" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268634.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that "until the Karabakh problem is resolved, the normalization of relations with Armenia is impossible" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264984.html>).

The Russian government hands over to Baku approximately 300 documents on Armenian acts of genocide against Azerbaijanis in the early years of the 20th century (<http://news.day.az/politics/265861.html>).

Czech President Vaclav Klaus says that Prague is "interested in energy cooperation with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/266572.html>).

APRIL

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says in Baku that “the position of Ukraine on the Karabakh conflict is based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/264403.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that relations between Turkey and Armenia and between Armenia and Azerbaijan are interrelated. In other comments, he welcomes Russian involvement in the Karabakh conflict discussions (<http://news.day.az/politics/263140.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that “cooperation among Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey will serve peace in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262626.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that the main condition “for the realization of the Turkish-Armenian protocols is the liberation by Armenia of occupied Azerbaijani lands” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261993.html>).

Kristina Ojuland, former Estonian foreign minister and currently member of the European Parliament, says that acknowledgement that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan “must find expression in all initiatives of international organizations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261150.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia’s ambassador to Baku, says Russia feels a particular responsibility for helping to resolve the Karabakh conflict and will act on that in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/260807.html>).

MARCH

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that the Minsk Group “does not solve the problem of the sides. It can propose any plans, but if there is no political will on all sides, no one can move the situation toward resolution” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259535.html>).

José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, says that “the preservation of the status quo is not an acceptable variant of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must be resolved by peaceful means on the basis of the principles of the non-use of force, territorial integrity, and the right of peoples to self-determination” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257837.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad tells visiting Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev that “the ties between Iran and Azerbaijan are fraternal” and that “not a single factor can violate them” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259246.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, tells Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov that “the Sochi meeting on Karabakh opened the way to new prospects for the resolution of the conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257566.html>).

Hannah Rosenthal, the US Department of State special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism, says that “the US intends to study and disseminate throughout the world the Azerbaijani model of tolerance” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257580.html>).

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, the Vatican’s culture minister, tells Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to France who is jointly accredited to the Holy See, that “Azerbaijan is an example of tolerance” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257209.html>).

FEBRUARY

Peter Semneby, the outgoing EU special representative for the South Caucasus, says that he does not share the view that there has not been progress in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. "There is progress," he says, "but not as serious as many had hoped" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254931.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the "chief goal" of his embassy is to achieve a situation in which "each citizen of Azerbaijan can make use as much as possible of the dynamic and continuing development of the country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254838.html>).

Teymuraz Sharashenidze, Georgia's ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan has helped strengthen Georgia's energy security and reduced its dependence on Russia "to zero" (<http://news.day.az/politics/255406.html>). In other comments, he says that "Georgia and Azerbaijan are strategic partners" (<http://news.day.az/politics/255415.html>).

Matthew Bryza, the incoming US ambassador to Baku, says on his arrival that Washington "hopes for a deepening and strengthening of cooperation with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/251754.html>).

Former Turkish Foreign Minister Yashar Yakys says that "the army of Azerbaijan is ready for a military resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/251599.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, the executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that "Azerbaijan is the only country in the CIS where there was not a decline in the economy during the last financial crisis" (<http://news.day.az/economy/251050.html>).

JANUARY

The Russian Foreign Ministry says that the meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan on January 24 “testified to the intensity of work which is being conducted in this format” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250252.html>).

Thorbjørn Jagland, the secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be easier to achieve under conditions of the supremacy of law and the observance of human rights” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249944.html>).

Romanian President Traian Băsescu says that Romania “supports Azerbaijan in all spheres” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250219.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Moscow will continue to work through the OSCE Minsk Group to seek a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/247725.html>).

Anatoly Tsyganok, a Russian military expert, says that “Moscow has agreed to the withdrawal of Armenian units from five districts around Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/246677.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, chairman-in-office of the OSCE, calls on the members of that organization to intensify their efforts to resolve prolonged conflicts such as that over Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/247759.html>).

A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

Volume IV, 2011

DECEMBER

31 December

Azerbaijanis around the world mark the Day of National Solidarity of the Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/politics/307324.html>).

The City of Calgary in Canada declares December 31st to be the Day of Solidarity of Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/politics/307368.html>).

30 December

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Matthew Bryza, outgoing US ambassador to Baku on the occasion of the completion of his appointment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/307288.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee on Work with the Diaspora, says that the role of Azerbaijani youth in the activity of the diaspora is growing (<http://news.day.az/politics/307255.html>).

The Foreign Ministry announces that NATO has agreed to the third stage of the individual partnership program with Azerbaijan for 2012-2013 (<http://news.day.az/politics/307348.html>).

The Milli Majlis adopts an appeal to the French Senate calling on it not to adopt a draft law on the criminalization of the denial of "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/307277.html>).

The Milli Majlis adopts an appeal in honor of the *Day of Solidarity* of Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/politics/307346.html>).

The Azerbaijan Society of Moscow holds a conference on "The Political Stability and Economic Successes of Azerbaijan over the Last Decades" on

the occasion of the *Day of Solidarity* of Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/society/307358.html>).

29 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (<http://news.day.az/politics/307140.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the national action program in the sphere of human rights corresponds to the goals of the strategy of the development of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/307085.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the question of France’s continuation as a co-chair country of the OSCE Minsk Group “can be discussed” (<http://news.day.az/politics/307182.html>).

Eldar Hasanov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Sofia, hosts a meeting of Azerbaijanis there on the *Day of Solidarity* of Azerbaijanis of the World. The same day, similar meetings are held in Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Montenegro (<http://news.day.az/society/307141.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Brussels hosts a meeting on the *Day of Solidarity* of Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/society/307105.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the US will encounter problems in defending its interests in Azerbaijan if it does not have an ambassador in Baku for an extended period (<http://news.day.az/politics/307130.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that “Azerbaijan is a very important country for the United States in the sphere of security, energy, and domestic reforms” (<http://news.day.az/politics/307172.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that “there cannot be a military solution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” and that “the only way” to resolve it consists of “peaceful negotiations between the sides” (<http://news.day.az/politics/307150.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the Southern Gas Corridor can play an important role not only for the South Caucasus, but also for all of Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/307160.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, presents awards to several Azerbaijani media figures (<http://news.day.az/society/307125.html>).

The Moldovan embassy in Baku says that media reports that Chisinau has sold military arms to Armenia are not true (<http://news.day.az/politics/307112.html>).

28 December

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive awarding honors to representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora in the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/306954.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is seeking clarification on reports that members of the Australian regional parliament of New South Wales have visited the occupied territories without clearance from Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/306892.html>).

The Administration for Civil Aviation announces that it has signed a cooperation memorandum with its counterpart in Qatar (<http://news.day.az/economy/306894.html>).

The Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry says that Turkey is taking steps to ensure that there is going to be no future contamination of the waters of the trans-border Kura River (<http://news.day.az/society/306896.html>).

The Turkish Organization for Machine Building and the Chemical Industry says that Azerbaijan and Turkey are planning to establish a joint enterprise to export arms production (<http://news.day.az/politics/306893.html>).

Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE's representative for freedom of the media, welcomes President Ilham Aliyev's pardoning of Jabbar Savalanly (<http://news.day.az/politics/306930.html>).

27 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, on the completion of the latter's assignment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/306631.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the French National Assembly's adoption of a law about "the invented 'Armenian genocide'" is

having a serious negative impact on the image of France (<http://news.day.az/politics/306603.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev says that Azerbaijan and the World Trade Organization have agreed to additional talks in Geneva in February 2012 (<http://news.day.az/economy/306713.html>).

The Communications and Information Technology Ministry protests the World Atlas on the Apple I-Phone atlas showing occupied Azerbaijani territories as part of Armenia (<http://news.day.az/society/306687.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that following the Arab Spring, the Arab countries will prefer the Turkish model of state administration (<http://news.day.az/politics/306719.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that the decision of the French National Assembly concerning the criminalization of denial of “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” is a provocation against the Turkic world, including Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/306674.html>).

Azerbaijanis in Voronezh organize a celebration of the *Day of Solidarity* of Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/society/307064.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, says that “politicians should not involve themselves with the work of historians” by adopting laws criminalizing the denial of “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306673.html>).

26 December

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the might of the Azerbaijani state and the creative potential of our people inspire confidence that we will achieve the new goals we have set” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306524.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Hasan Mammadzade as Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Vilnius (<http://news.day.az/politics/306518.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov is awarded a medal in honor of the 20th anniversary of the independence of Kazakhstan by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev (<http://news.day.az/politics/306431.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets with Israeli officials to discuss expanding economic cooperation between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/306472.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that "Azerbaijan has been transformed from a country which imports capital into one that exports it" (<http://news.day.az/politics/306517.html>).

Arif Mammadov, director of the State Administration for Civil Aviation, discusses the illegal construction by Armenians of an airport in Hojaly with Catalin Radu, president of the European Civil Aviation Conference (<http://news.day.az/politics/306417.html>).

Yana Salman, a member of the Azerbaijan-Israel Association, says that Israel must not recognize "the Armenian genocide," because the Armenians are using these events of a century ago for political reasons and because "many Armenians were *de facto* 'a fifth column'" in 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/306410.html>).

Jevda Abramov, leader of the working group for inter-parliamentary ties between Azerbaijan and Israel, says that discussion of "the Armenian genocide" will be limited to a parliamentary committee and that Israel will not recognize the events of 1915 as a genocide because of its relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/306422.html>).

The European Congress of Azerbaijanis calls on French President Nicholas Sarkozy not to sign the French parliament's action imposing penalties for anyone who denies "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/306421.html>).

Nino Enukidze, Georgia's deputy minister for energy and national resources, presides over the opening of SOCAR Energy Georgia's completion of a gas pipeline (<http://news.day.az/economy/306489.html>).

The Eurasian Development Bank says that Azerbaijan leads the CIS in the growth of hard currency reserves (<http://news.day.az/economy/306484.html>).

25 December

The Foreign Ministry expresses regret that representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh refused to meet with the

Azerbaijani community of that region of Azerbaijan (<http://video.day.az/view=ec764mgq>).

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari expresses gratitude to Azerbaijan for its cooperation in handling pilgrims to holy places in Iraq (<http://news.day.az/politics/306267.html>).

24 December

President Ilham Aliyev marks his birthday at the ceasefire line near Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/306185.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives greetings on his birthday from world leaders, including Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, US President Barak Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Jordanian King Abdullah II, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, and others (<http://news.day.az/politics/305905.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev is awarded the order of friendship of the peoples by Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko (<http://news.day.az/politics/306161.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that “the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the only one on the post-Soviet space, which can be resolved now. There is only one path to this and that is to reach an agreement, because the alternatives to agreement do not exist. The alternative is only a bad one, war” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306251.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a French senator, says that the French legislature must reverse course on “the so-called Armenian genocide” lest Turkey remind the world about Algeria and other conflicts that France has been involved in (<http://news.day.az/politics/306173.html>).

Gallup International research says that Azerbaijan ranks eighth out of 51 countries in terms of popular hopes for and confidence in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/306199.html>).

23 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari (<http://news.day.az/politics/306076.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “if France occupied a just position, it would not be involving itself in history of a century ago and thereby sharpening the situation in the region. Such a position by France as

a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group calls forth regret” (<http://news.day.az/politics/305988.html>).

Fuad Akhundov, head of the political research and analysis of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, said that the Gandzasar church, which the Armenians claim as their “Notre Dame,” in fact was built by the ancient Albanians (<http://news.day.az/politics/306026.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the Azerbaijani parliament must hold the French parliament responsible for its vote on “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306029.html>).

Kamran Imanov, head of the Agency for Copyright, says that the Baku Center for Protecting Intellectual Property has developed a plan for fighting piracy and Armenian plagiarism (<http://news.day.az/society/306098.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, says that the OIC condemns the action of the French parliament concerning “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306032.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, a deputy of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that Ankara does not need the advice of the French foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/306113.html>).

The Georgian national security concept says that Azerbaijan is a strategic partner of Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/306105.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia’s ambassador to Baku, says that “the unique status of the Russian language in Azerbaijan deserves praise” (<http://news.day.az/politics/306065.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a member of the French Senate, says that French lawmakers should leave the question of “the Armenian genocide” to historians (<http://news.day.az/politics/306000.html>).

Stand & Poor’s says that Baku’s projected foreign debt is not going to be excessive (<http://news.day.az/economy/306086.html>).

22 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives greetings from world leaders on the occasion of his 50th birthday (<http://news.day.az/politics/305905.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Baku Chzhan Yanyan on the occasion of the latter's completion of his assignment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/305878.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev inspects new military helicopters from Russia (<http://news.day.az/politics/305919.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva participate in the ceremonies on the reopening of the Ajdarbek mosque in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/305876.html>).

Labor and Social Security Minister Fizuli Alakparov receives his Serbian counterpart Rasim Ljajic who says that Serbia is interested in expanding ties with Azerbaijan in those sectors (<http://news.day.az/economy/305917.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that "certain European deputies have been converted into the hands of definite circles" by taking up "the so-called 'Armenian genocide.'" It adds that "if France has such a principled approach to definite issues, then it as a co-chair country of the OSCE Minsk Group should also consider the question of the Hojaly genocide" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305858.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, takes part in the presentation of Graham Wilson's new book *The President of Azerbaijan: His Struggle for Peace and Vision for the Future* (<http://news.day.az/politics/305920.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says the adoption by the French parliament of a law on "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" is "unjust" and casts a negative shadow on France "as a democratic state and society" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305908.html>).

Rufat Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Yerevan's economic policies are making Armenia "unfit for human habitation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305806.html>).

Ilyas Ismayilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that after the French Senate adopted a law on the criminalization of the denial of "the Armenian genocide," that country cannot be considered "an objective mediator for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305907.html>).

A new book *Ilham Aliyev—Eight Years in Power* is presented in Sumgayit (<http://news.day.az/politics/305916.html>).

The International Center of the Diaspora and the Azerbaijani Society of War Veterans stage a demonstration in front of the French embassy in Baku to protest the French Senate's discussion of a measure criminalizing denial "of the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305791.html>).

The Azerbaijani diaspora of the United Arab Emirates calls on the French parliament to end discussions of "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305825.html>).

The Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas of Finland call on France not to adopt legislation on "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305807.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that he hopes the Senate will confirm his appointment to that position (<http://news.day.az/politics/305874.html>).

Heybullla Ramazan, an advisor to the Turkish prime minister, says that Ankara will respond to the decision of the French Senate to criminalize the denial of "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305868.html>).

Mikhail Machavariani, vice speaker of the Georgian parliament, says that the resolution of conflicts in the South Caucasus on the basis of the principle of territorial integrity will benefit "all the countries of the region, including Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305817.html>).

The World Bank conducts a preliminary assessment of tenders for modernizing the capital markets of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/305856.html>).

Günther Oettinger, European Union commissioner for energy, says that Brussels "support the choice of the Shah Deniz consortium" (<http://news.day.az/economy/305849.html>).

Carolina Bright, head of the International Finance Corporation project in Baku, says that "Azerbaijan can occupy leading positions in the region on the development of corporate administration if it continues active development of this sphere" (<http://news.day.az/economy/305843.html>).

21 December

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receive Rashida Dati, a deputy of the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/305707.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Wilfried Martens, president of the European People's Party (<http://news.day.az/politics/305703.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Milo Đukanović, former president of Montenegro (<http://news.day.az/politics/305703.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Valdis Zatlers, former president of Latvia (<http://news.day.az/politics/305703.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev announces that the Azerbaijani government has defined five basic directions for the modernization of the country's economy (<http://news.day.az/economy/305593.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that France's consideration of "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" will lead other countries to evaluate aspects of French history (<http://news.day.az/politics/305591.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "today Europe is experiencing not only an economic crisis, but a crisis of thought" as evidenced by the French Parliament's decision to discuss "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305614.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, receives Wilfried Martens, former Belgian prime minister, who says that "religious tolerance in Azerbaijan has great importance" (<http://news.day.az/politics/305560.html>).

The National Academy of Sciences, the International Agency for Atomic energy, and the Isotope Institute of Hungary sign a trilateral cooperation accord (<http://news.day.az/economy/305660.html>).

Ali Fatullahi, Iran's deputy foreign minister, says that "Azerbaijan has firm positions in the world" thanks to "the successful continuation" by President Ilham Aliyev of the course defined by his father President Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/305690.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, hosts a roundtable on the 20th anniversary of the formation of the CIS (<http://news.day.az/politics/305678.html>).

Rashida Dati, a deputy of the European Parliament, says that she “supports the position of Azerbaijan on “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/305679.html>).

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono administers the oath of office to Prayono Atiyanto, the new Indonesian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/305663.html>).

Mikhail Machavariani, first vice speaker of the Georgian Parliament, says that if the territorial conflicts involving Azerbaijan and Georgia were resolved, “the South Caucasus would be one of the most flourishing regions of the world not only economically, but politically as well” (<http://news.day.az/politics/305606.html>).

Turkey’s Grand National Assembly says it will take up next year the question of the Hojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/305600.html>).

Ukraine’s *Verkhovna Rada* adopts legislation concerning cooperation with Azerbaijan on the transportation of oil across Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/economy/305670.html>).

The US Agency for International Development announces that it will help Baku develop taxpayer services (<http://news.day.az/economy/305594.html>).

20 December

President Ilham Aliyev tells an informal summit of the CIS that “Azerbaijan is inclined toward constructive and active participation in all the processes within the framework of the CIS” (<http://news.day.az/politics/305308.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev and other CIS country leaders in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/305308.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says in Sumgayit that “Azerbaijan is successfully developing and successfully moving ahead” (<http://news.day.az/politics/305177.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade says that “the level of cooperation of Azerbaijan with Georgia can serve as an example to others” (<http://news.day.az/economy/305280.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku accepts some and rejects others of the Venetian Commission's evaluation of its draft legislation on political parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/305460.html>).

Aleksandr Mishchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to Baku, announces the expansion of tourism cooperation between Baku and the Autonomous republic of Crimea (<http://news.day.az/economy/305387.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the French parliament's discussion of legislation that would make the denial of "the so-called 'Armenian genocide'" a crime shames French democracy (<http://news.day.az/politics/305366.html>).

Safa Mirzoyev, head of the apparatus of the Milli Majlis, says that the EU's twinning project in support of the Milli Majlis has brought Azerbaijani law and practice into closer compliance with European norms (<http://news.day.az/politics/305359.html>).

Kenul Nurullayeva, executive director of Baku-2020, says that Baku has a good chance to host the Olympics in 2020 (<http://sport.day.az/olimpizm/20111220023603812.html>).

The Mexican Senate declares that the events in Hojaly were a genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/305407.html>).

The European Union issues a mandate for the launch of talks on the simplification of its visa regime with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/305391.html>).

Michael Wickers, US deputy secretary of defense, visits Baku to discuss defense cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/305356.html>).

The GUAM countries agree that Azerbaijan will serve as coordinator of its energy working group in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/economy/305475.html>).

Nikolay Patskevich, Belarus' ambassador to Baku, says that trade between Azerbaijan and his country will grow significantly in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/economy/305352.html>).

Andrey Valentinov, political advisor of the EU representation in Baku, says that the twinning projects are giving support to the development of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/305378.html>).

19 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives Bernard Fassier, former French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/305222.html>).

Rufat Aslani, head of the State Committee on Securities, presents a second report on money laundering and the financing of terrorism to a meeting of MONEYVAL in Strasbourg (<http://news.day.az/economy/305240.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that those “protecting” Armenians did not allow them to meet with Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/305183.html>).

Samir Imanov, head of the Azerbaijani Society in the United Arab Emirates, sends letter to French officials protesting Paris’ discussion of “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/305172.html>).

Bernard Fassier, former French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that President Ilham Aliyev and his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan may meet to discuss the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict early in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/305220.html>).

Nina Kalandadze, Georgia’s deputy foreign minister, says that Azerbaijan is “the number one trading partner” of her country (<http://news.day.az/economy/305142.html>).

18 December

President Ilham Aliyev is presented with the award “Worthy Friend of the Balkans” by Vlade Divac, president of the Serbian Olympic committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/305039.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov visits Warsaw for political consultations with the Polish government (<http://news.day.az/politics/305005.html>).

17 December

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that Baku will host an international arms bazaar in 2014 (<http://news.day.az/politics/304913.html>). He also announces the successful test of several new Azerbaijani weapons (<http://news.day.az/economy/304938.html>) and the development of production capacity in explosives and other arms

(<http://news.day.az/economy/304908.html> and <http://news.day.az/economy/304902.html>).

The Azerbaijani consulate general in Aktau has dispatched several officials to striking regions of Kazakhstan in order to be prepared to evacuate Azerbaijanis from there if necessary (<http://news.day.az/politics/304960.html>).

Yagub Makhmudov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the National Academy of Sciences has prepared a dossier for presentation to the Hague tribunal concerning acts of genocide against the Azerbaijani people committed by Armenians (<http://news.day.az/politics/304915.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with his Ukrainian counterparts in Kyiv to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/304966.html>).

Azerbaijan's *Eurovision-2012* working group launches a site, <http://www.eurovision.az>, about its work (<http://news.day.az/showbiz/304965.html>).

Oleg Korokhin, Russia's deputy chief of mission in Baku, says that in Azerbaijan, "the Russian language is not simply remaining as a connecting link in inter-ethnic and inter-cultural dialogue, but from year to year is strengthening its positions in this area" (<http://news.day.az/society/304942.html>).

16 December

Elman Arasly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Baghdad, says the visit to Baku by Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari will open "new pages of cooperation in various spheres" (<http://news.day.az/politics/304742.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, head of the State Migration Service, says that most illegal immigrants in Azerbaijan come from Turkey (<http://news.day.az/society/304752.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, head of the State Customs Committee, signs a cooperation accord with Israeli Ambassador to Baku Mikhael Lavon Lotem (<http://news.day.az/economy/305157.html>).

Azerbaijan is ready to take delivery from Russia of the first two of 24 attack helicopters, according to *Jane's Defense Weekly* (<http://news.day.az/economy/304769.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that Ankara will always support Azerbaijan's position on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/304806.html>).

The US Department of State reiterates its support for Matthew Bryza's confirmation as ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/304901.html>).

Aflaton Amashev, head of the Media Organization of Turkic Language Countries and Societies, says that Turkey is discussing the possibility of creating a single Internet portal for all of them (<http://news.day.az/society/304805.html>).

The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry presents medals and other awards to Azerbaijani officials for their participation in the Caspian 2011 exercises and other cooperation forums (<http://news.day.az/politics/305615.html>).

15 December

President Ilham Aliyev is awarded an honorary diploma by the Romania-based International Foundation for Cooperation and Partnership in the Caspian-Black Sea Region (<http://news.day.az/politics/304643.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Rafael Barak, state secretary of the Israeli foreign ministry, and tells him that Baku intends to continue its political dialogue with Israel (<http://news.day.az/politics/304550.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmoudov receives Gela Bezhuashvili, head of the Georgian Intelligence Service, and the two agree to broaden cooperation between their respective institutions (<http://news.day.az/politics/304579.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that weapons produced in Azerbaijan may soon be sold to Arab countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/304572.html>).

Transportation Minister Ziya Mammadov and Finance Minister Samir Sharifov sign an agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that will extend 750 million US dollars to Baku for the construction of a major transportation project (<http://news.day.az/economy/304566.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, has his book *Azerbaijan: Demands of the Period of Globalization, Lessons of the Past, Realities of Today and Prospects for the Future* published in Farsi in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/304600.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova receives Peter Bateman, Britain's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/304622.html>).

Aflatun Amashev, head of the Council for the Press of Azerbaijan, receives his German counterpart DAPD director Alexander Todosiychuk to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/society/304583.html>).

The State Border Service announces that it has blocked two attempts to smuggle drugs from Iran into Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/304587.html>).

The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) announces that Russia's Gazprom intends to increase its purchases of Azerbaijani gas by 50 percent in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/economy/304636.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Board of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that "Nagorno-Karabakh is the center of terror in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/304614.html>).

14 December

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Chzhan Yannyan, outgoing Chinese ambassador to Baku, on the occasion of the latter's completion of his assignment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/304368.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Paulo Antonio Pereira, Brazil's ambassador to Baku, who declares Brazil supports the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of international norms and principles and the resolutions and decisions taken by international organizations (<http://news.day.az/politics/304335.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Anatoly Antonov, Russia's deputy defense minister, to discuss Russia's future renting of the Gabala radar station (<http://news.day.az/politics/304377.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says that "it is important that the young people of the CIS learn to understand one another" (<http://news.day.az/politics/304405.html>).

Elkhan Gahramanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, invites Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, UAE deputy prime minister, to visit Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/304332.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan "blocks the dialogue of the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/304323.html>).

Farhad Badalbayli, a member of the Azerbaijan Community of Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijan Republic, says that his group will continue to call for meetings with the Armenian community there either in Moscow or in another location (<http://news.day.az/politics/304357.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that "Azerbaijan respects the positions of the international community relative to Iran" (<http://news.day.az/politics/304313.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the CIS, says that "the Karabakh conflict is our common misfortune" (<http://www.news.day.az/politics/304304.html>).

Tehran proposes that the Caspian countries create special joint detachments to prevent illegal fishing there (<http://news.day.az/society/304393.html>).

13 December

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia is guilty of hypocrisy in its statements about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/304186.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "a love for Heydar Aliyev lives in the hearts of the peoples of the Turkic world" (<http://news.day.az/politics/304108.html>).

Elkhan Gahramanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, says that talks between the UAE and Azerbaijan on the creation of a business council are near completion (<http://news.day.az/economy/304177.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia has practically lost its independence" and that "sooner or later" it "will have to change its

position and look not to the past, but to the future” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303990.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is guilty of a lack of objectivity in her comments about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/304139.html>).

The Russian defense ministry says that talks between Russia and Azerbaijan on the final resolution of questions connected with the extension of Moscow’s rent of the Gabala radar station are beginning (<http://news.day.az/politics/304062.html>).

Carlos Jimenez Macias, a Mexican senator, says that Azerbaijan and Mexico intend to broaden their cooperation in the oil and trade sectors (<http://news.day.az/economy/304070.html>).

The Baku office of the OSCE releases an Azerbaijani-language version of the book *A Guide to Human Rights and the Basic Freedoms of Military Personnel* (<http://news.day.az/society/304090.html>).

12 December

President Ilham Aliyev leads the Azerbaijani nation and the international community in marking the eighth anniversary of the death of his father, former President Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/303824.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/303875.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives William Fraser III, head of the United States Transportation Command (<http://news.day.az/politics/303983.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Mehmet Emin Alpman, chief of the Main Planning Administration of the Turkish General Staff (<http://news.day.az/politics/303968.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov receives Vladimir Kuvshinov, deputy secretary general of the International Organization of Civil Defense (<http://news.day.az/society/303928.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, and Magomedsultan Magomedov, head of the National Council of Daghestan, finalize discussion on a cooperation agreement during a meeting in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/303872.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “all-national leader Heydar Aliyev marked out the path of development of Azerbaijan, and President

Ilham Aliyev is continuing his plan with honor” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303881.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that his group “intends to continue meetings with the Armenian community” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303857.html>).

The State Maritime Administration thanks the maritime rescue center in Astrakhan for participating in the rescue of Azerbaijani fishermen (<http://news.day.az/society/303884.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, tells a Moscow meeting on the eighth anniversary of the death of Heydar Aliyev that the former Azerbaijani leader was “a great politician who was known and reckoned with by the entire world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303997.html>).

Grigol Vashadze, Georgia’s foreign minister, says that all the member states of GUAM confirm that “rumors about its premature end are baseless” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303963.html>).

Egemen Bagis, Turkey’s minister for relations with the European Union, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan’s call for Ankara to revise its position on “the Armenian genocide” shows his failure to understand the situation (<http://news.day.az/turkey/303936.html>).

11 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives Carlos Jimenez Macias, a Mexican senator (<http://news.day.az/politics/303774.html>).

The Kyrgyz Foundation for the Support of the Policy of Turkic Language Countries and the Azerbaijani company *Femina* publish in Bishkek in Russian the third volume of the book *President Ilham Aliyev* (<http://news.day.az/politics/303783.html>).

Anastasia Aleksandrova, supervisor of the World Bank program for the development of social protections in Azerbaijan, visits Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/303730.html>).

10 December

The Foreign Ministry says that Lebanon has always supported the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Organization of the Islamic

Conference, which condemn Armenian aggression and support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/303658.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that statements by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan that there is no religious basis for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are designed to confuse the international community and to imply that Azerbaijan has made religion a factor, something Baku has not done (<http://news.day.az/politics/303649.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the refusal of the representatives of the Armenian community to meet with the Azerbaijani community there is "directed at breaking up talks on the resolution of the conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/303639.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent criticism of Azerbaijan reflects "double standards in the foreign policy of the United States" (<http://news.day.az/politics/303709.html>).

Murad Najafbayli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Bern, says that "Azerbaijan has become the leading power of the region" over the last 20 years (<http://news.day.az/politics/303660.html>).

9 December

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that "Armenia always seeks the occasion for dragging out the negotiation process" (<http://news.day.az/politics/303571.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Budapest, hosts a conference on the eighth anniversary of the death of former President Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/303485.html>).

The State Migration Service says that during the first 11 months of 2011, 48,250 foreigners applied for residence permits in Azerbaijan, of whom approximately 38 percent were from Turkey, 11 percent from Russia, and 10 percent from Georgia (<http://news.day.az/society/303347.html>).

Eldar Makhmoudov, head of the State Commission on the Affairs of Prisoners of War, Hostages and Those Missing in Action, says that the lack of resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict means that the problems of

prisoners and hostages continue to generate concern (<http://news.day.az/politics/303574.html>).

The Center for Strategic Research of the Presidential Administration launches a new international academic journal *Caucasus International* (<http://news.day.az/politics/303578.html>).

The Joint Working Group for Strengthening International Standards in the Sphere of Human Rights says that “regrettably” the latest report of Amnesty International about Azerbaijan reflects the desire of that group’s authors that “the processes which took place in the Arab countries since the beginning of 2011 will be repeated in Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303543.html>).

Zmaga Jelencic Plementi, a member of the Slovenian parliament, says that *Amnesty International*’s report on Azerbaijan “reflects the distorted and unjust position” of that group (<http://news.day.az/politics/303500.html>).

8 December

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan is ready and able to supply the European market with large amounts of natural gas and is conducting talks with the European Union on pipeline routes (<http://news.day.az/economy/303273.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov calls on ISAF to increase its efforts to avoid losses among the civilian population in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/303357.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev and his Swiss counterpart Erich Martin sign a cooperation accord at the conclusion of the fifth session of the joint inter-governmental commission on trade and economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/303268.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Makhmoud Mammadgulyev says that Azerbaijan hopes to sign an agreement with the European Union on the simplification of visa rules (<http://news.day.az/politics/303361.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that Azerbaijan and Russia will hold talks on extending the existing contract on Russia’s operation of the Gabala radar station (<http://news.day.az/politics/303257.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that members of the OSCE Minsk Group

must stop applying double standards on the question of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/303366.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku considers the proposals of the three co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group to be those of that group and not those of only one of those states (<http://news.day.az/politics/303304.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Budapest, supported by the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, opens a five-day conference on "Azerbaijan-Hungary: A Dialogue of Cultures" (<http://news.day.az/politics/303274.html>).

The Culture and Tourism Ministry announces plans to create a unified information base and website on Caucasian Albania (<http://news.day.az/society/303363.html>).

Maleyka Abbaszade, chairman of the State Commission on Student Admissions, says that neighboring countries, including Russia and Ukraine, "are accepting Azerbaijani students without corresponding examinations ... as a result of demographic problems" that have left many vacant places in their academic institutions (<http://news.day.az/society/303297.html>).

Seymour Orujov, head of the youth section of the *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, says that his party "has been transformed into a major political force not only in Azerbaijan, but in the region as well" (<http://news.day.az/politics/303312.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, tells 44 new Peace Corps volunteers coming to Baku to bring American values to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/303335.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that "Azerbaijan is a very important partner and ally of the US and NATO for the delivery of supplies to Afghanistan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/303275.html>).

7 December

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that Baku has spent 4.6 billion US dollars for the resolution of the social problems of refugees and IDPs in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/303143.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that "the latest declaration of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs made in Vilnius shows the

direction in which work will be conducted in 2012,” but that the statement “by itself is not a turning point in the resolution of the conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303060.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijani diplomacy has completely driven Armenia into a blind alley” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303110.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and president of the Azerbaijan Youth Organization of Russia, says that the AYOR “has achieved good results and success” across the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/303151.html>).

The Center for Strategic Research of the Presidential Administration and the UN Development Program hold an international conference on “20 Years of Independence: Achievements and Difficulties on the Path of Constructing a Progressive, Just and Dynamic State” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303052.html>).

6 December

President Ilham Aliyev telephones Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to congratulate him on the victory of the United Russia Party in the Russian parliamentary elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/302734.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs an agreement with his Lithuanian counterpart Audronius Azubalis eliminating visa requirements for persons from the two countries who have diplomatic, official or special passports (<http://news.day.az/politics/302934.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev tells visiting Himayatullah Khan, the first deputy minister of economic questions and statistics of Pakistan, that Baku has offered its services for the development of the oil and gas reserves of that country (<http://news.day.az/economy/302903.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “at the government level, there is no anti-Iranian propaganda in Azerbaijan, nor is there any anti-Azerbaijani propaganda in Iran,” but that unfortunately, there are forces trying to set the two countries and peoples at odds (<http://news.day.az/politics/302905.html>).

Isfandiyar Vahabzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Minsk, is elected a member of that country's Union of Writers and also a member of the editorial board of *Belaya Vezha* (<http://news.day.az/politics/302904.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, President of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Russia, Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, and Mikhail Meyer, director of the Institute of the Countries of Africa and Asia of Moscow State University, speak to an evening on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the independence of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/302739.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and French Minister for European Affairs Jean Leonetti, together with Elmar Mammadyarov and Edvard Nalbandyan, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, issue a joint statement in Vilnius on the importance of achieving a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/302877.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Russia as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group "calls on the sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to make use of the proposals, which were developed recently as a result of the contacts of the sides of the conflict with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302819.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that "only by the path of negotiations will it be possible to come to a resolution [of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict] that will help establish an atmosphere of trust and stability in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302803.html>).

Ahmet Davutoglu, Turkey's foreign minister, says that "a number of conflicts in the OSCE region unfortunately remain unresolved, which negatively affects the work of the organization and undermines trust in it" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302868.html>).

Erzhan Kazykhanov, Kazakhstan's foreign minister, says that Astana "supports the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and the governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia in their attempts to find a peaceful resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302834.html>).

Lucinda Creighton, Ireland's state minister for European affairs, says that Dublin supports the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and, as the next OSCE chair, is going to propose "our own experience in conflict

resolution” as the basis for future talks on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/302826.html>).

US Senator John McCain tells a meeting of the new NGO, the Azerbaijan-American Union, that “allied relations must be built with such reliable partners as Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/303118.html>).

Siyamek Herawi, press secretary for the president of Afghanistan, says that Kabul welcomes the initiative of Azerbaijan concerning investments in his country (<http://news.day.az/economy/302848.html>).

5 December

President Ilham Aliyev telephones Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to congratulate him on the victory of *United Russia* in the Russian parliamentary elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/302734.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan is ready to increase its investments in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/302709.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his counterparts from Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Portugal, as well as with the trade and development minister from Ireland during his stay in Bonn (<http://news.day.az/politics/302738.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets with his Kazakhstan counterpart, Adilbek Dzhaksibekov, in Astana (<http://news.day.az/economy/302708.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov visits the United Arab Emirates (<http://news.day.az/politics/302696.html>).

Latif Gandilov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Beijing, presents his letters of credence of Chinese President Hu Jintao (<http://news.day.az/politics/302688.html>).

Natig Mammadov, deputy labor and social welfare minister, take part in the 100th session of the International Migration Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/302900.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, says that it is necessary “to focus attention on the resolution of drawn-out conflicts” like the one over Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/302721.html>).

The Federation of Turkish-Azerbaijani Societies organizes an international conference on "Turkish-Azerbaijani Relations in a Developing and Changing World" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302645.html>)

4 December

Ali Hasanov, head of the social political department of the Presidential Administration, during a visit to Tehran, tells Mohammadcafar Mohammadzade, Iran's deputy minister of culture and Islamic heritage, that "the media of Iran must stop anti-Azerbaijani propaganda" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302446.html>).

Azay Guliyev and Eldar Ibrahimov, two Milli Majlis deputies serving as observers in the Russian Duma elections, say that voting there "took place in correspondence with the law" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302494.html>).

3 December

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the reports of *Transparency International* [concerning Azerbaijan and other countries] are far from objective" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302418.html>).

The State Customs Committee says that it plans to sign bilateral customs agreements with Macedonia, Kuwait, Jordan, Hungary and other countries in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/302396.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov confirms the Turkmen delegation to the inter-governmental Turkmen-Azerbaijani commission on economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/302332.html>).

Zoran Vayovic, Serbia's ambassador to Baku, says that he hopes "relations between Azerbaijan and Serbia will soon rise to the level of strategic partnership" (<http://news.day.az/politics/302338.html>).

The European Union launches a series of special seminars and training programs in Azerbaijan on auditing and financial administration (<http://news.day.az/economy/302415.html>).

Haluk Ipek, deputy head of Turkey's ruling *Justice and Developing Party*, says that "the Nagorno-Karabakh problem is close to resolution, because all the countries of the region, in particular Armenia and Russia, understand

the necessity of resolving this problem, the continuation of which is harming these countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/302424.html>).

2 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Swedish Ambassador to Baku, Michael Ericsson (<http://news.day.az/politics/302210.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Croatian Ambassador to Baku, Drazen Hrastic (<http://news.day.az/politics/302210.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that “tolerance and openness are today the most beautiful qualities of the Azerbaijani people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/301421.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfaz Garayev tells Radek Matula, the Czech Republic’s ambassador to Baku, that the two countries will sign a tourism cooperation accord (<http://news.day.az/economy/302296.html>).

Agiya Nakhchyvanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the idea of Azerbaijanism is a new paradigm of development of the public consciousness of the Azerbaijani people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/302225.html>).

The National Council of Youth Organizations hosts an international conference on the development of contacts between young people in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/society/302311.html>).

The Russian embassy in Baku says that there are 6,339 Russian citizens in Azerbaijan registered to take part in the upcoming Duma elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/302241.html>).

1 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from the incoming Ambassador to Baku of Denmark Ruben Madsen (<http://news.day.az/politics/302070.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from the incoming Ambassador to Baku of Bangladesh Zulfikur Rahman (<http://news.day.az/politics/302070.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from the incoming Ambassador to Baku of Vietnam Fam Suan Sean (<http://news.day.az/politics/302070.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from the incoming Ambassador to Baku of Portugal Luiza Bastos de Almeida (<http://news.day.az/politics/302070.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from the incoming Ambassador to Baku of Algeria Mouloud Hamai (<http://news.day.az/politics/302070.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from the incoming Ambassador to Baku of Ghana Seth Koranteng (<http://news.day.az/politics/302070.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Andrey Kostin, president of the VTB Bank of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/302070.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "Azerbaijan has always sought and now attempts to preserve fraternal and goodneighborly relations with Iran" (<http://news.day.az/politics/301924.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the failure of the Armenian community in Karabakh to talk with the Azerbaijani community there means that the Armenians "do not want to end their policy of aggression and use talks for the goal of dragging out the problem" (<http://news.day.az/politics/301924.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku is committed to restoring and maintaining monuments of ancient Albanian culture situated on the border between Azerbaijan and Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/301924.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenians routinely "falsify ancient and contemporary history," including the role of Caucasian Albania (<http://news.day.az/politics/301924.html>).

Georgy Poltavchenko, governor of St. Petersburg, speaks to a meeting of the National-Cultural Autonomy of the Azerbaijanis of St. Petersburg (<http://news.day.az/society/301948.html>).

NOVEMBER

30 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Paulo Antonio Pereira Pinto, Brazil's ambassador to Baku, on the occasion of the latter's completion of his assignment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/301758.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, including both outgoing French co-chair Bernard Fassier and incoming French co-chair Jacques Faure (<http://news.day.az/politics/301758.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev is named "honorary citizen of Astrakhan" and presented with a medal by Sergey Bozhenov, the mayor of that Russian city (<http://news.day.az/politics/301857.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva tells a Vatican ceremony on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the state independence of Azerbaijan that "the leading countries of the world see in Azerbaijan their strategic partner" (<http://news.day.az/politics/301421.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that "for Azerbaijan, Ingushetia is an economically attractive zone" (<http://news.day.az/economy/301766.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets with Rashid Temrezov, head of Karachayevo-Cherkessia (<http://news.day.az/economy/301734.html>).

Deputy Labor and Social Protection Minister Ilgar Rahimov says that Baku is preparing to sign additional chapters of the European Social Charter (<http://news.day.az/society/301712.html>).

Salim Muslimov, head of the State Fund for Social Protection, says that Azerbaijan and Hungary have agreed on an inter-governmental accord concerning social protections (<http://news.day.az/economy/301773.html>).

The National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and the Academy of Sciences of Bulgaria sign a cooperation agreement (<http://news.day.az/society/301812.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group meet with Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/301804.html>).

Eric Rubin, US deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, says that "the United States hopes that in the nearest future the Nagorno-Karabakh problem will be resolved" (<http://news.day.az/politics/301706.html>).

Jerome Pons, charge d'affaires of the European Union office in Baku, says that the EU has allocated 3.7 million manats for the support of transformations in Azerbaijan's legal system (<http://news.day.az/economy/301777.html>).

Renate Held, regional director of the International Organization for Migration, says that "Azerbaijan is carrying out successful measures in the migration sphere" (<http://news.day.az/society/301713.html>).

29 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of incoming Romanian Ambassador to Baku Daniel Christian Ciobanu (<http://news.day.az/politics/301634.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is received by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the State Secretary of the Holy See (<http://news.day.az/politics/301421.html>).

Azerbaijan is chosen vice president of UNESCO's inter-governmental committee on the preservation of non-material heritage (<http://news.day.az/politics/301574.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it welcomes Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's declaration that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "does not have a religious character," but is surprised given his past insistence that to the east of Armenia "there are no Christians" (<http://news.day.az/politics/301465.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan must develop a military code (<http://news.day.az/politics/301618.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group meet with Ayaz Askarov, head of the executive department of the Gazakh District of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/301609.html>).

The US National Democratic Institute resumes its operations in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/301608.html>).

28 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mustafa Cahit Kyrac, governor of Turkey's Izmir Province (<http://news.day.az/politics/301350.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Gigi Ugulava, mayor of Tbilisi (<http://news.day.az/politics/301350.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva meets in Rome with Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's minister for inter-religious dialogue (<http://news.day.az/politics/301421.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov takes part in a meeting of GUAM in Chisinau to prepare for the GUAM ministerial in Vilnius (<http://news.day.az/politics/301336.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets with his counterparts from Turkey and Iran in Tehran to discuss the development of trilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/301268.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Armenian claims about the death of seven Azerbaijani soldiers are "disinformation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/301278.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Budapest, hosts an academic conference devoted to the 20th anniversary of Azerbaijan's restored independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/301351.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Muslim Administration of the Caucasus, meets with Garegin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians, and Kirill, the patriarch of Moscow and All-Russia, in Yerevan and issues together with them a joint statement on the need for a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem (<http://news.day.az/politics/301250.html>).

Rufat Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is no surprise that *Moody's Inversors Service* lowered Armenia's rating from "stable" to

“negative,” because that country has “practically no prospects for development” (<http://news.day.az/politics/301263.html>).

Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Reza Gilani tells Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Islamabad, Dashgyn Shikarov, that Pakistan devotes “great importance” to its relations with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/301353.html>).

Jacques Faure, the new French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, is preparing for his first mission to the Caucasus, according to the French embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/301308.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that he “does not expect anything new” from the next visit of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, but that the visit could “give an additional stimulus to the negotiating process.” He adds that he thinks that “meetings between Azerbaijanis and Armenians ought to be intensive,” because only in that case will it be possible to find a common language” (<http://news.day.az/politics/301305.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, says that the sale of goods by a Turkish company in Khankandi in no way reflects a change in Ankara’s position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/301334.html>).

Ivo Vajgl, a member of the European Parliament’s foreign affairs committee, says that Nagorno-Karabakh is “an inalienable part of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/301331.html>).

26 November

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that “the economy of Azerbaijan forms more than 80 percent of the economy of the entire South Caucasus” and says that Azerbaijan is interested in increasing its investments in the North Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/economy/301097.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Armenian military exercises in the occupied territories do not change anything about the situation on the ground (<http://news.day.az/politics/301121.html>).

Azerbaijani officials take part in a meeting in Ashgabad of the working groups for the development of national action plans within the Framework Convention on the Defense of the Caspian Sea Environment (<http://news.day.az/society/301057.html>).

25 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the level of [Azerbaijan’s] strategic partnership with Russia merits an extraordinarily high rating” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300924.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov participates in Brussels in the 12th meeting of the EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/301006.html>).

Communications and Information Technology Minister Ali Abbasov says that Azerbaijan is now actively participating in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation’s Committee on Scientific-Technical Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/300850.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that “relations with Russia are one of the priority directions of the foreign policy activity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300843.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is responsible for the lack of progress in the talks on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/300845.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that it is currently difficult to say who will win the Armenian presidential elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/300859.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, is elected a member of the Presidium of the Central Council of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress (<http://news.day.az/politics/300976.html>).

Peter Bateman, Britain’s ambassador to Baku, says that trade and investment bring countries and people together, including the British and Azerbaijani peoples (<http://news.day.az/politics/300993.html>).

Hüseyin Diriöz, deputy secretary general of NATO for defense policy and planning, says that NATO supports reforms in the defense sector of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/300866.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, former head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that “Azerbaijani citizens must receive the right to return to the occupied territories” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300900.html>).

Pasqual Gringrow, an official of the French Development Agency, tells Deputy Industry and Energy Minister Natik Abbasov that Paris is ready to finance energy projects in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/301004.html>).

24 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Hüseyin Diriöz, deputy secretary general of NATO for defense policy and planning (<http://news.day.az/politics/300720.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, tells his Russian counterpart Sergey Naryshkin that "Russian-Azerbaijani relations are at the peak of their development" (<http://news.day.az/politics/300709.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Azerbaijan does not expect "anything new" from the upcoming visit of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/300632.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that relations between Azerbaijan and NATO have entered a period of "stagnation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/300657.html>).

Vagif Sadykhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Rome, visits Sicily to develop bilateral cooperation with that region's political and economic leaders (<http://news.day.az/politics/300770.html>).

Officials of the Labor and Social Protection Ministry take part in the European Employment Forum in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/economy/300778.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov and other members of the Azerbaijan-Belgian Inter-Parliamentary Group, call on Belgian Foreign Minister Steven Vanakere to intervene to prevent a Belgian travel firm from organizing tours to occupied Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/300767.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that the Armenian-Turkish border will not be opened as long as Azerbaijani lands remain under Armenian occupation (<http://news.day.az/politics/300780.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that the energy accord between Ankara and Baku "strengthens the role of Azerbaijan in the region" (<http://news.day.az/economy/300785.html>).

Nikolay Bordyuzha, the secretary general of the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty, says that the Gabala radar station "is used in the interests of Russia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/300689.html>).

23 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives the participants of the ministerial conference of the Program of Cooperation of the Countries of Central Asia (CAREC) (<http://news.day.az/politics/300521.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev receives Frank Belfrage, state secretary of the Swedish foreign ministry (<http://news.day.az/economy/300555.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that the Caspian littoral states have “the sovereign right to develop their transportation and energy projects” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300440.html>).

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources hosts a session of the Coordinating Committee of Caspian Littoral Countries on Monitoring Hydrometeorology and Pollution of the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/society/300042.html>).

Mahir Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Damascus, says that his embassy is working normally, but with enhanced security measures (<http://news.day.az/politics/300471.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the ideology of ‘Azerbaijanism’ promotes tolerance and the consolidation of all nations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300453.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “only Armenia” loses from continuing the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/300405.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the definition of Azerbaijanism provided by Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, introduces clarity in Azerbaijani public life and scholarship (<http://news.day.az/politics/300409.html>).

