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School of International Affairs and Business

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**THE SOUTH TYROL MODEL:
IS IT RELEVANT FOR THE SOUTH CAUCASUS?**

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In June, the Center for Strategic Research attached to the President of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Italian Institute for Foreign Relations organized a conference in Baku on "National Minorities in Europe: The South Tyrol Model and Its Relation to the Caucasus," the latest of a long series of efforts to draw on European autonomy efforts to help resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. [1]

Farhad Mammadov, the director of the Center for Strategic Research, welcomed the participants and explained that the basic requirements for the resolution of the

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were the withdrawal of Armenian occupiers from Azerbaijani lands and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Then, Roberto Toniatti of the Italian University of Trento described the history of the South Tyrol conflict and the way it had been peacefully resolved. Finally, Gulshan Pashayeva, the deputy director of the Baku Center, described the ways in which the Nagorno-Karabakh and South Tyrol problems are both similar and different.

Until 1918, South Tyrol was part of the Austro-Hungarian county of Tyrol, but in the wake of World War I, it was annexed by Italy under the terms of the Treaty of Saint-Germain. This German-speaking region was subject to an intense "Italianization" campaign during the fascist regime of Mussolini, a campaign that provoked underground resistance by German speakers. In 1939, under an agreement between German dictator Adolf Hitler and his Italian counterpart Benito Mussolini, residents of the South Tyrol could either emigrate or accept complete Italianization. Those who remained were viewed by other German speakers as traitors to Italy, while those who departed in order to save their Germanness were denounced as Nazis.

After World War II, Italy and Austria signed an agreement which kept the South Tyrol in Italy but explicitly recognized the rights of the German minority. German became the second language of the region, but because Rome drew the borders in such a way that Italians were the majority, the ethnic Germans were not able to govern themselves. That provoked a resistance movement, which, in the form of the Befreiungsausschuss Sudtirol, turned to violence in the 1950s and 1960s. The United Nations took up the issue in 1960, and Italy and Austria launched initially unsuccessful talks in 1961.

Finally, the two countries agreed in 1969 on a new settlement, one that changed the borders of the South Tyrol so that there would be a local majority of German speakers and allowed any disputes between that local majority and Rome to be settled by the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Under the terms of the accord, which in the event was not fully implemented until 1992, the South Tyrol has considerable autonomy, retaining nearly 90 percent of its tax revenue and organizing a rotation of government offices between the two communities on a regular basis.

As a result of this accord, separatist passions have cooled, and South Tyrol today is the wealthiest of Italy's provinces. Its special status has been reinforced by the creation after 1995 of a Euroregion, which links the Italian state of South Tyrol to the Austrian state of Tyrol and establishes a special joint Tyrolean parliament while retaining Italian sovereignty over the South Tyrol.

Given Italy's success in ending separatism by granting wide autonomy, it is no surprise that many in the Caucasus have wanted to consider this model. There are obvious lessons to be learned—even with the best will in the world, resolving such complex controversies and developing genuine autonomy take a long time. But the differences between the two, particularly the presence of Armenian forces on Azerbaijani territory and the lack of any overarching international organization in the South Caucasus, likely mean that the South Tyrol, like most other European autonomy projects, will be at best suggestive rather than a road map toward the resolution of the longstanding Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Notes

[1] For a survey of these efforts, see Elkhan Shahinogly, "Applicability of European Autonomy models to Nagorno-Karabakh," 2011, available at <http://hca-anc.org/en/?p=1184> (accessed 14 June 2012).

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

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

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Acting in correspondence with these documents, the Peoples Commissariat of International Affairs on December 6, 1920, sent the Central Committee of the RKP(b) proposals concerning certain aspects of the treaty being prepared for Turkey. The latter covered the issues of the recognition of the independence of Armenia and Georgia, the historical-ethnographic context of the definition of the borders with Turkey, Russia's careful engagement with the Entente, an effort to leave Batumi to Georgia, and the like. The Peoples Commissariat of International Affairs wrote to the Central Committee that, "Care must be exercised so that mutual assistance against England will not be openly specified in the treaty. It must in general terms define the future fraternal relations between two states the way this has already been done in our draft with Bekir Sami. In addition, there ought to be an exchange of secret notes, which also have been worked up with Bekir Sami, containing mutual promises to inform one another in the case of any change in relations to the Entente. This draft has already been approved by Bekir Sami and will not compromise us before England." [1] On the same day, the Russian Peoples Commissariat of International Affairs received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey a note clarifying positions regarding Georgia. Ahmet Mukhtar-bey communicated to Chicherin that the Georgian government had expressed the desire to begin negotiations with Turkey in order to define relations in correspondence with the borders defined by the treaty with Russia of May 7, 1920. Ahmet Mukhtar-bey asked Soviet Russia to express its views on this issue and send to Ankara the text of the treaty signed with Georgia on May 7, 1920. [2] The Turks had made a similar request through Mdivani on November 22, but that request had ultimately failed to reach its addressee.