Elmira Akhundova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that she “absolutely agrees” with the idea of Azerbaijanism laid out by Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration (<http://news.day.az/politics/300336.html>).

The Presidential Center for Strategic Research and the Council of International Relations of Argentina sign a cooperation agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/300532.html>).

Moody’s, the international rating service, lowers its assessment of Armenia from “stable” to “negative” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300538.html>).

Kayrat Sarybay, Kazakhstan's deputy foreign minister, says that the Caspian littoral states are united by their desire to develop dialogue on the status of that sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/300475.html>).

Haruhiko Kuroda, the president of the Asian Development Bank, says that his institution is prepared to "provide all necessary support" to Azerbaijan "considering its importance in the region" (<http://news.day.az/economy/300580.html>).

Saida Bagirli, deputy head of the Baku representation of the World Bank, announces that Azerbaijan and the World Bank have signed an agreement, whereby the bank will provide 33.2 million US dollars for the modernization of Azerbaijan's judicial system (<http://news.day.az/economy/300435.html>).

22 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that "our country actively participates" in regional and international information technology projects (<http://news.day.az/politics/300372.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Yoichi Kobayashi, the co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Japan Inter-Governmental Commission (<http://news.day.az/politics/300255.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is awarded a medal by Interpol President Ronald Noble (<http://news.day.az/politics/300334.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, receives Fikret Akchura, the UN resident coordinator for Azerbaijan and is awarded a special certificate for her work (<http://news.day.az/politics/300333.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev receives Andreas Reichhardt, deputy transport, innovation and technology minister of Austria (<http://news.day.az/economy/300316.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the current rent Azerbaijan charges Russia for the use of the Gabala radar station is "insufficient" (<http://news.day.az/politics/300204.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, says that Azerbaijan has the means to return to the population deposits left in banks in Soviet times and that the government is considering mechanisms to do this (<http://news.day.az/economy/300335.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijanism is the unification of the people of Azerbaijan around its most important goal” and that “Heydar Aliyev was the founder of the ideology of ‘Azerbaijanism’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300207.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Heydar Aliyev “realized his dream” in creating modern Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/300188.html>).

Aydyn Jafarov, the permanent representative of the Milli Majlis to the International Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS, says that Azerbaijani representatives will take part in the monitoring of Russian State Duma elections in the North Caucasus Federal District (<http://news.day.az/politics/300288.html>).

Semen Ikhilov, head of the Community of Mountain Jews of Azerbaijan, says that “there never was and never will be anti-Semitism in Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300317.html>).

Ilgar Abbasov resigns as chairman of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/300171.html>).

Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Erzhan Kazykhanov says that “all disagreements among the Caspian littoral states can be resolved by negotiations in the near future” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300278.html>).

The Ukrainian government proposes to that country’s parliament a bill that would give Azerbaijan a 50 percent discount for the cost of transiting oil through the port of Yuzhny (<http://news.day.az/economy/300211.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “certain forces are trying to introduce discord in Turkish-Azerbaijani relations,” but that they will not succeed (<http://news.day.az/politics/300347.html>).

Volkan Bozkir, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly and a chair of the Assembly’s foreign relations committee, says that “Armenia is tied by hand and feet” and cannot achieve its goals because of the close ties between Turkey and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/300329.html>).

21 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Volkan Bozkir, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly and a chair of the Assembly's foreign relations committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/300061.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ray Mabus, Secretary of the US Navy (<http://news.day.az/politics/300061.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence of the incoming ambassador of Romania to Baku Daniel Christian Ciobanu (<http://news.day.az/politics/300056.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Buenos Aires, says that the Argentinian authorities have been warned that the visit of Bako Saakyan, head of the separatist regime of Nagorno-Karabakh, to their country is illegal (<http://news.day.az/politics/299962.html>).

Deputy Emergency Situations Minister Faik Tagizade says that Baku has the resources to cope with any oil leaks in the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/economy/299954.html>).

Gudrat Gurbanov, head of the State Maritime Administration, takes part in the 27th session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization meeting in London (<http://news.day.az/society/300021.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that "the Azerbaijani army at any moment is capable of teaching a lesson to the enemy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/300050.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the power structure in Armenia is collapsing like a house of cards" (<http://news.day.az/politics/300003.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there is no such people as "the Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/299724.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, presents Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, with a medal on the latter's 65th birthday (<http://news.day.az/society/300137.html>).

Rahim Gumbatov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of Crimea, says that "Sargsyan and Melik-Shakhnazaryan have demeaned the Armenian people" (<http://news.day.az/politics/299968.html>).

Kazakhstan Prime Minister Karim Masimov says that “Azerbaijan is an important partner for Kazakhstan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299932.html>).

Volkan Bozkir, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly and a chair of the Assembly’s foreign relations committee, says that “without a solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the borders of Turkey and Armenia will not be opened” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300127.html>). He adds that the Zurich protocols signed by Turkey and Armenia “will not be ratified” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299958.html>).

Jean-Paul Carteron, chairman of the Crans Montana Forum, says that “Azerbaijan has become one of the important elements of European and Global Security” (<http://news.day.az/politics/300007.html>).

20 November

An Azerbaijani television channel begins broadcasting thrice weekly in Canada (<http://news.day.az/society/300014.html>).

19 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Siim Kallas, vice president of the European Commission and commissioner for transport (<http://news.day.az/politics/299830.html>).

Emil Mirzoyev, president of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden, tells Swedish parliamentarians that they should put pressure on Armenia to live up to international law and resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/299760.html>).

18 November

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets in Almaty with his Ukrainian and Belorussian counterparts, Mikhail Yezhel and Yuri Zhadobin, to discuss expanding military-technical cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/299650.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that “Azerbaijan is winning ever more successes in the world arena both in the cultural and the political context” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299454.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, publishes a two-volume work, *Introduction to Geopolitics* (<http://news.day.az/politics/299538.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “a lot depends on the will of the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299655.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the occupation by Armenia of Azerbaijani territory undermines global security” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299508.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia’s economic, demographic and political situation would not be so dire if Yerevan’s leaders showed more wisdom (<http://news.day.az/politics/299686.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku does not recognize the so-called “presidential elections” in South Ossetia as legitimate (<http://news.day.az/politics/299632.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijanism has brought to first place the principle of citizenship and not national membership” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299606.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan is struggling to deal with massive outmigration by trying to settle more Armenians in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/299385.html>).

Govkhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia is not a state, but only the name of a territory” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299516.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, sends a letter to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan offering additional assistance to Turks who suffered from the earthquake in Van Province (<http://news.day.az/society/299648.html>).

Pakistani Foreign Minister Nina Rabbani Khar says that Armenia must withdraw without qualification from the occupied Azerbaijani territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/299563.html>).

Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov says that Moscow plans to completely reconstruct the Gabala radar station in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/299490.html>).

The Swiss foreign ministry says that Bern does not recognize “the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh” and “never has cast doubt on the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299697.html>).

The Russian State Duma ratifies the agreement on security cooperation on the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/299671.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, says that Ankara will soon open a consulate in Lankaran (<http://news.day.az/politics/299630.html>).

Col.Gen. Nikolay Lisinsky, head of the FSB’s regional border administration, says that the border services of the Caspian littoral states will conduct joint exercises and that exercises of the border services of Russia and Azerbaijan are also required (<http://news.day.az/politics/299596.html>).

Adel Mohammad Adaileh, Jordan’s ambassador to Baku, says that Amman plans to open a trade center in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/299595.html>).

Adel Mohammad Adaileh, Jordan’s ambassador to Baku, says that more Azerbaijani students should come to study in Jordanian universities. At present, there are 29 Jordanians in Azerbaijani higher schools, but only two Azerbaijanis in Jordanian ones (<http://news.day.az/society/299627.html>).

Turkey completes work on the border tunnel for the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad (<http://news.day.az/economy/299663.html>).

17 November

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that the Azerbaijani government will index the salaries of Azerbaijani diplomats working abroad on the basis of the rate of inflation in their countries of residence (<http://news.day.az/politics/299457.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Budapest, organizes a Day of Azerbaijan devoted to the 20th anniversary of the restoration of Azerbaijan’s state independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/299445.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that “as always,” *Amnesty International* has adopted “an adjust position toward Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299330.html>).

Asef Hajiyeu, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the OSCE Minsk Group has not justified the faith” that many have placed in it (<http://news.day.az/politics/299396.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “power in Armenia is in the hands of terrorists” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299338.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the ideology of ‘Azerbaijanism’ calls for the unification of all the ethnoses of our country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299240.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the ideology of ‘Azerbaijanism’ is a combination of contemporary world views” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299250.html>).

Azerbaijan marks the Day of National Revival (<http://news.day.az/politics/298553.html>).

Serik Primbetov, Kazakhstan’s ambassador to Baku, presents the Azerbaijani language version of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev’s *The Path of Kazakhstan* (<http://news.day.az/politics/299438.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the European Union for foreign policy and security policy, says the EU will support the efforts of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/299405.html>).

Daniel Stein, senior advisor to the US Department of State special envoy for Eurasian energy affairs, says that “if Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan agree” to build a pipeline across the Caspian, “no country will have the right to block this decision” (<http://news.day.az/economy/299362.html>).

Karl-Georg Wellman, a German parliamentarian, says that “the return of occupied Azerbaijani lands is a condition for the peaceful solution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299502.html>).

Barry Devolin is elected the new president of the Canadian-Azerbaijani Interparliamentary Friendship Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/299335.html>).

Hikmet Cetin, former Turkish foreign minister, says that stability in the Caucasus region is “impossible without peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299367.html>).

16 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Pier Luigi Malesani, the chairman of the supervisory board of *Euronews*, and Michael Peters, the managing director of the executive board of that television channel (<http://news.day.az/politics/299192.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-zade receives Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the European Union for foreign policy and security policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/299194.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov and Saida Bagirli, deputy head of the World Bank office in Baku, sign a credit agreement providing for 50 million US dollars for Azerbaijan to improve the live of forced re-settlers (<http://news.day.az/economy/299186.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov and Kazakhstan Defense Minister Adilbek Dzhaksybekov agree on the expansion of defense industry cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/299267.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that the World Bank has agreed to help Azerbaijan establish an electronic system of monitoring in the state sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/299292.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that “the Azerbaijani national idea is distinguished by its content, universality, humanity, flexibility, and naturalness” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299115.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/299206.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan and the Venetian Commission share a common view on state financing of political parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/299238.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijanis and Armenians “who will live together in Nagorno-Karabakh must discuss the conditions of their future co-existence” (<http://news.day.az/politics/299213.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Aleksandr Golovin, special representative of the President of Russia for the delimitation and

demarcation of the borders of Russia with CIS countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/299291.html>).

Gudsi Osmanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in St. Petersburg, says that "the journal [*Baku*] plays a very large role in propagandizing the history of Azerbaijan and the traditions and culture of the Azerbaijani people" (<http://news.day.az/society/298918.html>).

The Defense Ministry receives a delegation from the Czech defense ministry policy and strategy department (<http://news.day.az/politics/299286.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Formations, says that "in Azerbaijan there are people who use religion for their personal and political goals" and that to counter this, Azerbaijan "needs highly qualified theologians" (<http://news.day.az/society/299216.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the European Union for foreign policy and security policy, says that the EU is "interested in pushing forward in the resolution of conflicts in the South Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/299251.html>).

Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi says that Bucharest supports "the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group on the basis of the norms of international law" (<http://news.day.az/politics/299220.html>).

Taleb Rifai, secretary general of the World Tourism Organization, says that his group opposes the destruction of cultural monuments by Armenia in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/299191.html>).

Daniel Stein, senior advisor to the US Department of State special envoy for Eurasian energy affairs, says that "there are no obstacles for the construction of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline" (<http://news.day.az/economy/299187.html>).

15 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/299049.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Taleb Rifai, the secretary general of the World Tourism Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/299049.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Richard Morningstar, the US Secretary of State's Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy (<http://news.day.az/politics/299049.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Vladimir Andreychenko, the speaker of the House of Representatives of the Belorussian Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/299049.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Latifa Akherbash, the state secretary for foreign affairs of Morocco (<http://news.day.az/politics/299085.html>).

Labor and Social Protection Minister Fizuli Alakparov signs a cooperation accord with his Bulgarian counterpart Totyu Mladenov (<http://news.day.az/economy/298939.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the Azerbaijani embassy in Damascus is operating normally (<http://news.day.az/politics/298945.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there is little reason to expect any breakthrough on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/298884.html>).

Govkhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia has driven itself into a dead end" (<http://news.day.az/politics/298882.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the situation regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh talks appears "hopelessly at a dead end" (<http://news.day.az/politics/298826.html>).

The Milli Majlis confirms an agreement ending a requirement for Azerbaijanis and Poles with diplomatic passports to secure visas before visiting each other's country (<http://news.day.az/politics/298996.html>).

Azerbaijani defense officials participate in the international air and cosmic exhibit and conference in Dubai (<http://news.day.az/economy/299086.html>).

Bulgarian President Georgy Parvanov says that "Azerbaijan must play a key role in the development of the Southern Gas Corridor" (<http://news.day.az/politics/299014.html>).

Richard Morningstar, the US Secretary of State's Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy, says that the United States supports the project of building the Trans-Caspian pipeline (<http://news.day.az/economy/299057.html>).

Latvian Minister of Economy Daniels Pavļuts proposed holding Azerbaijan Days in Latvia in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/298910.html>).

Taleb Rifai, secretary general of the World Tourism Organization, calls on Azerbaijan and Armenia to settle their conflict about Nagorno-Karabakh so that each side can benefit from visitors (<http://news.day.az/politics/298999.html>).

Muharrem Varly, a deputy of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, calls on Ankara to put pressure on Yerevan to withdraw from the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/298916.html>).

Turkey's transportation ministry says that Ankara has completed 35 percent of the work on the construction of the 76 kilometer section of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway within Turkey (<http://news.day.az/economy/298949.html>).

A Pakistani defense firm says that Azerbaijan has declared its intention to purchase military jets of the JF-17 Thunder type that are being jointly produced by Pakistan and China (<http://news.day.az/politics/298943.html>).

14 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Doris Leuthard, Switzerland's minister of energy, environment, communications and transportation (<http://news.day.az/politics/298819.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Latvian Minister of Economy Daniels Pavļuts (<http://news.day.az/politics/298819.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Maria Victoria Sola Pliego, Spain's ambassador for special assignments for the countries of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/298849.html>).

Mohammed Baqir Bahrami, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that he "already sees a common happy future of Iran and Azerbaijan," because relations between the two countries are "at a high level" and that "there are no states in the world, which are as close to one another as are Azerbaijan and Iran" (<http://news.day.az/politics/298813.html>).

Charles Lonsdale, Britain's ambassador to Yerevan, says that the United Kingdom supports talks on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh

conflict in the format of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/298762.html>).

Vladimir Andreychenko, speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, says that “Azerbaijani-Belorussian relations are on the rise” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298655.html>).

The World Bank announces that Azerbaijan now ranks 77th out of 183 countries in the ranking on payment of taxes (<http://news.day.az/economy/298842.html>).

13 November

The Center for Strategic Research in the Office of the President signs a cooperation agreement with the International Institute for Political Research of Italy (<http://news.day.az/politics/298583.html>).

12 November

Turkey's President Abdulla Gul confirms the long-term program and action plan for trade and economic cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/298483.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden says that Armenian claims that the Swedish parliament has dropped plans to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict because of pressure from the Armenian lobby are false (<http://news.day.az/politics/298498.html>).

11 November

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Hungarian President Pal Schmitt that Azerbaijan is “making its contribution to the energy security of our partners” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298201.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that “the drawing out of the Karabakh conflict can lead to major consequences for all of Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298412.html>).

Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Islamabad, meets with Asif Shamdani, commander of the Pakistani navy (<http://news.day.az/politics/298341.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says the Chisinau's dismissal of the chief of its general staff over reports that Moldova was

selling arms to Armenia shows that “the authorities of Moldova relate seriously to the question of the illegal sales of arms” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298296.html>).

Fazail Ibrahimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia “already for a long time” has displayed “all the signs of a systemic crisis” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298351.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, co-chair of the Azerbaijani-Turkish interparliamentary friendship group, says that “the establishment of a common television channel for Turkish language states” is something for which there is “great social interest” (<http://news.day.az/society/298386.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan, says that “the idea of the Armenians about building a city on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is a major mistake” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298433.html>).

Uzi Landau, Israel’s national infrastructure minister, says that “Israel views Karabakh resolution in the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298312.html>).

Igor Bordiu, Moldovan ambassador to Baku, says that Chisinau does not intend to sell weapons to Armenia and that reports to the contrary are “false” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298292.html>).

The State Committee on Standards, Metrology and Patents signs a cooperation agreement with its Hungarian counterpart (<http://news.day.az/economy/298389.html>).

10 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Uzi Landau, Israel’s minister of national infrastructure (<http://news.day.az/politics/298176.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Helge Lund, executive director of Statoil Hydro (<http://news.day.az/politics/298176.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Israeli National Infrastructure Minister Uzi Landau say that Azerbaijan and Israel intend to “broaden cooperation in the areas of economics, trade, agriculture and information technology” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298197.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov meets with his Russian counterpart Gennady Gatilov to discuss upcoming agendas at the UN Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/298189.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that recent declarations by Yerevan that “victory in the Karabakh war can also be assessed as the victory of the Armenian intelligence service over the Azerbaijani” are not only false, “but more like a fairy tale than a declaration” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298078.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, meets with his Ukrainian counterpart Vladimir Litvin in St. Petersburg, and the latter says that Ukraine is “ready to assist the negotiating process” on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/298063.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Turkish language can be accepted as the common language for the Turkic world” (<http://news.day.az/society/298196.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijani deputies have always been in favor of meetings between the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Nagorno-Karabakh, “but there are definite forces which want to interfere” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298084.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, calls on Azerbaijani citizens who are ethnic Armenians living on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh to respect the Constitution of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/298080.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, says that efforts by Armenia to use the airport in Khankandi are “a provocation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/298090.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, calls on international organizations, including religious groups, to condemn the destruction by Armenians of historical monuments on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/298097.html>).

Farhad Badalbayli, a member of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, says members of his group will meet with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/298111.html>).

Azerbaijanis living in Poland send a letter to the Russian embassy in Warsaw protesting the statements of Vladimir Solovyev on *Vesti FM* concerning Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/298178.html>).

Vladimir Makukha, Ukraine's deputy minister for energy and the coal industry, says that Kyiv has approved a law on the ratification of accords with Baku relative to cooperation on the transport of oil through Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/economy/298070.html>).

Francis Gurry, the director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization, says that Armenia must follow international law when it uses Azerbaijani folklore or other works from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/298211.html>).

Firuz Kazemzadeh, professor emeritus of Yale, visits Baku to speak and to launch the Russian version of his book, *The Struggle for the Transcaucasus, 1917-1921* (<http://news.day.az/politics/298157.html>).

Lord Laird, the chairman of the Consultative Council of the European-Azerbaijani Society, says that Azerbaijan is "a country inclined toward the West" (<http://news.day.az/economy/298154.html>).

9 November

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Ukraine, meets with Aleksandr Lavirinovich, that country's justice minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/297949.html>).

Ramil Gurbanov, Azerbaijan's vice consul in Los Angeles, takes part in a conference of the National Council for Exports in Nevada (<http://news.day.az/politics/297955.html>).

Hungarian President Pál Schmitt says that "Azerbaijan can play a key role in the projects of the Southern Gas Corridor" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297913.html>).

Jonas Gahr Støre, Norwegian foreign minister, says that regional conflicts like the one in and around Nagorno-Karabakh must be resolved "exclusively by peaceful means" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297967.html>).

The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development together with the World Bank says it will help Azerbaijan to increase its competitiveness in oil and gas operations (<http://news.day.az/economy/297939.html>).

Israel withdraws its warning to its citizens concerning terrorism-related dangers to visiting the countries of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/297963.html>).

Armenia conducts major military exercises in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/297947.html>).

8 November

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, meets with senior Iranian ayatollahs in Qum (<http://news.day.az/politics/297830.html>).

The Foreign Ministry protests Armenia's inclusion of a segment on Nagorno-Karabakh at the World Travel Market exhibition in London (<http://news.day.az/politics/297833.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan has "the complete right" to block the use of the Khankandi airport through the offices of the International Organization of Civil Aviation (<http://news.day.az/politics/297871.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman of the *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, visits China at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (<http://news.day.az/politics/297869.html>).

The North-South Political Science Center for the development of scientific and information ties with the countries of the South Caucasus opens in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/297858.html>).

7 November

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the crisis situation in Armenia has intensified" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297209.html>).

Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic invites Baku to invest in the privatization effort in his country (<http://news.day.az/economy/297766.html>).

6 November

Turkish officials and citizens are pleased that Azerbaijan was the first country to respond to the earthquake near Lake Van in Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/297600.html>).

5 November

Gursel Ismailzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tokyo, says that Baku intends to involve Japanese companies in the development of the country's highway infrastructure (<http://news.day.az/politics/297551.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian "friends" prompted Vladimir Solovyev on Moscow's *Vesti FM* to slander the Azerbaijani people (<http://news.day.az/politics/297552.html>).

The Union of Student Organizations of Azerbaijan sends an appeal to senior Russian officials denouncing statements by Vladimir Solovyev on Moscow's *Vesti FM* about the Azerbaijani people (<http://news.day.az/politics/297589.html>).

Günther Oettinger, the European Union commissioner for energy, says that "the projected Nabucco gas pipeline is expensive and that careful investors need to be convinced to invest money in it" (<http://news.day.az/economy/297544.html>).

4 November

Energy and Industry Minister Natic Aliyev meets with his Argentinian counterpart Lino Baranao (<http://news.day.az/economy/297389.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to the UN Secretary General concerning Armenian violations of the ceasefire and attacks on civilians in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/297453.html>).

Gursel Ismailzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tokyo, has an interview published in various Japanese newspapers on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/297456.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia in violation of all norms and principles of international law continues its policy of artificial and illegal settlement of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/297308.html>).

The Foreign Ministry responds to threats from Hezbollah to "expel" the Azerbaijani consulate general from Tabriz by saying that "the security of the diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan abroad are always at the center of attention of official Baku" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297368.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that all possible influential people, including religious leaders, should be used for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/297361.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, criticizes the statements about Azerbaijanis by Vladimir Solovyev on Moscow's *Vesti FM* (<http://news.day.az/politics/297445.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian officials are quitting because they are "afraid" of being judged by the Armenian people (<http://news.day.az/politics/297136.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he is profoundly angered by the statements by Vladimir Solovyev on *Vesti FM* about the Azerbaijani people (<http://news.day.az/politics/297291.html>).

Azerbaijan is elected to the intergovernmental councils of international development programs for hydrology and communications at the 36th General Conference of UNESCO (<http://news.day.az/politics/297898.html>).

Azerbaijani and Georgian consular officials consult in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/297440.html>).

Azerbaijan signs agreements with three international lobbying agencies to advance its campaign to be named the site of the 2020 Olympic Games (<http://news.day.az/sport/297520.html>).

US President Barak Obama greets President Ilham Aliyev on the occasion of the Gurban holiday (<http://news.day.az/politics/297460.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Armenian actions have prevented the ratification of the Zurich Protocols (<http://news.day.az/politics/297252.html>).

Semyon Ikhilov, head of the religious community of Mountain Jews of Azerbaijan, says that the declarations of Vladimir Solovyev on Moscow's *Vesti FM* are "hypocrisy, a diversion and slander" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297422.html>).

The Russian and Jewish communities of Azerbaijan appeal to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and other Russian officials to take action against Vladimir Solovyev for his false and slanderous statements on *Vesti FM* about the Azerbaijani people (<http://news.day.az/politics/297275.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan, says that “the election of Azerbaijan as a temporary member of the Security Council is a major diplomatic victory” and that “naturally, our country will use this opportunity also for the resolution of the Karabakh problem” (<http://news.day.az/politics/297347.html>).

Petros Efthymiou, president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that recent activity by the Minsk Group “testifies to our support for the strengthening of the activity of the OSCE concerning the resolution of conflicts” (<http://news.day.az/politics/297332.html>).

Ireland names Kenneth Thompson as its ambassador to Ankara and Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/297297.html>).

3 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Asad Alam, the World Bank’s regional director for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/297142.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Wolfgang Ischinger, the president of the Munich Security Conference (<http://news.day.az/politics/297142.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, visits New York to take part in discussions on children’s health (<http://news.day.az/politics/296814.html>).

Defense Ministry Safar Abiyev receives Peter Bateman, Britain’s ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/297100.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev signs a cooperation agreement with his Argentine counterpart Lino Baranao (<http://news.day.az/economy/297067.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the election of Azerbaijan to the UN Security Council shows that Baku “has the support of the majority of countries of the world,” something that can only disturb Armenian leaders (<http://news.day.az/politics/297222.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “the economic and social crisis of Armenia is now manifesting itself in politics as well” (<http://news.day.az/politics/297135.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the current situation in the Armenian elite reflects the problems in Armenia as a whole (<http://news.day.az/politics/296991.html>).

The Milli Majlis hosts the first session of the commission on international ties of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Language Countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/297077.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that "Azerbaijanis now in a position to restore its own history" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297106.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov says that the Trans-Caspian pipeline is an important project which "testifies to the willingness of Turkmenistan to engage in mutually profitable cooperation with all interested sides" (<http://news.day.az/economy/297132.html>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes Azerbaijan's election to the UN Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/297157.html>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry issues a statement reminding Russians that entry into the occupied territories is seriously complicated by the positions of the sides and the absence of international ties between Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/297159.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that the GUAM member countries intend to expand cooperation with Japan in transportation, energy and nano-technology (<http://news.day.az/politics/297182.html>).

Maharram Inci, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that he does not believe the Zurich Protocols can be submitted for ratification to the Turkish parliament (<http://news.day.az/society/297097.html>).

Milan Tsabnokh, the co-chair of the commission for parliamentary cooperation between Armenia and the European Union, says that "the current status quo on the question of Nagorno-Karabakh is unacceptable" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297154.html>).

Joseph Owen, the head of the Baku office of the World Bank, says that his organization has conducted a review of the World Bank-backed projects in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/297228.html>).

2 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Lino Baranao, Argentina's minister for science, technology and productive innovations (<http://news.day.az/politics/296951.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming United Arab Emirates ambassador Salem Khalif Muhammad al-Hafli (<http://news.day.az/politics/296951.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Sergey Stepashin, head of the Russian Accounting Chamber (<http://news.day.az/politics/296937.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov meets with his Turkish counterpart Sadullah Ergin and the two establish a joint working group to promote cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/296877.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Yerevan regularly tries "to show that the situation in the Armenian army is better than it in fact is" (<http://news.day.az/politics/297020.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Turkey's Justice Minister Sadullah Ergin (<http://news.day.az/politics/297021.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the current level of Azerbaijani-Turkish relations makes the conduct of joint military training exercises a necessity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/296998.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan is doing everything it can to conceal the disorder in the ranks of the Armenian army (<http://news.day.az/politics/296948.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Nagorno-Karabakh should discuss issues concerning their joint residency in that region (<http://news.day.az/politics/296948.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sends Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov a message of greetings on the occasion of Gurban Bayram (<http://news.day.az/politics/296890.html>).

Lino Baranao, Argentina's minister for science, technology and productive innovations, says that Argentina in a short time will open an embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/296934.html>).

Sergey Stepashin, head of Russia's Accounting Chamber, says that Azerbaijan's experience in constructing highways can be applied in Russia (<http://news.day.az/economy/296947.html>).

Sergey Stepashin, head of the Russian Accounting Chamber, says that Azerbaijan “effectively uses the resources of the State Oil Fund” (<http://news.day.az/economy/296914.html>).

Lamberto Zannier, the OSCE’s new secretary general, says that Turkey is “an important player in the region” and “can offer political support in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296891.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the European Union representation in Baku, says that “the EU welcomes the signing of an agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey on the transit of gas” (<http://news.day.az/economy/296895.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the European Union representation in Baku, says that Azerbaijan must “continue the liberalization of its economy and the formation of free market relations in order to achieve still greater integration into the world economy” (<http://news.day.az/economy/296884.html>).

1 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergey Stepashin, head of the Russian Accounting Chamber (<http://news.day.az/politics/296806.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish Justice Minister Sadullah Ergin (<http://news.day.az/politics/296806.html>).

Ibrahim Hajiyeu, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to India, presents his letters of credence to the president of that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/296808.html>).

Eleonora Huseynova, the permanent representative of Azerbaijan to UNESCO, tells that organization that Armenia continues to destroy historical and cultural monuments of Azerbaijan and to fail to stop the illegal distribution of drugs and human organs in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/296658.html>).

Fazail Ibrahimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Yerevan authorities lack “the political will” to hold normal elections and take decisions on the problems of Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/296656.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he is “pleased” that there are some people in Armenia who understand “the real situation” and are ready to act on it (<http://news.day.az/politics/296637.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis, says that “Armenia has again shown its medieval thinking” in its talk about the borders of the Armenian people in the past (<http://news.day.az/politics/296585.html>).

The Second Forum of Azerbaijani Youth of Ukraine opens in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/296730.html>).

The International Monetary Fund says that the holdings of the Azerbaijani Central Bank and the State Oil Fund are “sufficient for overcoming the consequences of the world financial crisis” (<http://news.day.az/economy/296815.html>). It adds that it supports Azerbaijan’s shift from annual to mid-term budgeting (<http://news.day.az/economy/296791.html>).

Muhammadsaqir Bahrami, Iran’s ambassador to Baku, greets the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of Gurban Bayram (<http://news.day.az/politics/296796.html>).

Turkey’s Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Taner Yildiz says that Azerbaijan and Turkey have reached agreement on gas prices which will remain unchanged until 2018 (<http://news.day.az/economy/296655.html>).

The Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Development says that “the study of international experience in increasing the role of ecologically pure agriculture in the export of non-petroleum production has great importance for Azerbaijan and Turkey” (<http://news.day.az/economy/296795.html>).

Maharram Varly, a deputy of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “a complete collapse awaits Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296377.html>).

The US Department of State annual report on human trafficking says that in 2010 Azerbaijan devoted significant efforts to defending and protecting the victims of such trafficking (<http://news.day.az/society/296678.html>).

Peter Semneby, former special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that “the crisis around Nagorno-Karabakh continues to intensify, and the situation up to now seems at a dead end and irresolvable ... A real danger of a sharp escalation exists” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296717.html>).

OCTOBER

31 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tae Won Chey, chairman of Korea's SK group of companies (<http://news.day.az/politics/296533.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that statements by Armenian officials about the supposed need to revise the Madrid Principles represent efforts by Yerevan to delay any settlement (<http://news.day.az/politics/296442.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that efforts to raise questions about democracy in negotiations about Nagorno-Karabakh represent efforts "to put pressure on Azerbaijan and interfere with the realization of its independent policy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/296603.html>).

Federico Berna, the representative of the European Commission in Baku, says that the Commission will release a second tranche for the development of sustainable energy in Azerbaijan before the end of the year (<http://news.day.az/economy/296461.html>).

29 October

President Ilham Aliyev telephones his Turkish counterpart Abdulla Gul (<http://news.day.az/politics/296337.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Christoph Strässer, the special rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe lacks objectivity in his assessments of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/296296.html>).

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle says in Yerevan that “the status quo in the Karabakh conflict represents a significant threat” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296269.html>).

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz says that the age and location of the Metzamor Atomic Energy Station in Yerevan mean that it must be closed and that Ankara will seek that end (<http://news.day.az/politics/296268.html>).

28 October

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Second Media Forum of Turkic Language Countries in Baku that the media of these countries “can make a major contribution to the further rapprochement of our states and peoples” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296065.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the family of Thor Heyerdahl, the noted explorer who is the subject of a conference in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/296172.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan as a member of the UN Security Council will support peace and stability, conflict resolution, the struggle with global warming, the liquidation of poverty, and “broad propaganda of multi-culturalism” of the kind Azerbaijan exemplifies (<http://news.day.az/politics/296098.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Salem Halif al-Egfali, incoming ambassador to Baku from the United Arab Emirates (<http://news.day.az/politics/296153.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the unity of the Turkic language media is “a necessity of the present day” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295989.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan “did not agree with certain proposals of the Venetian Commission of the Council of Europe concerning the financing of political parties” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296047.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Azerbaijani media “are not ready for the adoption of a law ‘On defense from defamation’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296187.html>).

Natig Amirov, the first deputy taxation minister, says that Baku and the International Monetary Fund have discussed the formation in Azerbaijan of a favorable climate for innovation (<http://news.day.az/economy/296034.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “only those people who are directly participating in talks on Karabakh know whether the OSCE Minsk Group has finally exhausted all its resources” (<http://news.day.az/politics/296014.html>).

Aydin Abbasov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the ruling party of Armenia intends to retain power by whatever means are necessary” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295987.html>).

Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that the media have the task to broaden fraternal relations between Turkic peoples and countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/296050.html>).

The European Union representation in Baku congratulates Azerbaijan on its election to the UN Security Council for the period 2012-2013 (<http://news.day.az/politics/296095.html>).

Günther Oettinger, the EU's commissioner for energy, says that the European Union “wants to see a pipeline linking Europe and Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/economy/296119.html>).

The World Bank has approved a credit line of 50 million US dollars from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development for Azerbaijan to improve the conditions of life and incomes of those forcibly resettled as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/economy/296031.html>).

27 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives participants in the 31st session of the council of heads of organs of security and special services of the CIS member countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/295914.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Philippe Lefort, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/295923.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Ian Biggs, Australia's ambassador to Baku, to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/295917.html>).

Namik Aliyev, deputy taxation minister, says that the coordinating council of the heads of tax investigations of the CIS states is “an important and effective inter-governmental organ of cooperation” (<http://news.day.az/economy/295878.html>).

The Health Ministry and the World Health Organization sign a new group of cooperation agreements (<http://news.day.az/society/295888.html>).

Askar Abdullayev, deputy head of the State Customs Committee, says that Georgia and Azerbaijan are working together on the modernization of their customs rules in order to facilitate the expansion of trade (<http://news.day.az/politics/295903.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a member of Azerbaijan’s delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, says that Azerbaijan’s election to the UN Security council will “increase the significance of issues raised by Azerbaijan in other authoritative international organizations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295936.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia has not established itself as a state” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295719.html>).

Asef Hajiyeu, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that no one should be surprised by “the hysteria” in Yerevan over the election of Azerbaijan to the UN Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/295764.html>).

Rafael Jabrailov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan “continues to occupy itself with political mystification” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295766.html>).

Rovnag Abdullayev, president of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijan and Turkey plan to build a new gas pipeline in Turkey to handle additional exports over the next 15 years (<http://news.day.az/economy/295957.html>).

Representative Bill Shuster, who co-chairs the working group on Azerbaijan in the US Congress, says that “Azerbaijan is assuredly going toward the establishment of democratic institutions and a multi-sided economy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295952.html>).

Turkey’s Minister for Negotiations with the European Union Egemen Bagys says that Turkey is “glad of the election of fraternal Azerbaijan as a member of the UN Security Council” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295956.html>).

Russia's Deputy Interior Minister Igor Aleshin says that "the countries of the CIS do not experience serious problems in the investigation of tax and financial crimes" because of their close coordination and cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/295795.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the United States welcomes the signing of the gas transit agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/295765.html>).

Philippe Lefort, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, says that "the main obstacle" to the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is "the lack of trust between the sides" (<http://news.day.az/politics/295873.html>).

26 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze (<http://news.day.az/politics/295729.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Leonid Maltsev, state secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Belarus (<http://news.day.az/politics/295729.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Philippe Lefort, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/295729.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Elin Emin oglu Suleymanov, who had been Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, as ambassador to Washington (<http://news.day.az/politics/295745.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva tells the UNESCO General Conference that "conflict and its consequences for [Azerbaijan] are not simply words but a bitter truth" (<http://news.day.az/politics/295730.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze that "no one expected that such a complicated problem as a territorial conflict will be resolved in the course of one night, but the Prague process exists and it presupposes a step-by-step resolution" (<http://news.day.az/politics/295641.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze agree to hold regular consultations between their two ministries (<http://news.day.az/politics/295675.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Azerbaijan can raise the question of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the UN Security Council” now that Baku has been elected a member of that body for 2012-2013 (<http://news.day.az/politics/295662.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, heads an Azerbaijani delegation to the fourth conference of the member countries of the UN Convention Against Corruption (<http://news.day.az/politics/295648.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Moscow, says that “Russia is a special country for Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295710.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that problems within the Armenian defense ministry are being reflected in that country’s military (<http://news.day.az/politics/295581.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan’s election to the UN Security Council will allow Baku to advance its positions there and in other international forums (<http://news.day.az/politics/295576.html>).

Azerbaijan is chosen as a vice president of the UNESCO General Conference (<http://news.day.az/politics/295753.html>).

Shukru Ajalan, a deputy to Turkey’s Grand National Assembly says that certain forces are trying to prevent the rapprochement of Baku, Yerevan and Ankara (<http://news.day.az/politics/295382.html>).

25 October

President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan sign agreements in Izmir on gas transit (<http://news.day.az/politics/295351.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that Azerbaijanis can be proud that their country is now a member of the UN Security Council, “the most authoritative body in the world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295398.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is not, was not and will not be the subject of negotiations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295250.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan “in the first instance” will use its membership in the UN Security Council to raise the issue of the violation of its territorial integrity (<http://news.day.az/politics/295494.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the election of Azerbaijan to the UN Security Council is a big victory of Azerbaijani diplomacy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295379.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the election of Azerbaijan to the UN Security Council makes “a significant contribution” to the support of peace and stability throughout the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/295322.html>).

The Azerbaijani government and the World Bank sign a credit agreement on providing 80 million US dollars for the support of the water consumers (<http://news.day.az/economy/295471.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the election of Azerbaijan to the UN Security Council is “a big victory and achievement” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295479.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the election of such a young state as Azerbaijan as a non-permanent member of such an influential organization as the UN Security Council is an obvious example of the support in the world of the policy of our country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295410.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Azerbaijan’s election to the UN Security Council is “a great success” for Azerbaijani foreign policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/295354.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is occupying himself with “political populism” in an effort to retain power (<http://news.day.az/politics/295332.html>).

Fuad Aliyev, head of the Liberal Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, says that his group is cooperating with Russian parties of similar views (<http://news.day.az/politics/295344.html>).

Turkey’s Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Azerbaijan and Turkey “in addition to energy have discussed cooperation in military affairs and tourism” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295425.html>).

Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko says that “Belarus is ready to provide all-around support to the initiatives and undertakings of Azerbaijan on the international level” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295530.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group say that during their visit to the South Caucasus they offered a number of confidence building measures to the sides in the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/295303.html>).

24 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Greek Environment, Energy and Climate Change Minister George Papaconstantinou (<http://news.day.az/politics/295230.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/295230.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive creating a permanent organizing committee for future international humanitarian forums in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/295294.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “the withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories around Karabakh will create a phenomenal possibility” for progress (<http://news.day.az/politics/295300.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov takes part in the fifth annual conference and general assembly of the Association of International Anti-Corruption Organs in Morocco (<http://news.day.az/politics/295121.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “today, the ties of Azerbaijan and Russia are multi-sided and embrace all spheres” (<http://news.day.az/politics/295206.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Buenos Aires, presents his letters of credence to Chilean President Sebastián Piñera (<http://news.day.az/politics/295252.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, participates in the PACE election observer mission to Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/politics/295133.html>).

Bahar Muradova, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that “discussions in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly connected with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be assessed positively” and should lead to similar discussions in other international venues (<http://news.day.az/politics/295132.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, sends an open letter to Erling Skjensberg, Norwegian ambassador to Baku, expressing his concern about that embassy’s release of a statement about political prisoners in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/295289.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that relations between Azerbaijan and the US, as well as regional processes, mean that Article 907 restricting US aid to Azerbaijan must be repealed (<http://news.day.az/politics/295269.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, receives Debnath Shaw, India’s ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/295181.html>).

Adil Garibov, director of the Institute of Radiation Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, says that the International Atomic Energy Agency has agreed to five new atomic energy projects in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/295200.html>).

George Papaconstantinou, Greek environment, energy and climate change minister, tells his Azerbaijani counterpart Natik Aliyev that Greece is interested in purchasing Azerbaijani gas (<http://news.day.az/economy/295254.html>).

Radek Matula, the Czech Republic’s ambassador to Baku, says that the potential for the development of business relations between Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic is “very high” (<http://news.day.az/economy/295191.html>).

A Russian publishing house releases a new book *The Dialogue of Cultures Under Conditions of Globalization* on the results of the June 2010 Baku forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/295173.html>).

23 October

President Ilham Aliyev telephones his Turkish counterpart Abdulla Gul (<http://news.day.az/politics/295087.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov takes part in a special meeting of the World Economic Forum in Jordan (<http://news.day.az/economy/295047.html>).

Emin Eyubov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Brussels, takes part in a session of the European Parliament organized by the European Azerbaijani Society (<http://news.day.az/politics/295039.html>).

22 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi (<http://news.day.az/politics/295005.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that it is necessary to begin talks on a general peace accord for Nagorno-Karabakh rather than focus on issues where disagreement remains (<http://news.day.az/politics/294985.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi (<http://news.day.az/politics/295013.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku considers Azerbaijan's chances to be elected a member of the UN Security Council to be "very high" (<http://news.day.az/politics/294977.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that "the destructive reaction of the Armenian side to any constructive proposal of Azerbaijan shows yet again that the leadership of Armenia is not interested in a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict and in its solution by means of negotiations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/294985.html>).

Fikret Akchura, the UN's resident coordinator in Azerbaijan, thanks First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva and Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, for their support of environmental protection efforts in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/294824.html>).

Ahmed Heravend, deputy commander of Iran's border guards, meets with his Azerbaijani counterparts in the Bilasuvar district of Azerbaijan to discuss the October 19 armed incident on the border during which a citizen of Iran was killed (<http://news.day.az/politics/294938.html>).

21 October

President Ilham Aliyev tells the first Cooperation Summit of Turkic Language States in Almaty that “we must act so that the Turkic world will be still more closely united” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294301.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Budapest, says that “there is sufficient opportunity for more intensive Azerbaijani-Hungarian partnership” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294661.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Russia, Europe and the United States have “objective interests in extending the negotiation process and neutralizing the risks of the renewal of military acitons in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294805.html>).

Elman Rustamov, head of the Central Bank of Azerbaijan, tells his Turkish counterpart Durmus Yilmaz that “future cooperation” between them “has great importance for both countries” (<http://news.day.az/economy/294854.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a resolution calling on all member countries to avoid recognizing “in any form “the de facto powers and territories formed as a result of illegal separation” from a recognized state (<http://news.day.az/politics/294818.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that Moscow will “continue to help in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but both peoples must strive to agreement.” He adds that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is one of the few frozen conflicts in Europe which can be resolved” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294668.html>).

Sinan Ogan, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that the inclusion of the Turkish-Armenian protocols on the agenda of the Turkish parliament “bears a formal character” and does not mean that Ankara is about to approve them (<http://news.day.az/politics/294598.html>).

Murad Bayar, secretary for the defense industry of Turkey’s national defense ministry, says that “on a technical level, Turkey can play an important role in bringing the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan into correspondence with NATO standards” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294866.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry presents a note to Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, concerning the death of an Iranian guard on the Azerbaijani-Iranian border (<http://news.day.az/politics/294708.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs are "seeking means of keeping the momentum toward the activation of the peace process on Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/294704.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the US is cooperating with Azerbaijan on opening professional-technical training schools for girls from poorer families (<http://news.day.az/society/294699.html>).

Francis Delaey, outgoing head of the Baku office of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, says that the European Union will offer up to 10 million euros in the coming years (2010-2013) to Azerbaijan as part of the Turn Around Management program (<http://news.day.az/economy/294830.html>).

Francis Delaey, outgoing representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Baku, says the new head of that office Neil McKain is "already in Baku" after service in Turkmenistan (<http://news.day.az/economy/294804.html>).

Alfredo Bonet, Spain's state secretary for foreign trade, says the signing of an agreement on eliminating double taxation is important for the development of business ties between Azerbaijan and Spain (<http://news.day.az/economy/294716.html>).

The Armenian armed forces conduct military maneuvers on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/294858.html>).

20 October

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov receives Alfredo Bonet, Spain's state secretary for foreign trade (<http://news.day.az/politics/294642.html>).

Zakir Hasanov, commander of Interior Ministry forces, receives his Ukrainian counterpart Sergey Yarov (<http://news.day.az/politics/294531.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/294487.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kyiv, takes part in the opening of a Youth Center of the Union of Azerbaijani Youth of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/society/294517.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City, organizes a concert and reception there on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the state independence of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/294529.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that emigration from Armenia is now so large that it is threatening the political balance in Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/294492.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that neither the current nor past president of Armenia possess "any essential qualities of either a progressive or pragmatic leader" (<http://news.day.az/politics/294467.html>).

Vahid Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan claims about the development of the Armenian economy are "a lie" (<http://news.day.az/politics/294428.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian democracy is only for show and has no real content (<http://news.day.az/politics/294328.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the leadership of Armenia "is coming to an understanding that it is impossible to drag things out further on this [Nagorno-Karabakh] question" (<http://news.day.az/politics/294414.html>).

The Academy of the Emergency Situations Ministry signs a cooperation accord with its Russian counterpart (<http://news.day.az/society/294640.html>).

Azerbaijan becomes a member of the United Nations International Consulting Group for Conducting Search and Rescue Operations (<http://news.day.az/society/294649.html>).

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says that Azerbaijan, along with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, although they did not join initially, will sign the CIS free trade zone agreement before the end of the year (<http://news.day.az/politics/294527.html>).

The Olympic committees of the CIS and Baltic countries vote to support the candidacy of Baku for the Olympic summer games of 2020 (<http://news.day.az/sport/294510.html>).

Philippe Blancharde, a Belgian parliamentarian, says that “Azerbaijan is important for Europe not only because of its energy resources” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294293.html>).

Mohammadbaqir Bahrami, Iran’s ambassador to Baku, says that “the interests of Iran and Azerbaijan are close that that coordination and cooperation between the two countries is “important for the security of the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294641.html>).

The World Bank says that Azerbaijan has improved its position on the annual rating of *Doing Business in the World* from 69th to 66th among 183 countries in the world (<http://news.day.az/economy/294485.html>).

John O'Rourke, head of the European Neighborhood Policy Department of the Directorate General for External Relations of the European Commission, says that “the participation of the European Union in the realization of the Transcaspian pipeline project can provide foreign investors with additional security” (<http://news.day.az/economy/294455.html>).

19 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives greetings from leaders around the world on the 20th anniversary of Azerbaijani independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/293892.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov calls for beginning work on “an all-embracing peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294303.html>).

The Foreign Ministry condemns the terrorist act committed in Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/294354.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia has been troubled since it acquired independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/294194.html>).

The National Metrics Center of the State Committee on Standardization, Metrics and Patents signs a cooperation agreement with its German counterpart (<http://news.day.az/economy/294439.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, says that it is “symbolic” that the Azerbaijani Cultural Center in Moscow “is opening while Azerbaijan is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294441.html>).

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño says in Baku that his country supports Azerbaijan’s candidacy for the UN Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/294306.html>).

Ulrich Wolf, an official of the Bavarian ministry of economics, says that Bavaria now is responsible for 50 percent of the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Germany (<http://news.day.az/economy/294367.html>).

18 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño (<http://news.day.az/politics/294135.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns (<http://news.day.az/politics/294135.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “the single problem of Azerbaijan is the continuation of the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenia, but even this problem will soon be resolved” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294137.html>).

Vahdat Sultan-zade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Ashgabat, says that bilateral relations between the two countries are “the traditional fraternal links between two peoples” close ethnically, spiritually and historically (<http://news.day.az/politics/294225.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Budapest, says that Hungary “quite highly values” Azerbaijan’s possibilities with regard to providing energy security for Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/294038.html>).

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Washington awards a special memorial medal on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the independence of the Azerbaijani Republic to Zbigniew Brzezinski, Brent Scowcroft, Richard Armitage, Bill Shuster and Dan Boren (<http://news.day.az/politics/294068.html>).

Emin Mirzoyev, the president of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden, meets with Mehmet Kaplan, a member of the Swedish Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/294079.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul telephones President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/294219.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan telephones President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/294219.html>).

US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns says that “the priorities of the US in Azerbaijan continue to be security, energy, and democratic and economic reforms” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294166.html>).

US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns says that the United States “continues to support the diversification of export routes and pipelines” (<http://news.day.az/economy/294182.html>).

The British ambassadors in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia release a joint declaration in which they welcome the UN resolution calling for a ceasefire during the time of the Olympic Games (<http://news.day.az/politics/294202.html>).

Wang Yang, the secretary general of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has had “very difficult consequences” (<http://news.day.az/politics/294184.html>).

17 October

President Ilham Aliyev says that “after the 20 year period of independence, the economy of Azerbaijan forms 83 percent of the economy of the South Caucasus” (<http://news.day.az/politics/293992.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “in Azerbaijan, the struggle with drug addiction and the illegal sale of narcotics is defined as an all-state task” (<http://news.day.az/politics/293829.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kunio Mikuriya, the secretary general of the World Customs Organization and Yuri Fedotov, the head of the UN Vienna Office (<http://news.day.az/politics/293956.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives a delegation of the German Marshall Fund (<http://news.day.az/politics/293927.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Fatih Ceynal, advisor to the Turkish foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/293928.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Bagirov says that “independence is the greatest achievement of the Azerbaijani people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/293962.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that Baku has signed an agreement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency for the development of special economic zones (<http://news.day.az/economy/293887.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that Azerbaijan constantly raises in international forums the issue about the production and transit of illegal drugs in Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/293844.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that Azerbaijan is conducting regular work to defend the ecology of the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/293845.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia has wasted the period of its independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/293707.html>).

Ankara announces plans to open a Turkish defense industry office in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/293970.html>).

An office of the European Regional Office of the World Trade Organization opens in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/293957.html>).

The Russian State Humanitarian University presents a new book, "The Conceptual Bases of the Restoration of the Post-Conflict Territories of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/economy/293811.html>).

October 15

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that the "impermissibly aggressive tone" of the recent speech of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan shows that Yerevan continues to ignore its responsibilities under the United Nations Charter (<http://news.day.az/politics/293591.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the political leadership of Armenia is not permitting a meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/293647.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of Euronest, says that "Armenia has recognized its defeat" (<http://news.day.az/politics/293634.html>).

The Azerbaijani government says it will purchase 60 drones from Israel by the end of the year (<http://news.day.az/economy/293635.html>).

Columbia's Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs Patti Londoño Jaramillo says that her country supports the candidacy of Azerbaijan for a seat on the UN Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/293601.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry says that if Azerbaijan and Armenia are interested, Tehran is ready to propose a solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem (<http://news.day.az/politics/293590.html>).

Dashgan Shikyarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Islamabad, says that Azerbaijani-Pakistani relations can be "significantly" increased (<http://news.day.az/politics/293679.html>).

October 14

President Ilham Aliyev receives Italian Senator Rossana Boldi, head of the Italian-Azerbaijani interparliamentary group (<http://news.day.az/politics/293508.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish Religious Affairs Minister Mehmet Gurmez (<http://news.day.az/politics/293508.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Columbia's Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs Patti Londoño Jaramillo (<http://news.day.az/politics/293521.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that "the leadership of Armenia must consider the strengthening position of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/293433.html>).

Bahar Muradova, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, says that that body is considering the possibility of organizing a meeting of the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Karabakh, possibly in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/293451.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that his community is ready for talks with the Armenian community there (<http://news.day.az/politics/293467.html>).

Azerbaijan chairs a Kyiv meeting in the GUAM secretariat on counter-terrorism (<http://news.day.az/politics/293546.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin meets with his Turkish counterpart Firudin Sinirlioglu in Ankara to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/293603.html>).

October 13

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish National Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz (<http://news.day.az/politics/293289.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming British Ambassador Peter Bateman (<http://news.day.az/politics/293289.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Frederick Kempe, president of the Atlantic Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/293289.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that Azerbaijan “intends to export our gas to existing markets in a still greater amount” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292928.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Argentinian deputy foreign minister Norma Nascimbene de Dumont (<http://news.day.az/politics/293343.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives his Turkish counterpart Ismet Yilmaz (<http://news.day.az/politics/293299.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the preservation of the status quo in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can become the cause of the beginning of a new war in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/293267.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Serzh Sargsyan’s recent statements show that he “cannot adequately react to what is taking place” in his country and the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/293276.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov takes part in the meeting in Yerevan of his CIS counterparts (<http://news.day.az/politics/293253.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Azerbaijan is “not thinking about changing the format of the Minsk Group” (<http://news.day.az/politics/293252.html>).

Altay Efendiyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Madrid, says that relations between Azerbaijan and Spain have "entered a new stage," with economic ties being the area of greatest activity (<http://news.day.az/politics/293195.html>).

Officials of the State Customs Committee sign an agreement in Baku with their Ukrainian counterparts to develop joint measures against contraband (<http://news.day.az/economy/293322.html>).

Turkish Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz says that Turkey will provide Azerbaijan with the necessary military support (<http://news.day.az/politics/293183.html>). He adds that "the presence of the strong armed forces of Azerbaijan is becoming the greatest guarantee of peace in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/293326.html>).

October 12

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receive Austrian President Heinz Fischer and his wife Margit Fischer (<http://news.day.az/politics/293163.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives former Turkish President Suleyman Demirel (<http://news.day.az/politics/293084.html>).

The Finance Ministry says that Azerbaijan plans to spend 100.6 million manats on Baku's international activities in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/293017.html>).

The Finance Ministry says that Azerbaijan plans to increase its defense spending in 2012 by 1.9 percent over 2011 and that defense spending next year will constitute 14.8 percent of the budget (<http://news.day.az/economy/293024.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that a document circulated in PACE about the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state reflects the position only of those who signed it and is not an official document of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/293039.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani army corresponds to NATO standards (<http://news.day.az/politics/293148.html>).

The Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus is considering Austria's proposal to organize a meeting of religious leaders of the countries of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/society/293023.html>).

Under the chairmanship of Azerbaijan, the secretariat of GUAM completes a two-day session on the struggle with illegal drugs (<http://news.day.az/politics/293144.html>).

October 11

President Ilham Aliyev receives Movlud Chavushoglu, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/292610.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ahmad Zevayla, Nobel laureate in chemistry and director of the Center of Physical Biology of the California Institute of Technology (<http://news.day.az/politics/292610.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receive K. Matsuura, the former director-general of UNESCO (<http://news.day.az/politics/292720.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Suleyman Demirel, the former president of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/292610.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Movlud Chavushoglu, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/292776.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Dora Bakoyannis, former foreign minister of Greece (<http://news.day.az/politics/292926.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that "the atmosphere of Azerbaijan is giving a new impulse to dialogue in the contemporary globalizing world" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292724.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the investment of First lady Mehriban Aliyeva with the French Republic Order of the Officer of the Legion of Honor "demonstrates the high level of relations between France and Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292891.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the current regime in Armenia “simply has nothing to offer the population” there (<http://news.day.az/politics/292768.html>).

Fazail Ibrahimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia faces a potentially bloody transfer of power (<http://news.day.az/politics/292625.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that soon everyone will forget about the Armenian-Turkish protocols (<http://news.day.az/politics/292690.html>).

Elchin Huseynli, a second secretary in the Security Department of the Foreign Ministry, says that “the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group are creating the possibility for the artificial dragging out of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292856.html>). He adds that Armenia is currently preparing for war with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/292792.html>).

The Baku International Humanitarian Forum adopts a declaration saying that “globalization can acquire a just character only through the realization of broad efforts on the formation of a common future based on common membership in humanity in all its multiplicity” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292929.html>).

Ali Masimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “frozen conflicts” in the South Caucasus create “a serious threat to communications” across the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/292868.html>).

Telman Zeynalov, president of the National Center for Ecological Prediction, says that by 2020 the shore districts of Baku will be flooded because of the rising level of the Caspian generated by climate change (<http://news.day.az/society/292692.html>).

The State Committee on Standards, Metrics and Patents signs an agreement with the Korean ministry of foreign affairs and trade to upgrade automatic systems in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/292893.html>).

Telman Zeynalov, president of the National Center for Ecological Prediction, says that by 2020 the shore districts of Baku will be flooded because of the rising level of the Caspian generated by climate change (<http://news.day.az/society/292692.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that French President Nicolas Sarkozy “should put his own country in order rather than give advice to Turkey about the so-called Armenian genocide” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292861.html>).

Štefan Füle, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, says that the EU has decided to prepare a new program for the good neighborhood policy for next year at a cost of 20 million euros (<http://news.day.az/politics/292871.html>).

Huseyn Sabiri, head of Iran’s Ardebil province, says that “if the government of Azerbaijan wants to open a border crossing point” with his province, “our government is ready to do so” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292773.html>).

Huseyn Pirmuazin, head of the Chamber of Trade, Industry and Metallurgy of Iran’s Ardebil Province, says that in the near future a joint Azerbaijan-Iranian trade house will open in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/292925.html>).

Mansour Afshar Mohammadian, the director of international affairs of Iran’s Gilan Province University, says that the Caspian littoral states will create a Caspian Floating University (<http://news.day.az/society/292898.html>).

October 10

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergey Naryshkin, head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/292610.html>).

At the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev, the Baku International Forum assembles in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/292638.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Rudolf Schuster, former president of Slovakia (<http://news.day.az/politics/292610.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva meets with the participants of the International Humanitarian Forum in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/292702.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that at present “the main goal” of talks is the return to Azerbaijan of the occupied territories and not the definition of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, something that “will

require the return there of internally displaced people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292601.html>).

Natik Abbasov, deputy minister for industry and energy, says that Azerbaijan has the potential to create wind energy generation of 1500 to 2000 megawatts (<http://news.day.az/economy/292570.html>).

Elton Mammadov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the parliamentary assembly of GUAM, says that the initiatives of that body on the resolution of conflicts in various regions are important (<http://news.day.az/politics/292567.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the Venetian Commission has presented its conclusions on the new draft bill “On political parties” and that the measure will be submitted to the Azerbaijani parliament for approval (<http://news.day.az/politics/292635.html>).

Asef Hajiyeu, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the president of Armenia resembles a cat caught in a corner” with no way out (<http://news.day.az/politics/292387.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that hearings conducted at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly have “significantly strengthened the just position of Azerbaijan among member countries of that body” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292520.html>).

The Economic Development Ministry says that over the past 15 years, Azerbaijan’s GDP has increased 5.7 times, with the non-petroleum sector having increased 2.8 times over the same period (<http://news.day.az/economy/292722.html>).

Adil Garibov, the director of the Institute of Radiation Problems, says that his institution together with the International Agency for Nuclear Agency will present in the first half of next year a draft plan for the construction of a research reactor in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/292687.html>).

Adil Garibov, director of the Institute of Radiation Problems of the Academy of Sciences, says that Azerbaijan could agree to the construction of a new atomic power plant in Armenia if Yerevan provided guarantees on its security (<http://news.day.az/politics/292665.html>).

The Baku Institute for Economic Reforms signs a cooperation agreement with the American EcoMod Research Center (<http://news.day.az/economy/292626.html>).

A meeting of experts in Batumi explores the possibility of the construction of a highway between Baku, Tbilisi, Batumi and Trabzon (<http://news.day.az/economy/292565.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, head of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls on Armenian deputies to “respect the decisions” of that body and to take part in the work of the sub-committee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/292631.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that his organization has a universal approach to all conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/292615.html>).

Sergey Naryshkin, head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation, says that “cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia in all sectors is strengthening” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292662.html>).

Herbert Quelle, Germany’s ambassador to Baku, says that “we completely support the Southern Corridor project” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292649.html>).

Yousif Halladzhoglu, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “Baku is one of the most beautiful cities in the world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292674.html>).

Mikhail Gusman, deputy director of ITAR-Tass, says that “Baku is a center of eastern and European culture” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292572.html>).

Aleksandr Zavarzin, the director of the information analytic department of the executive committee of the CIS, says that the rapid development of Azerbaijan is impressive (<http://news.day.az/politics/292697.html>).

Suleyman Demirel, former president of Turkey, says that it is pleasing to see “how Azerbaijan has advanced” in recent years (<http://news.day.az/politics/292569.html>).

Goran Lenmarker, former chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE and former special representative of that body for the South Caucasus, says that “Armenian forces must leave the occupied territories” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292705.html>).

Rudolf Schuster, former president of Slovakia, says that “a forum like the one taking place in Baku is an important format for international exchange” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292620.html>).

Emil Constantinescu, former president of Romania, says that the time has come to build "capitalism with a human face" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292592.html>).

The Swedish parliament is to consider a resolution on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/292575.html>).

October 8

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that French President Nicolas Sarkozy "noted on the basis of the impressions he received in Baku the need for making a return visit to Azerbaijan" in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/292428.html>).

Sahib Alakparov, deputy minister for taxation, says that "Azerbaijan is integrating into the world tax system" (<http://news.day.az/economy/292413.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, tells the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Dubrovnik that the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "has a negative influence on the development of the region" and points to "the importance of dialogue between Azerbaijani and Armenian communities" as a confidence building measure (<http://news.day.az/politics/292450.html>).

Yunus-Bek Yevkurov, head of Ingushetia, says that his republic is ready to offer Azerbaijan "state guarantees for the realization of major projects" (<http://news.day.az/economy/292382.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that relations between Turkey and Israel "were one of the most prospective and strategic factors in the near eastern region over the course of many years and the US very much hopes that these relations will again become what they were" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292411.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that California legislator Joseph Simitian's visit to Nagorno-Karabakh was "unplanned" and that the US like all other countries "does not recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292391.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that bilateral talks on security are intended to strengthen American-Azerbaijani cooperation in that sector (<http://news.day.az/politics/292375.html>).

Haidar Ali Fadyi, chairman of the investment commission of the Iraqi city of Basra, says that “the opening of air routes between Iraq and Azerbaijan is expected within two weeks” (<http://news.day.az/economy/292376.html>).

October 7

President Ilham Aliyev tells his visiting French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy that “France plays a very large role in the development of ties between Azerbaijan and the European Union” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292185.html>).

French President Nicolas Sarkozy invests First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva as an Officer of the Legion of Honor of the French Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/292261.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan does not agree with the position of French President Nicolas Sarkozy on “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292181.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev signs a cooperation agreement with Jacques Muanville, the director of the French Development Agency (<http://news.day.az/economy/292263.html>).

The State Committee for Work with Religious Structures in Azerbaijan says that it considers the report of the US State Department about religious freedom to be a positive initiative overall, but considers that there needs to be clarification concerning a number of assertions about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/292290.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that a document prepared by the Armenian delegation to that body and signed by ten members of the French delegation “does not have any legal force” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292227.html>).

Ziyad Samadzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that over the next decade the strategic monetary reserves of Azerbaijan may rise to 100 billion US dollars (<http://news.day.az/economy/292110.html>).

Roman Aliyev, the head of the Azerbaijani diaspora organization *Ojag* in Riga, says that “Latvia as a European state and participant in all European

structures can always support [Azerbaijan]" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292247.html>).

French President Nicolas Sarkozy says in Yerevan that he hopes for the achievement of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan through "the renewal of talks between the Armenian and Azerbaijani side within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292144.html>).

Aleksey Borodavkin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, says that "Moscow does not consider probable the outbreak of conflicts between member states of the CIS" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292205.html>).

Stephen Lemme, a German parliamentarian from the ruling party, says that the Bundestag will not discuss "the invented 'Armenian genocide'" (<http://news.day.az/politics/292254.html>).

Michael Labenda, Poland's ambassador to Baku, says that the EU's Eastern Partnership program is intended to draw the countries of the EU and the region closer together (<http://news.day.az/politics/292196.html>).

The European Union is conducting the last round of plenary discussions on the association agreement with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/292189.html>). Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev heads the Azerbaijani negotiating team (<http://news.day.az/politics/292005.html>).

An expert at Platts, the international rating agency, says that "Azerbaijan is conducting the most stable oil and gas policy in the region" (<http://news.day.az/economy/292285.html>).

The Russian Academy of Sciences proposes that Azerbaijan and Russia conduct joint archaeological work in the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/society/292264.html>).

October 6

President Ilham Aliyev receives the participants in the 14th session of the Conference of Special Services of the Turkic Language States (<http://news.day.az/politics/292097.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Mahmudov hosts the 14th session of the Conference of Special Services of the Turkic Language States (<http://news.day.az/politics/292102.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev takes part in a Brussels session of the defense ministers of NATO and its allies (<http://news.day.az/politics/292095.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Ronald Noble, the secretary general of Interpol (<http://news.day.az/politics/292069.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, receives Matthew Bryza, the US ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/292018.html>).

Dovlatkhan Dovlatkhanov, the deputy chairman of the State Committee on Architecture and City Planning, says that greater Baku will become larger than Moscow in area by 2030 (<http://news.day.az/society/292062.html>).

Hasan Hasanov and Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassadors to Poland and Hungary respectively, take part in ceremonies in those countries marking the 20th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/292036.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, heads an Azerbaijani delegation to the 57th session of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO (<http://news.day.az/politics/291975.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that French President Nicolas Sarkozy's visit to the Caucasus "shows first of all the interest of France" in the region and its development (<http://news.day.az/politics/292038.html>). He adds that Armenia lacks the resources to continue as it is (<http://news.day.az/politics/291986.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the situation in Armenia may follow "the Egyptian scenario" of regime change (<http://news.day.az/politics/291913.html>).

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev says his country supports the efforts of Lithuania as chairman-in-office of the OSCE to resolve longstanding conflicts in general and the Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdnistria disputes in particular (<http://news.day.az/politics/291948.html>).

French President Nicolas Sarkozy tells the Armenian news agency *Mediamax* that the history of France and Germany shows that longstanding conflicts can be overcome and permanent friendship established (<http://news.day.az/politics/291918.html>).

Eric Rubin, US deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian affairs, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh talks are laying the foundation for “a lengthy peace” (<http://news.day.az/politics/292027.html>).

Ramil Hasanov, secretary general of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language Countries, says his group will monitor the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/292049.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a declaration sharply condemning the murder by Armenians of a 13-year-old Azerbaijani child (<http://news.day.az/politics/291991.html>).

The Baku office of the Council of Europe hosts a conference on the struggle against cyber-crime (<http://news.day.az/politics/291933.html>).

October 5

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ronald Noble, the secretary general of Interpol (<http://news.day.az/politics/291847.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev sends a message of greetings to Baku meeting of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (<http://news.day.az/politics/291886.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the status of Nagorno-Karabakh “must be defined jointly by the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities” of that Azerbaijani region (<http://news.day.az/politics/291846.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a member of the Azerbaijani parliamentary delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, says that the representatives of Armenia “have come to carry out a diplomacy of hysteria in international organizations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291895.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, receives Yunus-Bey Yevkurov, Arsen Kanokov and Magomedsalam Magomedov, the heads of Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria and Daghestan respectively (<http://news.day.az/politics/291889.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, receives Aleksandr Khloponin, the first deputy prime minister of Russia and the plenipotentiary representative of the President of Russia in the North Caucasus Federal District (<http://news.day.az/politics/291862.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a declaration sharply criticizing “the so-called ‘municipal elections’ conducted by Armenia on the occupied Azerbaijani territories” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291777.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “cooperation among the Turkic language countries is bearing fruit” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291772.html>).

Kestutis Kudzmanas, Lithuanian ambassador to Baku, says that the upcoming session of the Azerbaijani-Lithuanian intergovernmental commission, which will take place in the Azerbaijani capital, will lead to new agreements (<http://news.day.az/politics/291849.html>).

Jiha Lee, the ambassador of Korea to Baku, says that “the broadening of bilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and Korea became possible thanks to the mutual interest of the two countries” and especially the involvement in the development of these ties of President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/291888.html>).

October 4

President Ilham Aliyev receives Aleksandr Khloponin, vice prime minister of the Russian Federation and plenipotentiary representative of the President of Russia in the North Caucasus Federal District (<http://news.day.az/politics/291696.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-zade receives Aleksandr Khloponin, vice prime minister of the Russian Federation and plenipotentiary representative of the President of Russia in the North Caucasus Federal District, and tells him that “Azerbaijan is interested in broadening cooperation with the North Caucasus” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291686.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the recent statement of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is “an open call to war” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291545.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Geert Muylle, the director general of the Belgian foreign ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/291666.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence from incoming British ambassador to Baku, Peter Bateman (<http://news.day.az/politics/291653.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan is seeking to broaden its cooperation with Arab countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/291650.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/291629.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov and his Russian counterpart note “with satisfaction” the fulfillment of bilateral obligations on the land border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/291618.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that the Statoil company is interested in developing the recently discovered gas fields in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/291661.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that “between Azerbaijan and Russia has been established a firm legal basis for cooperation” (<http://news.day.az/economy/291643.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia having set itself up on Azerbaijani lands does not have a single occasion for pride 20 years after acquiring independence” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291615.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that conflicts between Armenian leaders Robert Kocharyan and Serzh Sargsyan are intensifying (<http://news.day.az/politics/291522.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets in Istanbul with Namik Aliyev, the first vice president of the Boxing Federation of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/sport/291693.html>).

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski says that the European Union plans to spend an additional 150 million euros in the period up to 2014 on the development of the Eastern Partnership program (<http://news.day.az/economy/291651.html>).

Lamberto Zannier, secretary general of the OSCE, praises Russia’s “active participation” in the Minsk Group and “the personal involvement of the president of the Russian Federation” in talks between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/291547.html>).

The planned visit of Eric Rubin, US deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian affairs, to Baku is postponed (<http://news.day.az/politics/291637.html>).

Korea's Development Bank agrees to provide a 22 million US dollar credit to Azerbaijan for the creation of a professional-technical complex in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/291595.html>).

October 3

President Ilham Aliyev receives Seyed Mohammad Hoseyn, the Iranian minister of culture and Islamic orientation (<http://news.day.az/politics/291477.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Fatima Shahin, the Turkish minister for family affairs and social policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/291477.html>).

The Foreign Ministry puts California legislator Joseph Simitian on the list of those who will be refused entry to Azerbaijan after the latter visits the occupied territories of Azerbaijan without Baku's consent (<http://news.day.az/politics/291479.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Brussels says that Armenia has rejected an EU proposal for the presidents of the countries of the South Caucasus to meet in Warsaw during the Eastern Partnership summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/291439.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Armenian delegation did not take part in the latest session of the PACE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/291495.html>). He also says that his group will speak out against double standards in the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/291472.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that women must "more actively demonstrate" their positions on contemporary issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/291360.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that PACE must not ignore or minimize Armenian killings of young Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/291476.html>).

Ali Huseynli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the legal system of Azerbaijan "completely corresponds to European standards" (<http://news.day.az/politics/291446.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus meets with Iranian Interior Minister Mohammad Najar to

discuss security for Azerbaijani hajis (<http://news.day.az/politics/291441.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad receives Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Administration of the Muslims of the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/291421.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the head of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that all members of PACE, including Armenia, “must respectfully relate” to the decision of that body to restore the activity of the subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/291426.html>).

Turkish Family and Social Policy Minister Fatima Shahin says that the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem is “the common task of all Turkic women” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291376.html>).

Russian Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev visits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/291374.html>).

Herbert Quelle, Germany’s ambassador to Baku, says “we always have supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291316.html>).

Herbert Quelle, Germany’s ambassador to Baku, says that Germany “just like other member countries of the European Union” supports the Southern Gas corridor “independently of which pipeline will be built within the framework of this project” (<http://news.day.az/economy/291319.html>).

Zoran Vayovich, Serbian ambassador to Baku, says that “Armenian forces must leave Azerbaijani lands” (<http://news.day.az/politics/291382.html>).

TRACECA holds a conference in Tbilisi on the logistics of future sea routes (<http://news.day.az/economy/291437.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan, says there are “no obstacles” to the signing of a bilateral gas contract between Azerbaijan and Turkey (<http://news.day.az/economy/291400.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that “Iran is a leading country in the defense of the rights of Muslims in the entire world” (<http://news.day.az/society/291314.html>).

October 1

Nabucco Gas Pipeline International presents its proposal for transporting gas from the Shah Deniz field (<http://news.day.az/economy/291205.html>).

A World Bank delegation meets with Azerbaijani railroad officials to measure progress in transportation networks there (<http://news.day.az/economy/291210.html>).

SEPTEMBER

September 30

President Ilham Aliyev takes part in the Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw (<http://news.day.az/politics/290875.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Maltese Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi in Warsaw (<http://news.day.az/politics/290875.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov takes part in the 15th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the GUAM countries on the sidelines of the Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw (<http://news.day.az/politics/290994.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Koray Targay, the new head of the Baku Office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/290996.html>).

The Foreign Ministry expresses its surprise at “the short-sighted and cynical” approach of Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan who conflates nationality, language and religion into one thing (<http://news.day.az/politics/291028.html>).

The Milli Majlis ratifies accords with Ukraine, Belarus, Greece, Romania, the Arab Emirates, Spain, the Czech Republic, Serbia and other states (<http://news.day.az/politics/291037.html>).

Deputies of the Milli Majlis appeal to the Iranian parliament concerning the fate of Lake Urmia, on whose waters the future of “millions of people” depend (<http://news.day.az/politics/291027.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian government is suffering the consequences of trying to “build its state through the use of the lands of others by conquest and occupation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290953.html>). In other comments, he says that

the situation in Armenia is now so dire that “Armenians do not trust even their own church” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290953.html>).

Reinhold Mitterlehner, Austrian economics minister, says that “plans for the construction of the Nabucco pipeline must not be transformed into ‘an eternal history’” but instead must take final shape soon (<http://news.day.az/economy/291003.html>).

September 29

President Ilham Aliyev meets with the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in Warsaw (<http://news.day.az/politics/290929.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva tells a Berlin conference on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of Azerbaijan’s independence that “Azerbaijan, having built an absolutely new political and economic system, is rapidly developing” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290988.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev meets with his Kazakhstan counterpart Sauat Mynbayev at the eighth session of the bilateral inter-governmental commission on economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/290810.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “after acquiring independence, Azerbaijan more than other countries felt on its own skin the results of ethnic and religious separatism” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290774.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev, rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, participates in the International Forum of Diplomatic Schools meeting in the United States and secures the agreement of that body to have its next meeting in Baku in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/290773.html>).

Azerbaijan purchases several Mi-17 helicopters from the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/290833.html>).

Mahmoud Karimov, president of the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences, says that representatives of Azerbaijan must participate in the checking of the Metsamor Atomic Power Station in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/290801.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that “the peoples living in the Caucasus alongside the resolution of their own religious problems, must also devote all their efforts

to blocking the dissemination of the ideology of terrorism in the region and defend their neighbors who have been subject to aggression” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290799.html>).

The Azerbaijani emergency situations ministry takes part in joint exercises with its Russian and Kazakhstan counterparts on the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/290309.html>).

Ali Huseynli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that international NGOs have a “pro-Armenian policy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290850.html>).

Gudrat Hasanguliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that foreigners who come to live in Azerbaijan on a permanent basis must take an examination concerning their knowledge of the state language (<http://news.day.az/politics/290816.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia does not have the resources to carry out a war” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290778.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the position of the United States is directed against the search of peaceful ways of resolving the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290746.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia, because of the policy of its government, is experiencing negative growth (<http://news.day.az/politics/290736.html>).

Nick Clegg, Britain’s vice prime minister, says that London “wants to help Azerbaijan and Armenia resolve the conflict and restore territorial integrity” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290921.html>).

Azerbaijani and Russian religious leaders and theologians assemble in Baku to mark the 20th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/290809.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that “certain forces want to spread separatism in the Caucasus by exploiting the great ethnic and religious diversity” which exists there (<http://news.day.az/politics/290766.html>).

Charles Hendry, British minister of state for the department of energy and climate change, says that Europe and the United Kingdom in particular are interested in the security of all pipeline routes. He adds that “Azerbaijan is a country with a promising future” (<http://news.day.az/economy/290897.html>).

Taner Yildiz, Turkey's energy minister, says that the unstable situation in Syria may interfere with the supply of Azerbaijani gas via the Pan-Arab pipeline (<http://news.day.az/economy/290845.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the United States and Azerbaijan are conducting joint work to guarantee the security of the energy infrastructure of the Caspian against a wide range of threats (<http://news.day.az/economy/290864.html>).

Michael Green, head of the USAID mission in Azerbaijan, and Koray Targay, head of the Baku Office of the OSCE, sign a cooperation agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/290803.html>).

Vsevolod Chaplin, head of the Synod Department for Relations of Church and Society of the Moscow Patriarchate, says that "Azerbaijan represents a model of inter-national and inter-religious relations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290777.html>).

September 28

President Ilham Aliyev receives Charles Hendry, British minister of state for the department of energy and climate change (<http://news.day.az/politics/290676.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev and Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev open the Second Baku International Book Exhibition (<http://news.day.az/society/290607.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the external relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is guilty of hypocrisy (<http://news.day.az/politics/290639.html>).

Deputy Finance Minister Azar Bayramov says that his ministry and the European Union are cooperating in a training project on ways to increase financial control (<http://news.day.az/economy/290637.html>).

The transportation ministry reaches an agreement with its Russian counterpart on the construction of a bridge over the Samur River which marks the border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/290680.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he cannot explain the motivations behind reports that the Turkish government plans to renew efforts to secure the ratification of the Zurich Protocols Ankara signed with Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/290588.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy hosts an Argentina Day (<http://news.day.az/society/290591.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the EU supreme representative for foreign affairs and security policy, says that “the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh question remains among the priorities of the European Union” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290712.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the US Department of State does not confirm the reliability of reports published on the Wikileaks site (<http://news.day.az/politics/290631.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that “the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by a military path is impossible” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290605.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan “should independently define the forms of cooperation with Europe in the energy sphere” (<http://news.day.az/economy/290664.html>).

Participants in the international youth forum “A New Generation: Responsibility without Borders” visit the Heydar Aliyev Foundation (<http://news.day.az/politics/290711.html>).

Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, says that at present the European Union is “not considering” adding new members from the South Caucasus to its ranks, “but this does not mean that we do not want this” to happen (<http://news.day.az/politics/290565.html>).

European experts arrive in Azerbaijan to promote education in the agricultural sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/290651.html>).

Pavel Adamovich, mayor of the Polish city of Gdansk, says that the completion of the Odessa-Brody-Gdansk pipeline for Azerbaijani oil “would be good business for Poland and also for Ukraine” (<http://news.day.az/economy/290563.html>).

September 27

President Ilham Aliyev receives three Nobel laureates, Eric McKinney of Harvard, Finn Erling Kidland from Carnegie-Mellon, and Christopher Pissarides of the London School of Economics (<http://news.day.az/politics/290519.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the UN General Assembly that “the unconstructive acitons of the Armenian side” are blocking the

achievement of an accord on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/290725.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/290641.html>). In other comments, he says that “the resolution of the [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict must begin with the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290525.html>), that the election of Azerbaijan to the UN Security Council would eliminate the current shortage of representatives on that body of small developing countries and make this UN organ “more balanced” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290531.html>), that “the time has come for Palestine to be fully represented in the United Nations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290529.html>), and that Baku is considering whether to devote additional funds to international efforts in the Horn of Africa (<http://news.day.az/politics/290526.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu (<http://news.day.az/politics/290342.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that the Argentinian parliamentarians visiting Baku hope for the rapid resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/290469.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov tells California legislator Joseph Simitian that “the position of Armenia has condemned the negotiations to failure” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290467.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information department of the Presidential Administration, says there is “no need” to deal seriously with the materials on the Wikileaks site because they are based on “the personal reflections of particular people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290397.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to Moscow, says that no visit of representatives of the Azerbaijani intelligentsia to Nagorno-Karabakh is planned for the near future because of the latest declarations of Armenian leaders (<http://news.day.az/politics/290409.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, tells Roberto Mario Mouillon, head of the Argentinian parliamentary Azerbaijani friendship group, that Baku is interested in the further development of relations with the parliament of Argentina (<http://news.day.az/politics/290518.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that outmigration from Armenia has been accelerating as people cannot find work there (<http://news.day.az/politics/290350.html>).

The defense ministry announces that the drones being produced in Azerbaijan correspond to NATO standards (<http://news.day.az/economy/290404.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that "Azerbaijan has become a space where all religions and cultures can co-exist" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290500.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that if anyone attempts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force, Russia is "ready to take all necessary measures for the restoration of peace in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290527.html>).

Roberto Mario Mouilleron, head of the inter-parliamentary Argentinian-Azerbaijani friendship group, says that Argentina intends to open an embassy in Baku in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/290422.html>).

Federico Pinedo, a member of the Argentinian parliament's friendship group with Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijan has made "a great economic leap forward" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290483.html>).

September 26

President Ilham Aliyev receives Joseph Simitian, a California state legislator (<http://news.day.az/politics/290254.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is the subject of a chapter in a new book by German writer Kerstin Pleven on the 60 most successful women of the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/290226.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly that "Azerbaijan remains committed to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in correspondence with international principles and norms and on the basis of corresponding decisions and resolution" by various international bodies (<http://news.day.az/politics/290194.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that "Azerbaijan supports the development of Turkic language countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290200.html>).

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism says that beginning next year, tourist visitors to Azerbaijan will be given electronic visas (<http://news.day.az/society/290295.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, head of the interparliamentary Azerbaijan-Tajikistan friendship group, meets with Zokir Vazirov, the ambassador of Tajikistan to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/290291.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the words of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan "yet again show that he completely ignores international law and that in general he is an enemy of the truth" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290191.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva says that the magazine *Baku*, which has been published in Russian since 2007, will now be issued in English as well (<http://news.day.az/politics/290237.html>).

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski says that "the establishment of a visa-free regime between the European Union and the countries of the Eastern Partnership Program is not a distant prospect" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290253.html>).

Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister David Jalagania says that Baku and Tbilisi have made no progress since the start of the year in demarcating 160 kilometers of the 450-kilometer border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/290278.html>).

Naser Abdel Karim, Palestinian ambassador to Baku, says that Palestine "supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290014.html>).

Joseph Simitian, a Californian state legislator, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be resolved in the near future on the basis of international norms (<http://news.day.az/politics/290321.html>).

The Polish foreign ministry says that "Azerbaijan is a key energy partner for the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/economy/290246.html>).

September 25

President Ilham Aliyev opens the world boxing championship in Baku and receives Chin-Kuo Woo, the president of the International Boxing

Association (<http://news.day.az/politics/290142.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/290141.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the current successful development of Azerbaijan is highly rated by public opinion around the world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290041.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze on the sidelines of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/290100.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, host a reception in New York on the 20th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/290075.html>).

The Azerbaijani Community of St. Petersburg formally organizes in Russia’s northern capital (<http://news.day.az/society/290113.html>).

Moldovan Prime Minister Vladimir Filat says that Chisinau is interested in joining the AGRI pipeline project which calls for the flow of Azerbaijani gas through Georgia to Romania (<http://news.day.az/economy/290078.html>).

September 24

President Ilham Aliyev says that Baku is “striving to bring the criteria of the development of Azerbaijan up to the standards of European states” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289778.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with his Albanian counterpart Edmond Haxhinasto, with his Congolese counterpart Alexis Thambwe, with Liberian counterpart Toga Gayewea McIntosh, with William Burns, U.S. deputy secretary of state, and with Richard Morningstar, the US secretary of state’s special envoy for Eurasian energy (<http://news.day.az/politics/290065.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/289956.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that the upcoming visit of French President Nicolas Sarkozy to Baku will be “a stimulus for the development of relations between the two countries” (<http://news.day.az/economy/290064.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's comments about "the independence" of Nagorno-Karabakh are "completely without foundation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/290056.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the number of Azerbaijani embassies abroad must be increased from the current 71 (<http://news.day.az/politics/290046.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's statement that "Nagorno-Karabakh will never be returned to Azerbaijan" highlights the weakening of Yerevan's position in the talks about the resolution of that conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/290045.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Ankara is ready to be a mediator in the Karabakh conflict if Azerbaijan so desires (<http://news.day.az/politics/289951.html>).

The 12th session of the EU's Azerbaijan Cooperation Committee takes place in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/290011.html>).

September 23

Foreign Minister Elmar Mamedyarov meets in New York with Dervish Eroglu, president of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Tuvalu Prime Minister Willy Telavi, British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Lord Howell, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nikolay Mladenov, as well as Philippe Lefort, the EU special representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, and Nabil al-Arabi, the secretary general of the Arab League (<http://news.day.az/politics/289837.html>). He also meets with his counterparts from Russia, Israel, Botswana, Ukraine, Georgia, Luxemburg, Fiji, Palestine, Jordan and Algeria (<http://news.day.az/politics/289769.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "the oil and gas fields of the Caspian are capable for supporting Europe for 100 years" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289817.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the participation of Russian military personnel in

the Yerevan military parade is “their internal affair” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289840.html>). In other comments, he says that “Turkey and Azerbaijan are friendly and fraternal states and the present policy of these countries corresponds to the interests of Turkic states and peoples” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289827.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “Azerbaijan will always be allied with Turkey” whatever happens in relations between Turkey and Israel (<http://news.day.az/politics/289884.html>). In other comments, he says that the military parade in Yerevan was “a marionette show” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289883.html>), and that “the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan has become the greatest obstacle on the path of the development of the South Caucasus and its integration into Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289846.html>).

Vilyat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Budapest, hosts a presentation of a new translation into Hungarian of a book by Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Chisinau, on “International Law and the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/290421.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the 12th congress of Russia’s ruling party *United Russia* is an historical turning point for that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/290305.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the declarations of representatives of the Armenian diaspora in Western countries about the need to launch a new propaganda policy clearly testifies to the fiasco” of its past efforts (<http://news.day.az/politics/289779.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Armenian nuclear power station continues to hang like the sword of Damocles over the Caucasus” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289772.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that “the illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territories which has lasted for years must be ended” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289764.html>).

French Transport Minister Thierry Mariani says that “Azerbaijan is a tolerant state” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289924.html>).

Norik Nikolay, vice president of the subcommittee of the European Parliament on defense and security, says that “Azerbaijan is important for the European Union from the point of view of stability in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289853.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Ankara's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is "clear and constant support" for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/289844.html>).

The Georgian foreign ministry says that Tbilisi does not recognize the so-called elections in Nagorno-Karabakh as legitimate (<http://news.day.az/politics/289800.html>).

September 22

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that as of September 1, the strategic hard currency reserve of Azerbaijan exceeds 40 billion US dollars, eight times more than its foreign debt (<http://news.day.az/economy/289596.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev tells a session of the Azerbaijani-Bulgarian business forum that trade between the two countries is expanding extraordinarily rapidly in recent months (<http://news.day.az/economy/289626.html>).

Energy and Industry Minister Natik Aliyev receives Luiz Fragan, a Spanish senator, to discuss alternative energy systems (<http://news.day.az/economy/289757.html>). Aliyev also receives Bulgarian Minister of Economy, Energy, and Tourism Traicho Traikov (<http://news.day.az/economy/289753.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov meets in Istanbul with Turkish President Abdulla Gul (<http://news.day.az/politics/289765.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that victorious countries "usually are not transformed into someone's advance post," as has happened with Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/289582.html>).

Makhmoud Karimov, president of the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences, criticizes Armenia at the 55th session of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/289679.html>).

Azerbaijan and the World Bank have signed an agreement on promoting the modernization of the capital market in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/289608.html>).

The Organization for the Liberation of Karabakh sends a letter to Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk

Conference, concerning the falsification by Armenia of Yerevan's violation of the ceasefire (<http://news.day.az/politics/289685.html>).

Inayattullah Kakar, Pakistani ambassador to Baku, appeals to Azerbaijan for assistance in overcoming the consequences of flooding in his country (<http://news.day.az/politics/289676.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that Moscow "does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289641.html>).

Günther H. Oettinger, the EU commissioner for energy and Štefan Füle, the EU commissioner for enlargement and neighbourhood policies, say that "countries neighboring the European Union are acquiring ever growing significance in the supply of energy resources to the EU countries" (<http://news.day.az/economy/289747.html>).

September 21

President Ilham Aliyev receives Bulgarian Economics, Energy, and Tourism Minister Traicho Traikov (<http://news.day.az/politics/289458.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Robert Walter, the chairman of the Group of Democrats in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/289458.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that "all problems concerning energy security in Azerbaijan have already found their solutions" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289444.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that Azerbaijan has achieved food security (<http://news.day.az/economy/289405.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with his Uruguayan counterpart Luis Almagro, his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart Surujrattan Rambachan, and his Columbian counterpart Maria Angela Holguin (<http://news.day.az/politics/289554.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party and a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the discussion at the UN of the situation in the occupied territories is a success of Azerbaijani diplomacy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289548.html>).

Milli Majlis speaker Oktay Asadov meets Cemil Çiçek, the speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/289552.html>).

Azerbaijan and Argentina agree to cooperation in the area of certification of agricultural and consumer products (<http://news.day.az/economy/289460.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, takes part in a Saudi conference of "the phenomenon of the factor of taqfir" (<http://news.day.az/society/289767.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the military parade in Yerevan on that country's independence day was "laughable" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289544.html>).

Romanian President Traian Basescu names Daniil Kristian Cobanu as his country's new ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/289459.html>).

Günther H. Oettinger, EU commissioner for energy, tells a Baku conference that "Azerbaijan is playing a key role in the realization of the South Gas Corridor project" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289403.html>). His office adds that the EU "would like to import gas from Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan directly" (<http://news.day.az/economy/289425.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the EU representation in Azerbaijan, says that "the construction of a Trans-Caspian gas pipeline does not pose any legal or ecological risks" (<http://news.day.az/economy/289414.html>).

September 20

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfaz Garayev says that "tourist services in Azerbaijan must achieve international standards" (<http://news.day.az/economy/289252.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Lorenzo Basso, Argentinian deputy agriculture, livestock and fisheries minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/289366.html>).

Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko says that Belarus and Azerbaijan "need one another" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289301.html>).

The European Commission proposes beginning talks with Azerbaijan on the easing of bilateral visa requirements (<http://news.day.az/politics/289307.html>).

Renate Brauner, vice-mayor and vice-governor of Vienna, says that “in the future, the capital of Azerbaijan can become one of the touristic centers of the world” (<http://news.day.az/economy/289282.html>).

September 19

President Ilham Aliyev says that “our music is our national treasure” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289063.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev receives his Ukrainian counterpart Yuri Boyko (<http://news.day.az/economy/289181.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that declarations by Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan “not only demonstrate the lack of seriousness” in Yerevan’s approach to talks about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict,” but also “involve the deception of his own citizens, society and the international community with the goal of concealing the failure of Armenian diplomacy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289164.html>).

Aydyn Aliyev, head of the State Customs Committee, says that the new customs code, which will go into force in January 2012, “is one of the first documents in Azerbaijan which corresponds not only to European, but to international standards” (<http://news.day.az/economy/289029.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice-speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that recent statements by US congressmen on Nagorno-Karabakh “do not reflect the official position of the United States” (<http://news.day.az/politics/289172.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says visits by foreigners to the occupied territories are being done intentionally to make a settlement of the conflict more difficult to achieve (<http://news.day.az/politics/289030.html>).

Azerbaijani and Russian forces participate in a joint training exercise along the border of their countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/289182.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that “at times, the US State Department interferes with our activity on site.” His comment came in reaction to Azerbaijani criticism of a US government report on the state

of religious freedom in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/289155.html>).

The Arab League decides to support Azerbaijan's candidacy for a seat on the UN Security Council for 2012-2013 (<http://news.day.az/politics/289140.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the EU office in Baku, says that "an important part of the cooperation plan between Azerbaijan and the European Union is connected with the struggle against corruption" (<http://news.day.az/politics/289078.html>).

The Asian Development Bank says that "Azerbaijan occupies one of the leading places among the countries participating in the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation program (CARES)" (<http://news.day.az/economy/289073.html>).

Sylvia Meier-Kajbic, Austria's ambassador to Baku, says that she expects a rapid increase in bilateral trade between the two countries this year (<http://news.day.az/economy/289044.html>).

September 18

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that his delegation has again raised the issue of the fictional "elections" to "local organs of self-administration in the occupied Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh" with UN member states (<http://news.day.az/politics/290038.html>).

Kish Air declares the opening of direct flights between Baku and Tabriz, but later puts off the start of this new service indefinitely (<http://news.day.az/economy/288951.html>).

September 17

Štefan Füle, the European Union commissioner for enlargement and European neighborhood policy, says that the EU will "step by step increase its role in the resolution of regional conflicts like that in Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/288877.html>).

September 16

In the name of President Ilham Aliyev, a reception in honor of visiting Montenegrin President Filip Vujanovic is held in Baku (<http://news.day.az/>

politics/288569.html). Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade then receives him officially (<http://news.day.az/politics/288742.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says in Paris that “Azerbaijan has guaranteed its energy security and at present is making a contribution to the energy security of its partner countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/288598.html>).

Azerbaijan and Bulgaria form an inter-parliamentary friendship group (<http://news.day.az/politics/288779.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova receives Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, at his request (<http://news.day.az/politics/288743.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that “Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the territory of Azerbaijan and elections can take place there only according to the laws of the Azerbaijani Republic” (<http://news.day.az/politics/288734.html>).

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation opens new schools in Azerbaijani-populated districts of Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/288730.html>).

Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski says that he is preparing to take a final decision on the Odessa-Brody-Plotsk pipeline project after the October elections in his country (<http://news.day.az/economy/288727.html>).

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi says that Azerbaijan and Iran have “great potential” for the development of relations in various spheres including cultural, religious and historical (<http://news.day.az/politics/288680.html>).

Iranian Transportation Minister Ali Nikzad says that an existing highway in the northern part of Iran will be extended in order to link Azerbaijan with its non-contiguous Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (<http://news.day.az/economy/288654.html>).

US officials tell a Washington conference devoted to the 20th anniversary of the independence of the countries of the South Caucasus that the US “intends to support peace, security, economic development and democratic institutions” in that region (<http://news.day.az/politics/288653.html>).

Jennifer Walsh, director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia of the US Defense Department, says, “Russia will play a certain role in the South

Caucasus, but no one country must have the right of privileged influence" there (<http://news.day.az/politics/288611.html>).

Justin Friedman, director of the Office for Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts of the US Department of State, says that Washington "will continue to work through the medium of the co-chairmanship in the OSCE Minsk Group for the achievement of agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan" about Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/288601.html>).

September 15

The Foreign Ministry criticizes two US congressmen for their "unconstructive" position relative to the occupied territories and aggression by Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/288427.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that so-called "elections" held in Karabakh are intended to "cover the occupation policy of Armenia" and are thus illegitimate (<http://news.day.az/politics/288463.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev meets in Paris with his French counterpart Eric Besson (<http://news.day.az/economy/288545.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, makes a public protest against various measures connected with the self-proclaimed separatist regime in Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/288406.html>).

Tofiq Zulfugarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tallinn, says that Azerbaijan and Estonia plan to expand cooperation in the information technology and banking sectors (<http://news.day.az/economy/288533.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is "absolutely clear" that recent declarations by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan "are nothing more than a bluff" (<http://news.day.az/politics/288434.html>).

Tahir Rzaev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "it is well known to the entire world and even more to the countries of the South Caucasus that Armenia does not have any economic or political potential" (<http://news.day.az/politics/288360.html>).

Andrzej Kasprzyk, the personal representative of the chairperson-in-office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, visited the

occupied territories and met with Bako Saakyan, the leader of the Karabakh separatists (<http://news.day.az/politics/288431.html>).

The Council for Cooperation of Turkic Language States supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/288468.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that "the ties of friendship and brotherhood between Azerbaijan and Turkey have passed along a large historical path and therefore are indestructible" (<http://news.day.az/politics/288465.html>).

September 14

President Ilham Aliyev telephones his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev to extend his greetings on the latter's birthday (<http://news.day.az/politics/288316.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Montenegrin ambassador Ramo Bralic (<http://news.day.az/politics/288266.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova issues a statement detailing Armenia's criminal activities in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/288361.html>).

First Deputy Prosecutor General Rustam Usubov participates in a Minsk meeting of the Coordination Council of Procurator Generals of the CIS States (<http://news.day.az/politics/287911.html>).

Tahir Tagizade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Prague, says that the legislatures of the two countries plan to expand their cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/288318.html>).