While B. Shakhtakhtinsky was in Gumri, he was able to talk with Kazym-pasha and other Turkish representatives and to discuss the Nakhchivan issue. Both sides considered appropriate the conclusion of a treaty between Azerbaijan and Turkey. On December 7, Shakhtakhtinsky wrote to Niza Davud Huseynov, the peoples commissar of international relations of Azerbaijan, that, "The Turks do not deny the possibility of concluding in the future some sort of agreement with the Entente and therefore want Nakhchivan district, part of Sharur-Daralagez district and the Maka khanate to be formed into a self-administering unit, which in the case of the

conclusion of an agreement with the Entente must serve as a base for Turkish fighters who will have to continue the anti-Entente struggle in the East. We suggested that it would be appropriate to select a base for the goal indicated above in Bayazet *sanjak* and Van *vilayat*. This issue remains open, and Moscow and the Turks will solve it. In order to finally clarify the physiognomy of the Turks, I proposed developing with them a draft agreement with Azerbaijan to which Kazym-pasha give his agreement. I offered him a draft of an agreement which he accepted and sent on by telegraph to Ankara ... Kazym-pasha is certain that Ankara will not have anything against such an agreement ... Among all the major Turkish officials, Karabekir clearly stands out, and I have no doubt that we will be able to work with Kazym-pasha and attract him to our side if at some point the National Assembly wants to throw itself into the embrace of the Entente. He asked me to recommend to him one of the outstanding communist leaders who has taken a close part in the affairs of the East with whom he would like to enter into correspondence and develop the closest friendship. I indicated Comrade Stalin to whom, it appears, he is drafting a letter. It is possible that he will head a delegation, which must come to Moscow for the conclusion of a treaty." [3]

The draft of an agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey, which Kazym-pasha sent to Ankara and B. Shakhtakhtinsky sent to Baku consisted of seven points. According to the first point, "Revolutionary Turkey and Soviet Azerbaijan" are obligated to direct all their efforts against the Entente until the complete liberation of the peoples of the East; according to the second point, if Turkey for one or another reason is forced into an agreement with the Entente, it all the same must by secret paths through its emissaries defend the revolutionary East; according to the third point, if Turkey enters into an agreement with the Entente, then it must provide Azerbaijan with a necessary number of fighters, the expenses of which Azerbaijan will bear; the fourth point contained Azerbaijani obligations to support the national-liberation movement only when the population of the revolutionary areas require it; in correspondence with the fifth point, without the agreement of Turkey, Azerbaijan during the entire time of the revolution in the East does not have the right to enter into an agreement with the Entente; according to the sixth point, in the case of an attack by the Entente, Turkey is obligated to help Azerbaijan; and according to the seventh point, during revolutionary times in the East, Azerbaijan is required to supply Turkey with oil and oil products in an amount to be set by a mixed commission. [4] However, following consultations, Soviet Russia considered impermissible the conclusion of a direct agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey. G. Chicherin sent telegrams to G. Ordzhonikidze on December 8 and to Budu Mdivani and Kazym Karabekir-pasha on December 9, in which he stated that Azerbaijani representatives were to take part in the Moscow conference as part of the Soviet delegation. [5] The Soviet leaders considered that "the decisive word in Moscow will belong to the Soviet government." [6] The Turks insisted on conducting negotiations in Baku, but G. Chicherin did not agree citing the fact that as commissar of international affairs he could not remain away from his post for long. [7]

Even after the Turks gave agreement to talks in Moscow, G. Chicherin was careful with the Kemalists. He was particularly concerned by "the extraordinarily large power of traditional national-Turkish survivals among the Kemalists." In his opinion, these survivals and occupation-prone attitudes on the part of the Kemalists could transform themselves into support of the Musavatists and anti-Soviet elements in the North Caucasus. He wrote that "our policy has therefore as one of its goals the political strengthening of the left Kemalists against the rightist ones, that is the strengthening of those elements which are clearly oriented towards us in opposition

to those who still have strong nationalistic, religious and imperialist tendencies directed against us and connected with the old policy of compensation in the Caucasus." [8] G. Chicherin instructed Sh. Eliava to defend the Armenians by all means: "The role of mediator which earlier we wanted to take upon ourselves in relations between Turkey and the dashnaks must belong to us to a still greater degree in the case of relations between the Turks and Soviet Armenia. The basic interests of communist as a world force require that we do not throw to the risk of fate a newly formed Soviet Republic." [9] In a letter to Turkish Minister Ahmet Mukhtar-bey, G. Chicherin acknowledged that Dashnak Armenia had shown cruelty to the Turkish population and understood the sensitivity and reaction of the Turkish command to this. At the same time, he wrote that the Soviet government is certain that "the Turkish army will immediately cleanse the Aleksandropol district and all other points located to the north and east of Kars oblast" and finally establish the Armenian-Turkish border. [10] As far as the Georgian question was concerned, G. Chicherin related to Sh. Eliava that, "our policy in relation to Georgia must in these circumstances be even more cautious. The question about Batumi has special importance for us. This is a commercial outlet for Baku and is at the same time the strongest base for a possible attack on Baku, so that the question about Batumi is in essence a question about Baku ... If Georgia doesn't conduct an unfriendly policy toward us and does not together with the Entente prepare an attack on Baku or interfere with our supply of Armenia with bread and oil, then the future existence of this kind of a bourgeois Georgia, one at least more or less positively if passively related to us, is an acceptable combination." [11]