Isfandiyar Vahabzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Minsk, says that trade between Azerbaijan and Belarus is expected to increase to 800 million US dollars in 2011 (<http://news.day.az/economy/288329.html>).

Rovnag Abdullayev, head of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, says that the discovery of new gas fields in Azerbaijan further "strengthens its position in the world" as a supplier of gas (<http://news.day.az/economy/288308.html>). He adds that Azerbaijan is "an open transit country" (<http://news.day.az/economy/288294.html>).

The State Committee for Work with Religious Structures of Azerbaijan is investigating the US Department of State's report on religion in 2010 (<http://news.day.az/politics/288333.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that the international community should be putting pressure on Armenia to achieve a settlement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/288213.html>).

Vahid Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia's economy is in such a state that "the second wave of the world crisis" could destroy it entirely (<http://news.day.az/politics/288220.html>).

The European Commission says that the mandate of the European Union for talks between the EU, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan on a Trans-Caspian pipeline is an essential step forward in the realization of this project (<http://news.day.az/economy/288229.html>).

September 13

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva meets in Paris with Gérard Larcher, president of the French Senate (<http://news.day.az/politics/288190.html>).

Health Minister Ogtay Shiralyev chairs the 61st session of the European Regional Committee of the World Health Organization in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/288081.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov meets in Tashkent with his Uzbek counterpart Bakhodir Matlyubov (<http://news.day.az/politics/288015.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov signs a memorandum of understanding with the German organization GIZ on the provision of technical assistance to the Foreign Ministry's Administration for Support of International Development (<http://news.day.az/politics/288159.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy begins its sixth program for training state employees on foreign affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/288179.html>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry expresses "regret and surprise" at the decision of the European Union regarding a Trans-Caspian pipeline (<http://news.day.az/economy/288161.html>).

Margaret Chan, the director general of the World Health Organization, says that Azerbaijan has made great strides over the last five years in the area of health care (<http://news.day.az/society/288039.html>).

Agis Tsouros, head of the strategic programs and special projects committee of the European Regional Committee of the World Health Organization, says that trading in human organs as Armenia has been accused of doing in the occupied territories is “absolutely impermissible and completely contradicts human rights” (<http://news.day.az/politics/288100.html>).

September 12

President Ilham Aliyev receives Margaret Chan, secretary general of the World Health Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/287950.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Thierry Mariani, the French state secretary for transport (<http://news.day.az/politics/287950.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Joschka Fischer, former foreign minister of Germany (<http://news.day.az/politics/287950.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva tells the World Health Organization meeting in Baku that “our constant interaction with a number of leading world companies in the sphere of wealth and with humanitarian foundations is bearing fruit” (<http://news.day.az/politics/288005.html>). In other comments, she says that “today, Azerbaijan is a contemporary country, which is dynamically developing in all spheres of life, including in culture, science and education” (<http://news.day.az/politics/287983.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, says that Yerevan is attempting to “blackmail” several members of the UN (<http://news.day.az/politics/287901.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is no surprise that Armenians are now talking about “preparation for a constitutional revolution” given that country’s politics (<http://news.day.az/politics/287786.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the return of former Armenian president Robert Kocharyan to office would spark “a civil war” there (<http://news.day.az/politics/287697.html>).

Iranian Vice President Mohammad Javad Mohammadzade says that waters from the Araz will be diverted to Lake Urmia in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/287988.html>).

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt says that “the European Union must support the process of Karabakh peace-making” (<http://news.day.az/politics/287872.html>).

Irina Bokova, the secretary general of UNESCO, thanks First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva for Azerbaijan’s assistance in overcoming the consequences of the earthquake in Haiti (<http://news.day.az/politics/287926.html>).

Georgian First Lady Sandra Roelofs visits Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/287937.html>).

St. Petersburg Governor Georgy Poltavchenko says that the Azerbaijani diaspora in Russia’s northern capital has made a major contribution to the life of that city (<http://news.day.az/politics/287908.html>).

September 11

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan has made a contribution to the struggle with international terrorism (<http://news.day.az/politics/287765.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the opening of a major new gas field in Azerbaijan is “good news both for Azerbaijan and Total and also for the Southern Corridor project which will help Europe diversify its supplies of natural gas” (<http://news.day.az/politics/287766.html>).

The US embassy in Baku says that the United States “highly values the support which Azerbaijan is making to ensuring international security” (<http://news.day.az/politics/287764.html>).

September 10

The Azerbaijan government presents its fourth report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Children (<http://news.day.az/society/287691.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the discovery of large reserves of gas in the Absheron field increases the role of Azerbaijan in

providing energy security to Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/287701.html>).

Uruguayan Deputy Foreign Minister Roberto Carreras tells Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Buenos Aires, that Uruguay supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the mediation effort of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/287694.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, a member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, says that cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan in the energy sphere is entering a new stage of development given the opening of the new Absheron gas field (<http://news.day.az/economy/287708.html>).

September 9

President Ilham Aliyev welcomes the discovery of a new gas field in the Caspian Sea off the Absheron peninsula (<http://news.day.az/politics/287594.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Michael Borrel, the vice president of Total (<http://news.day.az/politics/287634.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says that ADA will expand to 1500 students by the 2015-2016 academic year and be an important institution for Azerbaijani higher education (<http://news.day.az/politics/287556.html>).

Military Procurator Khanlar Valiyev takes part in the 10th International Conference on Criminal Law in Budapest (<http://news.day.az/politics/287616.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the recent declaration by ASALA in Yerevan “yet again demonstrates to the entire world that Armenia is a state which openly supports terrorism” (<http://news.day.az/politics/287462.html>).

Koray Targay, the head of the Baku office of the OSCE, says that the OSCE maintains close ties with the Azerbaijan government and looks forward to the adoption of a new law on defamation (<http://news.day.az/politics/287502.html>).

September 8

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ilyas Umakhanov, the deputy chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/287405.html>).

The Azerbaijan government and Russia's Astrakhan oblast sign an intergovernmental agreement on trade, science, and cultural cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/287363.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the discussion of the Karabakh conflict at the UN General Assembly is important for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/287417.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the current situation of Armenia clearly shows that Azerbaijan has far surpassed this state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/287263.html>).

Khady Rajabli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan should pursue the kind of constructive policy with its neighbors that Baku does (<http://news.day.az/politics/287053.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is not appropriate to say as Yerevan has that Armenia's selection to the UN Security Council would increase the authority of that body (<http://news.day.az/politics/287226.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World stages a brief unsanctioned demonstration before being dispersed by police in front of the Iranian embassy in Baku to protest Tehran's handling of Lake Urmia and to call for the unification of Northern and Southern Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/287362.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that "the Karabakh problem is the main obstacle for the achievement of stability in the South Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/287282.html>).

Kazakhstan Defense Minister Adilbek Dzhaksybekov visits Azerbaijan to study the defense industry (<http://news.day.az/politics/287359.html>).

Ukrainian Energy Minister Yury Boyko says that Kyiv intends to purchase gas from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/287435.html>).

Paulo Antonio Pereira Pinto, Brazil's ambassador to Baku, says that Brazil is interested in developing relations with Azerbaijan in many spheres (<http://news.day.az/politics/287264.html>).

Igor Bodi, Moldova's ambassador to Baku, says that Chisinau has presented its proposals for the next session of the intergovernmental commission on trade and scientific-technical cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/287308.html>).

Ersad Hurmusli, an advisor to the president of Turkey, says that "the strengthening of Azerbaijan in the region is very important both for Turkey and for the entire Turkic people" (<http://news.day.az/politics/287320.html>).

Aleksandr Zhilkin, governor of Russia's Astrakhan oblast, says that ferry service will begin between Baku and Olya this year (<http://news.day.az/economy/287381.html>).

September 7

President Ilham Aliyev receives Aleksandr Zhilkin, governor of Russia's Astrakhan oblast (<http://news.day.az/politics/287238.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Gerhard Roiss, chairman of the board of Austria's OMV (<http://news.day.az/politics/287211.html>).

Ramiz Rzayev, the chairman of the Supreme Court, says that Azerbaijan must do everything possible to eliminate the conditions that prompt the European Court to take decisions against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/287254.html>).

Ecology and Energy Minister Huseyngulu Bagirov says that Iran must reach an agreement with Azerbaijan on any diversion of water from the Araz Riber to Lake Urmia (<http://news.day.az/society/287112.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that reports on the Wikileaks site about Azerbaijan are slanderous and untrue (<http://news.day.az/politics/287229.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the OSCE Minsk Group "very softly" addresses the occupying country (<http://news.day.az/politics/287141.html>).

Malahat Hasanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that as long as it remains an occupying country, Armenia will encounter from day to day a decline in its economic potential and an increase in the poverty of its population (<http://news.day.az/politics/287117.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “it is well-known that elections in Armenia take place with serious inference by foreign forces” (<http://news.day.az/politics/287023.html>).

The tourism ministry says that “Azerbaijan will be able to receive all guests at Eurovision 2012” (<http://news.day.az/economy/287113.html>).

The World Economic Forum says that Azerbaijan has improved its ranking in competitiveness from 57th to 55th place over the last year (<http://news.day.az/economy/287177.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group meet to discuss their program before the December OSCE Ministerial in Vilnius (<http://news.day.az/politics/287458.html>).

Zokir Vazirov, Tajikistan’s ambassador to Baku, says that Dushanbe attaches great importance to the development of “all-sided cooperation” with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/287255.html>).

Philippe Lefort, EU special representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, says that the shortest path for association with the European Union for countries in the South Caucasus is the resolution of conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/287155.html>).

September 6

President Ilham Aliyev says that “after a few years, Azerbaijan will join the ranks of developed countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286841.html>).

A statue of First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is erected in the Canadian city of Niagara on the Lake (<http://news.day.az/politics/287005.html>).

Vasif Talybov, head of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, visits Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/286742.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Belgrade that “Azerbaijan highly values the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286979.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic (<http://news.day.az/politics/287018.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives his Kazakhstan counterpart Adilbek Dzhaksybekov (<http://news.day.az/politics/286939.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev attends a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the independence of Uzbekistan hosted by Ismetulla Irgashev, Uzbekistan's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/286887.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the international norms which govern the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been known "already for many years," but Armenia either because it doesn't want to or can't has refused to recognize them and has thus delayed a resolution (<http://news.day.az/politics/286898.html>).

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Intigam Babayev discusses cooperation with his counterparts in Portugal (<http://news.day.az/society/286848.html>).

Ambassador Emin Eyubov, head of Azerbaijan's representation at the European Union, says that there exists in Europe "a clear understanding of the importance of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/286862.html>).

Hikmat Osmanov, the head of the Republic Committee of the Trade Union of Workers of Government Institutions and Social Services, signs a cooperation accord with his Ukrainian counterpart Tatyana Nikitina (<http://news.day.az/economy/286994.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan's approach is having the most negative impact on the Armenian people (<http://news.day.az/politics/286830.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that Turkey does not devote any significance to Wikileaks reports concerning Azerbaijani-Turkish relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/286911.html>).

The embassy of Slovakia in Moscow issues a statement distancing itself from commemorations in Prague of the 20th anniversary of "the independence" of the self-proclaimed Karabakh republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/286856.html>).

The European Union journal *Europolitics* says that Azerbaijan and the European Committee are discussing an agreement on a common air space (<http://news.day.az/economy/286924.html>).

The German government says it will help Azerbaijan to deal with industrial pollution (<http://news.day.az/economy/286904.html>).

September 5

President Ilham Aliyev receives Philippe Lefort, EU special representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/286757.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the latest Wikileaks reports concerning Azerbaijan are “a lie and a slander” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286815.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Mexico city who is jointly accredited to Quito, presents his letters of credence to Columbian President Juan Manuel Santos (<http://news.day.az/politics/286686.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazimly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Minsk Group does not have as its goal the resolution of the conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286621.html>).

Grzegorz Juliusz Schetyna, marshal of the Polish Seim, says that “the European Union must not close its borders to neighboring countries who are trying to follow democratic values and be closer to Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286894.html>).

Philippe Lefort, EU special representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, says that the South Caucasus has great importance for the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/286647.html>).

Eldar Ismayilov, the president of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan, is elected deputy chairman of the International Banking Council (<http://news.day.az/economy/286729.html>).

Mark Hereward, the head of the UNICEF office in Baku, says that Azerbaijan’s adoption of a juvenile justice law will help resolve many existing problems (<http://news.day.az/society/286770.html>).

Tedo Japaridze, former Georgian foreign minister, becomes co-director of the Research Center on Energy Security at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (<http://news.day.az/politics/286765.html>).

September 3

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade says that the summit of the CIS “demonstrated the unconstructive quality of the position of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286549.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the resolution adopted by

PACE on political prisoners in Azerbaijan is “not objective” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286553.html>).

September 2

President Ilham Aliyev receives Switzerland’s vice president, Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf (<http://news.day.az/politics/286397.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Christos Pourgourides, the head of the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/286353.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov participates in the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CIS in Dushanbe (<http://news.day.az/politics/286173.html>).

Chingiz Huseynzade, vice president of Azerbaijan’s national Olympic committee, says that Baku has been confirmed as a candidate for the summer games in 2020 (<http://news.day.az/sport/286188.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, says Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan awards those around him who are “murderers just as he is, guilty in the deaths of innocent people, children, the elderly and women” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286342.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan respects the will of the Libyan people and recognizes the National Transitional Council as the organ of power there (<http://news.day.az/politics/286413.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan does not recognize the voting in Abkhazia as legitimate and supports the territorial integrity of Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/286438.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade takes part in the CIS summit in Dushanbe (<http://news.day.az/politics/286429.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Claudio Gugerotti, the papal nuncio to Azerbaijan on the completion of his assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/286371.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the definition of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh is “one of the main basic principles of the renewed Madrid document” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286373.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Christos Pourgourides, the head of the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/286268.html>).

Zakir Garalov, procurator general, receives Christos Pourgourides, the head of the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/286368.html>).

The Transportation Ministry announces that Azerbaijan and Russia have agreed on the joint reconstruction of a bridge over the Samur River (<http://news.day.az/economy/286434.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the international community must apply sanctions against Armenia for its “destructive position” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286347.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “problems within the ruling elite of Armenia will grow” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286208.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, takes part in Istanbul celebrations of Ramadan (<http://news.day.az/politics/286408.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy begins the third running of its special courses on the Caspian basin studies (<http://news.day.az/politics/286259.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World try to stage a protest before the Iranian embassy in Baku but are prevented from doing so by police (<http://news.day.az/politics/286384.html>).

Leaders of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Germany provide information to the city government of Magdeburg about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/286372.html>).

UNICEF's Baku office condemns the murder by Armenians of Azerbaijani children (<http://news.day.az/politics/286362.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, former head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that “the European Union is conducting itself in an extremely passive way on the question of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/286335.html>).

September 1

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan will not stop negotiating to seek a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/286133.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets his Serbian counterpart Vuk Jeremic (<http://news.day.az/politics/286065.html>).

Tahir Tagizade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Prague, says "the Armenian mafia" in the Czech Republic is spreading disinformation about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/285999.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian president would not be making the statements he is if he was not getting support from abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/286095.html>).

The German embassy in Baku says that "Germany continues its policy of non-recognition of the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and its structures" (<http://news.day.az/politics/286192.html>).

AUGUST

August 31

President Ilham Aliyev telephones his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rakhmon (<http://news.day.az/politics/285987.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Koray Targay, the incoming head of the Baku Office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/285979.html>).

The Foreign Ministry calls on Armenia to withdraw its forces from the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/285962.html>).

Gular Ahmadova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the lack of any international sanctions against Armenia has convinced Yerevan officials that they can lie without limit (<http://news.day.az/politics/285908.html>).

Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic makes a working visit to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/285869.html>).

The US allocated 10 million US dollars in military assistance to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/285968.html>).

August 30

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the ruling clan of Armenia is not in a position to take rational steps” (<http://news.day.az/politics/285783.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan and Turkey keep on discussing the technical issues of a package of gas accords, including on the direct transit of Azerbaijani gas to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/285846.html>).

Joseph Owen, the representative of the World Bank in Azerbaijan, says that the bank supports Baku's efforts to diversify its economy and develop the non-petroleum sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/285632.html>).

August 29

Nazim Ibrahimov, head of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that "the problems of Azerbaijanis living in Georgia will be solved" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285771.html>).

Shovgi Mehdizade, counselor of the Azerbaijani embassy in Georgia, says that "Azerbaijan is playing an important role in the economic life of Georgia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285757.html>).

Gunduz Ismayilov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that the creation of the Administration of Muslims of Georgia "disturbs" Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/285753.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that divisions between Armenia and the Armenian diaspora of the United States reflect underlying problems in Yerevan's position on Armenia's borders (<http://news.day.az/politics/285690.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the development of Azerbaijan and Georgia are interconnected" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285728.html>).

The Batumi Conference on "The Integration of Georgian Azerbaijanis in Society in the context of Azerbaijani-Georgian Cooperation" issues an appeal to the presidents of Azerbaijan and Georgia praising them for their cooperation and noting that they are "a guarantee of the ever strengthening strategic partnership between the countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285770.html>).

Mirza Davitaya, Georgian minister for diaspora issues, says that Georgia "always observes with pride the development of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285729.html>).

Mirza Davitaya, Georgian minister for diaspora affairs, says that Georgia unequivocally supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the liberation of the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/285727.html>).

August 28

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that in addition to promoting its own development, Azerbaijan is helping Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/285695.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, head of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that “the friendship of the Azerbaijani and Georgian peoples has deep roots” (<http://news.day.az/politics/285691.html>).

August 27

Azerbaijan sends a note of protest to the German Foreign Ministry demanding that Berlin block plans to hold a concert in Stuttgart devoted to the separatist regime in Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/285582.html>; <http://news.day.az/politics/285678.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian leaders have increasingly adopted an anti-Russian position in an attempt to explain away their own failures in foreign policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/285490.html>).

August 26

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his Ukrainian counterpart Konstantin Grishchenko to discuss bilateral ties and the future of GUAM (<http://news.day.az/politics/285372.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is “carefully following the situation in Libya” and that it hopes for “the most rapid reestablishment of peace and quiet in this country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/285433.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the appointment of an additional rapporteur of the Council of Europe for political prisoners in Azerbaijan is “a decision far from objectivity” (<http://news.day.az/politics/285362.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Yerevan’s steps made the ratification of the Armenian-Turkish protocols impossible” (<http://news.day.az/politics/285286.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan’s declarations at present are directed exclusively at a domestic audience (<http://news.day.az/politics/285308.html>).

The Ninth International Summer Forum of Azerbaijani Youth Who Studied Abroad (ASAIF) opens in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/285376.html>).

Yusif Halachoglu, a deputy of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "the strengthening of ties among Turkey, Russia and Azerbaijan can lead to a situation in which Armenia will remain isolated" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285314.html>).

Pakistani Senate Chairman Farooq Hamid Naek tells Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Islamabad, that Pakistan remains grateful for Baku's assistance after the earthquake in 2005 and the flooding in 2010 (<http://news.day.az/politics/285428.html>).

The EU Council adopted a decision to appoint Philippe Lefort as the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia. That is, Philippe Lefort will perform the functions of both Peter Semneby who served as EUSR for the South Caucasus until 28 February 2011, and Pierre Morel who served as EUSR for the crisis in Georgia until 31 August 2011 (http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/press_corner/all_news/news/2011/2011_08_26_2_en.htm).

Serik Primbetov, Kazakhstan's ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijani-Kazakhstani ties are "developing dynamically and at present are at the level of strategic partnership" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285384.html>).

Bishop Faige of Germany says that "Armenia must leave occupied Azerbaijani territories" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285406.html>).

August 25

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells a group of visiting permanent representatives to the United Nations that "the preservation by the international community of the status quo in the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is unacceptable and that a resolution of the conflict is possible only in the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285292.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Koray Targay, the new head of the Baku Office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/285268.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, along with his Turkish, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan counterparts, sends a proposal to the UN Secretary General calling for the UN General Assembly to approve making the Council of Cooperation of Turkic Language States an observer to that body (<http://news.day.az/politics/285220.html>).

The Azerbaijanis of Germany send a letter of protest to the government of Baden-Wurtemberg and to the mayor of Stuttgart protesting plans to hold a concert there on "the 20th anniversary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285307.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "if the leadership of Armenia will act in the same spirit as it does now, then in the near future, revolutionary changes in that country are completely possible" (<http://news.day.az/politics/285128.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that a new law on tourism should devote particular attention to propagandizing the history of Azerbaijan to tourists (<http://news.day.az/economy/285266.html>).

Kamal Ismailzade, the head of the department of economic ties with CIS countries of the Azerbaijani Council of Ministers, says that the CIS was created in order to prevent economic losses from the end of the USSR and that it may play a role as an analogue to the European Union in the future (<http://news.day.az/economy/285183.html>).

The Argentine Senate establishes an inter-parliamentary friendship group with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/285145.html>).

August 24

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-zade receives 12 permanent representatives of UN member countries during their visit to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/285070.html>).

Emergency Situation Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov receives Naser Abdul Karem Rahemin, the Palestinian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/285095.html>).

The Foreign Ministry welcomes the statement of the French Foreign Ministry that the visit of deputies of the French National Assembly to Nagorno-Karabakh does not represent a change in the French position on the resolution of the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/284970.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Paris, says that the visit by French deputies to Nagorno-Karabakh is in conflict with international norms (<http://news.day.az/politics/285012.html>).

Elman Arasly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Amman, meets with Jordanian Minister Haifa abu Gazaleh to discuss expanding bilateral tourism (<http://news.day.az/economy/284950.html>).

Musa Gasymlly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the visit of French deputies to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan casts doubt on the mediating role of France in the resolution of the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/285077.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that deepening economic problems in Armenia are behind the decline of that country's permanent population (<http://news.day.az/politics/284938.html>).

The Euro-Atlantic Organization of Azerbaijani Youth is admitted as a consulting member to the UN Economic and Social Council (<http://news.day.az/society/285039.html>).

The Libyan Embassy in Baku raises the flag of the Libyan National Transitional Government (<http://news.day.az/politics/285060.html>).

August 23

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives British Air Vice-Marshal Graham Howard and tells him that "the continuing occupation policy of Armenia is connected with the existence in the world of a policy of double standards" (<http://news.day.az/politics/284818.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that his office "reacts to each step taken by the Armenian side on the issue of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/284801.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on French deputies to study the history of the Caucasus before making any further statements about Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/284852.html>).

Evda Abramov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the Armenian president is afraid to make an historic step" (<http://news.day.az/politics/284750.html>).

The Azerbaijan Youth Organization of Russia, together with the All-Russian Popular Front, marks the Day of the Russian State Flag (<http://news.day.az/society/285036.html>).

Aleksandr Mishchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to Baku, hosts a ceremony in the Azerbaijani capital in honour of the Day of the State Flag of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/284899.html>).

The Iranian embassy in Moscow says that Armenian media outlets have lied when they reported that the Iranian ambassador to Russia had referred to "the government of Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/284809.html>).

A Kyiv conference of the Council of National Communities of Ukraine notes Azerbaijan's longstanding tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance (<http://news.day.az/society/284990.html>).

August 22

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/284619.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is guilty of hypocrisy by his promotion of the idea of "Greater Armenia," an imaginary place that includes portions of the territory of contemporary Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/284689.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Iranian reports that Yerevan has provided bases for the training of Kurdish separatists and terrorists are nothing new (<http://news.day.az/politics/284572.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, takes part in a conference on "the Place and Role of Sufism in Islam" in Chechnya (<http://news.day.az/society/284696.html>).

Adil Garibov, the head of the Institute of Radiation Problems at the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, calls for research on the environmental impact of the Gabala radar station (<http://news.day.az/society/284672.html>).

The Ecology Ministry reports that Armenian and Georgian sources continue to pollute the Kura and Araz rivers (<http://news.day.az/society/284618.html>).

Azerbaijan becomes an observer to the European Youth Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/284684.html>).

Turkey's Grand National Assembly removes the protocols on relations between Turkey and Armenia from its agenda thus depriving them of any juridical force (<http://news.day.az/politics/284746.html>).

August 21

The Foreign Ministry says that the statements by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan at a Lake Sevan youth movement conference show that he "wants to put an end" to all accords reached so far on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/284540.html>).

August 20

Deputy Industry and Energy Minister Gulmammad Javadov and Korean officials sign cooperation accords (<http://news.day.az/economy/284463.html>).

August 19

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that his group is actively organizing representations of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh in various foreign countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/284267.html>).

The African Union sends a letter of thanks to Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov for Azerbaijan's humanitarian assistance to Somalia (<http://news.day.az/politics/284260.html>).

Gas flows from Iran to Turkey, interrupted by an August 11 explosion and that led to increased Turkish purchases of Azerbaijani gas, resume (<http://news.day.az/economy/284275.html>).

August 18

Elman Arasly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Amman, reports on the basis of conversations with Feisal Faiz, the speaker of the Jordanian parliament,

that Jordan supports the position of Azerbaijan on the Karabakh issue (<http://news.day.az/politics/284166.html>).

Elchin Guliyev, the head of the State Border Service, says that “a number of countries” would like to have their border guard officers trained in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/284131.html>).

Achim Steiner, executive director of the UN Environment Program (UNEP), greets the accord signed by the Caspian states, including Azerbaijan, that calls for a joint struggle against the pollution of the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/284141.html>).

The Iranian Foreign Ministry responds to Azerbaijan’s note of protest concerning the recent declaration of General Seid Hasan Firuzabadi, the chief of the Iranian General Staff (<http://news.day.az/politics/284014.html>).

August 17

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan has not and will not allow the Gabala radar station to be used against the interests of neighboring states and in particular allies (<http://news.day.az/politics/283921.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Yerevan does not have the resources to populate the occupied territories” (<http://news.day.az/politics/283881.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Armenian side is trying to continue an imitation of a negotiating process on Karabakh” rather than reach an agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/283749.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev calls on the Caspian littoral states to live up to their promises on a moratorium on sturgeon fishing (<http://news.day.az/politics/283979.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that “the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by peaceful means is a priority for President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton” (<http://news.day.az/politics/283915.html>).

Turkmenistan has proposed discussing Caspian region security at the upcoming 66th session of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/283805.html>).

August 16

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the main goal of social policy is to strengthen Azerbaijan and improve the well-being of the Azerbaijani people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/283464.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Elkhan Polukhov Azerbaijan’s ambassador to South Africa (<http://news.day.az/politics/283783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Latif Gandilov Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/283783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Gursel Ismailzade Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Japan (<http://news.day.az/politics/283783.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, calls upon UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to direct his attention to Armenia’s actions (<http://news.day.az/politics/283636.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan’s ombudsman, says that Azerbaijan is carrying out significant efforts to bring the country’s laws into correspondence with international standards (<http://news.day.az/society/283660.html>).

Neftgaztikinti of the State Oil and Gas Company of Azerbaijan concludes an agreement with Turkmenistan to conduct exploration work in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/economy/283720.html>).

General Ucel Karauz begins service as Turkey’s military attaché to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/283722.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the European Union representation in Azerbaijan, says that the process of resolving the Karabakh issue must be accelerated (<http://news.day.az/politics/283701.html>).

The Permanent Committee of the Convention on International Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Under Threat of Extinction discusses means for preserving the Caspian sturgeon (<http://news.day.az/economy/283616.html>).

August 15

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov discusses the history of the Karabakh conflict during an interview with Al-Jazeera’s Turkish service (<http://news.day.az/politics/283542.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade, not President Ilham Aliyev, will take part in the September CIS summit in Dushanbe (<http://news.day.az/politics/283592.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Cairo, greets the Arab-Islamic world on the occasion of Ramadan (<http://news.day.az/politics/283543.html>).

Zakir Garalov, procurator general of Azerbaijan, receives Aleksandr Bastrykin, head of the investigation committee of Russia, to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/283588.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Karabakh plays "the role of a barometer of Armenian politics" (<http://news.day.az/politics/283585.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia is being transformed into a state without a population" (<http://news.day.az/politics/283539.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the population of Armenia understands that its country is not independent and that it is ruled from abroad" (<http://news.day.az/politics/283397.html>).

Azerbaijani military personnel take part in de-mining training in Izmir, Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/282923.html>).

Debnath Show, India's ambassador to Baku, says that New Delhi intends to expand its cooperation with Azerbaijan in the areas of tourism and agriculture (<http://news.day.az/politics/283449.html>).

August 13

The Presidential Administration responds to a letter from a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Khankandi about the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/283333.html>).

Officials from the Caspian States, including Azerbaijan, at a meeting in Aktau sign an accord about preventing oil leaks in the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/283291.html>).

The Pakistan Observer publishes a major article on Azerbaijani First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva (<http://news.day.az/politics/283338.html>).

August 12

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, signs on behalf of Baku an agreement with the UN to provide assistance to Somalia (<http://news.day.az/politics/283044.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, presents a protest note to the Iranian defense ministry concerning statements made by Seid Hasan Firuzabadi, chief of the Iranian General Staff (<http://news.day.az/politics/283175.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is "senseless" to try to use the Karabakh conflict as a means of pressure on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/283159.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia's economic decline reflects the lack of any domestic production there and warns that the country cannot continue to exist on assistance from abroad alone (<http://news.day.az/politics/283046.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan will offer asylum to individuals who are subject to violence in their daily lives (<http://news.day.az/society/283217.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there are indications of new splits within "the Karabakh clan" that has long dominated Armenian politics and been more concerned about its property and power interests than about those of Armenians more generally (<http://news.day.az/politics/283121.html>).

Inayatullah Kakar, incoming Pakistani ambassador to Baku, says that Pakistan considers the expansion of economic ties between the two countries to be extremely important (<http://news.day.az/politics/283070.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin and Serik Primbetov, the ambassadors to Baku of Russia and Kazakhstan respectively, meet with Azerbaijani students (<http://news.day.az/politics/283183.html>).

Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, says that Iranian officials must not disrupt Tehran's relations with neighboring Muslim countries by meaningless and inappropriate statements as Seid Hasan Firuzabadi, the chief of the Iranian General Staff appears to have done (<http://news.day.az/politics/283126.html>).

August 11

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan's relations with Iran are always based on "the principles of good neighborliness, friendship and useful cooperation," something that makes certain statements by Iranian officials troubling given that they suggest there are "certain circles in Iran" which do not want good ties with Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/282981.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Nadir Huseynov says that Azerbaijan has presented a note of protest to Iran concerning the statements of Seid Hasan Firuzabadi, chief of the Iranian General Staff (<http://news.day.az/politics/282971.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, attends an iftar at the White House at the invitation of US President Barak Obama (<http://news.day.az/politics/283004.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Russia, announces plans for the opening of an Azerbaijani-language school in Yekaterinburg (<http://news.day.az/politics/282989.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the meeting of President Ilham Aliyev with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Sochi represents "the next stage of talks on the resolution" of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/282899.html>).

Fazail Ibrahimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenians relate to the political processes in their country with "apathy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/282842.html>).

The Iranian Foreign Ministry says that reports about the statements of Seid Hasan Firuzabadi, the chief of the Iranian General Staff, do not correspond to reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/283008.html>).

The Press Council of Azerbaijan and UNESCO launch a project on media and climate change (<http://news.day.az/society/283029.html>).

The Iranian Foreign Ministry says that reports about the statements of Seid Hasan Firuzabadi, the chief of the Iranian General Staff, do not correspond to reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/283008.html>).

A delegation of senior militia officers from China visits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/282919.html>).

August 10

President Ilham Aliyev tells diplomats from Muslim countries accredited in Baku that he is glad that “the number of embassies of Muslim countries in Azerbaijan is growing” and underscores that his government “is striving to raise” Azerbaijan into the ranks of developed countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/282762.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Roosevelt Skerrit, prime minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica (<http://news.day.az/politics/282823.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the meeting of President Ilham Aliyev with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Sochi on August 9 will contribute to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/282726.html>).

Fuad Askarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says that the decision of President Ilham Aliyev to allow former president Ayaz Mutallibov to come to Azerbaijan for the funeral of his son was a humane step that “must not be used for political speculations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/282796.html>).

The Georgian Foreign Ministry says that it deeply regrets the loss of life and property as a result of the explosion in the Hajigabul district of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/282816.html>).

August 9

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Sochi and expresses his thanks for Moscow’s contributions toward the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/282535.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recently some in Armenia are coming to recognize the realities now threatening their country (<http://news.day.az/politics/282503.html>).

Azerbaijan’s population has increased 24.4 percent over the last 20 years and 11.2 percent over the last decade alone (<http://news.day.az/society/282609.html>).

August 8

The Azerbaijani government provides Somalia with 100,000 US dollars in assistance (<http://news.day.az/politics/282407.html>).

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to London, hosts a meeting of British businessmen on investment opportunities in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/282464.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the international community, including the OSCE Minsk Group, "must put pressure on Armenia for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/society/282376.html>).

Former Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutallibov makes a private visit to Azerbaijan to attend the funeral of his son (<http://news.day.az/politics/282454.html>).

The Central Council of the Azerbaijani Diaspora in Germany appeals to the German parliament to put pressure on Armenia to leave the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/282461.html>).

August 6

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, receives Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/282194.html>).

August 5

Aslan Aslanov, the head of AzerTAG, says that Azerbaijan Telegraph Agency is the child of the first democratic state in the East, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (<http://news.day.az/hitech/282059.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he hopes NATO's Parliamentary Assembly will adopt "an objective document on Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/282119.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he does not believe that there could be a change in leadership in Armenia that would not make holding on to Karabakh a justification for their remaining in power (<http://news.day.az/politics/281971.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu receives Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov (<http://news.day.az/politics/281993.html>).

August 4

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that his mission has raised the question within the UN of the killing by Armenian forces of a 13 year-old Azerbaijani girl (<http://news.day.az/politics/281906.html>).

The Asian Development Bank announces that it plans to provide 945 million US dollars in credits to Azerbaijan during 2011-2013 (<http://news.day.az/economy/281833.html>).

August 3

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia has territorial claims on all its neighbors" (<http://news.day.az/politics/281693.html>).

Abdin Farzaliyev, head of Baku's Narimanov district, meets Konstantin Markelov, vice governor of Astrakhan (<http://news.day.az/politics/281700.html>).

Azerbaijani military attachés from around the world meet at the Academy of Armed Services in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/281684.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, the vice president of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World, says that former Congress leader Saftar Rahimli and his supporters are attempting to split the group (<http://news.day.az/politics/281745.html>).

August 2

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive on the construction in Baku of a Museum of Independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/281630.html>).

Naira Shakhhtakhtinskaya, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, takes part in Lithuanian commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the Medinikai killings (<http://news.day.az/politics/281628.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the misfortunes of Armenia today are "the direct result" of its aggressive policy toward Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/281474.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, says that the population of Armenia is "rapidly declining" (<http://news.day.az/politics/281563.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, says that the preliminary number of members of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh is “more than 75,000” (<http://news.day.az/society/281580.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkish ambassador to Baku, says, that “Turkey does not take seriously the comments of the president of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/281623.html>). In other comments, he says that the recent visit of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan underscores the importance and closeness of ties between Turkey and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/281593.html>).

Moody's Investors Service says that its prognosis for the Azerbaijani banking system remains stable (<http://news.day.az/economy/281573.html>).

August 1

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that the resolution of the US debt crisis is important for Azerbaijan and the world given the central role of the dollar in the international system (<http://news.day.az/economy/281452.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev takes part in discussions in Switzerland on Azerbaijan's application for membership in the World Trade Organization (<http://news.day.az/economy/281400.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis department of the Presidential Administration, says that “Armenia is headed toward default” (<http://news.day.az/politics/281392.html>).

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to London, says that prospects for the expansion of economic ties between Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom are excellent (<http://news.day.az/politics/281426.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the danger of the start of military actions over Karabakh is perfectly real” (<http://news.day.az/politics/281309.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, says the decision of

the US Congress not to provide aid directly to the separatist regime in Karabakh is “a positive development” (<http://news.day.az/politics/281456.html>).

Azerbaijani and US military units are conducting a series of joint exercises (<http://news.day.az/politics/281314.html>).

Azerbaijan hosts a summer school for students from CIS countries (<http://news.day.az/society/281422.html>).

The US Azerbaijani Network has called on the Senate to adopt a resolution recognizing the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/281332.html>).

Namig Heydarov, an Azerbaijani, is named the head of the UN office in the Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sherif (<http://news.day.az/politics/281375.html>).

JULY

July 31

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that his recent visit to Baku demonstrated “that unity in positions” between the two countries “which reflects our historical solidarity and fraternal ties” (<http://news.day.az/politics/281256.html>).

July 30

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Moscow, hosts a meeting on expanding cooperation between his embassy and other Azerbaijani representations in Russia with the Azerbaijani diaspora there (<http://news.day.az/politics/281182.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of Euronest, says that his group’s primary efforts are directed toward the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/281132.html>).

Rabiyyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijan shows the international community that it is a poli-ethnic state” (<http://news.day.az/politics/281115.html>).

Bayram Safarov, president of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh Social Organization, says that “the latest declarations of the Armenian president show the world the position of this country,” positions that include “a policy of conquest, terrorism and the murder of peaceful residents” (<http://news.day.az/politics/281150.html>).

Azerbaijan has provided a credit of 300 million US dollars to the Belorussian enterprise Belaruskaliy (<http://news.day.az/economy/281122.html>).

July 29

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijani Diplomatic Academy, presents graduation certificates to diplomats from Africa and Asia on the completion of ten-day courses at ADA on the countries of the Caspian basin (<http://news.day.az/politics/281060.html>).

Khanlar Valiyev, the military procurator of Azerbaijan, says that his office investigating crimes against humanity and terrorism in the occupied territories has charged 287 people and has issued arrest warrants for them (<http://news.day.az/society/281080.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the entire world community "should express its anger over the murder by the Armenian side of Azerbaijani children" (<http://news.day.az/politics/280996.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the international community is "closing its eyes to the aggression of Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/281055.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent declarations by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan "leave much to be desired" as far as their "intellectual level" is concerned (<http://news.day.az/politics/280965.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden has called on the international community to protest against "the aggressive declarations" of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/281009.html>).

The Moscow regional section of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress holds a meeting devoted to the results of the Third Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/politics/280910.html>).

Azerbaijani media report that anti-Azerbaijani and anti-Turkish caricatures were featured at an arts festival in the Iranian city of Tabriz (<http://news.day.az/politics/281059.html>).

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc says that the declarations of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan are infuriating Turkey and that this

will give nothing positive to Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/280953.html>).

Philip Gordon, US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, says that “the OSCE must continue to play an immediate role in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and in the conflicts in Georgia and Moldova” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280956.html>).

July 28

President Ilham Aliyev signs a decree on the entering into force of the agreement on cultural, educational, and scientific cooperation between Azerbaijan and Slovenia signed in Ljubljana on July 9 (<http://news.day.az/politics/280889.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan will “answer for all the crimes he has committed” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280863.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the meeting between Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Ilham Aliyev “shows yet again that it is impossible” to split the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/280770.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Freedom House had adopted a subjective and incorrect assessment of Azerbaijan and that the organization’s president David Kramer has “assessed Azerbaijan, Russia and Belarus as almost the greatest threat for the West and spoken about the importance of adopting measures against them” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280794.html>).

The Foreign Ministry declares the recent statements of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to be “immoral” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280836.html>).

Malahat Ibrahimgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on the international community to react and condemn the statements of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/280866.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, predicts “the end of Armenian statehood” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280796.html>).

Members of Turkey's Grand National Assembly sharply condemn the latest statements of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/280881.html>).

July 27

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov receives Jose Antonio Duran, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Congress of the Kingdom of Spain (<http://news.day.az/politics/280670.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is investigating the illegal visit to the occupied territories by 35 people from seven countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/280540.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Canada, visits the province of New Brunswick (<http://news.day.az/politics/280512.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Europeans have yet to understand the nature of the Armenian threat from Yerevan's efforts to include in the EU-Armenian association agreement statements in support of "the principle of self-determination of peoples and the principle of the non-use of force" (<http://news.day.az/politics/280386.html>).

The Ministry of Education calls on Georgia to respond in a timely fashion concerning its needs for Azerbaijani language textbooks for Azerbaijani schools in that republic (<http://news.day.az/society/280606.html>).

Azerbaijan proposes to India that the two countries establish a cooperation council for entrepreneurial activity (<http://news.day.az/economy/280582.html>).

Azerbaijani entrepreneurs take part in the Dageshtan Economic Forum in Makhachkala (<http://news.day.az/economy/280661.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Ankara "intends to develop still further relations with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/280572.html>).

Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Zafer Chagliyan says that economic ties between Azerbaijan and Turkey have entered a new stage of development (<http://news.day.az/economy/280698.html>).

Egemen Bagis, Turkish minister for EU affairs, criticizes Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's statements relative to the territorial integrity of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/280666.html>).

Representatives of the Turkish and Azerbaijani diaspora in the United States protest a statement by Illinois Congressman Robert Dold who says that the US views the events of 1915 in Turkey as the Armenian genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/280613.html>).

Koray Targay, a Turk, is named the new head of the Baku office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/280573.html>).

A delegation of the youth wing of the Liberal Democratic Party of Romania visits Baku at the invitation of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party (<http://news.day.az/politics/280694.html>).

July 26

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Christopher Pincher, a member of the British House of Commons and deputy chairman of the British Friends of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/280422.html>).

Eldar Hasanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Belgrad, says that the Azerbaijani government will reconstruct both an Orthodox church and a Muslim mosque in Serbia in fulfillment of an agreement between Baku and Belgrade reached during the July visit of President Ilham Aliyev to Serbia (<http://news.day.az/politics/280337.html>).

Tofiq Musayev, chargé d'affaires at the Azerbaijani Permanent Representation to the United Nations, distributes a letter of protest to the Secretary General concerning the provocative actions and declarations of Armenia regarding Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/280504.html>).

Members of the Milli Majlis receive a delegation of the Congress of Deputies of Spain (<http://news.day.az/politics/280480.html>).

The Egyptian Embassy in Baku issues a statement saying that Cairo is interested in security and stability in the South Caucasus and supports the peaceful resolution of conflicts there within the framework of international legal principles and norms (<http://news.day.az/politics/280400.html>).

An Azerbaijani friendship group is established in the National Congress of Argentina (<http://news.day.az/politics/280320.html>).

July 25

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski that "Azerbaijan is ready to play its role in providing for the

energy security of the European continent” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280098.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov (<http://news.day.az/politics/280256.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives his Russian counterpart Anatoly Serdyukov and says that military cooperation between their two countries “is developing rapidly” (<http://news.day.az/politics/280170.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Argentina, says that bilateral relations are developing rapidly on a variety of fronts (<http://news.day.az/politics/280119.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, speaks to a Chicago conference on the Silk Road about security issues in the Caspian basin (<http://news.day.az/politics/280177.html>).

Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov tells his Azerbaijani counterpart Safar Abiyev that Moscow is ready to modernize the Gabala radar station (<http://news.day.az/politics/280211.html>).

Representatives of Azerbaijani government press services complete a visit to London that was organized by the British embassy in Baku and the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/280136.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, praises the level of religious tolerance in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/280151.html>).

Hassan Hami, Moroccan ambassador to Baku, visits Tovuz (<http://news.day.az/politics/280234.html>).

July 24

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, opens a camp for young women in the Gabala district (<http://news.day.az/society/280148.html>).

July 23

Nizami Sadykhov, head of the executive authority of Agdam District, says that “every resident of Agdam can turn to international judicial agencies” to obtain compensation for the harm Armenia has inflicted on them (<http://news.day.az/politics/279999.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Cairo, calls on Egyptian entrepreneurs to support the development of trade between the two

countries and to invest in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/280011.html>).

July 22

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, receives a delegation of members of the US Truman Project on National Security (<http://news.day.az/politics/280022.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM (<http://news.day.az/politics/279862.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Caroline Brown, British ambassador to Baku, on the completion of her mission in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/279892.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it will not interfere in the domestic affairs of Turkey or Armenia concerning the possible opening of an air connection between Yerevan and Van but will reserve the right to react if the national interests of Azerbaijan are in any way affected (<http://news.day.az/politics/279861.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazimly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenians are “always ready” to use any means to “blacken the reputations of Azerbaijan and Turkey” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279805.html>).

Ziyad Samadzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian media and experts often make statements that do not correspond to reality as when they say that Turkey and Georgia are guilty of imposing a blockade on Armenia in ways that contradict the obligations of these states to the WTO (<http://news.day.az/politics/279664.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh sub-committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will function despite Armenian efforts to block its activities because it reflects the will of the PACE (<http://news.day.az/politics/279717.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the chairman of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that “Turkey will play an important role in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279782.html>).

July 21

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian “duplicity and cunningness” has played a role in winning Yerevan support (<http://news.day.az/politics/279663.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that Baku respectfully relates to religions but “decisively struggle with propaganda of national extremism and intolerance” and against “the use of religion for political goals” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279647.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that Yerevan is distorting history by renaming Azerbaijani-Albanian sites in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/279636.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that as long as territorial claims by Armenia against Turkey exist, there cannot be any talk of opening the border between the two countries as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has urged (<http://news.day.az/politics/279514.html>).

Lamberto Zannier, OSCE secretary general, says that the South Caucasus has “great importance” for the security and stability of the entire region of the OSCE and that “today the Organization is active in the region as never before” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279615.html>).

Joao Soares, newly appointed special representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on South Caucasus, says that the Minsk Group can only succeed if the two parties to the talks agree (<http://news.day.az/politics/279629.html>).

Luca Volontè, chairman of the European People’s Party and its representative in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that he is satisfied with the situation regarding religion in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/279673.html>).

July 20

President Ilham Aliyev tells a delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe that “in Azerbaijan, political and economic reforms are being carried out in parallel fashion” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279571.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that there is now nothing to prevent the signing of a framework agreement on the legal status of the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/279512.html>).

Aytan Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Turkish government declarations make clear that Turkey is and will remain a strategic partner of Azerbaijan and will not take any steps without considering Azerbaijan's interests (<http://news.day.az/politics/279410.html>).

An Azerbaijani-American military seminar on the subject of "Defense ministry and parliamentary relations" takes place in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/279445.html>).

Eric Rubin replaces Tina Kaidanow as US deputy assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia with responsibilities for the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/279464.html>).

Jean-Pierre Tuveri, the mayor of Saint-Tropez, says that Azerbaijani First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is devoting great attention to cultural questions as evidenced by her support for exhibitions on the cultural wealth of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/279158.html>).

July 19

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that "Abkhazia and South Osetia have never been the subject of a trade between Russia and Azerbaijan as part of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/279224.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Armenia must change its values if it is to flourish (<http://news.day.az/politics/279221.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that "Russia needs to change tanks for tankers in the South Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/279203.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, tells officials of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe that Azerbaijan is important for the European region (<http://news.day.az/politics/279310.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy hosts a delegation of the Youth Social Chamber of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/279436.html>).

Baku continues to press Kabul for information about the Azerbaijani airplane that crashed in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/279220.html>).

Azerbaijani diaspora organizations adopt a joint declaration condemning the murder of a 13 year-old Azerbaijani girl by Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/279337.html>).

Representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora in the United States call on the US Congress to ensure that aid to Karabakh is also distributed to the Azerbaijani population there (<http://news.day.az/politics/279316.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden distributes a letter of protest concerning the murder of a 13 year-old Azerbaijani girl by Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/279249.html>).

The Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas in the US begin a campaign against racist declarations in Congress concerning Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/279246.html>).

The Armenian National Committee of America launches a new campaign against the confirmation of Matthew Bryza as US ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/279268.html>).

The first issue of *Caucasus International* is published (<http://news.day.az/society/279187.html>).

July 18

President Ilham Aliyev receives Nicolae Ureche, outgoing ambassador of Romania, in connection with the completion of his diplomatic work (<http://news.day.az/politics/279127.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Inayatullah Kakar, incoming ambassador of Pakistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/279127.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Zhong Shan, Chinese deputy commerce minister and co-chair of the Azerbaijani-Chinese inter-governmental commission on economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/279127.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov hands over to the Russian foreign ministry Baku's response to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's latest proposals concerning the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/279059.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the facts of the murder of children do not contribute “to the restoration of trust between the sides in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279056.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that relations between Azerbaijan and Russia are moving forward (<http://news.day.az/politics/279074.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov exchange documents on the ratification of the September 2010 border treaty between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/279062.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “journalists must be not only professionals but also patriots” (<http://news.day.az/politics/279142.html>).

The ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party calls on international organizations to condemn Armenian aggression and the murder by Armenians of a 13-year-old Azerbaijani girl (<http://news.day.az/politics/279040.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia “has never displayed a constructive approach in negotiations on Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278956.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says in commenting on the death of a 13-year-old Azerbaijani girl, that nothing could be more terrible than “the murder of a child by means of a toy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278778.html>).

Azerbaijani and Chinese officials sign an agreement on technical-economic cooperation during the fourth session of the Azerbaijani-Chinese intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/279119.html>).

The Azerbaijan Central Bank’s financial monitoring service becomes a member of the Egmont Group (<http://news.day.az/economy/279073.html>).

David Velasquez Caraballo, Venezuelan ambassador to Baku, says that Caracas is interested in “the mutually profitable development of relations with Azerbaijan in all spheres” (<http://news.day.az/economy/279038.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group release a declaration reminding the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia of the importance of reaching agreement on the basic principles for the final settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/279144.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton discuss in Ankara the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/279016.html>).

July 17

Otto Hauser, honorary consul of Azerbaijan in Stuttgart, marks the first anniversary of his appointment (<http://news.day.az/politics/278944.html>).

July 16

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia, instead of investigating the murder of an Azerbaijani child by Armenians, is “putting its head in the sand” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278932.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to the United States, publishes a letter in the Washington Post criticizing that newspaper’s coverage of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as biased (<http://news.day.az/politics/278852.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis and head of the Azerbaijani delegation in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, sends a letter to the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other OSCE officials concerning the murder of an Azerbaijani girl by Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/278929.html>).

Saber Mansour, Egyptian ambassador to Baku, says that since the beginning of 2011, trade between Egypt and Azerbaijan has achieved the record level of 100 million US dollars (<http://news.day.az/politics/278828.html>).

Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that the US is strongly committed to the achievement of a peace agreement on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/278889.html>).

Bernard Fassier, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that while “any loss of life is a tragedy, the death of a child is a still greater one.” He adds that “the murder of an Azerbaijani child yet again shows

how useful it would be to have a mechanism for the investigation of incidents” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278879.html>).

Members of the European Parliament condemn the murder of an Azerbaijani girl by Armenians (<http://news.day.az/politics/278878.html>).

July 15

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/278725.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tomash Ayan, the president of the International Federation of Heavy Athletics (<http://news.day.az/politics/278739.html>).

The Foreign Ministry calls the murder of an Azerbaijani child by the Armenian side an act of terror (<http://news.day.az/politics/278808.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the murder of [an Azerbaijan] child is an example of the wildness and cruelty of the Armenian side” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278684.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, says that the incident involving the murder by Armenians of a 13 year old Azerbaijani child is “yet another testament” to “the barbaric policy against the Azerbaijani state and people” by the Armenian authorities (<http://news.day.az/politics/278711.html>).

Oktay Asadov, the speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union have risen to the level of mutually profitable cooperation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278819.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, receives a delegation of the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/278773.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that international organizations should react sharply to “acts of vandalism” by Armenia such as the murder of a child (<http://news.day.az/politics/278718.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Armenian side constantly makes absurd declarations which it tries to impose on the world community” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278599.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that reaching a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is "achievable" and that "the sides must consider this their most important task" (<http://news.day.az/politics/278766.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy hosts a conference on "Natural Gas of the Caspian: Current Tendencies and Future Scenarios" (<http://news.day.az/economy/278813.html>).

Azerbaijanis in the United States call on Washington to put pressure on Armenia in order to reach a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/278744.html>).

The US embassy in Baku calls for a careful and transparent investigation of the murder of the 13-year-old girl in the Tovuz district of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/278685.html>).

Ross Wilson, former US ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that it is clear that the summit meeting in Kazan was not a success and that the process of negotiations will continue (<http://news.day.az/politics/278724.html>).

July 14

President Ilham Aliyev says that "Azerbaijan is the most rapidly developing country in the world" (<http://news.day.az/politics/278616.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmudov says that the only goal of his ministry is "to defend the security of the Motherland and strengthen independence and statehood" (<http://news.day.az/politics/278453.html>).

The Foreign Ministry dismisses as inappropriate and wrong Armenia's discussion of Nagorno-Karabakh as if it had been a colony, something that it never was (<http://news.day.az/politics/278617.html>).

Faik Bagirov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Turkey, meets with Turkish businessmen in Samsun to promote economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/278250.html>).

Sultan Gasymov, the consul general of Azerbaijan in Yekaterinburg, protests Russian media coverage of the ethnic conflict in Sagra (<http://news.day.az/politics/278562.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that "the international community recognizes the necessity of changing the status quo in the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/278552.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the increasingly frequent militant declarations of Yerevan are connected now with the fact that Armenia is not in the best of situations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278410.html>).

Azerbaijani Public Television and Euronews sign a cooperation agreement (<http://news.day.az/society/278541.html>).

US President Barak Obama receives Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and discusses the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/278467.html>).

July 13

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku is ready to begin work on a peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/278395.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan is working closely with Afghanistan officials to secure access to the place where the Azerbaijani plane crashed (<http://news.day.az/politics/278397.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the opinion of the Armenian leadership that Nagorno-Karabakh will be given “an intermediate status” and that this status “will be recognized by the international community is completely absurd and illogical” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278380.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the international community must increase its pressure on Armenia to secure an agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/278323.html>).

Gabriel Keller, French ambassador to Baku, says that it is “irresponsible” to move away from the Madrid Principles for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/278353.html>).

The Ukrainian foreign ministry responds to an Azerbaijani embassy protest note and says that an Armenian article in a Ukrainian publication does not reflect the views of Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/278352.html>).

July 12

President Ilham Aliyev tells a meeting of the council of ministers that “a change of the status quo requires the liberation of Azerbaijani lands from occupation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278213.html>). In other comments, he says that “Azerbaijan presents itself to the world as an island of stability and a space of development” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278213.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan’s recent statements are devoid of logic and facts and are directed entirely at a domestic Armenian audience (<http://news.day.az/politics/278139.html>).

Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Kabul, says that his mission has presented a second note to the Afghanistan foreign ministry requesting assistance in securing the return of the bodies of those who died from a crash of an Azerbaijani plane in that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/278159.html>).

Imamverdi Ismayilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan’s occupation policies have brought Armenia to the edge of collapse (<http://news.day.az/politics/278205.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan’s approach to its own people is “leading Armenia toward a tragedy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278003.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, announces the beginning of a new global youth ecological campaign, IDEA – “International Dialogue on Environmental Action” (<http://news.day.az/politics/278351.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE president-in-office, receives the three co-chairs of the Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/278301.html>).

July 11

The Foreign Ministry says that it was informed in advance of the visit of a Washington Post reporter to Nagorno-Karabakh, has no objections to the visit, and hopes that the American paper will provide an objective portrait of the situation there (<http://news.day.az/politics/277944.html>).

The Third Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World adopts appeals to President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/278013.html>) and to the Azerbaijanis of the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/278027.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that he expects that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs will be presenting "a serious document" to the leaders of the region during their visit (<http://news.day.az/politics/277892.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is surprising that Armenia is interested in the opening of its borders with Turkey but does not specify exactly what those borders are (<http://news.day.az/politics/277804.html>).

The Azerbaijani defense forces are purchasing new weapons systems from Turkey (<http://news.day.az/economy/277918.html>).

Azerbaijani and Chinese officials are discussing the possibility of creating joint free economic zones in the course of the first sessions of the working group on trade and economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous District (<http://news.day.az/economy/277877.html>).

Sattar Sevigin, the head of the Swedish Azerbaijani Federation, says that his group seeks representation in Sweden's parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/278028.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his American counterpart Barak Obama discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh issue during a telephone call (<http://news.day.az/politics/278048.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov meets with the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/277928.html>).

Goran Lindblad, the former head of the political commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Russia and the international community must intensify their pressure on Armenia so that Yerevan will pursue a more productive policy on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/277879.html>).

July 10

Azerbaijan sends a diplomatic note to the Afghanistan government requesting Kabul's assistance in the return of the bodies of those killed in

the crash of an Azerbaijani airplane in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/277811.html>).

July 9

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku is studying the most recent proposals made by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev concerning a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/277726.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Ali Bilge Cankorel, the head of the Baku office of the OSCE, on the latter's completion of his service in that post (<http://news.day.az/politics/277741.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Nadir Huseynov says that Baku now has diplomatic missions in 65 countries as well as with numerous international organizations and that all of them work together to promote Azerbaijan's interests and in the first instance an end to the occupation of Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/277708.html>).

Sattar Sevigin, president of the Swedish-Azerbaijan Federation, says that a union of Southern Azerbaijani writers living abroad will be established in the near future (<http://news.day.az/society/277759.html>).

Petros Efthymiou, the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, announces the appointment of Joao Soares as his organization's special representative for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/277810.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Ankara will support the liberation of the occupied Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/277699.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin discusses the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with James Collins, former US ambassador to the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/277767.html>).

July 8

President Ilham Aliyev receives Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov who presents him with President Dmitry Medvedev's latest proposals on a Nagorno-Karabakh settlement (<http://news.day.az/politics/277597.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Belorussian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich (<http://news.day.az/politics/277634.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges Gábor Iklódy (<http://news.day.az/politics/277632.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Raphaël Martinetti, the president of the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (<http://news.day.az/politics/277629.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Abid Sharifov says that Azerbaijan has highly professional sappers in its military (<http://news.day.az/politics/277506.html>).

Transportation Minister Ziya Mammadov receives Belorussian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich to discuss the possibility of opening a joint enterprise for the repair of Azerbaijani rolling stock (<http://news.day.az/economy/277589.html>).

Khazar Ibrahim, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to NATO, says that "NATO has provided all possible help to the Azerbaijani delegation in order that it can visit Afghanistan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/277500.html>).

Ziyad Samadzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the economy of Armenia is now in terrible shape" (<http://news.day.az/politics/277472.html>).

Azerbaijan lodges a protest note with the Ukrainian foreign ministry in connection with the publication of anti-Azerbaijani materials in the Ukrainian journal Image (<http://news.day.az/politics/277524.html>).

Azerbaijan's National Aviation Academy and the Anatolian University of Turkey have signed a cooperation agreement (<http://news.day.az/society/277575.html>).

Eleven permanent representatives to the United Nations meet with Azerbaijani parliamentarians during a visit to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/277626.html>).

The European Union office in Baku reaffirms that "Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan" and consequently the EU "does not discuss Nagorno-Karabakh as if it were some kind of separate region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/277614.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the US has done everything possible to ensure that Azerbaijan will gain access to the place

where its plane crashed in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/277514.html>).

Aleksandr Mishchenko, Ukrainian ambassador to Baku, says that Kyiv “supports the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277473.html>).

Gábor Iklódy, assistant secretary general for emerging security challenges of NATO, says that Azerbaijan is “a reliable partner of NATO and that our ties will develop further in the future” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277490.html>).

July 7

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his French counterpart Alain Juppé in Paris to discuss the prospects for negotiations on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/277318.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov is told by his Italian counterpart Franco Frattini that “Italy supports the negotiation process on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277373.html>).

Energy Minister Natig Aliyev heads a high-level Azerbaijani delegation for participation in the second meeting of the Azerbaijani-Italian inter-governmental commission (<http://news.day.az/politics/277268.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov hosts the second international insurance forum in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/277306.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani authorities have “sufficient evidence” that “the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia are being used today for criminal goals” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277252.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, calls for the closure of the Metsamor atomic power station in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/277406.html>).

The State Committee for Work with Religious Structures says that the Apostolic Prefecture of the Roman Catholic Church has now been officially registered in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/277434.html>).

Belorussian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich says that Minsk plans for the development of investment and innovation cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/277442.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the supreme representative of the European Union for international affairs and security policy, says that “the EU supports the mediating role of Russia and of President Dmitry Medvedev personally in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277260.html>).

Toyli Komekov, Turkmenistan’s ambassador to Baku, says that “a new path of cooperation has been laid out between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277316.html>).

July 6

President Ilham Aliyev tells 11 permanent representatives to the United Nations visiting Baku that “Azerbaijan’s representation at the UN is conducting active work for establishing better ties between peoples and countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277246.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Third Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World that “diaspora organizations and embassies should work as a single command” (<http://news.day.az/politics/276900.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Carolyn Brown, Britain’s ambassador to Baku, on the occasion of the completion of her assignment to that post (<http://news.day.az/politics/277197.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Vatican officials and signs a protocol on the exchange of ratification documents concerning the legal status of the Catholic Church in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/276910.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov is elected president of the Administrative Council of the Mathematics Society of the Turkic World (<http://news.day.az/society/277132.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the International Migration Organization, is failing to consider appeals by Azerbaijanis living in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/277180.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, calls for NGOs and the media to devote more attention to the

problems of Azerbaijanis living in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/277173.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, the chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus will establish offices in foreign countries (<http://news.day.az/society/277114.html>).

Representatives of the Azerbaijan diasporas in Baku for the Third Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World meet with officials of the Azerbaijani government (<http://news.day.az/politics/277205.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that President Dmitry Medvedev, "acting in agreement with and the support of the US and France has completed an analysis of the situation after the Kazan meeting and in the near future will take a decision about further steps" on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/277102.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that "the OSCE will continue its efforts for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/277242.html>).

Nikolay Bordyuzha, secretary general of the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty, says in Yerevan that he "wants to repeat the words of the president of Russia that Armenia is a strategic ally of Russia with all the consequences that flow from that" (<http://news.day.az/politics/277130.html>).

July 5

President Ilham Aliyev receives Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius (<http://news.day.az/politics/277029.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives James Appathurai, the special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia (<http://news.day.az/politics/277029.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mikhail Formuzal, the head of the Gagauzia in the Republic of Moldova (<http://news.day.az/politics/277015.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Akhmatbek Keldibekov, the speaker of the Kyrgyzstan parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/276837.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev takes part in a defense ministerial of the CIS in Sochi (<http://news.day.az/politics/276953.html>).

The Defense Ministry receives a high-level delegation from Belarus to discuss expanding cooperation in military industry (<http://news.day.az/politics/276993.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that “the Azerbaijani diaspora has already been transformed into a force capable of influencing the political life of the countries in which it realizes its activity” (<http://news.day.az/politics/276868.html>).

Salim Muslimov, head of the State Foundation of Social Protection, says that figures show that the balance of immigration and emigration from Azerbaijan depend on economic factors and that as the economy has improved over the last two decades, more people have been moving to Azerbaijan than leaving (<http://news.day.az/economy/277013.html>).

The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs release a statement saying that “despite the fact that in Kazan, the sides did not achieve a final agreement on ‘basic principles,’ definite progress was achieved” and should be exploited in the near term (<http://news.day.az/politics/276949.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that in the wake of Kazan, the negotiating process about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will continue (<http://news.day.az/politics/277021.html>).

James Appathurai, the special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that “NATO does not play a role in the process of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but one thing is clear: a military resolution of the conflict cannot be and that the only path of resolution is a diplomatic one” (<http://news.day.az/politics/277009.html>).

James Appathurai, the special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that “Azerbaijan is one of the closest allies of NATO” (<http://news.day.az/politics/276987.html>).

Nikolay Patskevich, Belorussian ambassador to Baku, says that Minsk plans to build an embassy in the Azerbaijani capital this year (<http://news.day.az/politics/276948.html>).

Margit Steffel, an official of the German economics and technology ministry, says that Berlin and Baku are working to form a joint chamber of commerce (<http://news.day.az/economy/276889.html>).

Joseph Shagal, the president of the Israel-Azerbaijan Association, says there is no chance that the Israeli parliament will adopt a resolution recognizing the events of 1915 as an Armenian genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/276969.html>).

Sinan Ogan, a deputy of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says the Turkish-Armenian border will remain closed until Armenia ends its occupation of Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/276955.html>).

July 4

President Ilham Aliyev receives Akhmatbek Keldibekov, the speaker of the Kyrgyzstan parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/276788.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Galib Israfilov Azerbaijani ambassador to Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/276812.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Makhmoud Mammadgulyev takes part in the regular session of the UN Economic and Social Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/276813.html>).

Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to NATO, says that "relations between Azerbaijan and NATO continue to develop in a positive direction" and that today Azerbaijan "is no longer an ordinary partner of NATO as it was in the 1990s but already is closely cooperating with the alliance" (<http://news.day.az/politics/276650.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan's behavior shows that Armenia continues to pursue "a destructive policy" and seeks in every way to continue its occupation of Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/276446.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia's economic policy is self-destructive" (<http://news.day.az/politics/276400.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is living like "a besieged fortress" (<http://news.day.az/politics/276519.html>).

Asaf Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, is re-elected vice president of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/276815.html>).

Sergey Markov, a Russian Duma deputy, says that a military conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh would not work to Armenia's favor (<http://news.day.az/politics/276628.html>).

The Russian government has given its approval subject to Duma ratification of an agreement on security cooperation in the Caspian basin (<http://news.day.az/politics/276743.html>).

A Jordanian-Azerbaijani Inter-parliamentary Group is created in the Jordanian parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/276795.html>).

July 3

Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, says that "Azerbaijan, as a Muslim country, can play a role in the resolution of important regional questions" (<http://news.day.az/politics/276583.html>).

July 2

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, sends a letter to the UN Security Council describing recent Armenian violations of the cease-fire and the killing by Armenian forces of Azerbaijani citizens (<http://news.day.az/politics/276548.html>).

Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, says that Tehran is prepared to serve as a mediator in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/276481.html>).

Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, welcomes the creation of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Caspian Littoral States (<http://news.day.az/politics/276480.html>).

July 1

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/276353.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives a telephone call from his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov (<http://news.day.az/politics/276386.html>).

The Foreign Ministry puts Russian journalist Yury Snegirev on its black list because of his illegal visit to Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/276375.html>).

Ambassador Shahin Abdullayev, the permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the African Union, takes part in the summit of that organization in Equatorial Guinea (<http://news.day.az/politics/277605.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says a failure to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict could lead to wider and more serious conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/276226.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the inaction of international structures has allowed Armenia to act as it does (<http://news.day.az/politics/276107.html>).

The Azerbaijan-Iran Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group meets in the Milli Majlis (<http://news.day.az/politics/276437.html>).

A session of the coordination council on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway results in the signing of a credit agreement under the terms of which Azerbaijan loans Georgia 575 million US dollars (<http://news.day.az/economy/276281.html>).

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says that Ukraine will “devote the maximum effort” in order to help resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in 2013 when Ukraine will have the OSCE chairmanship (<http://news.day.az/politics/276374.html>).

James Appathurai, the special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that everyone was “disappointed” that there was no agreement on basic principles at the Kazan summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/276269.html>).

Dan Burton, a US congressman, tells Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Washington, that the United States “highly values” its partnership with Azerbaijan in the energy sphere and Baku’s contribution to the struggle against terrorism (<http://news.day.az/economy/276257.html>).

JUNE

June 29

President Ilham Aliyev tells Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian president, that “Azerbaijan supports the Palestinian state in all international organizations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275718.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia’s refusal to negotiate in good faith is “leading Armenia into a catastrophic dead end” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275879.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the unconstructiveness of Armenia is preventing moving the talks from a stalemate” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275954.html>).

The Defense Ministry announces that it will provide training for officers from Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/275829.html>).

Azerbaijan and Moldova sign a cooperation agreement on the provision of welfare payments (<http://news.day.az/economy/275842.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the head of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that PACE “supports dialogue between Azerbaijan and Armenia and hopes that in the future it will lead to concrete results” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275860.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that “American-Azerbaijani relations are strong and will strengthen even more” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275812.html>).

June 28

President Ilham Aliyev receives Abdul Hamid, Pakistan's ambassador to Baku, on the occasion of the latter's completion of his appointment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/275663.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives the wives of the ambassadors accredited to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/275719.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the Astana ministerial of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that "thousands of monuments of the history and culture of Islamic heritage are being destroyed on the occupied territories" (<http://news.day.az/politics/275697.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the Astana ministerial of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that there must be "a struggle against religious slander and the exacerbation of religious hatred" (<http://news.day.az/politics/275714.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov and his Russian counterpart Rashid Nurgaliyev sign a cooperation agreement in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/275599.html>).

Eynulla Madatly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kyiv, visits Dnepropetrovsk oblast of Ukraine and meets with its head, Aleksandr Vilkul, to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/275603.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Canada, visits Nunavut and other north-western portions of that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/275554.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that "the Azerbaijani diaspora is capable of reducing the threat posed by the activity of the Armenian lobby" (<http://news.day.az/politics/275664.html>).

Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, says that Tehran is ready to play a mediating role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/275593.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the executive secretary of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, expresses concern about the lack of resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/275654.html>).

The French Foreign Ministry says that the results of the Kazan summit among the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia "must not be considered insignificant" (<http://news.day.az/politics/275589.html>).

June 27

President Ilham Aliyev receives Russian Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/275540.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, announces that the Californian city of Monterey has become a sister city of Lankaran (<http://news.day.az/politics/275438.html>).

Albania eliminates the visa requirement for Azerbaijanis visiting that country for less than 90 days (<http://news.day.az/politics/275537.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signs the law of ratification on the border treaty between Russia and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/275520.html>).

The Turkish and Azerbaijani communities in the US send a letter to President Barak Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton objecting to US use of the term “population of Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275474.html>).

June 26

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the military parade shows that the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan have the ability to liberate the occupied territories” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275366.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani army is “one of the strongest armies of Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275364.html>).

June 25

President Ilham Aliyev receives Massimo Moratti, the owner of the “Inter” Milan football club (<http://news.day.az/politics/275286.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the Kazan summit was “one of the longest” of such meetings among the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia but that “unfortunately,” despite progress on some issues, on a number of “principle questions, we were still not able to achieve a compromise resolution because the Armenian side required maximum concessions from Azerbaijan by distorting the essence of the negotiation process begun seven years ago” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275307.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani army is "a measure of the strength of the state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/275306.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "in Azerbaijan, an army corresponding to world standards has been created" (<http://news.day.az/politics/275284.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad tells Azerbaijan's National Security Minister, Eldar Makhmudov, that Tehran and Baku will be expanding cooperation in the struggle against terrorism (<http://news.day.az/politics/275328.html>). Ali Larijani, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, reiterates this point in a meeting with Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran (<http://news.day.az/politics/275336.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that the Kazan summit shows that it is important to continue efforts to achieve "an all embracing peaceful resolution" of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/275311.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that although "Armenia is against the sub-committee on Karabakh, it must participate in it" (<http://news.day.az/politics/275196.html>).

Iranian officials announce that Baku and Tehran have signed a protocol on the use of the water and energy resources of the Araz River which marks the land border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/275251.html>).

June 24

At the conclusion of their meeting in Kazan, President Ilham Aliyev and his Russian and Armenian counterparts issue a joint statement noting that they had not achieved agreement on the basic principles of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but had made "progress" toward that goal, and the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia increased their gratitude to the leaders of the Russian Federation, the US and France for their support of the negotiating process (<http://news.day.az/politics/275129.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with the Minsk Group co-chairs in Kazan (<http://news.day.az/politics/275179.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is presented with the gold medal at the 22nd Annual Crans Montana forum in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/275175.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva tells a meeting of the Crans Montana Forum that “relations between the EU countries and Azerbaijan are based on mutual profit and respect” (<http://news.day.az/politics/274993.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Gabala has “great importance for Azerbaijan and also plays an enormous role in providing security for Russia” after Andrew Shapiro, US assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, says that the US may continue its dialogue with Azerbaijan on it (<http://news.day.az/politics/275131.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says the next round of security talks between Azerbaijan and the United States will take place in Washington in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/275127.html>).

The Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry dismisses as without foundation Iranian complaints that “a large part of the contamination” of the Caspian Sea is the result of Azerbaijani activities (<http://news.day.az/politics/275100.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party believes that “the result of the Kazan meeting of presidents creates the basis for the next stage of the negotiating process” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275281.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Council of Europe shows a lack of respect in itself by allowing “a military criminal” like the president of Armenia to address it (<http://news.day.az/politics/274771.html>).

Azerbaijan accedes to the European Landscape Convention (<http://news.day.az/economy/275022.html>).

US President Barak Obama calls President Ilham Aliyev and his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan to urge them to find a compromise at their Kazan meeting (<http://news.day.az/politics/274944.html>).

French President Nicolas Sarkozy telephones his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan and urges him to accept the basic principles for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/275005.html>).

Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that the sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are “at the most important stage of the negotiating process” (<http://news.day.az/politics/275089.html>).

The Turkish embassy in Baku says that media reports that a Turkish firm is providing construction materials for the building of an airport in Khankandi are untrue (<http://news.day.az/politics/275126.html>).

June 23

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the personal participation of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev gives a chance to the sides for coming to an agreement.” In other comments, he says that he is “optimistic” about that possibility, that for Baku, there is no particular problem “to begin serious programs for the economic and social development of Nagorno-Karabakh” and that Azerbaijan is currently spending ten times as much on its armed services as Armenia is on its military (<http://news.day.az/politics/274659.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva participate in a working dinner at the Crans Montana Forum in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/274537.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives US Assistant Secretary of Defense Celeste Wallander (<http://news.day.az/politics/274866.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Moscow, says that Azerbaijan like any other country which wants to live in peace must prepare its military in order to be able to defend itself and be respected (<http://news.day.az/politics/274841.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Budapest, opens a photographic exhibit on the common ancestors of Azerbaijanis and Hungarians (<http://news.day.az/society/274939.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says it will check to see if media representatives from Georgia have travelled to the occupied territories and take measures if that turns out to be the case (<http://news.day.az/politics/274836.html>).

The Permanent Representation of Azerbaijan to the United Nations says that the member states of the UN support Azerbaijan’s position on territorial integrity and hence on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/274783.html>).

Lt. Gen. Vahid Aliyev, assistant to President Ilham Aliyev for defense issues, says that Azerbaijan's armed forces are "completely prepared for the liberation of our occupied lands" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274740.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says high level international pressure "gives hope that the Kazan meeting could be a turning point in the resolution of the conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274900.html>).

Asaf Hajiyeu, a Milli Majlis deputy, is confirmed as head of the international relations department of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party (<http://news.day.az/politics/274930.html>).

Mazahir Efendiyev, the head of the office of national propaganda against narcotics, says that Azerbaijan has joined the Container Program in order to block shipments of narcotics via the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/274892.html>).

Vidadi Salakhov, the president of the Union of Cultural Centers of Azerbaijanis in Kazakhstan, says that "the greatest contribution of the diaspora is to tell the entire world about the realities of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/society/274933.html>).

Azerbaijan can develop 19 of its 30 islands in the Caspian Sea for tourism, Baku State University expert says (<http://news.day.az/economy/274867.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry releases a statement saying that the Kazan summit of the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia will play a significant role in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/274825.html>).

The US Department of State says that there currently exists "a definite possibility" for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and calls on the sides to "use this chance" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274810.html>).

Levon Ter-Petrosyan, leader of the opposition Armenian National Congress and former president of Armenia, says that if the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is resolved, "on the next day the borders with Turkey will be opened" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274796.html>).

Iraqi officials say both Azerbaijan and Turkey are seeking to open a consulate in Kerbala (<http://news.day.az/politics/274787.html>).

June 22

President Ilham Aliyev meets in Brussels with José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission; Herman van Rompuy, the president of the Council of the European Union; Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament; and Štefan Füle, EU commissioner for enlargement and European neighborhood policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/274628.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that the United Nations does not include in its reports information about the illegal production of narcotics on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/274598.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives the European Parliament delegation visiting Baku to take part in the 11th session of the Committee of European Union-Azerbaijani Parliamentary Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/274543.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is checking on the accuracy of the statement of Andrey Gusev, the head of the administration of military cooperation of Russia with CIS countries, that surplus weapons and ammunition at the Gumri base will be transferred to Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/274750.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that there were no discussions about invitations of Azerbaijani officials to the United States during Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov's recent visit to Washington (<http://news.day.az/politics/274697.html>).

Namig Aliyev, incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Chisinau, presents his credentials to Marian Lupu, the speaker of the Moldavian parliament and acting president of Moldova (<http://news.day.az/politics/274748.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, urges PACE to push Armenia toward a legitimate settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/274577.html>).

Ziyad Samadzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is "absolutely illegal" for Armenia to exploit the natural resources on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/274527.html>).

Arif Rahimzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, takes part in a United Nations—CIS Parliamentary Assembly seminar in St. Petersburg on the defense of reproductive rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/274520.html>).

Aytan Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Yerevan is stealing from not only its own citizens” but from others as well (<http://news.day.az/politics/274532.html>).

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE secretary general, says that “the meeting in Kazan can lead to the resolution” of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/274685.html>).

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan says that Yerevan is “dissatisfied” with the renewal of the activity of the Nagorno-Karabakh subcommittee of PACE (<http://news.day.az/politics/274638.html>).

Todd Young, a Republican representative from Indiana, becomes the 41st member of the Congressional Working Group on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/274684.html>).

Catherine Boynton, a US State Department official responsible for supervising the liquidation of mines and other weapon systems, visits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/274664.html>).

Russia’s Federation Council completes the ratification of the September 2010 border accord between Russia and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/274594.html>).

Fifty NGOs from the European Union and Azerbaijan take part in a seminar on civil society and human rights in Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/274640.html>).

June 21

The Foreign Ministry says that “any form of activity on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan without the agreement of official Baku and permission from our state is illegal” (<http://news.day.az/politics/274476.html>).

Emil Karimov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Sofia, meets with the chairman of the Bulgarian Popular Assembly, Tsetska Tsacheva (<http://news.day.az/politics/274341.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “the non-participation of the

Armenian side in the work of the sub-committee creates problems only for them" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274288.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, prepares a report for discussion in PACE about "military conflicts and the environment" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274450.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijan Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that "Armenians who were living in Nagorno-Karabakh before 1992 and their children may receive documentation and become citizens of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274359.html>).

Eldar Guliyev, executive director of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress and former permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United States, says that the Minsk Group has had "absolutely no impact" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273876.html>).

Egemen Bagysh, head of the Turkish delegation for talks on European Union accession, says that the Armenian-Turkish border will be opened "immediately after" Armenia and Azerbaijan solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/274518.html>).

Milan Cabrnach, co-chair of the EU-Azerbaijan parliamentary cooperation committee, says that the European Union considers Azerbaijan to be "its close partner" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274428.html>).

June 20

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that the world will eventually recognize what Azerbaijan now faces when Armenians make "pretensions to France and California" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274295.html>).

Vagif Sadykhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Rome, says that the main task before Azerbaijan and Italy is to increase the ties to a still higher level of strategic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/274173.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Armenia's actions against the decisions of PACE and its bureau demonstrate that "the Armenian side does not intend to take any steps toward the resolution of the conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/274282.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Russia is changing its position in the South

Caucasus in order to show that “the application of force in this or that region creates a boomerang effect” and that this shift benefits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/274235.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “the Armenian delegation has refused to take part in sessions of the PACE sub-committee on Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/274327.html>).

Asef Hajiyeu, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the cause of Armenia’s economic difficulties is Yerevan’s war of conquest against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/273992.html>).

Grigory Karasin, Russia’s deputy foreign minister, telephones his Azerbaijani counterpart Khalaf Khalafov (<http://news.day.az/politics/274353.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations is “closely connected” with the next meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/274249.html>).

The European Neighborhood Program announces that from now on it will offer aid to its partner countries on the basis of the principle that the more reforms are carried out, the greater the assistance the ENP will provide (<http://news.day.az/politics/274302.html>).

June 19

President Ilham Aliyev receives a telephone call from Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad (<http://news.day.az/politics/274090.html>).

June 18

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova hosts her counterparts from Europe and Asia at the 9th Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen, on the subject of “The Cultural Rights of National Minorities and Migrants” (<http://news.day.az/society/273999.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that conditions in Armenia are now so bad that President Serzh Sargsyan is afraid of being overthrown (<http://news.day.az/politics/274212.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Turkey is displaying firmness on principled questions in relation to Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273891.html>).

Bilge Cankorel, head of the OSCE Baku Office, attends a reception in his honor on the occasion of the completion of his assignment in the Azerbaijani capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/273901.html>).

June 17

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that "until the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is resolved, Azerbaijan should cooperate with international humanitarian organizations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273693.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that an agreement between Azerbaijan and Spain has been prepared that would end double taxation on incomes by citizens and businesses in one of these countries in the other (<http://news.day.az/economy/273753.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov receives his Georgian counterpart Dmitry Shashkin (<http://news.day.az/society/273840.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the US also ought to do more in the area of human rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/273700.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the main question for Azerbaijan" regarding Nabucco is the protection of its national interests (<http://news.day.az/politics/273884.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Turkey will not betray the interests of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273756.html>).

Azerbaijani Milli Majlis deputies participate in a session of the CIS Inter-parliamentary Assembly in Kazan devoted to culture, information, tourism and sports (<http://news.day.az/politics/273667.html>).

Vahid Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "in Armenia, corruption is flourishing, there is no stability, and all major business is concentrated in the hands" of the political elite. As a result, "businessmen in Armenia have nothing to do" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273588.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the statement of Thomas Melia, US deputy assistant secretary of state, that Azerbaijan needs to do more in the area of human rights could be applied to the United States as well (<http://news.day.az/politics/273689.html>).

The Azerbaijani National Academy of Sciences and the French CNRS announce a program of scientific cooperation (<http://news.day.az/society/273810.html>).

The Russian Duma ratifies the September 2010 Russian-Azerbaijani border accord (<http://news.day.az/politics/273889.html>).

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General of NATO, tells Khazar Ibrahim, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to NATO, that the Western alliance is interested in "the further development of partnership with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273872.html>).

An expert delegation completes its five-day visit to Baku to investigate the effectiveness of European Union assistance to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/273682.html>).

Experts on migration from the European Union visit Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/273887.html>).

Igor Levitin, Russian transportation minister, says that as part of Moscow's talks concerning accession to the World Trade Organization, officials are examining the possibility of opening Russia's domestic waterways to foreign-flag ships. If that happens, he says, Azerbaijan would be able to send its ships from the Caspian into the Russian interior on a regular basis (<http://news.day.az/economy/273749.html>).

Igor Levitin, Russia's transportation minister, presents to Baku Moscow's proposals on easing the shipment of Azerbaijani goods into the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/economy/273731.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the educational exchange programs between Azerbaijan and the United States lay the foundations for friendly relations and mutual assistance (<http://news.day.az/society/273894.html>).

June 16

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that providing Azerbaijani citizenship to ethnic Azerbaijanis who had to flee from Armenia will not create any problems for their return to their former place of residence after the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/273535.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that international organizations are guilty of double standards because they routinely address Azerbaijan and Armenia together even though Azerbaijan fulfills all the requirements of these groups and Armenia refuses to do so (<http://news.day.az/politics/273525.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in Madrid with Spain's State Secretary for Foreign Trade Alfredo Bonet Baiget (<http://news.day.az/politics/273558.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Luc Truyens, Belgium's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/273628.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan will use the provisions of the international convention on landscapes to block the exploitation by the Armenians of Azerbaijani resources in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/273542.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the development of Armenia depends on Azerbaijan" and that "the reason for the exodus of population from Armenia is not only economic but also political" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273357.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia lives by medieval myths" in terms of its understanding of its place in the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/273373.html>).

Azi Aslanov, head of the Main Administration of the Interior Ministry for the Struggle Against Illegal Drugs, takes part in a meeting of Caspian region experts on that subject in the Iranian city of Bender (<http://news.day.az/politics/274322.html>).

Azerbaijani and Italian parliamentarians discuss cooperation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/273534.html>).

The Baku Slavic University announces that it will establish a Hungarian center and the Corvinus University in Budapest says it will create an Azerbaijani center (<http://news.day.az/society/273568.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia “will take a decision on the draft of the bases of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at their meeting in Kazan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/273566.html>).

A European Union delegation of migration experts visits IDP settlements in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/273540.html>).

June 15

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that June 15, 1993, has entered the history of Azerbaijan as the Day of National Salvation (<http://news.day.az/politics/273273.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that his organization is “satisfied” by the fact that the Party of Justice and Development will continue in power in Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/273315.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that as a result of the return to power of Heydar Aliyev on June 15, 1993, Azerbaijan “avoided a civil war, the loss of its national statehood and the loss of those achievements which the country had achieved as a result of the restoration of its independence” (<http://news.day.az/politics/273191.html>).

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt says that “we are at the beginning of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/273383.html>).

Peter Semneby, the former special representative of the European Union in the South Caucasus, says that the appointment of a new special representative in his place at the start of September would help promote the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/273404.html>).

Miroslav Lajčák, the head of the European Service of Foreign Affairs for Questions of Russia, Eastern Partnership, and Western Balkans, says the European Union is ready to participate in negotiations on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/273401.html>).

Thomas Melia, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, begins a visit to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/273359.html>).

A roundtable at Baku on the issue of "NATO: A Political and Military Alliance of the 21st Century" includes speeches by Nicolae Urechi, Romanian ambassador to Azerbaijan and the alliance's representative in Baku, and Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/273358.html>).

June 14

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives Uzbekistan Defense Minister Major General Kabul Berdiyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/273214.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri to discuss the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway (<http://news.day.az/economy/273160.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in Tbilisi (<http://news.day.az/politics/273173.html>).

Bahar Muradova, Milli Majlis vice speaker, says that "the real independence of Azerbaijan began on June 15, 1993," a date when Heydar Aliyev assumed power for the second time and which is now marked as the Day of National Salvation (<http://news.day.az/politics/273076.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that if after the summit meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia hope for a peaceful settlement is lost, then "Azerbaijan could liberate its lands from occupation by military means" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273261.html>).

Agiya Nakhchivanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the national idea of Azerbaijaniness has a life affirming force and continues to inspire the people" (<http://news.day.az/politics/273247.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he does not consider "serious" suggestions that Armenian field commanders would resist Yerevan in the event of progress on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/273032.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, welcomes the continuation in office of Turkey's Party of Justice and Development in a message to Turkish religious affairs minister, Mehmet Gormez (<http://news.day.az/politics/273125.html>).

Azerbaijani and Georgian experts complete the delimitation of 300 of the 480 kilometers of the border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/273194.html>).

Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan says that Yerevan is counting on progress toward a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during the summit meeting of the presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia in Kazan later in June (<http://news.day.az/politics/273145.html>).

Roland Kobia, European Union representative in Azerbaijan, says that negotiations to ease the visa regime between Azerbaijan and the EU will begin in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/273098.html>).

Lenka Andrisova, a member of the Czech parliament, says that she sees “a growing potential in Azerbaijani-Czech relations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/273056.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, a deputy of the ruling Party of Justice and Development Party in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “Turkey always will occupy a position in common with Azerbaijan on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem” (<http://news.day.az/politics/273022.html>).

June 13

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says following a meeting with his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze that there has been “definite progress” in the course of talks on the Karabakh problem with agreement on some issues and a reduction in differences on others, but “the main principle” of Azerbaijan remains “the achievement of a result and not the process of the talks” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272892.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Azerbaijan is interested in a strong and independent Georgia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/273012.html>), while his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze says that the two countries are “strategic partners” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272986.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his Swedish counterpart Carl Bildt (<http://news.day.az/politics/272945.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives his Uzbekistan counterpart Kabul Berdiyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/272963.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential administration, says that the possibility of achieving definite progress at the Kazan summit “depends not only on Azerbaijan, but also on Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272876.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential administration, says that Azerbaijan is ready to adopt a law on defamation equal to those throughout Europe but not more far-reaching than in any European country (<http://news.day.az/politics/272920.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential administration, says that Baku respects the choice of the Turkish people and is pleased that the strategic partnership between the two countries will continue (<http://news.day.az/politics/272915.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that states “which do not recognize international law in the end lose their independence,” something he says threatens to happen to Armenia if it continues on its current course in Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/272686.html>).

Malahat Ibrahimgizi, an Azerbaijani delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, says that that body is discussing a document on the Karabakh issue (<http://news.day.az/politics/272987.html>).

Sinan Ogan, a member of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Turkey and head of the Turkish-Azerbaijani Circle, is elected to Turkey's Grand National Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/272936.html>).

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt says that “the European model can be applied to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272890.html>).

June 12

President Ilham Aliyev telephones Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (<http://news.day.az/politics/272850.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with Turkish President Abdulla Gul while she is in Turkey as an election observer for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/272820.html>).

June 11

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the status quo must be changed and the occupation forces of Armenia must leave the lands they have seized” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272335.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in Moscow with his Russian and Armenian counterparts, Sergey Lavrov and Edvard Nalbandyan, to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/272735.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijan is ready to cooperate with any Turkish government formed after the elections there (<http://news.day.az/politics/272729.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the United States is beginning “a new phase of cooperation with Azerbaijan in the security area in order to help better defend the energy structure of the country in the Caspian” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272704.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, opens the American-Azerbaijani Education Center in Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/272657.html>).

June 10

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Slovenian counterpart Danilo Turk in Ljubljana (<http://news.day.az/politics/272597.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev takes part in a NATO conference of those states which, although not members of the alliance, are supporting the international forces in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/272490.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfaz Garayev receives Iraq's ambassador to Baku Heydar al-Barrak (<http://news.day.az/economy/272582.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, meets with his Russian counterpart Sergey Naryshkin to discuss preparations for the Baku International Humanitarian Forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/272471.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, speaks at various venues in Berlin on Azerbaijani affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/272578.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says that "relations between Azerbaijan and Russia are proceeding to a qualitatively new level" (<http://news.day.az/politics/272594.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the deputy chairman of the Russian Duma, represent an effort to interfere in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/272587.html>).

Aynur Sofiyeva, the deputy chairman of the State Committee on Problems of the Family, Women and Children, says that Baku is preparing a fourth report for the United Nations on the status of the rights of the child in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/272575.html>).

Matthew Bryza, the US ambassador to Baku, says that the issue of the joint use of the Gabal radar station by Russia and the US is not being discussed, adding that it would "not be a bad idea" if the Russian and NATO radar systems could "cooperate" (<http://news.day.az/politics/272593.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia wants to establish a false image of its armed forces" and is thus "setting up its ally Russia" to support Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/272314.html>).

Arjen Uijterlinde, the Netherlands' ambassador to Baku, says that there are good opportunities for cooperation between Dutch and Azerbaijani firms (<http://news.day.az/economy/272525.html>).

June 9

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Serbian counterpart Boris Tadić in Belgrade (<http://news.day.az/politics/271938.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirmed changes in the law "on the legal defense of models of Azerbaijani folklore" that have been copyrighted (<http://news.day.az/politics/272231.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Baku may increase the rent for the Gabala radar station (<http://news.day.az/politics/272259.html>).

Deputy Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Rauf Hajiyev takes part in a Tehran meeting of the Organization of Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/272109.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with Macedonian Foreign Minister Antonio Milososki in Skopje (<http://news.day.az/politics/272306.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that claims by Armenian parliamentarians that Azerbaijan is conducting “a destructive policy toward Armenia in international institutions” do not correspond to reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/272147.html>).

Nariman Agayev, president of the Baku Center for Research on Stable Development, says that Azerbaijan has “no particular need” to join the World Trade Organization in the next two decades (<http://news.day.az/economy/272142.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issue a joint statement on their visit to the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/272352.html>).

James Appathurai, NATO special representative for the South Caucasus, says that joint military operations in Afghanistan and the experience Azerbaijan has gained from them help to promote the modernization of the Azerbaijani armed forces” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272219.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry issues a statement saying that delaying the process of agreeing on the concrete principles of Karabakh peace-making would be “counter-productive” (<http://news.day.az/politics/272290.html>).

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisyan says that the Minsk Group is “close to success” and that “Armenia is interested” in regularizing relations with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/272182.html>).

Ali Bilge Cankorel, the head of the OSCE Baku office, says that Azerbaijan has made visible progress in improving relations between the police and the population (<http://news.day.az/politics/272172.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the European Union office in Baku, says that European demand for gas means that there should be joint efforts not only to develop new routes to carry it but also new fields as well (<http://news.day.az/economy/272164.html>).

June 8

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Richard Morningstar, special representative of the US secretary of state for energy issues in

Eurasia, and tells him that Azerbaijan is interested in supplying Europe with energy (<http://news.day.az/economy/271971.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Miroslav Lajcak, managing director of the European External Action Service for Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood, and Western Balkans (<http://news.day.az/politics/272002.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev participates in the Seventh World Islamic Economic Forum in Astana (<http://news.day.az/economy/272111.html>).

Ali Hasanov, chairman of the State Committee on Work with Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, receives a delegation of the World Affairs Councils of America (<http://news.day.az/politics/272095.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Baku continues to give "great attention" to the joint declaration of the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chair country presidents at Deauville (<http://news.day.az/politics/271980.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says that "Russia is devoting a great deal of effort for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/272084.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, president of AMOR, says that Eurovision 2012 will be "a marvelous opportunity to talk about our country, culture, traditions and history" (<http://news.day.az/politics/271993.html>).

The State Committee on Work with Religious Structures calls the European Commission report on religious freedom in Azerbaijan "superficial" (<http://news.day.az/politics/272116.html>).

The Supreme Court of Azerbaijan and the Supreme Administrative Court of Baden-Wurtemberg in Germany agree to cooperate (<http://news.day.az/politics/271977.html>).

Nabucco Gas Pipeline International signs in Turkey cooperation agreements with the Nabucco transit countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/272052.html>).

The Russian embassy in Azerbaijan introduces online forms for applications for passports and receipt of Russian citizenship (<http://news.day.az/politics/272093.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that "Azerbaijan and Russia plan to break a record in trade" (<http://news.day.az/politics/272048.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation are working carefully to resolve the problems of residents of two border villages where the majority of residents are Russian citizens (<http://news.day.az/politics/272030.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that "today negotiators on the Karabakh conflict have a period of hope" (<http://news.day.az/politics/271988.html>).

Günther Oettinger, EU commissioner for energy, says that "the decision about the supply of Azerbaijani gas to Europe will be historic" (<http://news.day.az/economy/271962.html>).

June 7

President Ilham Aliyev receives Norwegian Crown Prince Haakon (<http://news.day.az/politics/271666.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive on the composition of the Azerbaijani side of the International Commission on Economics and Trade between Azerbaijan and Serbia (<http://news.day.az/politics/271915.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Richard Morningstar, special representative of the US secretary of state for energy issues in Eurasia (<http://news.day.az/politics/271861.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that agreement has been reached on the composition of peacekeeping forces for Karabakh and that the resolution of Karabakh conflict must be dealt with step by step (<http://news.day.az/politics/271744.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Miroslav Lajcak, managing director of the European External Action Service for Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood, and Western Balkans (<http://news.day.az/politics/271780.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that "certain positive steps" have now been made in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict as evidenced by the Deauville declaration of the three Minsk Group co-chair country presidents (<http://news.day.az/politics/271688.html>).

Ramil Gurbanov and Orkhan Rustamly of the Azerbaijani consulate general in Los Angeles take part in the annual reception organized by the State of California in Sacramento (<http://news.day.az/politics/271697.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenians know well that remaining in a state of war with Azerbaijan can put Armenia in a still worse position than it is at present (<http://news.day.az/politics/271644.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the political leadership of Armenia must think about the future of their own country” and thus recognize that they will benefit from an agreement with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/271643.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that “in Azerbaijan much is being done for the development of the Russian language” (<http://news.day.az/politics/271755.html>).

US President Barak Obama in a message to President Ilham Aliyev says that “thanks to the far-sighted” policies of Heydar Aliyev were “laid the foundation of the East-West energy corridor” and cooperation on energy matters between Azerbaijan and Western countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/271725.html>).

Georgian Energy Minister Aleksandr Khetaguri says that the AGRI project can be realized “much sooner” than other pipeline projects carrying gas to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/271771.html>).

The three Minsk Group co-chairs visit Khankendi (<http://news.day.az/politics/271862.html>).

Andre Kasprzik, personal representative of the OSCE chairman-in-office for the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, says that “the Karabakh conflict still has not been resolved” (<http://news.day.az/politics/271788.html>).

Sergey Kuznetsov, the representative of the Venetian Commission of the Council of Europe, says that his group hopes to work “constructively” with Azerbaijan on revisions in the law on political parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/271781.html>).

Igor Popov, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that “the process around Nagorno-Karabakh has become more active and it is possible to expect results soon” (<http://news.day.az/politics/271777.html>).