Following the change of power in Armenia, Soviet Russia devoted much effort to having Turkey denounce the Aleksandropol treaty. However, Kazym-pasha was categorical in his response: "The Turkish people have suffered so many victims and will never agree to this and will not understand why it is necessary to make concessions to the Armenians who have brought them so much evil. This is especially impossible now, when it is still not clear what the Armenian Soviet power represents, when the Dashnaks are still not liquidated, and when there are such persons in power as Dro who are hated by the Turks." [12] Kazym-pasha was of the opinion that the Dashnaks were hiding behind the curtain of Soviet power and that wealthy Armenians were waiting abroad for a time when they could continue their work. K. Karabekir-pasha considered that as a minimum it was necessary to watch Armenia closely for a year and observe its behavior. The Turkish side, therefore, did not trust the communist powers of Armenia. In the middle of December, Budu Mdivani reported to I. Stalin and Sergo Ordzhonikidze that, "the Turks do not believe that the change in power in Armenia will lead to any changes; they think that Dashnaks in Soviet masks will continue their previously effected policies." [13] In fact, the Turks considered the formation of Soviet Armenia and its friendly relations with Moscow as an obstacle raised by Soviet Russia on the path of Turkey to the Muslim countries of the Caucasus. [14]

However, despite such distrust, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, several days after the conclusion of the Aleksandropol treaty, announced the composition of the Turkish delegation for travel to Moscow with a view toward concluding a treaty with Soviet Russia. In the delegation were Economics Minister Yusif Kamal-bey, Education Minister Riza Nur-bey, and Ali Fuad Jebesoy, who had been appointed ambassador to Moscow on November 20. On December 14, the delegation left Ankara, and difficult talks in the capital of the new Russia awaited it. Such is the historical truth of the events, which unfolded in Russian-Turkish relations during the period of the Sovietization of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

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

Notes

- [1] Letter of the Peoples Commissariat of International Affairs to the Central Committee of the RKP(b), 6 December 1920, *Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Federation* (hereafter FPA RF), f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 53001, l. 9.
- [2] Letter of Ahmet Mukhtar-bey to G. Chicherin, 6 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 52987, l. 62.
- [3] Telegram of B. Shakhtakhtinsky to M.D. Huseynov, 7 December 1920, *Russian State Archive of Social-Political History* (hereafter RSASPH), f. 85, op. 13, d. 143, l. 1.
- [4] Draft of an agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey, 7 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 53001, l. 78; *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 13, d. 143, l. 1 ob.
- [5] See the telegram of G. Chicherin to G. Ordzhonikidze, 8 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 53001, l. 71; *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 52, l. 1 ob; the telegram of G. Chicherin to P. Mdivani and K. Karabekir-pasha, 9 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 52, l. 10-10 ob.
- [6] Telegram of G. Ordzhonikidze to V. Lenin, 8 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 5, op. 1, d. 2178, l. 34.
- [7] See *The Documents of the USSR Foreign Policy*, in Russian, vol. III, Moscow, 1960, pp. 391-392.
- [8] Letter of G. Chicherin to Sh. Eliava, 14 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 52987, l. 65.
- [9] Letter of G. Chicherin to Sh. Eliava, 14 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 52987, l. 66.
- [10] Letter of G. Chicherin to Ahmet Mukhtar-bey, December 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 52987, l. 83-84.
- [11] Letter of G. Chicherin to Sh. Eliava, 14 December 1920, *FPA RF*, f. 04, op. 39, p. 232, d. 52987, l. 67.
- [12] Telegram of P. Mdivani to I. Stalin and G. Ordzhonikidze, Copy to B. Legran, 5 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 50, l. 6.
- [13] See the telegram of B. Mdivani to I. Stalin and G. Ordzhonikidze, 15 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 85, op. 14, d. 50, l. 20.
- [14] See the letter of B. Legran to G. Chicherin, 22 December 1920, *RSASPH*, f. 05, op. 01, d. 2127, l. 05.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that he is convinced that bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Russia and the strategic partnership of the two countries "will strengthen and intensively develop to the benefit of [their] peoples, and in the interests of peace, security and progress in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337765.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijan can "play the role of an inter-civilizational and inter-religious bridge within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335795.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee on Work with Religious Organizations, says that "the most dangerous" of the problems his group faces are "the attempts of foreign states to use religion for political goals" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336027.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that the United States "closely cooperates with Azerbaijan on energy security" and that "this is a common strategic interest for both countries and one of the global problems of our time" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336774.html>).

Turkey's President Abdulla Gul says that, "God willing, all the Azerbaijani lands occupied by Armenia will be liberated, all the past will be mutually forgotten, and the Caucasus will become a large window between Asia and Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337405.html>).

Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze says that, "the new format of Georgian-Azerbaijani-Turkish cooperation is not directed against any third country" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337437.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

15 June

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov says, on the occasion of the Day of National Salvation, that Heydar Aliyev saved the state independence of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/338563.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, speaks to a conference in the Russian capital devoted to the Day of National Salvation of Azerbaijan and the Day of Russia (<http://news.day.az/politics/338479.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says the selection of Astana as the cultural capital of the CIS and the Turkic world this year highlights the large role of Kazakhstan in Eurasian integration processes (<http://news.day.az/society/338631.html>).

Namig Abbasov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tashkent, speaks to a reception on the Day of National Salvation (<http://news.day.az/politics/338632.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in London sends a letter to the British Foreign Office expressing its concern about the reception of Armenian separatists from Nagorno-Karabakh by British parliamentarians (<http://news.day.az/politics/338627.html>).

Nasimi Aghayev, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, meets with John Sanchez, vice governor of the US state of New Mexico (<http://news.day.az/politics/338579.html>).

The Azerbaijani Community of Lithuania issues a statement condemning Armenia's escalation of tensions around Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/338577.html>).

The third plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Language Countries issues the Bishkek Declaration calling for the development of closer ties among these countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/338586.html>).

Prince Khalid bin Saud bin Khalid Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's deputy foreign minister, says that the international community must increase its pressure on Armenia in order to force Yerevan to withdraw from occupied Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/338565.html>).

14 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says the first requirement for a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/338357.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the issue of Russia's lease on the Gabala radar station will be resolved before the end of 2012 (<http://news.day.az/politics/338360.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence of incoming Indian Ambassador Vinod Kumar (<http://news.day.az/politics/338452.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Pedro Agramunt and Joseph Debono Grech, the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/338283.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev speaks to a Chinese-Azerbaijani business forum (<http://news.day.az/economy/338414.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov receives José Graziano da Silva, director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, who says that the FAO is planning to

open an office in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/338381.html>).

Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Berlin, speaks to a German business forum about investment opportunities in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/338289.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, heads the Azerbaijani delegation to the Bishkek session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Language Countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/338349.html>).

Bahar Muradova, a Milli Majlis deputy, tells Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, that Azerbaijan is inviting the OSCE to send monitors for the 2013 presidential election (<http://news.day.az/politics/338291.html>).

The Defense Ministry says Armenian statements about Azerbaijani losses on the ceasefire line are inaccurate (<http://news.day.az/politics/338296.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that the situation along the ceasefire line remains "tense" (<http://news.day.az/politics/338251.html>).

Azerbaijani railway officials say the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars line will open in 2012 (<http://news.day.az/economy/338416.html>).

Orkhan Akbarov is named chairman of the coordination council of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic (<http://news.day.az/society/338301.html>).

Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be the focus of his talks when he comes to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/338351.html>).

Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, tells Bahar Muradova, a Milli Majlis deputy, that it is important that Azerbaijan adopts a law on defamation, because such laws exist in the other countries of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/338304.html>).

Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, meets with the leaders of Azerbaijan's political parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/338286.html>).

Richard Morningstar, whom US President Barack Obama has nominated to be US ambassador to Baku, says at his Senate confirmation hearing as US ambassador to Baku that "the general interests of Azerbaijan correspond with the priorities of US foreign policy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/338240.html>).

13 June

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is named "First Lady of the Year" by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/338203.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov attends the opening of a new building of the Azerbaijani embassy in the Hague (<http://news.day.az/politics/338163.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Ian Hill, New Zealand's ambassador to Moscow who is also accredited to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/338225.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Peter Tomka, president of the International Court of Justice (<http://news.day.az/politics/338159.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Rene van der Linden, the Netherlands' special envoy for energy issues of the Caspian region, Turkey and Russia (<http://news.day.az/politics/338144.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Ahmet Üzümcü, director general of the Organization for Prohibiting Chemical Weapons (<http://news.day.az/politics/338024.html>).

Transportation Minister Ziya Mammadov says that, "the integration of Azerbaijan into the world economy will bring positive results" (<http://news.day.az/economy/338125.html>).

Ali Huseynli, a Milli Majlis deputy, receives Pedro Agramunt and Joseph Debono Grech, the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/338212.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, receives Pedro Agramunt and Joseph Debono Grech, the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/338142.html>).