Ali Bilge Cankorel, head of the OSCE Baku office, says that his representative considers the adoption of a new law on political parties to be an important condition for the development of democracy and pluralism in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/271768.html>).

June 6

President Ilham Aliyev receives Miroslav Lajcak, managing director of the European External Action Service for Russia, Eastern Neighbourhood, and Western Balkans (<http://news.day.az/politics/271645.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Günther Oettinger, EU commissioner for energy (<http://news.day.az/politics/271633.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/271555.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, president of AMOR, meets with Valentina Matvienko, the governor of St. Petersburg (<http://news.day.az/politics/271785.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseynulu Bagirov says that political reasons are behind the continued operation of Armenia's Metsamor atomic power station (<http://news.day.az/society/271538.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Bagirov says that Azerbaijan is "realizing a multitude of ecology projects" (<http://news.day.az/economy/271505.html>).

The Justice Ministry de-registers the Iranian Imdad Committee of Imam Khomeini (<http://news.day.az/society/271607.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the situation on the line of the Karabakh front is dangerously explosive" (<http://news.day.az/politics/271512.html>).

Richard Morningstar, special representative of the US secretary of state for energy issues in Eurasia, says that it is "very important" that Azerbaijan have a variety of markets for its gas production (<http://news.day.az/economy/271561.html>).

June 5

President Ilham Aliyev receives FIFA President Sepp Blatter and UEFA President Michele Platini (<http://news.day.az/politics/271440.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov takes part in a Kyiv meeting of the CIS Finance Ministers Council (<http://news.day.az/economy/271374.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, president of AMOR, takes part in the dedication of Nizami Gandzhavi Square in St. Petersburg (<http://news.day.az/politics/271438.html>).

June 4

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in Washington with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to discuss the strategic partnership of the two countries and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/271235.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, president of AMOR, opens the Third Conference of the Azerbaijani Youth Organizations of Russia in St. Petersburg (<http://news.day.az/politics/271276.html>).

Adil Garibov, the director of the Institute of Radiation Problems of Azerbaijan's National Academy of Sciences, says that Azerbaijan and Germany will cooperate on nuclear research (<http://news.day.az/economy/271299.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that relations between Turkey and Armenia will not be restored until the Karabakh conflict is resolved and that it is unclear what the OSCE Minsk Group can do to resolve it given that it has not done "anything over the past 20 years" (<http://news.day.az/politics/271349.html>).

Congressman Adam Kinzinger joins the Azerbaijan Working Group of the US House of Representatives (<http://news.day.az/politics/271337.html>).

June 3

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Italian counterpart Giorgio Napolitano (<http://news.day.az/politics/271229.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev takes part in ceremonies marking the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy (<http://news.day.az/politics/270766.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva takes part in the official opening of the Azerbaijani Pavillion at the Venetian Biennale (<http://news.day.az/politics/271004.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/271037.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Ukrainian ambassador to Baku Aleksandr Mishchenko (<http://news.day.az/politics/271180.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that today the Azerbaijani army is the strongest army in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/271190.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Azerbaijani army is prepared for military actions” (<http://news.day.az/politics/271189.html>).

Gular Ahmadova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group is without results” (<http://news.day.az/politics/271176.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with Reuven Rivlin, chairman of the Israeli Knesset, on the sidelines of an international conference of women leaders (<http://news.day.az/politics/271145.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the next round of security talks between Azerbaijan and the US will take place in July (<http://news.day.az/politics/271096.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that he “shares the hope of President Obama that the meeting in Kazan will help achieve agreement on the basic principles” of a Karabakh resolution (<http://news.day.az/politics/271083.html>).

Turkey’s ROKETSAN begins to fulfill orders from the Azerbaijani armed forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/271098.html>).

June 2

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with US-based news agencies in New York (<http://news.day.az/politics/270846.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Adel Mohammed al-Adaileh, Jordanian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/270994.html>).

The Center for Strategic Research under the President of Azerbaijan issues a report saying that Azerbaijan’s real GDP increased by three times between 2003 and 2010 and its strategic currency reserves increased by 19 times over the same period (<http://news.day.az/economy/270975.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the member countries of the OSCE Minsk Group recognize that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is inviolable” and that “this principle is supported by practically all the countries of the world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/270785.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, says that “the Kazan summit of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia should be successful and lead to positive results” (<http://news.day.az/politics/270913.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that Moscow will do “everything possible to achieve progress in talks on the resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/270835.html>).

Desire Petrus, a Swedish parliamentarian, says that the decision of her assembly to recognize “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’ is a historic mistake” (<http://news.day.az/politics/270907.html>).

June 1

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is awarded the Service to the Turkic World prize by the association of writers and artists of the Turkic world (<http://news.day.az/politics/270830.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov participates in a meeting of the representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Council at the United Nations in New York and seeks support for Azerbaijan’s efforts to become a member of the Security Council for 2012-2013 (<http://news.day.az/politics/270601.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy Hafiz Pashayev visits Saudi Arabia to discuss cooperation with educational institutions there (<http://news.day.az/politics/270638.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan “cannot consider the war over” (<http://news.day.az/politics/270323.html>).

Adil Garibov, the director of the Institute of Radiation Problems of Azerbaijan’s National Academy of Sciences, says that Azerbaijan demands from Armenia guarantees that the Metsamor nuclear power station is secure (<http://news.day.az/politics/270721.html>).

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon tells Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov that he expects results from the Nagorno-Karabakh talks (<http://news.day.az/politics/270609.html>).

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich creates a working group on the development of new routes for the passage of Azerbaijani oil and gas through Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/economy/270621.html>).

Fidel Castro Dias-Balart, the son of the leader of the Cuban revolution, visits Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/270751.html>).

After an Azerbaijani protest, Vodafone Egypt has stopped cooperating with the mobile system in Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/270639.html>).

MAY

May 31

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku “devotes great importance” to the meeting organized at the initiative of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and scheduled to take place in the last third of June between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/270344.html>).

May 29

President Ilham Aliyev receives General Saldyray Berk, the general in charge of instruction and doctrine for Turkish ground forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/270183.html>).

May 28

President Ilham Aliyev’s amnesty of May 26 is praised by international organizations and “evaluated as an important step toward the protection of freedom of speech and information in correspondence with the course of the democratic development of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/270087.html>).

Azerbaijanis and other supporters of Azerbaijan both within the country and around the world mark the Day of the Republic, the anniversary of the formation of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic in 1918 (<http://news.day.az/politics/270014.html>).

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton greets the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/269975.html>).

May 27

President Ilham Aliyev says that Azerbaijan in the future “will keep on its efforts to isolate Armenia from all regional projects” until Armenia withdraws from Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/269969.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Aleksandr Zhukov, the deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation and president of that country’s Olympic Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/269877.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev visits the monument to the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic on the eve of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/269785.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Bagirov says that agreement has already been reached between Azerbaijan and international organizations about the threat posed by Armenia’s Metsamor atomic energy station (<http://news.day.az/politics/269831.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Bagirov says that there must be a moratorium for a minimum of 10 to 12 years on fishing for sturgeon in the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/society/269804.html>).

Culture Minister Abulfaz Garayev receives a British parliamentary delegation and discusses ways in which London can help Azerbaijan in the simplification of the visa regime between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/269957.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku “welcomes the declaration of the presidents of Russia, the US and France that was made in Deauville during the G-8 summit” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269870.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that “following the logic of the Deauville declaration of the presidents of the Minsk Group co-chair countries, Armenia must begin the withdrawal of its armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269825.html>).

Eldar Ismayilov, head of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan, is elected president of the Central Eurasian Banking Federation (<http://news.day.az/economy/269796.html>).

Viktor Mereshkin, ataman of the Cossacks of Azerbaijan, says that despite Armenian claims, regular Cossack forces “never fought in Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269790.html>).

US President Barak Obama greets President Ilham Aliyev on the occasion of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/269914.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov says that Moscow is convinced that “the chances for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have never been greater” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269876.html>).

May 26

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mark Field, president of the British-Azerbaijani Parliamentary Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/269685.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Serbian ambassador, Zoran Vayovich (<http://news.day.az/politics/269684.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev recalls Maharram Aliyev as Azerbaijani ambassador to Dushanbe (<http://news.day.az/politics/269719.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Galib Israfilov as permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations bodies in Vienna and to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/269718.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov receives General Khalif Mohammad Sani ar-Rumeisi, the chief of supply for the general staff of the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates (<http://news.day.az/politics/269601.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov meets in Rome with Franco Gabrielli, the head of the Italian Civil Defense Department, to discuss cooperation in responding to disasters (<http://news.day.az/society/269973.html>).

Communications and Information Technology Minister Ali Abbasov speaks to the International Trade Council in San Francisco (<http://news.day.az/politics/269524.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Makhmoud Mammadgulyev receives Ukrainian Ambassador Aleksandr Mishchenko who says that Kyiv wants to broaden cooperation with Azerbaijan in a variety of spheres (<http://news.day.az/economy/269547.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov takes part in Turkmen-Azerbaijani consultations in Ashgabat (<http://news.day.az/politics/269642.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that “responsibility for illegal settlement of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan lies with the official structures of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269578.html>).

An explosion occurs near the building of the Azerbaijani consulate general in Istanbul, but there are no Azerbaijanis among the victims (<http://news.day.az/world/269544.html>).

Otto Hauser, honorary consul of Azerbaijan in Germany, says that “Azerbaijan will conduct Eurovision 2012 at a high level” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269556.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that reaction to events in Georgia show the double standards of “certain international organizations” in evaluating events in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/269729.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “contemporary Azerbaijan has introduced into life the ideas of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269527.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenians’ attitude to Georgians is no better than their attitude to Azerbaijanis” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269390.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev greets President Ilham Aliyev on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/269658.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the Deauville declaration of the three Minsk Group co-chair country presidents “underscores the importance of the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269725.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Baku, greets the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/269722.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Baku, says that the European Union “completely” supports the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/269587.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Baku, says that according to the new European neighborhood policy, partner countries such as Azerbaijan have the chance to receive greater political and financial support from the EU if they reform (<http://news.day.az/politics/269586.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Baku, says that “the clear progress Azerbaijan has demonstrated in macro-economic policy and in the struggle with poverty” has been noted by the EU as have been “the achievements of Azerbaijan in the development of the energy sector, in the struggle with terrorism and criminal structures, and also on the question of gender equality” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269584.html>).

Afghanistan government officials complete their program of training at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (<http://news.day.az/politics/269661.html>).

The Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas of the United States have called on the US Congress to end assistance to the Nagorno-Karabakh region occupied by Armenia and to reduce assistance to Armenia as well (<http://news.day.az/politics/269575.html>).

May 25

President Ilham Aliyev receives Asad Alam, the World Bank regional director for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/269387.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov thanks the Non-Aligned Movement for agreeing to admit Azerbaijan to its ranks and says that Azerbaijan is “a reliable partner and a country which is playing a decisive role in the Caspian-Caucasus region as a strong and stable state” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269412.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that the AGRI pipeline project is making good progress (<http://news.day.az/economy/269407.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, meets with the American Jewish Committee in San Francisco (<http://news.day.az/politics/269411.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia's political life "interests" Azerbaijan "only to the extent" that it affects Yerevan's position on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/269147.html>).

The European Union releases its "Renewed European Neighborhood Policy" which specifies that the EU is prepared to increase its involvement in the resolution of longstanding conflicts (<http://www.easternpartnership.org/community/debate/revised-european-neighbourhood-policy>; <http://news.day.az/politics/269545.html>).

The trade and transport committee of GUAM meets in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/269477.html>).

Hardijs Baumanis, Latvian ambassador to Baku, says that Riga intends to broaden its cooperation with the regions of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/269422.html>).

Teymuraz Sharashenidze, Georgian ambassador to Baku, says that the creation of a spiritual administration for Muslims in Georgia should not disturb Azerbaijan because it is "an NGO" and "this does not have any relation to religion. The structure concerned will be involved only in the improvement of the status of Muslims in Georgia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/269410.html>).

May 24

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to Moscow, says that Baku is well advanced in its planning for the Eurovision 2012 competition to be held in the Azerbaijani capital (<http://news.day.az/culture/269160.html>).

Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to NATO, says that cooperation between Baku and the alliance has "strengthened and become deeper in the years since 1994" (<http://news.day.az/politics/269238.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadygov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "under Heydar Aliyev the work begun during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was continued" (<http://news.day.az/politics/269254.html>).

Faradzh Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “achieving independence was for Azerbaijan a matter of honor” (<http://news.day.az/politics/269059.html>).

The Council of Heads of Governments of the Commonwealth of Independent States adopts Azerbaijani-prepared resolutions on cultural cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/269258.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, calls for the consistent development of relations between the European Union and the countries of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/269180.html>).

Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulates President Ilham Aliyev on the Azerbaijani victory in Eurovision 2011 (<http://news.day.az/politics/269171.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the head of the EU diplomatic service, says that the European Union is concerned by the deadly incidents which have taken place in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh in recent days (<http://news.day.az/politics/269097.html>).

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Reza Rauf Sheibani says that Azerbaijan and Iran are creating a committee for political consultations (<http://news.day.az/politics/269214.html>).

May 23

President Ilham Aliyev receives Olzhas Suleymenov, Kazakhstan’s permanent representative to UNESCO, and invests him with the Order of Friendship (<http://news.day.az/politics/269051.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Reza Rauf Sheibani (<http://news.day.az/politics/269004.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Moscow protests the illegal visit by Ekho Moskvyy journalists to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/268909.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia even at the level of the president is very concerned in recent years by the obvious achievements of Azerbaijan in the military sphere” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268845.html>).

Heydar al-Barrak, Iraq's ambassador to Baku, says that "after a certain period of stagnation," relations between Iraq and Azerbaijan "are successfully developing" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268898.html>).

Belorussian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Guryanov says that he anticipates active cooperation on investments between his country and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/269114.html>).

The Turkmenistan parliament adopts a law on the ratification of the cooperation accord on security on the Caspian Sea signed 18 November 2010 (<http://news.day.az/politics/268908.html>).

The Our Home is Israel fraction in the Knesseet says that it will deploy all possible resources to prevent the Israeli parliament from passing a resolution on 'the Armenian genocide' (<http://news.day.az/politics/268918.html>).

Aram Karapetian, the leader of Armenia's New Times Party, "does not exclude" the possibility of the renewal of war in Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/268942.html>).

May 22

Ambassador Akshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, says that Baku is offering its own candidacy in the upcoming elections to the Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/268781.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, meets with Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov in Grozny (<http://news.day.az/society/268778.html>).

Turkish Ambassador Hulusi Kılıç says that "Turkish-Azerbaijani brotherhood is eternal" ([HTTP://news.day.az/politics/268780.html](http://news.day.az/politics/268780.html)).

May 21

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the membership of the joint Azerbaijani-Iraqi commission on trade and cooperation in a variety of sectors (<http://news.day.az/politics/268645.html>).

The European Commission says it plans to carry out a project for the transformation of the justice system in Azerbaijan over the next three years (<http://news.day.az/politics/268741.html>).

May 20

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/268620.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says that “the development of ADA is a symbolic indicator of the general development of the country and the transformation of Azerbaijan into a regional leader” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268635.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Oktay Asadov tells Europarlament president Jerzy Buzek that he is concerned about that body’s adoption of a resolution about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/268523.html>).

Maharram Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Dushanbe, presents Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmon with the Order of the Crescent and the Star of the International committee for the Struggle Against Terrorism, Drug Trafficking and Ecological Crimes (<http://news.day.az/politics/268532.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that “the brotherhood between Turkey and Azerbaijan is eternal” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268598.html>).

Adel Mohammad Adaileh, Jordan’s ambassador to Baku, says that Amman plans to purchase oil and gas from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/268552.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton tells her Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan that Washington, as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, will continue its support for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/268488.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says that that body “supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268540.html>). He adds that “the European Parliament conducts dialogue with Azerbaijan as an equal partner” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268634.html>).

Amirkul Azimov, the secretary of the Tajikistan Security Council, says that the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty and other structures on the former Soviet space must not allow a deterioration of the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/268626.html>).

Daghestani President Magomedsalam Magomedov tells Russian Orthodox Bishop Aleksandr of Baku and Azerbaijan that "Azerbaijan is an important neighbor for Daghestan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268612.html>).

May 19

President Ilham Aliyev receives Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (<http://news.day.az/politics/268399.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that his ministry is ready to "completely take on itself projects for the modernization of the armed forces" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268320.html>).

Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan, says that Baku intends to expand its economic relations with Pakistan as well as its political ones (<http://news.day.az/politics/268305.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "the links of Azerbaijan and Russia is multi-sided and multi-leveled" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268367.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says is that "Armenia cannot resolve its internal and external problems" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268199.html>).

Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko tells visiting Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Ague Eyubov that "the basis of our relations is among other things in our good feelings toward one another" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268371.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul congratulates President Ilham Aliyev on the victory of Azerbaijan in the Eurovision 2011 contest (<http://news.day.az/politics/268400.html>).

Nikolay Bordyuzha, the secretary general of the Council of Collective Security of the Member States of the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty, says that the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be achieved "exclusively by peaceful means" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268284.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says the extent of involvement of the partner countries in the European Eastern Partnership is "insufficient" (<http://news.day.az/politics/268398.html>).

Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, says that his organization does not operate “in Nagorno-Karabakh or the adjoining regions” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268381.html>).

Georgia’s Regional Development & Infrastructure Minister Ramaz Nikolaishvili says that Azerbaijan will provide Georgia with an additional 575 million US dollars for the construction of the Georgian section of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad (<http://news.day.az/economy/268440.html>).

Kyrgyzstan Deputy Foreign Minister Nurlan Aytmurzayev says that Bishkek is discussing the opening of an embassy in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/268339.html>).

US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon says that “the time has come” to complete work and confirm the basic principles for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict and to begin work on a peace accord (<http://news.day.az/politics/268259.html>).

Sergey Vinokurov, head of the administration for inter-religion and cultural ties with foreign countries in the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation, says that “on Russia and Azerbaijan depends to a large degree the development of integration processes in the Caspian region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268334.html>).

A bilateral forum on “Russia and Azerbaijan: Toward New Horizons of Inter-Regional Cooperation” takes place in Astrakhan (<http://news.day.az/politics/268302.html>).

Dag Sigurdson has been named the new representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/268314.html>).

May 18

President Ilham Aliyev receives Gerhard Roiss, CEO of the Austrian company OMV (<http://news.day.az/politics/268160.html>).

Ramiz Rzayev, the chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Court, receives Eric Metrpierre, chief of service for European and International affairs at the French ministry of justice and liberties, to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/268147.html>).

Transportation Minister Ziya Mammadov receives his Georgian counterpart Ramaz Nikolashvili to discuss expanding cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/268169.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the foundations for contemporary relations of Azerbaijan and Russia have been laid down by Presidents Ilham Aliyev and Dmitry Medvedev” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268217.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, the head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, tells the special representative of the Georgian Patriarch, Bishop Arkady Khachidze, that “unlike Georgians living in Azerbaijan, [Azerbaijanis] living in Georgia are encountering serious problems in the religious sphere” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268172.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that information about the mistreatment of up to 80 percent of Armenian children is unfortunately “the pure truth” (<http://news.day.az/politics/267962.html>).

Azerbaijan has prepared proposals for the extension of Russia’s lease on the Gabala radar site beyond January 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/268070.html>).

The Azerbaijani army conducts exercises near the cease-fire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/268115.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev sends a message of greeting at the Astrakhan forum on cooperation between Russia and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/268036.html>).

Herbert Quelle, German ambassador to Baku, sends congratulations to the Azerbaijanis who won the Eurovision 2011 competition (<http://news.day.az/politics/267982.html>).

Serbian President Boris Tadic names Zoran Vayovich Serbia’s ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/268098.html>).

Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, says that “Azerbaijan has devoted a great deal of effort to provide a worthy life for forced resettlers” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268219.html>).

Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, says that “Azerbaijan must say its weighty word” regarding the defense of refugees and internally displaced persons around the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/268025.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU chief representative in Baku, announces that the European Union is increasing its financial assistance to Azerbaijan as of 2012 (<http://news.day.az/economy/268010.html>).

Roland Kobia, the EU chief representative in Baku, says that talks about easing the visa regime between Azerbaijan and the European Union will begin in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/268030.html>).

Ali Bilge Cankorel completes his assignment as head of the OSCE office in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/268094.html>).

May 17

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that “today the visiting card of Azerbaijan is [its] rich cultural heritage” (<http://news.day.az/politics/268044.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov visits the Dutch infrastructure and the environment minister Schultz van Hagen-Maas Geesteranus to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/society/268806.html>).

The Foreign Ministry warns Azerbaijanis against travel to Syria (<http://news.day.az/politics/267883.html>).

The Milli Majlis adopts changes in the law governing international visitors in order to make the rules governing visas simpler (<http://news.day.az/politics/267844.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says that “we do not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent unit” (<http://news.day.az/politics/267930.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan has a major role to play in space exploration (<http://news.day.az/politics/267823.html>).

May 16

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian Defense Minister Bachana Akhalaya (<http://news.day.az/politics/267738.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian Regional Development and Infrastructure Minister Ramaz Nikolashvili (<http://news.day.az/politics/267735.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the participants in the Baku conference of the leaders of the Higher Religious Council of the Peoples of the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/267757.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev says that the victory at the Eurovision competition is “propaganda for Azerbaijani culture and an

indicator of the progress of our country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/267585.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, warns Armenia that it faces “bad consequences” if it continues to behave unconstructively and to drag out talks about Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/267718.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian officials who claim that Nagorno-Karabakh was once part of Armenia are betraying their historical ignorance. “Neither Nagorno-Karabakh nor Nakhchivan ever were part of Armenia since Armenia as such did not exist” (<http://news.day.az/politics/267732.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov calls on Yerevan to stop dragging out the negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/267687.html>).

Deputy Communications and Information Technology Minister Iltimaz Mammadov discusses cooperation on space research with his Israeli counterpart Eden Bar-Dal (<http://news.day.az/economy/267631.html>).

Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko confirms a series of accords with Azerbaijan concerning negotiations for an agreement on cooperation against the theft of cultural monuments (<http://news.day.az/politics/267868.html>).

Michael Lavon Lotem, Israeli ambassador to Baku, congratulates the Azerbaijani people on their victory at Eurovision 2011 (<http://news.day.az/politics/267739.html>).

Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Nino Kalandadze says that Tbilisi has full confidence in Georgia’s ambassador to Baku, Teymuraz Sharashenidze, despite complaints against him from some ethnic Georgians living in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/267636.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU chief representative to Baku, congratulates Azerbaijan on the victory of Eldar and Nigar in the Eurovision 2011 competition (<http://news.day.az/politics/267637.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry says that there has been no change in Tehran’s position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/267523.html>).

May 15

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku is ready to assume responsibility for the conduct of the Eurovision 2012 competition (<http://news.day.az/politics/267474.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the victory of Azerbaijan in the Eurovision 2011 competition is “the result of the growing image of Azerbaijan” and represents “a beautiful holiday for Azerbaijanis and the entire Turkic world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/267479.html>).

May 14

Iranian foreign ministry officials say they are investigating the statement of the Iranian embassy in Yerevan about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in which there was no mention of the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity as the basis of any settlement (<http://news.day.az/politics/267401.html>).

May 13

President Ilham Aliyev receives General Duncan J. McNabb, commander of the US transportation command (<http://news.day.az/politics/267180.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the Azerbaijani membership of the mixed Azerbaijani-Czech commission on economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/267312.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Petros Efthymiou, president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/267278.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev discusses bilateral military cooperation with General Duncan J. McNabb, commander of the US transportation command (<http://news.day.az/politics/267250.html>).

The Foreign Ministry criticizes the resolution adopted by the European Parliament concerning freedom and human rights in Azerbaijan as inaccurate and incomplete (<http://news.day.az/politics/267203.html>).

The ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party issues a statement criticizing the resolution of the European Parliament concerning media freedom in Azerbaijan and saying that unfortunately the contents of that resolution do not correspond to reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/267302.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan's calls for the Armenian diaspora to punish the presidents of the US and France for failing to support Armenia's position on 1915 will backfire on Armenian leaders (<http://news.day.az/politics/267147.html>).

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the secretary general of NATO, says that "frozen conflicts" are a potential threat to security in the Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/267230.html>).

Dunya Miyatovich, the OSCE representative for media freedom, says that there have been positive changes in the media sphere in Azerbaijan over the last year and a half (<http://news.day.az/politics/267166.html>).

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry announces that Azerbaijan is joining the Non-Aligned Movement (<http://news.day.az/politics/267242.html>).

Moscow State University hosts a roundtable on "Russian-Azerbaijani Relations at the Present Time: Problems and Prospects" (<http://news.day.az/politics/267265.html>).

May 12

President Ilham Aliyev receives Petros Efthymiou, president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/267069.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that Baku has made the introduction into the Azerbaijani armed forces of long-range rockets a priority (<http://news.day.az/politics/267048.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov heads an Azerbaijani delegation to the IDEF-2011 international defense exhibition in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/267065.html>).

The Defense Ministry rejects as without foundation Armenian reports about the wounding of a civilian on the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/266979.html>).

Ibrahim Hajiyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Indonesia who is jointly accredited to the Philippines and Timor-Leste, presents his credentials to Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos Horte (<http://news.day.az/politics/267043.html>).

Nushiravan Maharramli, the chairman of the National Committee for Radio and Television, receives Dunya Miyatovich, the special representative of the OSCE for media freedom (<http://news.day.az/politics/267019.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that the OSCE Minsk Group should present a report on its activity to the assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/267050.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian side is doing everything it can to interfere with the work of the OSCE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/266863.html>).

Azerbaijani firms take part in the Moscow International Travel Fair (<http://news.day.az/economy/266949.html>).

Armenian officials say a Russian media report suggesting that Yerevan was seeking to have Iran become the mediator in talks about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and an organizer of a referendum on the independence of Karabakh is not accurate (<http://news.day.az/politics/267066.html>).

Teymuraz Sharashenidze, Georgia's ambassador to Baku, says that Georgian-Azerbaijani relations are "at a high level," reflecting the "strategic partnership" between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/266942.html>).

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, secretary general of NATO, meets with US officials in Washington to discuss, among other things, the frozen conflicts in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/266504.html>).

May 11

President Ilham Aliyev receives Dunya Miyatovich, the special representative of the OSCE for media freedom (<http://news.day.az/politics/266826.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva hosts her Latvian counterpart Lilita Zatlers who is visiting Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/266784.html>).

Defense Minister Yaver Jamalov signs cooperation agreements with his Turkish counterpart Vejdî Genul concerning the joint development and manufacture of new weapons systems (<http://news.day.az/politics/266813.html>).

Defense Minister Yaver Jamalov says that Azerbaijan plans to produce 60 drone aircraft by the end of 2011 (<http://news.day.az/politics/266805.html>).

Tofik Musayev, deputy permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, calls on the UN not to allow Armenia to remain without punishment for its crimes and violations of UN resolutions (<http://news.day.az/politics/266740.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy says, that she thinks that “with the passage of time, the Armenian side has become convinced that the occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan gives them nothing except new problems and that from this suffer the ordinary people” (<http://news.day.az/politics/266640.html>).

Bilge Cankorel, the head of the Baku office of the OSCE, says that he believes that “a dialogue between the powers and the opposition in Azerbaijan will take place” (<http://news.day.az/politics/266749.html>).

US State Department officials at a briefing in Washington point to Azerbaijan as a model of tolerance for other countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/266728.html>).

Latvian officials offer Azerbaijan the use of Latvian ports in the course of the fourth session of the international commission on economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Latvia in Riga (<http://news.day.az/economy/266821.html>).

May 10

President Ilham Aliyev receives ISESCO Director General Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri (<http://news.day.az/politics/266604.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev takes part in the Council of Europe ministerial in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/266527.html>).

Azerbaijan's consulate general in Aktau organizes the publication in Kazakh and Russian of a book entitled “Two Peoples—One Fate” concerning Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/266610.html>).

French Senator Nathalie Goulet supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and opposes any official declaration of the events of 1915 as “an Armenian genocide” (<http://news.day.az/politics/266592.html>).

May 9

President Ilham Aliyev leads Azerbaijanis in the commemoration of Victory Day (<http://news.day.az/politics/266367.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says that Tbilisi wants “Georgia’s Azerbaijanis to be successful people in Georgia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/266431.html>).

May 8

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the sidelines of the World Women’s Summit in Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/266321.html>).

May 7

The Foreign Ministry denounces as “nonsense” an Armenian foreign ministry claim that Baku has used Al Qaeda forces against Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/266194.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “all processes connected with air routes in the occupied territories” must follow international legal rules (<http://news.day.az/politics/266195.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that media reports about a Georgian plan to organize disorders in Azerbaijan is disinformation designed to weaken ties between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/266223.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Yerevan’s statements and actions about the occupied territories are “unconstructive” (<http://news.day.az/politics/266225.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani army is capable in “a very short time” of fulfilling any task set before it (<http://news.day.az/politics/266192.html>).

May 6

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Tokunaga (<http://news.day.az/politics/266137.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Ivan Viranataatmaju, Indonesia's ambassador to Azerbaijan who is resident in Tehran, at the completion of his diplomatic appointment (<http://news.day.az/politics/266127.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov is received by Montenegrin President Filip Vujanović (<http://news.day.az/politics/266054.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov takes part in the 44th annual meeting of the Council of Bank Administrators (<http://news.day.az/economy/266111.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov receives Mihal Labenda, Polish ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/266125.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfaz Garayev says that Baku will continue to oppose Armenian efforts to include in UNESCO programs materials from the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/266032.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, tells the Pacific Council on International Policy that Azerbaijan is playing an expanding role in Eurasia (<http://news.day.az/politics/265939.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, proposes giving the US a list of terrorists who have carried out actions against the Azerbaijani people (<http://news.day.az/politics/266035.html>).

Bilge Cankorel, head of the OSCE office in Baku, says that Azerbaijani laws are "in practice close to perfection" (<http://news.day.az/politics/266084.html>).

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari tells incoming Azerbaijani Ambassador Inayatulla Kakar that Pakistan intends to broaden bilateral ties with Azerbaijan particularly in economics, trade, and investment (<http://news.day.az/politics/265956.html>).

Laszlo Kover, the speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, tells Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Budapest, that Hungary intends to broaden inter-parliamentary ties with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/266069.html>).

The Council of Europe and the European Union officially launched projects valued at four million euros to promote democracy, effective

administration and stability in the countries of the Eastern Partnership (<http://news.day.az/politics/266039.html>).

May 5

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov discusses cooperation with his Montenegrin counterpart Milan Roćen (<http://news.day.az/politics/265743.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev takes part in the Azerbaijani-German business forum in Berlin (<http://news.day.az/economy/266123.html>).

Taxation Minister Fazil Mammadov signs an agreement with his Lithuanian counterpart Modestas Kaseliauskas concerning technical cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/265780.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Yerevan is attempting to change the direction of the negotiating process on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/265809.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, receives Herbert Quelle, German ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/265899.html>).

Adil Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “by his cynical declarations, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan has already gone further than such a well-known criminal as [Nazi propaganda chief] Goebbels (<http://news.day.az/politics/265772.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that changes in the position of the Armenian diaspora in the US and of “Armenia in general” are “the result of the activities of the Azerbaijani side” (<http://news.day.az/politics/265650.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the US needs to redefine its approach to Armenian terrorism in the wake of its destruction of Osama bin Laden (<http://news.day.az/politics/265620.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev submits the Russian-Azerbaijani border treaty to the Duma for ratification (<http://news.day.az/politics/65757.html>).

Jacqueline Carpenter, the deputy head of the OSCE Baku office, says that the OSCE is satisfied with the level of cooperation with Azerbaijan's Press Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/265862.html>).

Michael Green assumes the post of the new director of USAID in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/265858.html>).

May 4

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that Baku is providing "material support for the restoration" of the Louvre (<http://news.day.az/politics/265706.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells Serbian President Boris Tadić that "it is necessary to strengthen the ties of Azerbaijan and Serbia on the basis of mutual national interests" (<http://news.day.az/politics/65836.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Serbian counterpart Vuk Jeremić (<http://news.day.az/politics/265535.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmudov receives Belorussian KGB Chairman Vadim Zaytsev (<http://news.day.az/politics/265472.html>).

Deputy Communications Minister Elmir Velizade says that "Azerbaijan is continuing to strengthen its information security" (<http://news.day.az/politics/265601.html>).

The leaders of Azerbaijani media outlets and NGOs consider the report of Freedom House on the state of media freedom in Azerbaijan to be distorted and unjust (<http://news.day.az/politics/265596.html>).

The Defense Ministry notes that Armenian soldiers have often killed other Armenian soldiers and then sought to blame Azerbaijani forces for the deaths (<http://news.day.az/politics/265540.html>).

The office of the Azerbaijani ombudsman sends to the UN a declaration concerning the anniversaries of the Armenian occupation of Shusha, Lachin and Kalbajar (<http://news.day.az/politics/265678.html>).

Russian Vice Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov says that Moscow's position on the delimitation of the Caspian remains unchanged (<http://news.day.az/politics/265539.html>).

The French Senate rejects a bill that would have made any denial of “the genocide of Armenians” by the Ottoman Empire a crime (<http://news.day.az/world/265695.html>).

The Swiss foreign ministry responds to a protest note by the Azerbaijani embassy and says that it is the official position of Switzerland that Swiss nationals should not travel the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/265691.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that it is possible to build an airport in Karabakh but “its functioning as an international airport is practically impossible” (<http://news.day.az/politics/265556.html>).

May 3

President Ilham Aliyev receives Belorussian KGB Chairman Vadim Zaytzev (<http://news.day.az/politics/265446.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva hosts her Lithuanian counterpart Dalya Gribauskaite in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/265391.html>).

Supreme Court Chairman Ramiz Rzayev receives Uzbekistan Prosecutor General Rashitdzhon Kadyrov (<http://news.day.az/politics/265439.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, is elected co-chairman of the energy committee of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/265454.html>).

Vugar Safarli, director of the Presidential Foundation for State Support of the Mass Media, says that the latest Freedom House report concerning media freedom in Azerbaijan was based on preconceived notions rather than facts (<http://news.day.az/politics/265379.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova calls on the international community to bring to criminal responsibility Armenian terrorists and their supporters (<http://news.day.az/politics/265302.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the issue of opposing the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and the problems created by that will be priority directions of [Azerbaijanis] in the Parliamentary Assembly of Euronest” (<http://news.day.az/politics/265676.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, the head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Formations, signs an accord with Papal Nuncio Claudio Gugerotti

regulating the work of Catholic bodies in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/265291.html>).

Azerbaijan and the UAE sign an agreement on cooperation in customs work (<http://news.day.az/economy/265325.html>).

Roland Kobia, the EU chief representative in Baku, says that the European Union “comes to Azerbaijan as a real partner” (<http://news.day.az/politics/265387.html>).

UAE Economics Minister Sultan bin Said al Mansuri says that his country will open an embassy in Azerbaijan before the end of the year (<http://news.day.az/politics/265314.html>).

South Korea’s Development Bank extends a credit to Azerbaijan for the development of educational programs (<http://news.day.az/society/265375.html>).

May 2

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is the main threat to regional security and stability” (<http://news.day.az/politics/265193.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev presents Deputy Foreign Minister and Rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy Hafiz Pashayev with the Shohret Order on the occasion of his 70th birthday (<http://news.day.az/politics/265235.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian complaints about the loss of Armenian lives are inappropriate given that Armenia is in occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan’s territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/265108.html>).

The Interior Ministry says that diplomatic representations of the US and Western countries in Baku are secure (<http://news.day.az/politics/265106.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Armenia “intentionally lies” about Azerbaijan and makes baseless accusations (<http://news.day.az/politics/265096.html>).

Procurator General Zakir Garalov receives his Uzbekistan counterpart Rashid Kadyrov (<http://news.day.az/politics/265074.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the events in the Middle East will force Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to make concessions (<http://news.day.az/politics/264864.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is “not a secret for anyone” that the domestic political situation in Armenia is very difficult (<http://news.day.az/politics/265039.html>).

Members of the Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas assembly in New York's Times Square to protest the activities of the Armenian lobby in the US (<http://news.day.az/politics/265237.html>).

Brian Fall, the United Kingdom's special representative for the South Caucasus, predicts definite progress in the Nagorno-Karabakh negotiations (<http://news.day.az/politics/265212.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, visits the regions of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the US Peace Corps (<http://news.day.az/politics/265192.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Switzerland lodges a protest note with the Swiss foreign ministry concerning materials on an Armenian exhibit stand in Switzerland about Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/265088.html>).

May 1

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that “until the Karabakh problem is resolved, the normalization of relations with Armenia is impossible” (<http://news.day.az/politics/264984.html>).

APRIL

April 30

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva visit the Azerbaijan International Tourism Exhibition (<http://news.day.az/politics/264745.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev meets with his Turkish counterpart Taner Yildiz and the two have the issue concerning Turkish purchases of Azerbaijani gas agreed (<http://news.day.az/economy/264870.html>).

April 29

Baku releases the sixth volume of the works of President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/264827.html>).

Emergency Services Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov visits Korea and meets with his Korean counterpart Choy Sang Ring (<http://news.day.az/politics/264908.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives his Georgian counterpart Zorbas Naneyshvili to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/264816.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan understands that “the domestic situation in Armenia is quite difficult” (<http://news.day.az/politics/264596.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with Gospel Gulley, the head of a Turkish organization dedicated to struggling against “the baseless pretensions of Armenians” concerning 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/264638.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, takes part in the annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/264711.html>).

Armenia withdraws its candidacy for a place as a temporary member of the UN Security Council, a decision Azerbaijani media characterize as a defeat for Yerevan, especially given that Azerbaijan is still in the running for that slot (<http://news.day.az/politics/264683.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that there has been progress toward the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since the meeting in Sochi (<http://news.day.az/politics/264822.html>).

Štefan Füle, the EU commissioner for enlargement and European neighborhood policy, says that the Eastern Partnership does not offer by itself to those taking part in it the prospect of membership in the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264670.html>).

Štefan Füle, the EU commissioner for enlargement and European neighborhood policy, says that the European Union does not play an official role in talks on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but that "in the longer term, the EU is prepared to increase the financing for confidence building measures" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264667.html>).

April 28

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich that "Azerbaijan is actively considering investment projects in Ukraine" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264508.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, says in Kazakhstan on the completion of his term as head of the Turkish Parliamentary Assembly that the establishment of that body opens "new horizons for cooperation among the Turkic language peoples" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264494.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "emigration will lead Yerevan to the abyss" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264320.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "nothing remains to the powers that be in Armenia beside capitulation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264429.html>).

A conference on Turkish-Azerbaijani cooperation, organized by the economic development ministry, takes place in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/264481.html>).

Armenian officials acknowledge in comments to the media that they have taken items from archaeological finds in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/264461.html>).

April 27

President Ilham Aliyev receives Robert Dudley, the executive director of BP (<http://news.day.az/politics/264364.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, and his Kyrgyz counterpart Akhmatbek Keldibekov discuss in Kazakhstan the possibility of opening a Kyrgyzstan embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/264506.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Abdulaziz as-Shareh, the head of the Diplomatic Academy of Kuwait (<http://news.day.az/politics/264375.html>).

Khalaf Khalafov, deputy foreign minister, says that the 28th meeting of the special working group on the determination of the legal status of the Caspian just completed in Baku has made progress on many issues, but he and others note that until there is a final accord, the bilateral agreement between the USSR and Iran will remain in force (<http://news.day.az/politics/264568.html>).

Khalaf Khalafov, deputy foreign minister, says that the Caspian littoral states intend to resolve issues of military cooperation on the Caspian by consensus (<http://news.day.az/politics/264278.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Budapest, says that "Hungary supports the position of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264211.html>).

Zakir Garalov, prosecutor general of Azerbaijan, signs a cooperation accord with his Lithuanian counterpart Darius Valys (<http://news.day.az/politics/264253.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, and his Kazakhstan counterpart Ural Mukhamedzhanov agree to expand parliamentary cooperation between their two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/264286.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker and chairman-in-office of the Turkish Parliamentary Assembly, meets in Kazakhstan with Mehmet Ali Shahin, the chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, while both are attending the Turkish Parliamentary Assembly in Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/264352.html>).

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says in Baku that “the position of Ukraine on the Karabakh conflict is based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/264403.html>).

Mohammad Mehdi Akhundzade, the special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian affairs, calls for accelerating the process of defining the national zones of that sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/264340.html>). He acknowledges that there has been progress at recent talks in Baku on that point (<http://news.day.az/politics/264305.html>).

Belarus ratifies its agreement with Azerbaijan on the protection of investments (<http://news.day.az/economy/264389.html>).

April 26

President Ilham Aliyev receives Muhammed Mehdi Ahundzade, the special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/264201.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mikhail Shmakov, the president of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/264201.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov receives Aleksandr Mishchenko, Ukraine’s ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/264135.html>).

Khalaf Khalafov, deputy foreign minister, says that he has great hopes for progress on talks concerning the status of the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/264055.html>).

Chingiz Askarov, plenipotentiary representative of Azerbaijan to the European Court, says that body is currently being reformed (<http://news.day.az/politics/264172.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that “ordinary Armenians” there “want to live according to Azerbaijani laws” (<http://news.day.az/politics/264071.html>).

Archil Kekelia, the deputy economics minister of Georgia, says that “Azerbaijan is one of the most significant trading partners” of his country (<http://news.day.az/economy/264095.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Azerbaijan, says that “Azerbaijan can always count on the European Union” (<http://news.day.az/politics/264073.html>).

April 25

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tina Kaidanow, special advisor to the US Secretary of State for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/263922.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, to discuss bilateral military exercises (<http://news.day.az/politics/263980.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev receives his Georgian counterpart, Vera Kobalia (<http://news.day.az/economy/263995.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijani Diplomatic Academy, announces that the ADA is now providing training for Turkish diplomats about the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/263962.html>).

Faiq Bagirov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Ankara, publishes an article attacking Armenian claims about 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/263983.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “Armenia is self-liquidating” by its actions at such forums (<http://news.day.az/politics/263791.html>).

Vera Kobalia, Georgian minister for economics and development, says that “Georgia is offering Azerbaijani investors free lots of land in tourist zones” (<http://news.day.az/economy/263997.html>).

Philippe Blanchard, a member of the Belgian parliament and chairman of the Belgian-Azerbaijani Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, says that those expelled from their native lands in Nagorno-Karabakh, “must be returned to their native hearths” (<http://news.day.az/politics/263872.html>).

April 24

President Ilham Aliyev receives Haya Bint al-Hussain, president of the International Equestrian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/263780.html>).

April 23

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Russian and Armenian counterparts Sergey Lavrov and Edvard Nalbandyan in Moscow to discuss the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/263624.html>).

Baku State University signs a memorandum of cooperation with Turkey's May 19 University (<http://news.day.az/society/263712.html>).

April 22

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kristian Vigenin, president of the Euronest Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/263570.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President Administration, criticizes as "baseless" European suggestions that there are problems in Azerbaijan with basic freedoms (<http://news.day.az/politics/263563.html>).

Bahar Muradova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says she does "not expect the adoption of any concrete decisions" on the Karabakh conflict at the upcoming Moscow ministerial (<http://news.day.az/politics/263486.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he supports legislation to reduce the dependence of Azerbaijani NGOs on foreign sponsors (<http://news.day.az/politics/263599.html>).

Ziyad Samedzade, the chairman of the Milli Majlis economic policy commission, meets with his Belarusian counterpart Vadim Popov in Minsk (<http://news.day.az/economy/263614.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that "fraternal relations of Turkey and Azerbaijan will assist in the unmasking in the world of the Armenian lie" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263540.html>).

Kamran Imanov, the director of the Azerbaijani Agency on Authors' Rights, says that Armenians have routinely ascribed as their own Azerbaijani sayings, music, food, rugs and other objects of intellectual property (<http://news.day.az/politics/263492.html>).

The Center for the Study of the Heritage of Heydar Aliyev publishes a book "Baku-Brussels" on relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/263557.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that he believes US President Barak Obama “will not pronounce the words ‘Armenian genocide’” in his annual message to Congress on the events of 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/263515.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that Azerbaijan has played a key role in the organization and that next year, during Baku’s presidency, that role is likely to increase still further (<http://news.day.az/politics/263525.html>).

Sergei Markov, a Russian Duma deputy, says that “the most important cause” for Russia’s active involvement in talks on Nagorno-Karabakh is that “Russia is the nearest neighbor of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/263521.html>).

April 21

President Ilham Aliyev receives Andrey Klyuev, first deputy prime minister of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/263363.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “additional measures” are planned to support Azerbaijani young people who want to study abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/263420.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms earlier accords on TRACECA and on cooperation with Latvia (<http://news.day.az/politics/263391.html>).

Agasalim Shukurov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Libya, says the situation there remains stable but difficult (<http://news.day.az/politics/263358.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the “attitude of certain international organizations to processes [in Azerbaijan] do not reflect reality” (<http://news.day.az/politics/263364.html>).

The Europe-Azerbaijan Society publishes a three-volume documentary collection, “The Armenian Question in the Caucasus, 1724-1914” in Azerbaijani, Russian and English editions (<http://news.day.az/politics/263419.html>).

Petros Efthymiou, the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that the OSCE plays a role that no other international organization can in dealing with problems like the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/263600.html>).

Philip Gordon, US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, says that the OSCE Minsk Group and the United States can witness that Azerbaijan has no intentions of shooting down civilian aircraft (<http://news.day.az/politics/263249.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, visits Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/263417.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that opening an airport in Khankandi under conditions of occupation "does not have any significance since tourists will not visit a place of conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263415.html>).

April 20

President Ilham Aliyev receives Lithuanian Interior Minister Raimundas Palaitis (<http://news.day.az/politics/263157.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Namiq Hasan oglu Aliyev ambassador to Moldova, Azar Tofiq oglu Huseyn ambassador to Georgia and Isfandiyar Bakhtiyar oglu Vahabzade ambassador to Belarus (<http://news.day.az/politics/263208.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva takes part in the Paris exhibition of Contemporary Works of the Land of Fire—Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/263129.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the President's Office, says that European comments on events in Azerbaijan do not reflect reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/263177.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmudov hosts his Bulgarian counterpart Kircho Kirov in Baku for three days of talks (<http://news.day.az/politics/263142.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov and Saudi Ambassador to Azerbaijan Fadh bin Ali ad-Duseri sign a protocol on the exchange of ratification documents on the agreement concerning protection of investments (<http://news.day.az/politics/263181.html>).

Hasan Hasanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Warsaw, says that Azerbaijan is "dissatisfied with the positions" of those EU officials who do not support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and support illegal visits to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/263100.html>).

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to London, meets with British entrepreneurs interested in investing in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/263055.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “the unconstructive behavior of Yerevan has an impact on the image of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/263160.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Baku is preparing a resolution on the Metsamor Atomic Power Station in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/263161.html>).

Elchin Guliyev, head of the State Border Service, meets with his Turkish counterpart Erdal Ceynaloglu (<http://news.day.az/politics/263111.html>).

Azerbaijani and Turkmenistan officials meet in Ashgabat to discuss expanding economic cooperation between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/263090.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Barak Obama does not have any obligations toward Yerevan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/263092.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that relations between Turkey and Armenia and between Armenia and Azerbaijan are interrelated. In other comments, he welcomes Russian involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict discussions (<http://news.day.az/politics/263140.html>).

April 19

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Romanian President Traian Basescu that “relations of strategic partnership have been laid down between Azerbaijan and Romania” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262696.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives former Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolaneck (<http://news.day.az/politics/262981.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Erdal Ceylanoglu, the head of Turkish land forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/262981.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Ukrainian ambassador to Baku, Aleksandr Mishchenko (<http://news.day.az/politics/262981.html>).

Prime Minister Artur Rasizade represents Azerbaijan at a donors conference in Kyiv on the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident (<http://news.day.az/politics/262910.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish and Iranian counterparts in the Iranian city of Urmia (<http://news.day.az/politics/263037.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov meets in Amman with Ahmed al-Masarva, the president of the Supreme Council of Jordan for Youth Affairs (<http://news.day.az/society/263002.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, has sent a new letter to the UN secretary general about the murder of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/262919.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, the head of the State Migration Service, receives Latvian Interior Minister Linda Murniece (<http://news.day.az/politics/263050.html>).

Chingiz Askarov, Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative to the European Court for Human Rights, says that members of the radical opposition have again attempted to take actions intended to violate peace in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/263006.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "if Armenia does not move toward a peace agreement, then it will encounter the military might of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263010.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "US President Barak Obama has already become accustomed to the thoughtless actions of the Armenians" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262807.html>).

Joint Azerbaijani-US military exercises have been postponed indefinitely (<http://news.day.az/politics/262995.html>).

Romanian President Traian Băsescu says that "an attempt to violate the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be considered a violation of international law" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263095.html>).

Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenko praises the work of outgoing Azerbaijani ambassador to Minsk Ali Nagiyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/262978.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU chief representative in Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijan is “the leading link” in the Southern Gas Corridor (<http://news.day.az/economy/262925.html>).

Gabor Szilagyi, Hungary’s ambassador to Armenia who is resident in Georgia, says that Budapest is interested in the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in full correspondence with the decisions of international organizations (<http://news.day.az/politics/262870.html>).

Mehmet Ekinci, a member of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “the possibility of a military solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem always exists” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262688.html>).

A Ukrainian energy official says that Kyiv has proposed to Azerbaijan participation in the construction of an LNG terminal by 2015 (<http://news.day.az/economy/262899.html>).

April 18

President Ilham Aliyev receives Latvian Interior Minister Linda Murniece (<http://news.day.az/politics/262736.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Turkish General Erdal Ceylanoglu (<http://news.day.az/politics/262843.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Armenia is engaged in delaying actions in the talks because of its “lack of arguments” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262772.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the demands of the Armenian diaspora of the US to the president of the United States are absolutely illogical” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262547.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there is nothing new in Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan’s latest declarations because “Armenia is always involved with disinformation and presents a destructive position” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262364.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, announces agreement with Saudi Arabia about the haj for Azerbaijani pilgrims (<http://news.day.az/politics/262783.html>).

Ambroise Dupont, a member of the French senate and head of the French-Caucasian Friendship Group of the French Senate, condemns the murder of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/262748.html>).

April 17

The foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkey adopt a joint declaration following their meeting in Urmia (<http://news.day.az/politics/262594.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu on the sidelines of the Urmia meeting to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/262625.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that the first meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey represents “an important moment in the history” of relations among those countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/262608.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that “cooperation among Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey will serve peace in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262626.html>).

Azerbaijan will introduce a biometric passport before 2012, according to a Baku expert (<http://news.day.az/society/262602.html>).

April 16

President Ilham Aliyev receives George Friedman, president of Stratfor (<http://news.day.az/politics/262588.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives French Senator Ambroise Dupont (<http://news.day.az/politics/262587.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “cooperation among Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran serves the development of the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262540.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Baghirov says Baku is preparing materials on the threat posed by Armenia’s Metsamor Atomic Power Station (<http://news.day.az/politics/262513.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Tehran, says that prospects for economic ties between Azerbaijan and Iran are large and encouraging (<http://news.day.az/economy/262516.html>).

Arif Rahimzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “a group of opposition figures in Azerbaijan has been transformed into a cheap instrument in the hands of foreign forces” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262534.html>).

Azerbaijanis in Moscow report that there are goods from the occupied territories on sale in the Russian capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/262544.html>).

The Georgian government announces that it has restored the Azerbaijani names of toponyms in that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/262494.html>).

15 April

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that Turkey occupies “first place in extent of investment in the non-petroleum sector of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/economy/262405.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, head of the State Migration Service, meets with Turkey’s Deputy Labor Minister Ahmet Zakterogullary to discuss bilateral cooperation on migration issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/262285.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, receives Georgia’s ambassador to Baku, Teymuraz Sharashenidze (<http://news.day.az/society/262413.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group made their first trip to the occupied territories since 2005 in order to avoid the discussion of the situation in those territories at the UN General Assembly that Azerbaijan had asked for (<http://news.day.az/politics/262120.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “the Armenian occupation has deprived hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani women the opportunity to become mothers, to live a normal life, to dream, and to hope” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262273.html>).

The Milli Majlis confirms the new composition of the inter-parliamentary group for cooperation with Malta (<http://news.day.az/politics/262451.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy who is also the deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the radical opposition inside Azerbaijan is serving the interests of foreign enemies of the country (<http://news.day.az/politics/262395.html>).

Ali Bilge Cankorel, the head of the OSCE Baku office, says that his organization welcomes the anti-corruption struggle being carried out in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/262321.html>).

Roland Kobia, the EU chief representative in Azerbaijan, says that the European Union supports Azerbaijan's anti-corruption efforts (<http://news.day.az/politics/262322.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a member of the French Senate, says that suggestions that France is not playing as active a role in the resolution of the Karabakh dispute as those played by the two other co-chair countries are wrong (<http://news.day.az/politics/262288.html>).

14 April

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that "if stability in Azerbaijan is destroyed, the one to benefit from this will be Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262249.html>).

Azerbaijani armed forces are taking part in an exercise near the ceasefire line and Defense Minister Safar Abiyev is personally observing them, according to the defense ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/262097.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov gives an interview to Ukrainian television concerning youth policy in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/262187.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, tells an audience at the University of Washington in Seattle about Azerbaijan's relationship with the Turkic world (<http://news.day.az/politics/262091.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, at the urging of the Azerbaijani delegation, is demanding that Armenia cease construction of an airport in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/262247.html>).

The three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group post on that organization's website a report on their visit to the occupied territories and their most recent meetings with the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/262199.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU chief representative in Azerbaijan, says that “cooperation between Azerbaijan and the European Union is actively developing in all areas” (<http://news.day.az/economy/262118.html>).

The Movement of National Awakening of Southern Azerbaijan says it is concerned by the arrests of Azerbaijanis in Tabriz by Iranian officials (<http://news.day.az/politics/262182.html>).

13 April

Samad Seyidov, the head of Azerbaijan’s delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Armenia’s failure to recognize the decision of the bureau of PACE and to refuse to participate in the sub-committee on Nagorno-Karabakh “shows the essence of their policy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/262015.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, raises the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan at the spring session of PACE (<http://news.day.az/politics/262060.html>). At the same time, she raises the issue of the violation of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/262037.html>).

At the invitation of Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Tbilisi, the ambassador of Iraq, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Estonia and Japan accredited in Georgia visit northern portions of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/262252.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says “the leadership of Armenia is leading [that] country into collapse” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261602.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the life of the Azerbaijanis of Georgia, to put it mildly, was never easy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261846.html>).

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė says that the OSCE must devote more efforts to resolve conflicts like the one over Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/262021.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that the main condition “for the realization of the Turkish-Armenian protocols is the liberation by Armenia of occupied Azerbaijani lands” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261993.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that “the international community is not devoting sufficient attention to the fact of the occupation of Azerbaijani lands” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261865.html>). In other remarks, he accuses Armenia of engaging in provocations against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/261863.html>).

The three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group take part in a monitoring mission in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/261925.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group are presented with materials about the murder of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/261978.html>).

12 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan is a very reliable country for foreign and domestic investors” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261850.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Hani el-Mulki (<http://news.day.az/politics/261833.html>).

The Foreign Ministry calls in Roland Kobia, the EU chief representative to Azerbaijan, to protest the European Union’s report “On the situation with regard to principles of fundamental freedoms in Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261790.html>).

The Foreign Ministry welcomes the latest resolution of the European Parliament for reconfirming the EU’s recognition of the principle of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/261698.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev signs a cooperation accord with his Jordanian counterpart Hani el-Mulki (<http://news.day.az/economy/261731.html>). El-Mulki for his part says that “Azerbaijan is moving forward shoulder to shoulder with Muslim countries” (<http://news.day.az/economy/261722.html>).

Faig Bagirov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Ankara, says that “Azerbaijani-Turkish relations are at a higher level than relations between any two countries normally are” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261655.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy and chairman of the parliament’s human rights committee, says that Armenian insinuations

about the Azerbaijani delegation to PACE are false and that Baku's representatives there "are one of the deputy groups which maintains the very highest ethical norms" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261795.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the interest of European structures in the Karabakh conflict is cyclical: sometimes it grows and then again it declines" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261598.html>).

Azerbaijan establishes diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago at a meeting between Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, and his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart Rodney Charles (<http://news.day.az/politics/261649.html>).

The Egyptian authorities have announced plans to name one of the streets of Cairo for Azerbaijani diplomat Nijat Hojayevev who died during the recent turmoil there (<http://news.day.az/politics/261671.html>).

11 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that "Azerbaijan is counting on a more active approach by the mediators in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261190.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives incoming Ukrainian Ambassador Aleksandr Mishchenko (<http://news.day.az/politics/261617.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that a US State Department report on Azerbaijan contains "serious distortions of the realities of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261508.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the European Union's latest declaration on the social-political situation in Azerbaijan is not based on facts and that "the position of the EU is far from objectivity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261507.html>).

The Milli Majlis names the heads of the inter-parliamentary working groups that body has with the parliaments of 74 countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/261551.html>).

Aytan Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy and director of the Baku Institute of Human Rights, says that Armenians are gearing up for an

international effort to attract attention to the events of 1915 on April 24 (<http://news.day.az/politics/261511.html>).

A document prepared by the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe concerning the need to close the atomic energy station in Armenia is circulated to that body's members (<http://news.day.az/politics/261635.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls on that body to react to the murder of an Azerbaijani child by the Armenians (<http://news.day.az/politics/261590.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the European Union is "concerned about the possibility of the renewal of war over Karabakh" even though it "does not participate directly" in the negotiations (<http://news.day.az/politics/261305.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group announce they are continuing their investigation of the murder of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/261503.html>).

Thorborn Jørgensen, the secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that the problem of unresolved conflicts, including the one between Azerbaijan and Armenia "is very disturbing" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261637.html>).

The International Civil Aviation Organization says that "without taking into account the official opinion of Azerbaijan, no airport on the territory of Karabakh can be put into operation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261633.html>).

Movlut Chavushoglu, the chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the World Forum in Baku on Inter-Cultural dialogue is "a very great success for Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261569.html>).

US Congressman John Zervas of Texas has distributed a declaration on the Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/261513.html>).

Walter Schwimmer, the former secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that "Azerbaijan is a factor of stability in a problematic region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/261471.html>).

The International Atomic Energy Agency is discussing nuclear research with Azerbaijan, Baku officials say (<http://news.day.az/politics/261486.html>).

10 April

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva condemns the burning of the Koran by an American pastor (<http://news.day.az/politics/261378.html>).

The US State Department human rights report acknowledges that “Armenian separatists with the support of the government of Armenia continue to hold the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261387.html>).

9 April

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that “inter-cultural dialogue has already passed the limits of a purely culturological problem and become a problem of big politics” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261074.html>).

Olzhas Suleymenov, Kazakh writer and diplomat, says that the Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue “cannot solve all problems, but it can help bring the positions of peoples closer together” (<http://news.day.az/society/261317.html>).

Officials and experts from the CIS and Turkic world assemble in Baku for a conference on “Traditions and Prospects of CIS Countries in Intercultural Dialogue: Culture, Education and Communication” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261318.html>).

The First Congress of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations, organized by UNESCO and ISESCO, opens in Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/261280.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Cairo, has issued a warning to Azerbaijanis in Egypt to take precautions given the possibility of the renewal of violence there (<http://news.day.az/politics/261360.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Armenian side is occupied with the imitation of talks on the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260405.html>).

8 April

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Romanian Deputy Culture Minister Irina Jalal Marin (<http://news.day.az/politics/261198.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Rashida Dati, a French member of the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/261232.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the European Parliament resolution that was adopted does not contain any call for recognition of unrecognized republics despite what some Armenian spokesmen have said (<http://news.day.az/politics/261193.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev says during a meeting with his Turkish counterpart Vecdi Kenul that Azerbaijan is devoting "all its strength" in order that its armed forces will be ready to liberate Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/261162.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets in Ankara with Ishik Koshaner, the chief of the Turkish General Staff (<http://news.day.az/politics/261049.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev says that the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue achieved great successes (<http://news.day.az/politics/261231.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev signs cooperation accords with Vezhdi Rashidov, his Bulgarian counterpart, and with Tariq Salim Masarwah, his Jordanian one (<http://news.day.az/politics/261177.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev receives his Montenegrin counterpart Branislav Micunovic (<http://news.day.az/politics/261142.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov represents Azerbaijan at the CIS ministerial in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/260450.html>).

Ambassador Emin Eyubov, Azerbaijani representative to Belgium and the European Union, says that Armenian claims that the European Parliament's resolution on Karabakh contained a call for "the establishment of contacts with the *de facto* powers of unrecognized territories" are untrue (<http://news.day.az/politics/261048.html>).

Ambassador Eldar Guliyev, the former permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, says that “we can begin a war and win it” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260956.html>).

The delegations of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkey to the OSCE condemn the burning of the Koran by an American pastor (<http://news.day.az/politics/261146.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, the head of the State Migration Service, says that “citizens of Russia living in the village of Khrakhova of Khachmaz district have been warned about their illegal presence on the territory of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261118.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijan by its traditions of tolerance and secularism is possibly one of the best models for the Islamic and Turkic world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261139.html>).

Dusen Kaseinov, the secretary general of TURKSOY, says that the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue made a contribution to international dialogue (<http://news.day.az/politics/261220.html>).

Mikhail Shvydkoy, the special representative of the Russian President for International Cultural Cooperation, says that the World Forum for Intercultural Cooperation in Baku “will become a notable event for the entire world community” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261184.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says opposition to his candidacy from the Armenian diaspora reflects the fact that “the US is a democratic state and everyone can express his position,” even if it is not correct (<http://news.day.az/politics/261078.html>).

Zurab Dvali, the general producer of broadcast services for national minorities of Georgian radio and television, says that the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue can help promote “intercultural dialogue in the Transcaucasus and in the Caucasus more generally” (<http://news.day.az/politics/261210.html>).

Abdulaziz bin Othman al-Tuwaijri and Dusen Kaseinov, the secretaries general of ISESCO and TURKSOY respectively, sign a cooperation agreement in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/261120.html>).

Abdulaziz bin Othman al-Tuwaijri, the secretary general of ISESCO, calls on the international community to avoid “hypocrisy” on the issue of resolving the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/261112.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, meets with Asim Mollazade, the head of the Democratic Reforms Party, to discuss the social-political situation in Azerbaijan, US-Azerbaijani relations, and also the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/261067.html>).

7 April

President Ilham Aliyev welcomes the participants of the World Forum of Intercultural Dialogue and says that Azerbaijan as a crossroads of the world is an example to the world of tolerance and cultural cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/260885.html>). The meeting is attended by some 500 cultural, intellectual and political figures from more than 20 countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/261019.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Movlut Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/260973.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Koïchiro Matsuura, the former secretary general of UNESCO (<http://news.day.az/politics/260989.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Movlut Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/261036.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets in Ankara with his Turkish counterpart Vecdi Kenul (<http://news.day.az/politics/260945.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Hungarian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Zsolt Csutora to discuss a memorandum of cooperation between Baku and Budapest on legal affairs (<http://news.day.az/society/261041.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "today in Armenia there is a very deep economic and social crisis" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260775.html>).

Jordanian culture Minister Tariq Salim Masarwah says "Azerbaijan is a bridge between different cultures" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260933.html>).

Egemen Bagysh, the chief Turkish negotiator with the European Union, calls on French politicians to ensure the return of occupied Azerbaijani territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/260854.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a French senator, says that historians not politicians should be assessing historical events like the deaths of Armenians in 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/260944.html>).

US Congressman Jim Moran says that the events, which took place in Baku in March 1918, were a tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/260920.html>).

Zeyno Baran, the wife of the US ambassador to Baku, says that “it is very important that the World Forum is taking place in Azerbaijan, a country at the intersect point of various cultures” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260903.html>).

6 April

President Ilham Aliyev and visiting Greek President Karolos Papoulias speak at the Azerbaijan-Greece Business Forum in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/260724.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Walter Schwimmer, the former secretary general of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/260798.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jean-Paul Carteron, the president and founder of the Crans Montana Forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/260840.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev speaks by telephone with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev (<http://news.day.az/politics/260803.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives US Ambassador Matthew Bryza (<http://news.day.az/politics/260810.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that if it is confirmed that representatives of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus visited occupied Karabakh they will be put on a black list and prevented from entering Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/260817.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Yerevan establishment is sacrificing its own citizens” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260538.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says “Armenia is trying to provoke Baku” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260511.html>).

Ulvi Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the president of Armenia lies non-stop” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260614.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says Russia feels a particular responsibility for helping to resolve the Karabakh conflict and will act on that in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/260807.html>).

Movlut Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the position of PACE on Karabakh is clear and is based on the return of the occupied territories to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/260841.html>).

5 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Greek President Karolos Papoulias who says that "relations between Greece and Azerbaijan will broaden even further" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260662.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, calls on foreign representatives in Baku "not to interfere in the internal affairs of the country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260598.html>).

Azerbaijani and Greek officials sign a wide range of bilateral accords during the framework of the visit of the Greek president to Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/260565.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says that relations between Azerbaijan and Russia "go far beyond the framework of strictly diplomatic procedures" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260509.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the latest visit of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs may give "concrete results" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260616.html>).

Jeyhun Osmanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there would be an "end to untrue views concerning young people who have received education abroad" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260533.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, speaks at the inauguration of Chechen head Ramzan Kadyrov (<http://video.day.az/view=3sie8euz>).

Farouk Logoglu, former Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that Turkey has particularly heavy responsibilities for resolving the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/260630.html>).

4 April

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Konstantin Erokostopulos, the new head of the Baku office of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/260444.html>).

Rovnag Abdullayev, the president of the State Oil Company, says that Baku plans to conclude a long-term gas contract with Iran in the near future (<http://news.day.az/economy/260308.html>).

Matthew Bryza, the US ambassador to Baku, says that Washington is satisfied with the position of Azerbaijan concerning flights over the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/260412.html>).

3 April

Nikolai Paskevich, Belorussian ambassador to Baku, says that "Belarus has never cast doubt on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/260257.html>).

2 April

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that talks on the delimitation of the Azerbaijani-Georgian border are continuing with two thirds of the border having been agreed to at the expert level (<http://news.day.az/politics/260149.html>).

Fikrat Akchura, UN resident coordinator for Azerbaijan, says that it would be illegal to open a new corridor for flights between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh without the permission of the International Civil Aviation Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/260159.html>).

Fikrat Akchura, UN resident coordinator for Azerbaijan, calls on the international community to work more actively to ensure the fulfillment of the four UN Security Council resolutions on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/260150.html>).

1 April

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the OSCE Minsk Group must not limit itself to promises and appeals (<http://news.day.az/politics/260061.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, reaffirms that

“Khankandi is the territory of Azerbaijan” and that “Nagorno-Karabakh is an indivisible part of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/260037.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, chairman of the Milli Majlis human rights committee, says that Baku is moving to simplify visa procedures for tourists and other short-term visitors (<http://news.day.az/politics/259967.html>).

The Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry says Armenian occupiers have been misusing the natural resources of the Kalbajar region (<http://news.day.az/politics/260001.html>).

Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Tbilisi, meets with the staff and students of the Georgian University of International Relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/259916.html>).

MARCH

31 March

Azerbaijan commemorates the Day of the Genocide of Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/society/259442.html>).

Emil Karimov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Sofia, says that “Bulgaria has the potential to attract Azerbaijani investors” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259709.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and president of the Azerbaijan Youth Organization of Russia, says that “the contribution of Azerbaijan to the treasurehouse of world culture is considerable and we are proud of this” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259897.html>).

Mikhail Zeynalov, the president of the *Bridge to the Future* Organization is chosen as an expert of the European Youth Forum for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus Countries for the period of 2011-2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/259830.html>).

The Japanese government formally thanks President Ilham Aliyev for the 1 million USD assistance Azerbaijan provided to Japan to help overcome the consequences of the earthquake and tsunami (<http://news.day.az/politics/259880.html>).

Ahmet Aydin, a deputy of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “a just resolution of the Karabakh conflict will be profitable to Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259694.html>).

Shenon Bal, a deputy of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that Turkey supports Azerbaijan in its efforts throughout the world to secure the

recognition of the genocide of Azerbaijanis in 1918 (<http://news.day.az/politics/259843.html>).

30 March

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with various senior Mexican officials during his visit to Mexico City (<http://news.day.az/politics/259561.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin (<http://news.day.az/politics/259702.html>).

Elkhan Gahramanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to the UAE, meets with that country's deputy prime minister and interior minister Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/259626.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, the deputy executive secretary of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, says that the assessment of the situation in the occupied territories must not be limited to a description but must contain a prescription for action (<http://news.day.az/politics/259684.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, criticizes the OSCE Minsk Group for making the same demands on Azerbaijan and Armenia when the actions of the two are fundamentally different (<http://news.day.az/politics/259665.html>).

Siyavysh Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan will not be moving to an all-volunteer military force (<http://news.day.az/politics/259629.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazimly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Yerevan simply does not have the forces to fight with us" (<http://news.day.az/politics/259341.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that "one nation should not have two diasporas" and consequently Azerbaijanis and Turks living abroad must work closely together (<http://news.day.az/politics/259634.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Ankara supports Baku concerning flights to airports in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/259586.html>).

Russian dissident Vladimir Bukovsky calls for the arrest of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for crimes including his organization of

the attack on Azerbaijan in January 1990 (<http://news.day.az/politics/259719.html>).

29 March

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that he “doubts” the objectivity of the OSCE report on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/259489.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan’s ombudsman, calls on the international community to give an objective assessment of the genocide of Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/259422.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul ratifies with his signature the strategic partnership treaty with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/259323.html>).

Matthew Bryza, the US ambassador to Baku, says that the OSCE Minsk Group report on the occupied territories “speaks for itself” and that he “prefers not to characterize it” otherwise (<http://news.day.az/politics/259480.html>).

Matthew Bryza, the US ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan and Armenia must resolve issues of security of flights before the opening of an airport in Khankendi. He notes that the US and Azerbaijan are now discussing opening direct flights between their two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/259455.html>).

Andrey Kelin, the head of the Russian foreign ministry’s department for work with CIS countries, says that Moscow is “a generator of ideas” for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/259460.html>).

Haldun Solmazturk, a retired Turkish lieutenant general, says that “the wave of revolutions in the Near East will have an impact on Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259358.html>).

28 March

The Foreign Ministry says that “Azerbaijan supports the appeal of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group who have called for the avoidance of any actions which could lead to a change in the demographic, social and also cultural character in the territories occupied by Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259142.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, says that the Minsk Group report on the occupied territories must become the occasion for the international community to bring pressure to bear on Yerevan to change its policies (<http://news.day.az/politics/259288.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad tells visiting Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev that “the ties between Iran and Azerbaijan are fraternal” and that “not a single factor can violate them” (<http://news.day.az/politics/259246.html>).

Robert Bradke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that the peoples of the South Caucasus deserve “a better, more stable and more well-off situation” than they currently enjoy (<http://news.day.az/politics/259347.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Armenians living today in Nagorno-Karabakh are in fact prisoners” of Armenian policies (<http://news.day.az/politics/259188.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenians are afraid of disappearing as a nation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/258397.html>).

26 March

Azerbaijani parliamentarians Asim Mollazade, Rasim Musabayov and Jeyhun Osmanly take part in a seminar organized by the Azerbaijani diaspora in the US Congress on the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/258987.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that a planned meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia has been postponed because of scheduling difficulties (<http://news.day.az/politics/258923.html>).

25 March

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the OSCE Minsk Group report shows that the idea of forcibly uniting Azerbaijani territories to Armenia has suffered a complete defeat” (<http://news.day.az/politics/258896.html>).

Latif Huseynov is confirmed for a second term as a member of the Consultative Commission of the UN Human Rights Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/258914.html>).

The OSCE Minsk Group report on the occupied territories is released (<http://news.day.az/politics/258817.html>).

24 March

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, sends a letter on the killing of a nine-year-old Azerbaijani by an Armenian sniper to the member states of the UN (<http://news.day.az/politics/258735.html>).

The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs present their report on the occupied territories to the OSCE Secretary General in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/258798.html>).

Aleksandr Lukashevich, a Russian foreign ministry official, says that "Russia sees the striving of the sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict toward dialogue" and hopes that "in the future incidents [on the ceasefire line] will not happen" (<http://news.day.az/politics/258786.html>).

23 March

Ziyafat Askarov, the head of the Azerbaijan delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, says that relations between Azerbaijan and NATO are "developing dynamically" (<http://news.day.az/politics/258673.html>).

22 March

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan that "Azerbaijan devotes particular attention to its relations with Arab countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/258591.html>), and the two agree to expand cooperation in the struggle against human trafficking (<http://news.day.az/politics/258579.html>).

Azerbaijani officials and experts participate in a meeting at the Polish Senate on the construction of the Brody-Plotsk oil pipeline (<http://news.day.az/economy/258609.html>).

21 March

Agaslim Shukurov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Libya, says that his staff may leave Tripoli at the first opportunity (<http://news.day.az/politics/258549.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, speaks on the history of tolerance in Azerbaijan at the University Synagogue in that US city (<http://news.day.az/politics/258535.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a member of the Milli Majlis human rights committee, says that the international community recognizes that an Armenian sniper was responsible for the death of an Azerbaijani child (<http://news.day.az/politics/258319.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, speaking in Azerbaijani, greets the Azerbaijani community of his country on the occasion of the Novruz holiday (<http://news.day.az/politics/258550.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sends a message of greetings to Azerbaijanis and all other peoples who mark the Novruz holiday (<http://news.day.az/politics/258524.html>).

Azerbaijani Days are marked at the World Bank (<http://news.day.az/economy/258528.html>).

19 March

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva lead the nation in the celebration of the Novruz holiday (<http://news.day.az/politics/258443.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that Nagorno-Karabakh will never be offered independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/258482.html>).

Yagub Eyyubov, the first vice prime minister of Azerbaijan, says that Baku "values the role of Russia in the peace process concerning Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/258393.html>).

18 March

The Foreign Ministry warns Azerbaijanis against visiting Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami there (<http://news.day.az/politics/258241.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, visits Suriname where he is received by Surinamese

Foreign Minister Winston Lackin (<http://news.day.az/politics/258363.html>).

Ramiz Rzayev, the chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Court, receives Moroccan Justice Minister Mohammed Nasiri (<http://news.day.az/politics/258322.html>).

Kamil Khasiyev, Azerbaijan's incoming ambassador to Croatia, presents his credentials to the president of that country Ivo Josipović (<http://news.day.az/politics/258237.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, visits the North Caucasus to discuss religious conditions there (<http://news.day.az/politics/258251.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, the Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, proposes that the Armenians "unilaterally withdraw snipers" from the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/258267.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, the Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says he is against "the preservation of the status quo of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/258244.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that Ankara "supports the anti-corruption reforms in Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/258242.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the United States has already done "a great deal" for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/258336.html>).

The OSCE Minsk Group calls on the sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to use "the positive impulse" of the meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia in Sochi (<http://news.day.az/politics/258199.html>).

James Appathurai, NATO special representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia, says he "believes in a lively dialogue with Azerbaijan and plans to discuss in Baku issues of mutual interest" (<http://news.day.az/politics/258300.html>).

17 March

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Zoran Toner of the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/258186.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it has informed the International Civil Aviation Organization that Azerbaijan cannot guarantee at the present time the security of flights over the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/258130.html>).

The Azerbaijan government confirms the rules for agreements concerning branches of international NGOs operating in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/258064.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov receives Ukrainian Defense Minister Mikhail Yezhel to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/258177.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Aleksandr Reymer, the director of Russia's Federal Penal System (<http://news.day.az/society/258188.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, calls "amoral" Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's statement about the OSCE Minsk Group report on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/258144.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan's ombudsman, receives Natalie Nozadze of Amnesty International (<http://news.day.az/politics/258187.html>).

Shahin Sailov, the secretary of the State Committee on Prisoners, Hostages and MIAs, says that three soldiers of the Armenian army who at their own desire crossed over to the Azerbaijani side have been sent to third countries rather than returned to Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/258059.html>).

Azerbaijan and Armenia exchange prisoners and civilians (<http://news.day.az/politics/258107.html>).

The International Relations Committee of the European Parliament again fails to reach agreement concerning the possibility of future European Union membership for Eastern Partnership countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/258032.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group discuss incidents on the ceasefire line during visits to Yerevan, Khankandi and Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/258014.html>).

16 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ukrainian Defense Minister Mikhail Yezhel (<http://news.day.az/politics/257958.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev criticizes the OSCE Minsk Group for failing to make progress to end the occupation of Azerbaijani territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/257979.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico, discusses energy issues with Mexican Energy Minister Jose Antonio Meade (<http://news.day.az/economy/257868.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, the head of the law enforcement organs department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku is working to develop new legislation of migration (<http://news.day.az/politics/257948.html>).

Azerbaijan has agreed to hand over to Armenia one civilian, the Baku office of the International Committee of the Red Cross says (<http://news.day.az/politics/257855.html>).

The Azerbaijani diaspora in France stages a protest at the Council of Europe over the killing of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/257986.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that resolution of the Karabakh conflict "will have an impact on the normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/257892.html>).

José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, says that "the preservation of the status quo is not an acceptable variant of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must be resolved by peaceful means on the basis of the principles of the non-use of force, territorial integrity, and the right of peoples to self-determination" (<http://news.day.az/politics/257837.html>).

The US Congress says that American assistance to Azerbaijan is intended to promote regional security, democratic institutions and economic growth (<http://news.day.az/politics/257848.html>).

Murat Ozkan, a deputy of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "the International Court should judge the president of Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/257739.html>).

The municipality of Tarsus in Turkey's Mersin province opens a new bridge named in honor of former Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/257924.html>).

15 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/257747.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev names Dashgyn Shikarov ambassador to Pakistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/257786.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev names Khazar Ibrahim Azerbaijan's representative to NATO (<http://news.day.az/politics/257785.html>).

Azerbaijan offers assistance to Japan (<http://news.day.az/politics/257658.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, criticizes the OSCE Minsk Group for failing to hold Armenia to account for actions like the killing of a nine-year-old Azerbaijani child (<http://news.day.az/politics/257695.html>).

Micheline Calmy-Rey, the president of the Swiss Confederation, visits Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/257657.html>).

Bernard Fassier, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that the group has decided not to publish the report on the occupied territories until all sides are provided the chance to become acquainted with its content (<http://news.day.az/politics/257726.html>).

Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger calls on the sides of the Armenina-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to continue their efforts within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/257683.html>).

Darius Semaska, foreign policy advisor to the president of Lithuania, says that Lithuania will devote its efforts during its OSCE presidency to the resolution of frozen conflicts, including the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/257700.html>).

The Baku Office of the International Red Cross says that that institution will be conducting talks with Azerbaijani and Armenian officials to secure the return of Azerbaijani prisoners (<http://news.day.az/politics/257660.html>). The office adds that Yerevan has indicated that it was ready to return those it had imprisoned (<http://news.day.az/politics/257631.html>).

14 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office (<http://news.day.az/politics/257600.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that “our greatest fortune is our cultural heritage” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257622.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov signs a cooperation agreement with his Moroccan counterpart Muhammad Nasir (<http://news.day.az/politics/257474.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that all the parties of Azerbaijan share a common position on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/257482.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, is presented with a report on the killing of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/257444.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan is “freezing the progressive tendencies” in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/257338.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Armenian sniper [who killed an Azerbaijani child] acted consciously and intentionally” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257126.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, tells Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, that Azerbaijani patience is “not unlimited” regarding the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/257452.html>).

Latif Huseynov, a professor of international law at Baku State University, has been elected head of the Council of Europe Committee on the Prevention of Torture (<http://news.day.az/politics/257529.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that the OSCE welcomes Azerbaijan’s efforts towards the adoption of the law on defamation (<http://news.day.az/politics/257574.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that the recent killing of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper shows that “there are no

alternatives to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257568.html>).

Mehmet Erdogan, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that the killing of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper is “a provocation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257245.html>).

The Ukrainian foreign ministry says that official delegations will not visit the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/257464.html>).

The US House of Representatives for the first time adopts a resolution on the Azerbaijani diaspora in the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/257510.html>).

13 March

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov receives Cristobal Gonzalez-Aller Jurado, the Spanish ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/257397.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian Foreign Minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that the recent killing of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper “snows the necessity of withdrawing snipers” from the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/257411.html>).

12 March

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives US Ambassador Matthew Bryza (<http://news.day.az/politics/257283.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov receives US Ambassador Matthew Bryza (<http://news.day.az/politics/257358.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov meets with Ishyk Koshaner, the chief of the general staff of Turkey’s armed forces, to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/257284.html>).

Ismatulla Irgashev, Uzbekistan’s ambassador to Baku, says that relations between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan have a great future (<http://news.day.az/politics/257300.html>).

Philip Gordon, US assistant secretary of state, says that the US and the European Union intend to increase cooperation with the OSCE Minsk Group in order to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/257302.html>).

US Senator Mark Warner, responding to a letter from the US Azerbaijani Network, says that Washington remembers the victims of the Hojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/257351.html>).

11 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming ambassadors Ian David Grainge Biggs of Australia and Cristobal Gonzalez-Aller Jurado of Spain (<http://news.day.az/politics/257207.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Turkey has always supported Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/257222.html>).

The Defense Ministry denies Armenian reports that an Armenian soldier has been killed in a firefight along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/257191.html>).

Vagif Sadykhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Italy, speaks to Rome's Institute of Oriental Studies on "Azerbaijan at the Crossroads of East and West" (<http://news.day.az/politics/257366.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and president of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Russia, says that "Azerbaijan is experiencing one of the glorious pages of its history" (<http://news.day.az/politics/257392.html>).

The Azerbaijani Students and Alumni International Forum takes place in Strasbourg (<http://news.day.az/politics/257279.html>).

Turkey's Grand National Assembly ratifies Ankara's strategic partnership and mutual assistance treaty with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/257124.html>).

The French Foreign Ministry, in a response to a protest note from Azerbaijan's ambassador to Paris, Elchin Amirbayov, says that the French position on Karabakh has not changed (<http://news.day.az/politics/257194.html>).

Muhyettin Aksak, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that combined international efforts will be sufficient to change Armenia's position on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/256908.html>).

10 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Edmond Haxhinasto, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Albania (<http://news.day.az/politics/257081.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from the incoming ambassadors from Sudan, Argentina, Thailand, Slovenia, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Belgium (<http://news.day.az/politics/257103.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/257096.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva tells Alice Gast, special representative of the US president for science, that “the Azerbaijani government is interested in broadening the process of the instruction of Azerbaijani children and young people abroad” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257099.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that he has informed the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and has directed Azerbaijani ambassadors to inform the governments to which they are accredited that Baku is very upset by the killing of an Azerbaijani child by Armenian forces and the failure of the Armenian side to investigate the matter (<http://news.day.az/politics/257008.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs an agreement with his Albanian counterpart, Edmond Haxhinasto, eliminating the visa regime for persons with diplomatic and official passports (<http://news.day.az/politics/257025.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Paris, files a demarche with the French foreign ministry after the head of that institution, Alain Juppe, declares that the right of nations to self-determination is a fundamental right in international affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/257095.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says “the time has come to stop the occupier and not to give an assessment of his actions” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257059.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the killing of a child by a sniper as the Armenians have done is “the method of people alien to humanity who employ fascist methods” (<http://news.day.az/politics/257042.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that under current conditions, Armenia can be forced to a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/256804.html>).

Lt. Gen. Zakir Hasanov, deputy interior minister and commander of the country's internal troops, says that Azerbaijan's internal forces besides being "a model in the CIS" are "largely comparable to corresponding structures of Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/256976.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin discusses the Karabakh issue with his Italian counterpart Alfredo Mantica (<http://news.day.az/politics/257097.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, visits Ganja (<http://news.day.az/politics/257028.html>).

OSCE officials express shock about the murder of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/257017.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul ratifies two Azerbaijani-Turkish intergovernmental agreements (<http://news.day.az/politics/256943.html>).

Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Konul says that Ankara "wants to strengthen cooperation with Azerbaijan in the defense industry sector" (<http://news.day.az/politics/256921.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/256922.html>).

US Congressman James Moran says that he and other members of Congress are carefully following the negotiations over Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/256929.html>).

9 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives José Perurena López, the president of the International Canoe Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/256856.html>).

Elkhan Polukhov, the head of the Foreign Ministry's press service, visits Rome to discuss cooperation with the Italian foreign ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/257145.html>).

Rahman Mustafayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Athens, says that "Greece considers Azerbaijan to be an attractive and reliable partner" (<http://news.day.az/politics/256736.html>).

Baku officials announce the completion of the collection of information about MIAs in the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/society/256835.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the head of the Azerbaijan delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, says that the new special representative of that body for Karabakh must be “an objective and experienced individual” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256793.html>).

Toyli Komekov, Turkmenistan’s ambassador to Baku, says that Ashgabat believes that the construction of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline should take into account ecological issues (<http://news.day.az/economy/256806.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, discusses legal issues governing the operations of NGOs with Christopher Shields, an official of the US Agency for International Development (<http://news.day.az/society/256905.html>).

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov ratifies Tashkent’s agreement with Baku on economic cooperation over the next five years (<http://news.day.az/economy/256752.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, the Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE president-in-office, says that it is inappropriate to use words like “quickly” and “in a short time” when speaking about resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/256832.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group express “deep concern” about reports of the violation of the ceasefire regime between Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/256852.html>).

Alice Gast, the US President’s special representative for science, says that Washington welcomes Azerbaijani participation in scientific programs being conducted in the US (<http://news.day.az/society/256854.html>).

UNESCO gives high marks to the works of Azerbaijani scholars working in the area of nano-technology (<http://news.day.az/society/256900.html>).

8 March

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that “Iranian-Azerbaijani relations are the relations of two fraternal countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256672.html>).

7 March

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov proposes establishing 24 hour-a-day border crossing posts with Iran during his talks with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Salehi, who responds by calling for the creation of working groups in all spheres (<http://news.day.az/politics/256552.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a message to all UN member countries about the Hojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/256561.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that "Iran devotes importance to the broadening of bilateral ties with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/256626.html>).

Mihal Labenda, Poland's ambassador to Baku, says that "Poland has found a true partner in Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/256666.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, and his wife Zeyno Baran, meet with Azerbaijani women entrepreneurs on the occasion of International Women's Day (<http://news.day.az/politics/256664.html>).

Dmitry Vyatkin, a Duma deputy, says that it is important for Azerbaijan and Armenia, both of whom are members of the CIS, to resolve their differences (<http://news.day.az/politics/256762.html>).

Turkish and Azerbaijani think tanks sign a cooperation agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/256547.html>).

5 March

President Ilham Aliyev and his Russian and Armenian counterparts, Dmitry Medvedev and Serzh Sargsyan, meet in Sochi and release a joint declaration on the Karabakh negotiation process (<http://news.day.az/politics/256396.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/256469.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is the subject of a profile on the French culture site, <http://www.toutelaculture.com> (<http://news.day.az/politics/256363.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, Deputy Foreign Minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of ADA

that the goal of that institution is “to become a regional center of science and education” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256356.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the leading people of Armenia place their hopes on their foreign protectors” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256254.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov meets with the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/256488.html>).

US Representative Daniel Boren becomes co-chair of the Azerbaijani Working Group in the US House of Representatives (<http://news.day.az/politics/256364.html>).

4 March

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives US Ambassador Matthew Bryza (<http://news.day.az/politics/256327.html>).

The Milli Majlis ratifies the Joint Declaration on the Southern Gas Corridor (<http://news.day.az/economy/256305.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, signs an agreement with his Dominican counterpart Vince Henderson establishing diplomatic ties between Azerbaijan and Dominica (<http://news.day.az/politics/256365.html>).

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to London, says that “the development of the theoretical principles of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict shows the attachment of the Azerbaijani people to the peaceful path of the resolution of the conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256174.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku “wants international organizations to show political will and put pressure on Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256243.html>).

Adil Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan “will agree to the return of the occupied territories” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256203.html>).

Russian and Azerbaijani officials meet in Baku to discuss the legal status of Russian citizens living in the Khrakh-Uba village of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/256318.html>).

The Azerbaijan Community of Nagorno-Karabakh of the Azerbaijan Republic launches a website, <http://www.karabakh.az>, in four languages, Azerbaijani, Russian, English, and Armenian (<http://news.day.az/politics/256264.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that “the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh will support Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256282.html>).

Indonesia opens an embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/256355.html>).

US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon says that he does not agree with the view that “by initiating meetings between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Russia is step by step taking ‘under its control’ the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256201.html>).

James Appathurai, the special representative of the NATO secretary general for the Caucasus and Central Asia, says that Azerbaijan is “a very important partner” for the Western alliance (<http://news.day.az/politics/256185.html>).

US Congress Representative Sue Myrick says that Azerbaijan is “a strong ally of the United States, especially now” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256183.html>).

3 March

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives US Ambassador Matthew Bryza (<http://news.day.az/politics/256057.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, calls on the OSCE to fulfill its obligations and press for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/256053.html>).

Garib Mammadov, the head of the State Committee on Land and Cartography, says that Azerbaijani and Georgian experts have completed the demarcation of the border between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/256097.html>).

The Azerbaijani and Turkish diasporas in the US launch a new campaign of sending messages to President Barak Obama and other senior officials concerning pressing issues of the Turkic world (<http://news.day.az/politics/256073.html>).

Catherine Ashton, high representative of the European Union, says that the Eastern Partnership is “an ambitious instrument for the rapprochement of the EU with its eastern neighbors” (<http://news.day.az/politics/256251.html>).

Anvar Azimov, the permanent representative of Russia to the OSCE, says that the OSCE Minsk Group must remain the main center for negotiating the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/256125.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that it expects progress at the upcoming Sochi meeting of the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/256098.html>).

The US Department of State says that Azerbaijan is continuing to improve its efforts to counter the flow of narcotics through Azerbaijan and the use of drugs on its territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/256050.html>).

European Union ambassadors in Azerbaijan visit Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/256003.html>).

The House of Lords in London hosts a book launch reception for a new book on “The Conceptual Bases of the Rehabilitation of the Post-Conflict Territories of Azerbaijan” by Nazim Muzaffarli and Eldar Ismailov (<http://news.day.az/economy/256169.html>).

2 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Slovenian Defense Minister Ljubica Jelusić (<http://news.day.az/politics/255977.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Rustam Minnikhanov, the president of the Republic of Tatarstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/255965.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a cooperation agreement with his Slovenian counterpart, Ljubica Jelusić (<http://news.day.az/politics/255903.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev takes part in the Eastern Partnership meeting in Bratislava (<http://news.day.az/politics/255868.html>).

Arastun Mehdiyev, the deputy head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the formation in Azerbaijan of a pluralistic media is a basic principle adopted by the state and society” (<http://news.day.az/politics/255874.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Paris together with the French Senate and the Institute of France-Europe-Asia hosts a conference on Azerbaijani foreign policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/256161.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, speaks on developments in Eurasia to the Claremont Graduate University (<http://news.day.az/politics/255891.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that "the UN must devote greater attention to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem" (<http://news.day.az/politics/255987.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy begins operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://news.day.az/politics/255971.html>).

The International Federation of Journalists, the International Eurasia Press Foundation, the Democratic League of Journalists, the Professional Union of Journalists, and the Azerbaijani Committee for the Defense of Journalists host in Baku an international conference on editorial freedom (<http://news.day.az/politics/255920.html>).

1 March

President Ilham Aliyev says that "the business climate in Azerbaijan must be at the level of developed countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/255683.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that "the future of Azerbaijan will depend on the children and youth in school today" (<http://news.day.az/politics/255818.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva meets with Ali Doğramaci, head of Bilkent University (<http://news.day.az/politics/255811.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva meets with Mark Hereward, the UNICEF representative in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/255810.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva meets with Fikret Akchura, the UN resident coordinator for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/255809.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives the Hungarian and Georgian ambassadors, Csolt Chutora and Teymuraz Sharashenidze (<http://news.day.az/politics/255689.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Russia's initiative in hosting trilateral meetings of the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia may accelerate the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/255712.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Slovenia distributes a declaration about the Hojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/255658.html>).

The embassy of Serbia in Baku officially begins operations (<http://news.day.az/politics/255759.html>)

FEBRUARY

28 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Branko Hrvatin, the president of the Supreme Court of Croatia (<http://news.day.az/politics/255597.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Nikolae Dumitru, the president of Romania's NIRO Investment Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/255609.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, the head of the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan, discusses migration issues with Turkish officials in Ankara (<http://news.day.az/politics/255466.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that body has given a positive assessment to the November 2010 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/255491.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov says that Ashgabat supports "peaceful and legal means" of demarcating the Caspian seabed (<http://news.day.az/politics/255525.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that "relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan are being built on deep historic roots and a strategic alliance" (<http://news.day.az/politics/255468.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, OSCE chairman-in-office, says that "Lithuania will try to push forward a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/255583.html>).

Zafer Caglayan, Turkey's state minister for foreign trade, says that bilateral trade between Turkey and Azerbaijan now amounts to 2.5 billion

US dollars a year but has the potential to increase four or five times (<http://news.day.az/economy/255487.html>).

Devlet Bahceli, the head of the Turkish National Movement Party, says that “the Turkish people will never forgive those guilty of carrying out the Hojaly tragedy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/255495.html>).

27 February

Eldar Ibrahimov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that that body at its upcoming meeting in Belgrad will among other things discuss Azerbaijan’s role in the struggle against human trafficking (<http://news.day.az/politics/255351.html>).

26 February

President Ilham Aliyev leads the commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the Hojaly tragedy by laying flowers at the Baku monument to the victims of that event. Azerbaijanis and many governments and organizations around the world also mark this event (<http://news.day.az/politics/255212.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that there is “always the possibility of reaching a peaceful agreement on Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/255224.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that there is “a great future” for the transit of Azerbaijani gas through Greece (<http://news.day.az/politics/255197.html>).

Emergency Situation Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov reaches an agreement with Georgia’s interior minister Vano Merabishvili to cooperate in responding to disasters (<http://news.day.az/politics/255247.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the violence in Hojaly was part of Armenia’s drive to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and other parts of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/255204.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Hague tribunal should render a decision on the role of Armenian leaders Sargsyan and Kocharyan in the Hojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/255067.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, says that “the act of genocide against the peaceful residents of Hojaly is the most

terrible and bloody tragedy in the history of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/255193.html>).

Roland Kobia, the head of the EU delegation in Azerbaijan, says that “the elimination of the position of EU special representative to the South Caucasus does not reduce the involvement of the organization in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/255290.html>).

Peter Semneby, at the conclusion of his service as EU special representative to the South Caucasus, says that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict generates concerns because it “does not exist in a vacuum” and any arms race in the region threatens to spark new tensions (<http://news.day.az/politics/255281.html>).

25 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian Interior Ministry Bano Merabishvili (<http://news.day.az/politics/255132.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peter Semneby, the EU special representative for the South Caucasus, on the completion of the latter’s service in that position (<http://news.day.az/politics/255165.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou to discuss bilateral energy cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/255156.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that “Azerbaijan must speak with the international community in a common language as far as accounting is concerned” (<http://news.day.az/economy/255036.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Hungarian State Secretary Zsolt Németh (<http://news.day.az/politics/255185.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that the Caspian littoral states are working to agree on a new schedule of talks for the working group on the determination of the status of the sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/254983.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, the chairman of the State Tariff Committee of Azerbaijan, signs an agreement on cooperation with his Argentinian opposite number Riccardo Ecegaralla (<http://news.day.az/politics/255039.html>).

Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Tbilisi, visits Georgia’s Marneuli district which has a large Azerbaijani population (<http://news.day.az/politics/255113.html>).

Sultan Gasymov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Yekaterinburg, says that his office is working to strengthen bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and both the Russian Federation as a whole and Sverdlovsk oblast in particular (<http://news.day.az/politics/255042.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the latest declarations of the Minsk Group are openly false because for a long time already there has not been observed any movement forward, not even a centimeter" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254810.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, Milli Majlis, says that the current Armenian president "was a participant and inspirer of the Hojaly genocide" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254935.html>).

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich names Aleksandr Mishchenko, who has been Kyiv's representative in Ankara, to be Ukrainian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/254997.html>).