Ramiz Rzayev, chairman of the Supreme Court, receives Pedro Agramunt and Joseph Debono Grech, the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/338055.html>).

The Environment and Natural Resources Ministry says that Armenia and Georgia continue to pollute the Kura River (<http://news.day.az/society/338088.html>).

Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, says that he has "no intention to make a visit to Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/338209.html>).

Egemen Bagis, Turkey's minister for European Union affairs, says that Ankara hopes Paris will "become more active" in seeking a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/338178.html>).

Rachida Dati, former French justice minister, says that Azerbaijan has "a very open approach to the construction of relations with Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/338197.html>).

Richard Kozlarich, former US ambassador to Baku, says that the renewal of a war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh is "improbable, but there is all the same a risk" (<http://news.day.az/politics/338081.html>).

The International Exhibition YOSU EXPO-2012 in South Korea marks the National Day of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/338227.html>).

Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, says that the most important aspect of his upcoming visit to Baku will be progress toward the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/337899.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says, "Russia will continue to assist the sides to find ways of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that this issue remains one of the priorities of Moscow" (<http://news.day.az/politics/338010.html>).

Róza Nagy, state secretary of the Hungarian economy ministry, says that Hungary and Azerbaijan should create joint enterprises in various spheres (<http://news.day.az/economy/338103.html>).

12 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Mark Rutte, prime minister of the Netherlands (<http://news.day.az/politics/337999.html>).

Zakir Garalov, procurator general of Azerbaijan, meets with Pedro Agramunt and Joseph Debono Grech, the co-rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/337988.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that continuing violations of the ceasefire by Armenia are part of an attempt to force Azerbaijan to join the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty and the Eurasian Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/337894.html>).

Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, says that progress toward a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is "one of the priorities" of Ireland's chairmanship (<http://news.day.az/politics/337806.html>).

Prince Khalid bin Saud bin Khalid Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's deputy foreign minister, meets in Baku with the ambassadors of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/337949.html>).

Róza Nagy, state secretary of the Hungarian economy ministry, visits Baku and says that Budapest plans to open a trade representation in the Azerbaijani capital this fall (<http://news.day.az/economy/337987.html>).

11 June

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, meets with officials of the United Nations, UNICEF and UNEP in Geneva (<http://news.day.az/politics/337781.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Maxime Verhagen, deputy prime minister of the Netherlands (<http://news.day.az/politics/337777.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Bekir Kaloncu, commander of the Turkish Corps of Gendarmes (<http://news.day.az/society/337725.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev takes part in the Belgrade ministerial of the Organization of Black Sea Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/337241.html>).

Deputy Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov says that Germany is interested in direct investments in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/337665.html>).

Representatives of the Defense Ministry take part in discussions with NATO officials in Brussels in the 28-plus-one format (<http://news.day.az/politics/337583.html>).

Tamerlan Garayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Jakarta, meets with Hatta Rajasa, Indonesian coordinating minister for economic affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/337747.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Azerbaijan is interested in a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and will not be drawn astray by Armenian provocations (<http://news.day.az/politics/337672.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "a quite strong Azerbaijani diaspora" has taken shape in Israel (<http://news.day.az/politics/337738.html>).

Farhad Hajiyev, executive director of the Youth Foundation of Azerbaijan, participates in a session of the Council of Europe committee on youth affairs (<http://news.day.az/society/337702.html>).

An Azerbaijani court sentences Anar Bayramly, an Iranian television correspondent in Baku, to two years imprisonment for narcotics violations (<http://news.day.az/society/337739.html>).

Nino Kalandadze, Georgia's deputy foreign minister, says the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict does not serve to promote stability in the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/337678.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that talks about the future status of the Gabala radar station continue, but that he is not prepared to speculate on their final outcome (<http://news.day.az/politics/337617.html>).

Rainer Lindner, executive director of the Eastern Committee of the German Economy, says in Baku that trade turnover between Germany and Azerbaijan has reached 2.3 billion euros (3 billion US dollars) a year (<http://news.day.az/economy/337664.html>).

10 June

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that, "Azerbaijan, during its presidency of the UN Security Council, showed that its friends who believed in it were not mistaken" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337487.html>).

Cardinal Fernando Filone says in Baku that, "there is religious tolerance in Azerbaijan and that this is beautiful" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337548.html>).

9 June

Novruz Mammadov, head of the international relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the detention of two Azerbaijani writers by Iranian officials "is a small episode, but it is a constituent part of state policy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337453.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that an Azerbaijani entrepreneur intends to purchase land in Kars for intermodal transit of goods (<http://news.day.az/economy/337475.html>).

Aytan Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Armenia is stealing the national wealth of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/337362.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Baku will host a conference on "Azerbaijani-Iraqi Cultural Ties: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (<http://news.day.az/society/337452.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, visits Ingushetia and Tatarstan (<http://news.day.az/society/337250.html>).