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says that "the first million tons of Azerbaïjani oil passing through the Odessa-Brody route is the beginning of a great project" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254979.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev meets his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/255123.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, OSCE chairman-in-office, says he is concerned about the possible deterioration in Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/254991.html>).

Hungarian State Secretary Zsolt Németh says in Baku that Budapest will devote "all necessary efforts" toward the integration of Azerbaijan into Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/254980.html>).

Péter Olajos, deputy state secretary of Hungary's national development ministry, says that Budapest intends to develop relations with Azerbaijan not only in the energy sector but in other fields as well (<http://news.day.az/economy/255065.html>).

Hungary opens a new embassy building in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/254977.html>).

24 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives James Steinberg, US deputy secretary of state (<http://news.day.az/politics/254965.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Ukrainian Prime Minister Nikolay Azarov in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/254861.html>).

Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Tbilisi, says that "Azerbaijan and Georgia must be united in blocking Armenian policy" which includes the promotion of Abkhazia as an independent country (<http://news.day.az/politics/254806.html>).

Agaselim Shukurov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Libya, says that his embassy has arranged for the departure from that country of five additional Azerbaijani citizens who had been working there (<http://news.day.az/society/254808.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan's ombudsman for human rights, calls on international bodies to apply sanctions against Armenia for its role in Hojaly (<http://news.day.az/politics/254915.html>).

James Steinberg, US deputy secretary of state, says on his arrival in Baku that "Washington is interested in the most rapid resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254898.html>).

Jordi Xuclà i Costa, the head of the sub-committee on Nagorno-Karabakh of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that his group is prepared to help advance negotiations on that conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/254948.html>).

Tokyo hosts the eighth session of the Japanese-GUAM working group on tourism (<http://news.day.az/politics/254895.html>).

Azerbaijan and the European Union agree on a twinning program in the area of copyright law (<http://news.day.az/economy/254894.html>).

23 February

President Ilham Aliyev says that "the process of modernization in Azerbaijan is taking place in all spheres" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254660.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Colonel Hamad Kalkaba Malboun, the president of the International Military Sports Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/254748.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Ukrainian counterpart, Konstantin Grishchenko. The two say that their countries do

not intend to break diplomatic relations with Libya (<http://news.day.az/politics/254761.html>).

Fuad Ismayilov, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Vienna, passes away. He was jointly accredited to Slovenia and Slovakia (<http://news.day.az/politics/254744.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kyiv, says that Baku must seriously think about the prospects of further participation in the Prague Process intended to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/254759.html>).

Agasalim Shukurov, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Libya, says that 12 Azerbaijani citizens have been evacuated from that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/254663.html>).

Rafael Ibrahimov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Stockholm, says that "Azerbaijan is ready to grant a high level of autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh; however, this is possible exclusively in the framework of the territorial integrity of the country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254591.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the powers of Armenia are not the real masters of their country," but he adds that he does not consider it "correct to draw parallels between this country and Egypt" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254442.html>).

Firudin Sadygov, the head of the working group of the State Commission on the Affairs of Military Prisoners, Hostages, and Missing Persons, says that "more than 800 of the 4049 prisoners and hostages" who are Azerbaijani citizens are on the Armenian side of the cease-fire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/254681.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that international organizations "continue to apply double standards" in relation to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/254688.html>).

Turkey's Grand National Assembly has ratified two inter-governmental agreements with Azerbaijan concerning copyright law and other matters (<http://news.day.az/politics/254632.html>).

EU representatives meet with TRACECA officials to discuss continuing cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/254692.html>).

22 February

The Foreign Ministry warns Azerbaijanis against visiting Yemen because of the instability there (<http://news.day.az/politics/254454.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov meets with UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan (<http://news.day.az/economy/254510.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy secretary of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that “events in the Arab countries will not influence the situation in Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254457.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, head of the State Migration Service, meets with Turkish Interior Minister Beshir Atalay to discuss the complete elimination of the visa regime between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/254561.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, head of the State Tariff Committee, meets with his Argentinian counterpart Riccardo Ejikaralli in Buenos Aires (<http://news.day.az/economy/254416.html>).

Vagif Sadygov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Rome who is also jointly accredited to San Marino, presents his credentials to the captains-regent of the latter country, Giovanni Francesco Ugolini and Andrea Zafferan (<http://news.day.az/politics/254458.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Board of Muslims of the Caucasus, says there is no possibility that the wave of protests in Arab countries will lead to the destabilization of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/254404.html>).

EU ambassadors to Azerbaijan complete a two-day visit to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/254666.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says “the time has come to provide the world with the truth about the Hojaly tragedy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254492.html>).

Vasil Kalinov, Bulgarian ambassador to Baku, says that “Azerbaijan is a great friend of the European Community” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254488.html>).

Giedrius Cekuolis, OSCE Chairmanship special representative for protracted conflicts, says that “the absence of progress at the OSCE summit in Astana ... on the question of conflicts on the space of the organization is

an additional stimulus for active work by the Lithuanian presidency” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254485.html>).

Senator Kent Conrad and other members of the US Congress say that “the victims of the Hojaly tragedy must not be forgotten” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254452.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/254439.html>).

Vasil Kalinov, Bulgaria’s ambassador to Baku, says that an agreement on the supply of Azerbaijani gas via the Black Sea to Bulgaria will be signed this year (<http://news.day.az/economy/254472.html>).

21 February

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov signs an accord with Turkey’s defense minister Vejdi Kenul on the joint construction of jet-powered rockets (<http://news.day.az/economy/254273.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there are many signs for the emergence of “a revolutionary situation in Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/253669.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “force and terror are the most important instruments of the Armenian diaspora” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254044.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, the head of the youth forum of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, says that his group plans to send an appeal to the Hague tribunal to make an assessment of the Hojaly tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/254303.html>).

Giedrius Cekuolis, OSCE Chairmanship special representative for protracted conflicts, is visiting the South Caucasus to stress “the importance of confidence building measures” such as removing snipers from along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/254224.html>).

20 February

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev and Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov take part in the international defense exhibition IDEX-2011 in the UAE (<http://news.day.az/politics/254201.html>). Azerbaijani firms also take part in the exhibition (<http://news.day.az/economy/254173.html>).

19 February

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, says that "the integration of Armenia into the region could take place with the participation of Azerbaijan and Turkey" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254151.html>).

Michal Labenda, Poland's ambassador to Baku, says that "war is not a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/254129.html>).

Canada's ministry of foreign affairs and international trade says that it does not recommend that Canadians visit Nagorno-Karabakh or adjacent occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/254037.html>).

18 February

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the arrest of "criminal elements of Armenian origin" in the US shows that the world still must deal with the threat of "Armenianism" (<http://news.day.az/politics/253947.html>).

Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Zafer Caglayan says that "Armenia must free the occupied lands of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/253985.html>).

The Slovak foreign ministry says that reports that a delegation of Slovak, Czech and Austrian entrepreneurs had visited Nagorno-Karabakh are not true (<http://news.day.az/politics/253976.html>).

The Hungarian foreign ministry recommends that Hungarians refrain from traveling to the Armenian-occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/253938.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, the head of the Azerbaijan-Turkey inter-parliamentary group, says that the strategic partnership treaty with Azerbaijan will be ratified very soon (<http://news.day.az/politics/253949.html>).

17 February

President Ilham Aliyev says that "Azerbaijan is already considered as a factor of political stabilization of the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/253652.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (<http://news.day.az/politics/253790.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Reza Tagipur Anwari, Iranian minister of information technology and communications (<http://news.day.az/politics/253828.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of incoming US Ambassador Matthew Bryza (<http://news.day.az/politics/253786.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of incoming Georgian Ambassador Teymuraz Sharashenidze (<http://news.day.az/politics/253798.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, who is also president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, a good will ambassador for UNESCO and ISESCO, and a Milli Majlis deputy, meets in Paris with French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand (<http://news.day.az/politics/253953.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva says that “Azerbaijan has been transformed into the most rapidly developing country of the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/254024.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social political department of the President’s Office, says that there is no threat to embassy officers or other foreigners living in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/253691.html>).

Vagif Sadykhov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Rome who is also jointly accredited to Malta, presents his credentials to Maltese President George Abela and extends an invitation from President Ilham Aliyev to visit Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/253843.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to the UN secretary general and the Security Council about Armenian falsifications and violations of the ceasefire regime (<http://news.day.az/politics/253731.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is “necessary to define the legal framework for the occupied territories” (<http://news.day.az/politics/253751.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says the United States supports the anti-corruption initiative of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/253793.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that his recess appointment by President Barak Obama is a reflection of “how great importance the US gives to cooperation with Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/253791.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, the head of the Turkish-Azerbaijani inter-parliamentary friendship group, says that those who “do not want the renewal of military action must end the occupation and return everything to its normal state” (<http://news.day.az/politics/253602.html>).

The French foreign ministry warns its citizens against travelling to Karabakh and other Armenian-occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/253675.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, OSCE chairman-in-office, discusses the Karabakh conflict with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (<http://news.day.az/politics/253664.html>).

Richard Morningstar, Special Representative of the US Department of State on Energy Issues in Eurasia, says that Washington supports combining the Nabucco project with the ITGI project (<http://news.day.az/economy/253792.html>).

The GUAM secretariat hosts the fifth session of its working group on emergency situations with representatives from Azerbaijan and the other member countries as well as Japan (<http://news.day.az/politics/253837.html>).

16 February

President Ilham Aliyev confirms a series of inter-governmental agreements reached over the last year (<http://news.day.az/politics/253463.html>).

Hasan Hasanov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Poland, says that the continuing Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is “a threat to the security of Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/253628.html>).

Faik Bagirov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Ankara, meets with Mehmet Ali Shahin, the speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/253467.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, draws parallels between the situation in Egypt and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/253480.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, OSCE chairman-in-office, says that “growing tension around the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” is generating concern (<http://news.day.az/politics/253462.html>).

15 February

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia is standing at the edge of the abyss" and more and more of its people are fleeing abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/253172.html>).

Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri says that his government is conducting talks with Azerbaijan about the construction of an oil processing plant (<http://news.day.az/economy/253378.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the European Union mission in Baku, says that "a turning point is being observed in relations between Azerbaijan and the EU" (<http://news.day.az/economy/253368.html>).

The Israeli embassy in Baku resumes normal operations after a one day closure caused by "technical problems" (<http://news.day.az/politics/253286.html>).

14 February

President Ilham Aliyev signs the directive providing for Azerbaijani assistance to the Palestinian embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/253263.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Mexico who is jointly accredited to Guatemala, presents his credentials to the president of the latter country Alvaro Colom and extends an invitation to him to visit Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/253064.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, the ombudsman of Azerbaijan, receives Heydar al-Barrak, Iraq's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/253129.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "all the words" of Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan, "are a lie" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252882.html>).

Toyli Komekov, Turkmenistan's ambassador to Baku, says that "cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan in the energy sector is important" (<http://news.day.az/politics/253088.html>).

The Azerbaijani and Turkish communities in the US send thousands of letters to the US Congress demanding an end to American assistance to the separatist regime in Armenian-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/253124.html>).

13 February

Ali Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Baku has always supported the full participation of Belarusian parliamentarians in the parliamentary dimension of the European Union's Eastern Partnership (<http://news.day.az/politics/253008.html>).

12 February

President Ilham Aliyev reaffirms that "the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is not subject to negotiation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252279.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the President's Office, says that "the single task both for the international community and the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group is to force Armenia to accept the proposals now on the negotiating table" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252923.html>).

Kamaladdin Heydarov, the emergency situations minister, receives Thierry Mariani, the French secretary of state for transport, to discuss expanding cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/252933.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov receives Wolfgang Grossruck, vice president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/252978.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Baku "expects an objective report" from the OSCE regarding the situation in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/252942.html>).

11 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Thierry Mariani, the French secretary of state for transport (<http://news.day.az/politics/252755.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/252698.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev tells the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs that "Azerbaijan is carrying out serious preparation for the liberation of its lands from occupation" and that "no one can accuse Azerbaijan" for doing so (<http://news.day.az/politics/252738.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says that "the joint work of Russia and Azerbaijan in the area of the struggle with drug trafficking is very important" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252775.html>).

Thierry Mariani, the French secretary of state for transport, says that "Azerbaijan has ambitious plans regarding the development of railroads" (<http://news.day.az/economy/252847.html>).

The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs say, at the end of their latest visit to Baku and Yerevan, that "the time has come for decisive actions in the name of peace for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252829.html>).

Wolfgang Grossruck, the vice president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that "Azerbaijan is a young independent state but despite this has passed a dynamic path of development" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252705.html>).

Anvar Azimov, the permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the OSCE, says that "the basis for conducting a summit of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia is being prepared" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252646.html>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry says that at the present time, Russia and Azerbaijan do not have any territorial claims against each other (<http://news.day.az/politics/252640.html>).

A group of Azerbaijani female entrepreneurs meet with a Saudi princess in Riad to discuss expanding bilateral trade and strengthening the role of women in economic life in both countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/252708.html>).

10 February

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives European parliamentarians Ivo Vajgl and Pino Arlacchi (<http://news.day.az/politics/252568.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets with his German counterpart Peter Ammon in Berlin to discuss bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/252935.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev receives Irena Degutiene, the chair of the Lithuanian parliament (<http://news.day.az/economy/>

252530.html). She notes that Lithuania places great hopes in Azerbaijan for the resolution of problems with the supply of gas to her country (<http://news.day.az/economy/252531.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the President's Office, says in reaction to the International Crisis Group report on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that "without a constructive approach by Armenia, it will be extremely difficult to speak about peace in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252447.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the manifestation of a lack of respect to Azerbaijan by "certain forces in Iran" is "a sign of a lack of respect to Azerbaijanis who form half of the population of the Islamic Republic" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252481.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that if even Armenian media are "openly discussing" problems in Armenia, then in that country "something is really happening" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252169.html>).

Malahat Hasanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia's aspirations will play "an evil joke" on that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/252284.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that "the EU must devote means for the prevention of conflicts in the South Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252528.html>).

Bernard Fassier, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that organization "will try to achieve approval of 'basic principles' for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252519.html>).

9 February

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence from Matthew Bryza, the incoming US ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/252350.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence from Teymuraz Sharashenidze, the incoming Georgian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/252353.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, criticizes international organizations for failing to accurately assess the situation in Azerbaijan and its progress in numerous spheres over the last years (<http://news.day.az/politics/252232.html>).

The Defense Ministry criticizes the International Crisis Group for its assessment of the situation surrounding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/252363.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov says that Baku and Vilnius have signed three cooperation agreements in the course of the Azerbaijani-Lithuanian business forum in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/252239.html>).

Vagif Sadykhov, incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Italy, presents his credentials to Italian President Giorgio Napolitano (<http://news.day.az/politics/252395.html>).

Experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Russia meet in Baku to discuss security issues in the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/252320.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "there was never any 'Armenian genocide' in history" (<http://news.day.az/politics/251997.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Council is "applying a policy of double standards with regard to Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252280.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrani, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that there has been no interference by Tehran in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan and that the comments of some Iranian journalists that have disturbed Azerbaijanis reflect ignorance rather than ill will (<http://news.day.az/politics/252362.html>).

Andre Will, a member of the French Senate, says that the OSCE Minsk Group is "limited in its possibilities and actions" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252341.html>).

Ambassador Roland Kobia, the head of the EU delegation to Azerbaijan, says that discussions between the EU and Azerbaijan on easing the visa regime should begin in the near future but he does not give any exact date (<http://news.day.az/politics/252299.html>).

The European Commission opens a three-day seminar on Structural Dialogue in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/252274.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a member of the French Senate, says that "Azerbaijan and France must develop cooperation on the regional level" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252228.html>).

Ivo Vajgl, the former foreign minister of Slovenia and a member of the European Parliament, says that "the European Union must more actively participate in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252266.html>).

8 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Irena Degutiene, the chair of the Lithuanian parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/252141.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives French senators Nathalie Goulet and Andre Will (<http://news.day.az/politics/252184.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku is "not ready for the complete elimination of a visa regime with any country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/252162.html>).

Procurator General Zakir Garalov receives Hungarian military prosecutor Arpad Kovacs (<http://news.day.az/politics/252176.html>).

Etibar Huseynov, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on his colleagues to boycott activities of the Iranian embassy in Baku to protest Iranian media stories critical of Azerbaijanis in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/252149.html>).

Railway officials from Azerbaijan, Russia and Iran sign an accord to create a joint enterprise in support of the North-South transport corridor (<http://news.day.az/economy/252109.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the OSCE mission is not in a position to prepare a balanced report" about the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/252048.html>).

7 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Hakan Fidan, the head of Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/251899.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives a delegation of French senators (<http://news.day.az/politics/251897.html>).

The Foreign Ministry dismisses the latest statements of Armenian deputy foreign minister Shavarsh Kocharyan as "illogical" (<http://news.day.az/politics/251908.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev says that any cooperation between Azerbaijan and Armenia on building a ring road around the Black Sea is excluded (<http://news.day.az/economy/251953.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev says that Baku expects that the European Commission will soon announce plans for talks on a simplified visa regime with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/251922.html>).

The Economic Development Ministry announces that it is ready to help Azerbaijani businessmen working abroad (<http://news.day.az/economy/251949.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov receives a group of members of the France-Azerbaijan Working Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/251973.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov receives Daghestani Popular Assembly head Magomed-Sultan Magomedov (<http://news.day.az/politics/251930.html>).

Musa Gasymlı, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan's claims about Azerbaijan's actions 20 years ago are intended to distract public attention from what Armenia is doing now (<http://news.day.az/politics/251905.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia is a vassal state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/251614.html>).

Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov says that Sofia wants to accelerate its cooperation with Azerbaijan on gas exports (<http://news.day.az/economy/251888.html>).

Former Turkish Foreign Minister Yashar Yakys says that “the army of Azerbaijan is ready for a military resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/251599.html>).

6 February

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Munich on the sidelines of the 47th Munich Conference on Security (<http://news.day.az/politics/251605.html>).

Matthew Bryza, the incoming US ambassador to Baku, says on his arrival that Washington “hopes for a deepening and strengthening of cooperation with Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/251754.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the head of the Administration of the Muslims of the Caucasus, meets with Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov in Grozny (<http://news.day.az/politics/251721.html>).

The Swedish-Azerbaijan Federation organizes a protest demonstration in front of the Iranian embassy in Stockholm (<http://news.day.az/politics/251749.html>).

5 February

José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, says that “the Caspian Basin occupies an important point among the priorities of the energy policy of the European Union” (<http://news.day.az/politics/251708.html>).

4 February

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, condemns attempts by Iran to interfere in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/251505.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov takes part in the Munich Security Conference (<http://news.day.az/politics/251060.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Latvian Environmental Minister Raimonds Vejonis (<http://news.day.az/politics/251473.html>).

Arif Mammadov, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the Council of Europe, says that Azerbaijan’s energy policy reflects its ties with many countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/251685.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan borrows international practice in a “distorted” way (<http://news.day.az/politics/251285.html>).

Wikileaks documents show that the argument between Paris and Yerevan is continuing to gather force (<http://news.day.az/politics/251540.html>).

Armenia starts major military training exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/251488.html>).

Abdul Hamid, Pakistan’s ambassador to Baku, says that his country “and Azerbaijan support one another in various international forums” (<http://news.day.az/politics/251459.html>).

Audronius Ajubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that “the main task of the OSCE is to ensure the broad participation of the organization in the resolution of regional conflicts” (<http://news.day.az/politics/251431.html>).

3 February

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, receives representatives from the regions and from Turkish municipalities (<http://news.day.az/politics/251401.html>).

Azerbaijani delegates to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe say that the winter session of that body was “especially significant” for Azerbaijan and international backing for Baku’s position on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/251423.html>).

Zsolt Chutora, the Hungarian ambassador to Baku, says that the level of economic cooperation between his country and Azerbaijan can satisfy neither side at present and must be increased (<http://news.day.az/economy/251265.html>).

Nevingaye Erbatur, a member of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “pressure by Russia on Armenia could resolve the Karabakh problem” (<http://news.day.az/politics/251120.html>).

Pedro Agramunt, the co-rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for Azerbaijan, says that his goal is to be as “neutral, objective and independent” in his assessment of the situation as possible (<http://news.day.az/politics/251402.html>).

The Azerbaijani Society of America, the Azerbaijani-American Council and the Pax Turcica Institute create a system to automatically send letters to members of Congress and the American media (<http://news.day.az/politics/251688.html>).

2 February

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev and Greece's deputy foreign minister Spyros Kouvelis sign an agreement to advance the Southern Gas Corridor project (<http://news.day.az/economy/251110.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan's ombudsman for human rights, meets with the co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee for Azerbaijan, Joseph Debono Grech and Pedro Agramunt (<http://news.day.az/politics/251203.html>).

Elman Arasly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Amman, meets with the chairman of the upper house of that country's parliament, Tahir Masri, to discuss the development of bilateral ties (<http://news.day.az/politics/251129.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the Turkic world has great potential to influence world politics" (<http://news.day.az/politics/251130.html>).

Adil Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Yerevan does not have the resources for war with Baku" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250900.html>).

Audronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that his organization supports the efforts of the Minsk Group to find a solution to the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/251105.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, the executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that "Azerbaijan is the only country in the CIS where there was not a decline in the economy during the last financial crisis" (<http://news.day.az/economy/251050.html>).

Matthew Bryza, the newly named US ambassador to Baku, tells the United States—Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce that "the main priority" of his work in Azerbaijan will be "a peaceful and just resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250990.html>).

Hasan Ercelebi, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "the Armenian-Turkish border will not be opened" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250899.html>).

1 February

Tahir Karimov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Malaysia who is jointly accredited to Brunei, presents his credentials to the Sultan of Brunei (<http://news.day.az/politics/250979.html>).

The Milli Majlis ratifies the agreement "On cooperation in the security sphere on the Caspian Sea" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250915.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov says that it is necessary to adopt a special law on the 220,000 Azerbaijanis who were deported from Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/250889.html>).

Milli Majlis Vice-Speaker Ziyafat Askarov considers "unobjective" the declaration of a PACE official about the existence of "political prisoners" in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/250860.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on Azerbaijanis living in Iran "to protest against the anti-Azerbaijani policy of that country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250896.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on Azerbaijanis not to travel to Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/250880.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the OSCE report on the elections in Azerbaijan was "not objective" and should be corrected (<http://news.day.az/politics/250873.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that PACE has behaved in a non-objective and incorrect way by "criticizing Azerbaijan and not taking note of violations in other countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250872.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that he believes Baku should seek explanations from the US and UK embassies as to why they warned their nationals about a terrorist threat in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/250878.html>).

Carl Hamilton, a Swedish parliamentarian, says that "Azerbaijan has been transformed into the central energy partner of the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250815.html>). He adds that one "should not

expect that the European Union will be able to resolve conflicts in the South Caucasus” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250811.html>).

The mother of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili arrives in Azerbaijan for a visit (<http://news.day.az/politics/250832.html>).

JANUARY

31 January

Bahar Muradova, deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Armenian deputies have been doing everything they can to block the restoration of the PACE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/250779.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements from Yerevan show that “the leadership of Armenia is in a psychically-moral stupor” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250516.html>).

Nikolae Ureche, Romania’s ambassador to Baku, says that “NATO welcomes its close cooperation with Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250620.html>).

Maj. Gen. Carlos Branco, director of cooperation and regional security department of NATO international military staff, says that “cooperation between NATO and Azerbaijan is fruitful” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250617.html>).

30 January

The Azerbaijan government sends a plane to Cairo to evacuate Azerbaijani citizens from Egypt (<http://news.day.az/politics/250538.html>).

29 January

President Ilham Aliyev, while attending the Davos Conference, meets with his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich whom he tells that "relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine are developing very actively and dynamically" (<http://news.day.az/politics/249928.html>).

Edolphus Towns, an American congressman, says that he joins the Azerbaijani people in keeping the memory alive of the victims of Black January 1990 (<http://news.day.az/politics/250494.html>).

28 January

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Veit Sorger, the president of the Federation of Austrian Industry (<http://news.day.az/politics/250279.html>).

The State Committee for Work with the Diaspora announces the formation of a Turkish-Azerbaijani Society in Germany (<http://news.day.az/politics/250399.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that PACE must develop "more serious mechanisms" to ensure that its decisions and resolutions" are implemented (<http://news.day.az/politics/250254.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the PACE sub-committee on Nagorno-Karabakh is playing "an important role in bringing to world public opinion the truth" about Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/250361.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the term, "Azerbaijan-Armenia Nagorno-Karabakh problem," has been adopted as "a compromise" on the basis of proposals by the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/250103.html>).

Peter Semneby, the European Union's Special Representative for the South Caucasus, says in Tbilisi that "it is necessary to work more intensively toward a resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/250414.html>).

Mehmet Ocakden, a Party of Justice and Development representative in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that a new military conflict in the

South Caucasus would mean “self-destruction for Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250136.html>).

27 January

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Baku is prepared to use all means to achieve forward movement on the Karabakh question” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250098.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku “hopes to achieve an accord with Tehran on the status of the Caspian” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250104.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “one of the priorities of the foreign policy of Azerbaijan is strengthening ties with neighboring countries and in the first instance with Russia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250101.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan is prepared to increase exports of its natural gas (<http://news.day.az/politics/250120.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information support department of the President’s Office says that Azerbaijan is “a supporter of the peaceful resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the restoration of the internationally recognized state borders of the Azerbaijan Republic by peaceful means” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250131.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Azerbaijan “devotes great importance to dialogue between religions and cultures” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250223.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the final report of the OSCE Bureau on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on elections in Azerbaijan is “not objective” (<http://news.day.az/politics/250144.html>).

The Azerbaijan embassy in Cairo calls on Azerbaijanis in Egypt to be careful and to the extent possible not to leave their homes during the times of mass demonstrations there (<http://news.day.az/politics/250123.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, condemns as “anti-Azerbaijani propaganda” coverage of Azerbaijan on the

first channel of Tehran television (<http://news.day.az/politics/250117.html>).

Vahdat Sultanzade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Ashgabat, is awarded the gold medal of the Dede Gorgud Foundation (<http://news.day.az/politics/250088.html>).

Malahat Ibrahimgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the declarations of Armenian politicians [on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict] do not have any basis” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249983.html>).

The remodeled Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Batumi formally reopens (<http://news.day.az/politics/250028.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a declaration labeling the Hojaly events of February 1992 an act of genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/250172.html>).

Jean-Paul Costa, the president of the European Court of human rights, says his body “is not an international court of justice” but that it is prepared to hear cases brought by those who have suffered as a result of international conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/250148.html>).

Joseph Shagal, the president of the Israel-Azerbaijan International Association, says that “a time of decisive actions is approaching in the Karabakh question” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249915.html>).

Turkish Justice Minister Sadullah Ergin says that cooperation between Turkey and Azerbaijan in the area of justice is taking place at the highest level (<http://news.day.az/politics/250029.html>).

26 January

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that Baku plans to open trade representatives in a number of European and CIS country capitals (<http://news.day.az/economy/249922.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, distributes a report on “the mutually profitable results and prospects of the decade of membership of Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249925.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili receives Azerbaijani Transportation Minister Ziya Mammadov and Turkish Transportation and

Communications Minister Binali Yildirim (<http://news.day.az/economy/250119.html>).

Husein Yildiz, a National Movement Party deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that unless Armenia abides by international agreements and moves to resolve the conflict with Azerbaijan, "military actions over Karabakh will restart" (<http://news.day.az/politics/249718.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, receives the Azerbaijani delegation to that body (<http://news.day.az/politics/250003.html>).

Isaac Matin-Barberro, economic and commercial counselor at the Spanish embassy in Baku, says that "Spain supports Azerbaijan in its relations with the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/249979.html>).

Norica Nicolae, a Romanian deputy in the European Parliament, says that "Armenia must free the occupied territories" (<http://news.day.az/politics/249914.html>).

25 January

The Foreign Ministry asks Azerbaijanis to refrain from travelling to Tunisia because of unsettled conditions there (<http://news.day.az/politics/249770.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to Russia, says that there were no Azerbaijani citizens among the victims at the Domodedovo airport terrorist action (<http://news.day.az/society/249651.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Baku is opposed to the appointment of a PACE rapporteur on political prisoners in Azerbaijan - (<http://news.day.az/politics/249824.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that "parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan are a step forward on the path to democracy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/249641.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls on PACE to use

effective measures to restore the rights of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/249634.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a member of the Milli Majlis committee on regional issues, says that Iran is trying “under the cover of religion” to create problems inside Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/249774.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the decision of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to declare Hojali an act of genocide represents a serious defeat for Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/249757.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is trying to avoid facing reality by his recent statements about Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/249475.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan “has the right to restore the territorial integrity [of the country] by military means” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249413.html>).

Asef Hajiyeu, a Milli Majlis deputy, predicts that Yerevan will undergo “a Tunisian scenario” if it does not change course (<http://news.day.az/politics/249497.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Armenian side is blocking the renewal of work of the PACE sub-committee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/249642.html>).

Abbas Abbasov, co-chair of the committee of the Inter-Religious Council of the CIS and former first vice prime minister of Azerbaijan, says that “the Russian state must strengthen its prophylactic work to prevent terrorist attacks” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249761.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “Turkey wants to see the Caucasus as an arena of security” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249739.html>).

Cecilia Malmstroem, the European Union internal affairs commissioner, says that the beginning of talks on a simplified visa regime for Azerbaijan and Armenia will begin before summer (<http://news.day.az/politics/249802.html>).

24 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/249563.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the protocol on the cooperation agreement between the Azerbaijani and Bosnia-Herzegovinian foreign ministries of January 12 (<http://news.day.az/politics/249628.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is described as “the most active and contemporary first lady” in the region on the Ekho Kavkaza site (<http://news.day.az/politics/249584.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Russian and Armenian counterparts, Sergey Lavrov and Edvard Nalbandyan in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/249640.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that no one will be able to change the borders of Azerbaijan by force (<http://news.day.az/politics/249494.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that “political stability in Azerbaijan attracts foreign investors” (<http://news.day.az/economy/249589.html>).

Elmar Mammadov, the representative of the Azerbaijan State Committee on Work with the Azerbaijanis Living Abroad, tells a meeting in Ankara of the Turkish-Azerbaijani Circle (TAD) that it is important to combine the work of the Turkish and Azerbaijani diasporas because as President Ilham Aliyev has said, “one nation must not have two diasporas” (<http://news.day.az/society/249591.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, a Milli Majlis deputy, published a book entitled Azerbaijan: Ten Years in the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/249526.html>).

Azerbaijani and US officials begin consultations in Baku on overcoming the consequences of floods and other natural disasters (<http://news.day.az/society/249577.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili takes part in the ceremonial opening of the first segment of the gas pipeline built by SOCAR Georgia Gas, a daughter company of the Azerbaijan State Gas Company (<http://news.day.az/economy/249587.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will bring peace and stability to the entire South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/249627.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that it is necessary to “intensify the ceasefire regime between Armenia and Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249554.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that human rights and media freedom are “the most important priorities in the relations of the European Union with Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249543.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Yerevan is guilty of “political illiteracy” in its discussion of international documents on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/249549.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that during its decade of membership in the Council of Europe, “Azerbaijan has made significant achievements in the area of democracy. There is the possibility for still greater improvement in the situation in this sphere” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249542.html>).

Tadeus Ivinsky, a Polish deputy to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the November 2010 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan took place in peaceful circumstances and that this represents a step forward (<http://news.day.az/politics/249567.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party, receives Norwegian Ambassador Erling Skjonsberg (<http://news.day.az/politics/249540.html>).

Thorbjørn Jagland, the secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that “the acceptance of Azerbaijan into our ranks became for us also something very important” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249503.html>).

Audronius Ažubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, says that “the OSCE will support efforts to intensify talks on Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249506.html>).

The International Association of Anti-Corruption Organs has named an Azerbaijani rapporteur (<http://news.day.az/society/249630.html>).

23 January

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that “the European Union recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249398.html>).

Today's Zaman, an English-language newspaper in Turkey, publishes an article entitled “Nagorno-Karabakh: More Dangerous than before” (http://www.todayszaman.com/columnistDetail_getNewsById.action?newsId=233227).

22 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives Taner Yildiz, the Turkish energy and natural resources minister and co-chair of the Joint Inter-governmental Commission (<http://news.day.az/politics/249353.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergey Naryshkin, the head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/249349.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev is named “Man of the Year” by the Romanian journal *Balkanii si Europa* (<http://news.day.az/politics/249360.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Abid Sharifov signs an accord with Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz on cooperation in the discovery and use of mineral resources (<http://news.day.az/economy/249323.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the President's Office, says that the opening of a Russian Information and Culture Center in Baku will promote “the strengthening of relations of the two countries which even now are developing very dynamically” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249297.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the President's Office, says that the upcoming Moscow meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia, “must define the direction of talks” on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/249325.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan regrets the distortions that were introduced on the site of the European Commission concerning the statements of the head of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso when he was in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/249331.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Iran has been trying “for many years” to provoke an Islamic revolution in Azerbaijan and in this way support Armenian aggression (<http://news.day.az/politics/249304.html>).

Sergey Naryshkin, the head of the Russian Presidential Administration, says that “the opening of the Russian-Azerbaijani center in Baku is yet another chance for the development of cooperation between the countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249328.html>).

Stefanos Stefan, the official representative of the government of the Republic of Cyprus, says that Cyprus “stands for observing the territorial integrity of states and supports the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by means of negotiations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249274.html>).

21 January

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive “On the 20th Anniversary of the Restoration of the State Independence of the Azerbaijani Republic” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249224.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov takes part in the Third Summit of Agriculture Ministers in Berlin (<http://news.day.az/economy/249124.html>).

The Foreign Ministry announces that bilateral security consultations between Azerbaijan and the United States slated for February 7 have been postponed (<http://news.day.az/politics/249145.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that various forces are “attempting to make the Caspian a subject of regional problems” (<http://news.day.az/politics/249161.html>).

Suat Kinikliuoglu, a Turkish representative to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO and deputy chairman of the ruling Party of Justice and Development, says that Russia and Turkey plan a new initiative on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/248772.html>).

Fikret Akchura, the resident coordinator of the United Nations for Azerbaijan, speaks to the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy on the development of human capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/249213.html>).

Russia’s Gazprom announces that it will increase its purchases of Azerbaijani gas in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/economy/249234.html>).

20 January

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva lead Azerbaijanis around the world in marking the 21st anniversary of Black January. Many foreign governments send messages of support for this commemoration (<http://news.day.az/politics/248887.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Belgian Ambassador Philippe Jottard on the occasion of the completion of his diplomatic assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/248980.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the world “must know that military actions could be renewed at any moment” if the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is not settled (<http://news.day.az/politics/248928.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a member of the Milli Majlis security and defense committee, says that January 20th was both “a black day in the history of our country and a glorious page in the history of the struggle of the Azerbaijani people for its independence” (<http://news.day.az/politics/248943.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, “it is not worth hoping for international law [alone] in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/248953.html>).

Thorbjørn Jagland, the secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that a decision will be made shortly on the appointment of a new special representative for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/249037.html>).

19 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives incoming ambassadors Sabine Ulmann Shaban from Switzerland and Toyli Komekov from Turkmenistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/248832.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the December 2010 agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey on military and financial cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/248829.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze (<http://news.day.az/politics/248799.html>).

The Milli Majlis confirms the new composition of its delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. That 21-member delegation will be

headed by Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov (<http://news.day.az/politics/248797.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Ottawa, discusses Azerbaijani-Canadian relations with Marianne Matichuk, the mayor of Sudbury (<http://news.day.az/politics/248765.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Cairo, announces that Azerbaijan has been granted observer status in the African Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/248688.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Paris, publishes in *Le Monde* a response to an Armenian article about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/248694.html>).

Igbal Agazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "those guilty of the events of January 20 [1990] should stand before the tribunal in the Hague" (<http://news.day.az/politics/248821.html>).

The Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference adopts a declaration calling on the parliaments of all 51 member states to recognize Hojaly as a crime against humanity (<http://news.day.az/politics/248699.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that "the memory of the victims of January 20th will always live in our hearts" (<http://news.day.az/politics/248813.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrani, Iranian ambassador to Baku, expresses the sympathies of his people to the Azerbaijani nation on the occasion of the January 20th tragedy (<http://news.day.az/politics/248835.html>).

Kestutis Kudzmanas, the Lithuanian ambassador to Baku, visits the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/248866.html>).

Mustafa Akinci, a member of the parliament of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, says that "unless the sides want to resolve the Karabakh conflict on the basis of mutual agreement, no one will be able to help or play any role in its resolution" (<http://news.day.az/politics/248791.html>).

18 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives Army General Necdet Ozel, the commander of the Turkish gendarmerie (<http://news.day.az/politics/248652.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze (<http://news.day.az/politics/248651.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that Azerbaijan's membership in the Council of Europe contributes to Azerbaijan's involvement in the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/248660.html>).

Bahar Muradova, Milli Majlis vice speaker, says that "Lithuania has promised to devote attention to the Karabakh issue" while it is chairman-in-office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/248668.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the Sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Board of Muslims of the Caucasus, receives Russian Ambassador Vladimir Dorokhin who thanks him on behalf of President Dmitry Medvedev for his attention to issues of common concern (<http://news.day.az/politics/248482.html>).

Austrian President Heinz Fischer says that "deepening relations with Azerbaijan has great importance for Austria" (<http://news.day.az/politics/248567.html>).

Birgen Keles, a member of the Turkish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's comments about Turkey's relations with its neighbors as a precondition for membership in the European Union are "an incorrect approach" (<http://news.day.az/politics/248457.html>).

A Bishkek publishing house issues in Russian the first volume of a work entitled Ilham Aliyev—the New National Leader of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/248613.html>).

17 January

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva make an official visit to Latvia where they meet with the Latvian president and other leaders (<http://news.day.az/politics/248414.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Azerbaijani-Latvian Business Forum in Riga that "Azerbaijan and Latvia are fraternal countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/248234.html>).

The Defense Ministry dismisses as baseless Armenian suggestions that Azerbaijan bears responsibility for the increasing number of violations of the ceasefire (<http://news.day.az/politics/248317.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "it is simply ridiculous to speak about the successes of Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/247936.html>).

Azerbaijani diasporas announce that they will seek the repeal of national declarations of the events of 1915 as the genocide of Armenians (<http://news.day.az/politics/248366.html>).

The Armenian military conducts exercises on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/248410.html>).

Gustav Blinks, a Swedish parliamentarian, says that, "it is necessary to involve Turkey in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/248285.html>).

14 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives Marius Vizer, the president of the International Judo Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/247999.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev signs a protocol with EU Commissioner for Energy Guenther Oettinger on the Southern Gas Corridor (<http://news.day.az/economy/247976.html>).

José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, says that "cooperation between the European Union and Azerbaijan will make both sides stronger" (<http://news.day.az/politics/247945.html>).

Zakir Hashimov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Astana, says that relations between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan will reach a new, higher level in 2011 (<http://news.day.az/politics/247851.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, speaks on Azerbaijan to a conference at Stanford University (<http://news.day.az/politics/247897.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the liquidation of ASALA must be a priority (<http://news.day.az/politics/247756.html>).

Azerbaijani prosecutors say that "part of the materials in the case connected with the January 20th tragedy has not been returned by Russia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/247940.html>).

Latvian President Valdis Zatlers says that "Latvia favors the strengthening of relations between the European Union and Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/247852.html>).

Ali Ryza Alaboyun, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Armenia's recent statements and actions "can lead to a renewal of military actions over Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/247836.html>).

The European Union announces that it will transfer 122.5 million euros to Azerbaijan over the next three years for institution-building (<http://news.day.az/economy/248044.html>).

13 January

President Ilham Aliyev and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso sign a joint declaration about the construction of the Southern Gas Corridor (<http://news.day.az/politics/247832.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Pier Luigi Malesani, the chairman of the supervisory board of Euronews, and Philippe Cayla, the executive director of that channel (<http://news.day.az/politics/247731.html>).

Milli Majlis Vice-Speaker Ziyafat Askarov receives Sven Alkalaj, the foreign minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://news.day.az/politics/247800.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov meets with his Italian counterpart in Rome, Alfredo Mantika (<http://news.day.az/politics/247777.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that certain "radical Islamist forces" are attempting to threaten the constitutional order in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/247840.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a member of the Milli Majlis defense and security committee, notes that ASALA was "created by Armenian nationalists" (<http://news.day.az/politics/247609.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Moscow will continue to work through the OSCE Minsk Group to seek a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/247725.html>).

Sven Alkalaj, the foreign minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, says his country is considering opening an embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/247761.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that with their border accord, "Azerbaijan and Russia came to a unique compromise," one

that reflects their standing as strategic partners (<http://news.day.az/politics/247702.html>).

Orkhan Erdem, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that if the war for Karabakh begins again, Turkey will support Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/247550.html>).

12 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sven Alkalaj, the foreign minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://news.day.az/politics/247612.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iranian Oil Minister Seyid Masoud Mir-Kazemi (<http://news.day.az/politics/247590.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence of incoming Swedish Ambassador to Baku Sabina Pulman (<http://news.day.az/politics/247576.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence from incoming Turkmenistan ambassador to Baku, Toili Komekov (<http://news.day.az/politics/247625.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, says that Baku may distribute to the members of the UN copies of the field report of the OSCE Minsk Group concerning its visit to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/247488.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, deputy head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that "the failure of the OSCE summit in Astana" to make progress on the Karabakh conflict is evidence of serious problems in that organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/247491.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the actions of Armenia are "leading to a military solution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/247413.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that a second Karabakh war could begin in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/247380.html>).

The Azerbaijani consulate general in Yekaterinburg releases a second television program on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/247592.html>).

Pope Benedict XVI wishes the Azerbaijani people peace, prosperity and enlightenment in his New Year's message, which the Holy Father handed

over to Elchin Amirbayov, the Azerbaijani ambassador to the Holy See (<http://news.day.az/politics/247546.html>).

Slovak President Ivan Gašparovič says that “Bratislava is interested in intensifying contacts with Baku” (<http://news.day.az/politics/247444.html>).

José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, says that “Azerbaijan is a key partner of the European Union” (<http://news.day.az/politics/247452.html>).

Iranian Oil Minister Seyid Masoud Mir-Kazemi proposes the creation of a joint Iranian-Azerbaijani energy bank (<http://news.day.az/economy/247602.html>).

11 January

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Washington, discusses the further activities of the Azerbaijani diaspora in the United States with members of the leading organizations of that group (<http://news.day.az/politics/247234.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that she has “great hopes” for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict in 2011 (<http://news.day.az/politics/247198.html>).

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheik Naser al-Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah tells visiting Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov that Kuwait wants to establish direct air ties with Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/247254.html>).

The European Court for Human Rights rejects the complaint of Azerbaijani opposition parties about recent elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/247294.html>).

10 January

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheik Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and receives a letter from the Sheik’s father addressed to President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/247079.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, says that “Yerevan’s policies do not allow Armenia to become an independent state” (<http://news.day.az/politics/247040.html>).

Muharrem Varly, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "Armenia can disappear" (<http://news.day.az/politics/246882.html>).

8 January

The Foreign Ministry issues its annual report on Azerbaijan's diplomatic activities for 2010 (<http://news.day.az/politics/246838.html>).

Azerbaijanis living in the Russian Federation say that Russian firms are importing goods produced on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/246934.html>).

7 January

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia no longer has any alternative" but to agree to withdraw from the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/246746.html>).

Ahmet Deniz Bolukbashi, a member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, says that recent diplomatic moves and the economic situation will "force Armenia to choose a wiser way out" of the current impasse over the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/246649.html>).

6 January

The Polish foreign ministry calls on its citizens not to visit the occupied territories without the prior agreement of the Azerbaijani government (<http://news.day.az/politics/246608.html>).

US Representative Virginia Fox of North Carolina says that the Republican majority in the House of Representatives will not allow consideration of the Armenian genocide resolution anytime in the next two years (<http://news.day.az/politics/246610.html>).

Sait Achba, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Armenia is in an ever more difficult position and will have to change its policies in order to get out of it (<http://news.day.az/politics/246497.html>).

5 January

José Manuel Barroso, the president of the European Commission, says that he expects the Nabucco project to be realized (<http://news.day.az/economy/246534.html>).

Redjai Yildizrim, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "Turkey can take Armenia by the throat" if need be and force it to withdraw from the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/246047.html>).

4 January

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that "eventually, Armenia will return the Azerbaijani territories" (<http://news.day.az/politics/246328.html>).

1 January

President Ilham Aliyev greets the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity of the Azerbaijanis of the World and the New Year (<http://news.day.az/politics/246129.html>).

Notes on Editors

Paul Goble is publications advisor at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, where he also co-edits ADA's biweekly online publication *Azerbaijan in the World*. Earlier, he served as vice dean for the social sciences and humanities at Audentes University in Tallinn and a senior research associate at the Euro College of the University of Tartu in Estonia. While there, he launched the *Window on Eurasia* series, which he distributes both as a blog, at <http://www.windowoneurasia.blogspot.com> and via e-list. Prior to joining the faculty there in 2004, he served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the International Broadcasting Bureau, at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as well as other institutions. He writes frequently on ethnic and religious issues and has edited five volumes on ethnicity and religion in the former Soviet space. Trained at Miami University in Ohio and the University of Chicago, he has been decorated by

the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for his work in promoting Baltic independence and the withdrawal of Russian forces from those formerly occupied lands.

Murad Ismayilov holds an MS in International Relations (2009) from the University of Cambridge and an MA in International Relations from the Baku State University (2004). In 2005, he completed a four-month NATO Senior Executive Program at the NATO Studies Center in Bucharest (Romania). He is Program Manager for Research & Publications at Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA). He is also the Editor of ADA's biweekly online publication *Azerbaijan in the World*. His research interests include international relations/political theory (with a focus on constructivist and post-structuralist approaches), energy security, national identity and state-society relations (with a regional focus on Azerbaijan and post-Soviet Eurasia), Euro-Atlantic security, as well as sociology and security of the Middle East. He has authored a number of academic articles and book chapters, including placements in refereed journals and edited volumes.

Notes on Contributors

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Javid Huseynov, Dr. is co-founder and director general of Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), a non-profit Azerbaijani-American grassroots organization based in California, Texas and New York. He holds doctorate in Information & Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine and specializes in online Turkic community advocacy. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Huseynov co-founded, managed or actively participated in a number of online Azerbaijani- and Turkish-American grassroots, including the first Azerbaijani online forum *Yeni Dostlar Network* (1995), the USC-based *Habarlara* newsgroup (1996), and the *Pax Turcica Initiative* (2009). He publishes frequently as freelance analyst for online and printed press in Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey.

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Rauf Garagozov is head of Social Science Department at the International Center for Social Research and leading research fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies of the Caucasus (Baku, Azerbaijan). Currently serving as a member of the Editorial Board of *The Caucasus and Globalization* journal, he has authored over eighty articles, several book chapters and books and was a Fulbright Professor at Washington University in St.-Louis in 2002-2003. He holds a PhD in Psychology from the Moscow State University.

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Tedo Japaridze, Amb. has served at different times as Georgia's ambassador to the United States, that country's national security advisor and foreign minister, Secretary General of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), as well as Alternate Director General at the International Center for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) in Athens.

For Notes

This volume constitutes a hard copy of the biweekly electronic newsletter, *Azerbaijan in the World*, issued by the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy over the year 2011. Like the Academy itself, the publication is guided and inspired by a multi-purpose mission. It is intended to provide training for the next generation of Azerbaijani foreign policy specialists. It is also committed to procreating Azerbaijani scholars capable of producing high quality research and policy-relevant analysis on issues pertinent to Azerbaijan's foreign policy. The publication is meant to provide a powerful platform upon which foreign policy ideas get generated, debated, and communicated further onto a practical realm. It offers a forum for, and looks to encourage, communication not only within the Azerbaijan foreign policy and academic community, but more broadly as well.

A special section of the book, *Chronology*, covers key developments in Azerbaijan's interaction with the world, including official, working and state visits, as well as public statements and milestone events. Such chronologies become more valuable overtime, and this volume is the fourth in a long series that will help practitioners and scholars in Azerbaijan and elsewhere keep track of Azerbaijan's foreign policy development.