Zafer Caglayan, Turkey's economics minister, says Ankara does not intend to establish diplomatic or economic ties with Armenia until Yerevan ends the occupation of Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/337457.html>).

Catherine Ashton, supreme representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy, expresses concern about armed clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/337389.html>).

Toyli Komekov, Turkmenistan's ambassador to Baku, hosts a reception on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/337479.html>).

8 June

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that, "the Armenians in recent days have become more active on the front line in connection with the visit to the region of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337127.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish and Georgian counterparts in Trabzon and says cooperation among the three countries "serves peace and stability in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337312.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov receives Horst Schnellhardt, a member of the European Parliament, who tells him that the situation along the ceasefire line is "disturbing" to Europeans (<http://news.day.az/politics/337302.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov receives Eduard Lintner, a former member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, who says that Europe views the

Nagorno-Karabakh problem "as its own problem"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337277.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov receives members of the European Parliament and the German Bundestag (<http://news.day.az/economy/337296.html>).

Deputy Taxation Minister Sahib Alakparov hosts the 19th session of the Coordination Council of Heads of CIS Country Tax Services
(<http://news.day.az/economy/337168.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says there is no need for general mobilization
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337162.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says the flight of a Russian ballistic missile observed by Azerbaijanis represents an effort by Moscow to improve its military capabilities
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337154.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says the number of Azerbaijani diaspora organizations around the world has reached 450
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337086.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that the dissemination of false information has become "the main goal of the leadership of Armenia, which is trying to escape the situation that was created after the armed provocation of this country on the line of the front"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337167.html>).

The Defense Ministry says there is "no need" for mobilization
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337313.html>).

Vahdat Sultanzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Ashgabat, says the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan is a significant milestone in the centuries-long relationship of the two fraternal peoples
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337098.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, meets with leaders of Lithuania's universities (<http://news.day.az/society/337279.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, a Milli Majlis deputy, heads a parliamentary delegation to the second congress of the International Azerbaijan-Israel Association in Tel Aviv
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337153.html>).

The Administration for Muslims of the Caucasus says that Azerbaijanis going on the hajj this year will be able to make the pilgrimage only by air
(<http://news.day.az/society/337247.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that, "Turkey will devote all its efforts to the liberation of Azerbaijani lands from occupation"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/337275.html>).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman says that Azerbaijan has always dealt with Jews "as friends and brothers" and that relations between their two countries are "at

a high level" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337086.html>).

Fikret Akchura, UN resident coordinator in Baku, expresses concern about the deterioration in the situation along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/337183.html>).

Levan Varshalomidze, head of Georgia's Autonomous Republic of Adjara, visits Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/337147.html>).

Roland Kobia, the European Union's representative in Baku, says that the EU is "disturbed" by the increase in tensions along the ceasefire line and by the increase in the number of victims there (<http://news.day.az/politics/337152.html>).

Roland Kobia, chief representative of the European Union in Baku, says that, "the EU devotes great attention to the problems of children who have become internally displaced persons" (<http://news.day.az/society/337204.html>).

William Lahue, NATO Liaison Officer on South Caucasus Region, says that the Western alliance regrets the increase in tensions along the ceasefire line and hopes that this development will not lead to destabilization (<http://news.day.az/politics/337113.html>).

Kayrat Mami, chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan, says that trade between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan reached 300 million US dollars in 2011 and that 130,000 Azerbaijanis now live in Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/economy/337130.html>).

7 June

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov signs a cooperation agreement with his Latvian counterpart, Laimdota Straujum (<http://news.day.az/economy/336960.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to Baku shows that "the US devotes particular importance to cooperation with Azerbaijan, that these ties have a strategic character, and that the US is satisfied with its fruitful cooperation with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337019.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the authorities in Iran are taking steps that create problems in Tehran's relationship with Baku and that Azerbaijan will "undoubtedly have an adequate reaction" to them (<http://news.day.az/politics/337036.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian leaders "love to make empty declarations" in order to conceal their failures (<http://news.day.az/politics/337028.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Yerevan "bears full responsibility" for the deaths of Azerbaijani soldiers on the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/337064.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Yerevan is engaging in disinformation to cover the failure of its policies at home and abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/337048.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan's ombudsman, tells Adam Sterling, US charge

d'affaires in Baku, that the US State Department's annual Human Rights Report "does not completely reflect the situation" in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/337071.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, meets with Israeli President Shimon Peres who says that Israel "highly values" its friendship with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/337068.html>).

Lt.Gen. Elchin Guliyev, commander of Azerbaijan's border forces, is presented the St. George Medal by the Hungarian Interior Minister Sándor Pintér (<http://news.day.az/politics/336986.html>).

Bahar Muradova, deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Armenian violations of the ceasefire have a negative impact on the negotiation process (<http://news.day.az/politics/337050.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Freedom House reflects the views of the Armenian lobby and prepares "unobjective" reports (<http://news.day.az/politics/336950.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian attacks along the ceasefire line are connected to the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to the region and are directed against American interests in the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/336866.html>).

Khady Radzhabli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the creation of a legal basis for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons is "an important task" (<http://news.day.az/politics/337040.html>).

The French foreign ministry says that it is deeply disturbed by the armed clashes on the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/336967.html>).

Günter Verheugen, former EU commissioner for enterprise and industry and vice president of the European Commission, says that, "Azerbaijan is a strategic partner of Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336864.html>).

The Egyptian government appoints Tarik Abu Sin to be its news ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/337008.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be resolved by a return to the status quo ante (<http://news.day.az/politics/336975.html>).

Kayrat Mami, speaker of the Senate of Kazakhstan, says that, "relations between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are developing dynamically" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336979.html>).

6 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (<http://news.day.az/politics/336812.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Rene van der Linden, the Netherlands' special envoy

for energy issues of the Caspian region, Turkey and Russia
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336820.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that problems between Azerbaijan and Iran "will be solved"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336800.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev discusses military cooperation with General Hairi Kivrikolu, commander of Turkish land forces, and Hulusi Kilic, Turkey's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/336761.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia media reports about huge losses on the Azerbaijani side of the ceasefire line are incorrect
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336803.html>).

Tamerlan Garayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Jakarta, Singapore, Manila and Timor, meets with Marzuki Ali, speaker of the Indonesian parliament
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336706.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with the Malaysian delegation to the Second World Women's Summit and calls for women's groups around the world to condemn Armenia vandalism in the occupied territories
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336716.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that the United States "closely cooperates with Azerbaijan on energy security" and that "this is a common strategic interest for both countries and one of the global problems of our time"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336774.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko says that the resolution of problems like the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "unfortunately requires not one year and quite frequently not one decade," but that Kyiv hopes to use its presidency of the OSCE to push the process forward (<http://news.day.az/politics/336762.html>).

Günther Oettinger, European Union commissioner for energy, says that the EU considers Azerbaijan a key partner in the region
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336687.html>).

The Turkish foreign ministry says that Ankara is "disturbed by the escalation of tensions" along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/336645.html>).

Daniel Stein, senior adviser to the U.S. State Department's special envoy for Eurasian energy, says that the US is interested in energy security and a stable Europe, but that "unfortunately several countries of Europe depend only on a single export source" (<http://news.day.az/economy/336707.html>).

Arvidas Sakmokas, Lithuanian energy minister, says that Vilnius is interested in purchasing Azerbaijani gas via swap arrangements
(<http://news.day.az/economy/336690.html>).

Ed Holder, a member of the Canadian Parliament, says that Ottawa should mark the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336737.html>).

The Council of Aksakkals of the Turkish World meets in Baku
(<http://news.day.az/society/336770.html>).

5 June

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "Azerbaijan conducts a policy of good will in the energy and gas sector" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336484.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives a delegation from the British House of Lords
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336616.html>).

President Ilham Alyev receives former German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (<http://news.day.az/politics/336616.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish General Hairi Kivrikoglu
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336616.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan's ambassador in Tehran is seeking the release of two Azerbaijani citizens detained by Iran
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336512.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov meets with his Turkish counterpart Idris Naim Shahin
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336550.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that changes in the international price of oil and its fall below 100 US dollars a barrel "do not represent a threat to the Azerbaijani budget" (<http://news.day.az/economy/336459.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia's latest diversion on the ceasefire line "is a clear example of the destructive policy which that country has pursued for many years" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336515.html>).

Ambassador Eleonora Huseynova, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to UNESCO, is elected president of that body's General Assembly
(<http://news.day.az/society/336456.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party and a Milli Majlis deputy, says that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to the South Caucasus "will be very important for peace and security in the region"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336633.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian attacks along the ceasefire line are connected with the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
(<http://news.day.az/politics/336536.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that his organization is ready to have dialogue with all non-radical religious communities (<http://news.day.az/politics/336511.html>).

Officials of Azerbaijan's armed forces receive NATO officials to discuss the joint action plan for military education (<http://news.day.az/politics/336574.html>).

Baku hosts the 40th ministerial of the Organization of Railway Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/336227.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that Islam must be armed "not with rockets but with science" (<http://news.day.az/society/336546.html>).

US President Barack Obama sends a message of greetings to the conference on Oil, Gas, Oil and Petroleum Processing in Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/336638.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that the United States and the OSCE Minsk Group "are doing everything to ensure that the Nagorno-Karabakh issue will be resolved" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336442.html>).

Andorran Foreign Minister Gilbert Saboya says that his country "positively evaluates all UN resolutions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336243.html>).

Peter Bateman, the United Kingdom's ambassador to Baku, and Adam Sterling, US charge d'affaires in the Azerbaijani capital, host a joint meeting on the Baku international conference on Oil, Gas, Petroleum Processing and the Petrochemical Industry of the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/economy/336637.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, says the OIC "does not accept and cannot agree to Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and its occupation of Azerbaijani lands" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336494.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko says that Kyiv and Baku must expand their already high level of cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/336518.html>).

Former German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher says that, "Azerbaijan is a guarantor of stability in the South Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336641.html>).

4 June

President Ilham Aliyev sends a message of greetings to the participants of the 19th International exhibition and Conference on Oil, Gas, Petroleum Processing and Petroleum Chemistry of the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/336419.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko (<http://news.day.az/politics/336324.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Andorran Foreign Minister Gilbert Saboya (<http://news.day.az/politics/336324.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/336324.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs an order on the creation of an organizational committee to promote Baku's candidacy to hold the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games (<http://news.day.az/politics/336427.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Jorge Roballo, incoming Argentinian charge d'affaires in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/336424.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that Azerbaijan "is well known in the world as a reliable partner," a country in which there is "guaranteed political and macro-economic stability, stable economic development and a favorable investment and business milieu" (<http://news.day.az/economy/336368.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Yerevan's claims about Armenian deaths along the ceasefire line are untrue (<http://news.day.az/politics/336337.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, says the Eurovision competition in Baku is "an example of how far Azerbaijan has advanced forward" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336229.html>).

Deputy Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov says that Azerbaijan's stable economic growth and improved investment climate are attracting "ever greater interest" from foreign investors (<http://news.day.az/economy/336274.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's visit to Baku is "in the first instance an indication of the political, economic and diplomatic authority of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336346.html>).

Gunay Efendiyeva, a senior UNESCO official, says that Azerbaijan is "an important partner" for UNESCO (<http://news.day.az/society/336294.html>).

US Congressman Trent Franks expresses his thanks to Azerbaijan for its cooperation with the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/336347.html>).

3 June

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov visits Austria and Slovakia (<http://news.day.az/politics/336101.html>).

Vagif Sadykhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Rome, takes part in an Italian defense ministry roundtable on the interests of Azerbaijan and Italy in the Caucasus and the Middle East (<http://news.day.az/politics/336151.html>).

Sabir Aghabekov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tunis, hosts a reception on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/336149.html>).

Gular Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, leads an Azerbaijani parliamentary delegation to Prague to consult with Czech parliamentarians (<http://news.day.az/politics/336090.html>).

2 June

The Foreign Ministry says that the European Union must begin its assessment of the South Caucasus by recognizing that what exists in that region is the result of

Armenian aggression (<http://news.day.az/politics/336093.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan fully met its tasks as chairman of the UN Security Council in May (<http://news.day.az/politics/336104.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee on Work with Religious Organizations, says that "the most dangerous" of the problems his group faces are "the attempts of foreign states to use religion for political goals" (<http://news.day.az/politics/336027.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee on Work with Religious Organizations, says that technical details are being worked on on the construction of a Turkish mosque in Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/336033.html>).

Sahiba Gafarova, a Milli Majlis deputy, participates in a session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on gender equality (<http://news.day.az/politics/336088.html>).

The US Department of State annual report on counter-narcotics praises Azerbaijan for its rapid development and cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/336060.html>).

US Congressmen Bill Shuster and Dan Boren, co-chairs of the Congressional Azerbaijan working group, issue statements on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335996.html>).

1 June

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia's policy of occupation has been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations (<http://news.day.az/politics/335786.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to UN Secretary General Pan Gi-moon describing the ways in which Armenia violates the rights of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/335743.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, hosts a reception on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335751.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City, hosts a reception on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335879.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijan can "play the role of an inter-civilizational and inter-religious bridge within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335795.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, speaks to a meeting on the Day of the Republic at the Azerbaijani embassy in Athens (<http://news.day.az/politics/336301.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Brussels hosts a reception on the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335871.html>).

Nasimi Aghayev, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, hosts a reception in San Diego on the occasion of the Day of the Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/335956.html>).

The office of the Moldovan president and the Azerbaijani embassy in Chisinau host a conference on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Transdniestria conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/335965.html>).

The Russian defense ministry notes that Moscow and Baku have concluded 16 agreements on military cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/335939.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a member of the French Senate, says that the Eurovision 2012 organizing committee chaired by First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva "demonstrated a high degree of mastery" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335724.html>).

City officials in Budapest discuss expanding economic, cultural and humanitarian ties with Azerbaijan and also the possibility of establishing sister city relations with Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/335892.html>).

Igor Bodi, Moldovan ambassador to Baku, says that relations between Azerbaijan and Moldova are "traditionally friendly, partner-like and strategic" (<http://news.day.az/politics/335843.html>).

Note to Readers

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