



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
School of International Affairs and Business

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**AZERBAIJANI CULTURE IN DIASPORA:
A CONVERSATION WITH KABIRA ALIYEVA**

Below is the second in the series of interviews Azerbaijan in the World has recently conducted with leading figures in the Azerbaijani diaspora on the state of Azerbaijani culture abroad. This second discussion, which focuses on art, is with Kabira Aliyeva, a distinguished Azerbaijani artist living in London. Ms. Aliyeva's official page could be accessed at <http://www.kabira-alieva.com>.

Azerbaijan in the World: How did it happen that you became an artist? Was it a rational choice of conscious mind or a rather spontaneous pursuit of what you felt

was your calling in life?

Kabira Aliyeva: It has been a truly long journey. I started drawing when I was three, drawing without interruption on any surface, with any instruments I could use as drawing tools. It is hard to explain, but as a child, I had an endless stream of images coming into my mind that I felt I had to communicate and reflect on one way or the other and as quickly as possible. Consequently, as a child I often drew things I had never actually experienced in real life.

With a vast portfolio of drawings at the age of four, I was admitted to the children's arts gallery, which still exists in Baku. That is where I met my first and greatest mentor, Katana Gazi Sharifova. She was instrumental in encouraging and prompting me to work harder. When our family moved to Turkey, however—my interests at school began to drift into science. As I always loved and was attentive to detail—a tendency that found expression in my artwork as well—I became particularly interested in molecular biology. At the time, I had decided I did not need to go to an art school to keep practicing art and that it is rather biology that I should study at a University level. Eventually, I studied biology first at the Imperial College London (bachelor's) and then at University College London (master's), while in parallel also completing a course at Central St. Martin's School of Art and Design. Several years after my studies in science, I was working fulltime in my profession trying to combine the latter with the concomitant practice of art. It was only recently that I decided to devote myself fully to art.

AIW: What is biology for you now then? Has it played any somewhat substantial role in your art or life more generally?

Aliyeva: Absolutely. I have never regretted studying biology, as these two disciplines, biology and the visual arts—radically different though they might seem to many—are in fact not so different, since both require much experimentation and thinking outside the box. Hence, to me biology—and natural sciences in general—represent a visual world of living organisms and thus something I find very easy to relate to. As an artist, in particular, I find my biology background as a source of elements of the natural world that I feel one could easily translate into the visual language of art, the latter being more accessible and intelligible to the broader masses.

AIW: How would you characterize yourself then? Are you a biologist? An artist? Or a combination of both?

Aliyeva: My formal background is in sciences; my life is in art.

AIW: How has the subject matter of your art evolved and what influences have affected this evolution?

Aliyeva: I cannot really tell you why I drew what I was drawing when I was a child. As I mentioned, it reflected my desire to communicate to the outside world a very powerful stream of images—often dynamic scenes—that were constantly going through my mind back then. As time passed—and this probably had something to do with our family's constant moving—the ethnic core has gradually come to underlie my art. While my art did feature some ethnic elements while I was still based in Baku, the intensity of their presence certainly grew further as I spent more time away from home. Indeed, this has gradually emerged as my way of keeping, and

reflecting back on, the memories of my home country as I left it back then. In a way, through memories and associations—and my work that embodies them—I keep on breathing and living those memories and sensations. And this is indeed a function of the subconscious, for very often—just as it was the case in my childhood—I do not know what a particular image I would start drawing will ultimately evolve into. It often happens that I understand the meaning of my particular work several weeks or even months after I have actually created it.

AIW: Where do you see your art going next?

Aliyeva: I don't really know, but I do have a lot of ideas that I hope I will be able bring to fruition. First of all, I would like to be able to draw more from my scientific background. I feel there are so many concepts in science that could be raised, highlighted, and addressed via visual art. My experiments are still in their "embryonic" stage right now.

AIW: Some of your artwork have a specific name attached to them; others don't. Does it have to do with the fact that the meaning of some of your paintings—those deprived of a name—has simply not arrived to you yet?

Aliyeva: Indeed, and in general, I don't tend to name my work and ordinarily do it only just before or because of an exhibition. While I have indeed come to believe that people do need a little bit of direction in the form of a few lines as to what a particular painting is about, I rather prefer giving freedom to the audience to interpret my art; it often happens that the comments others would have about my work reveal something new to me as well, both about myself and the work's essence.

AIW: You referred to your first mentor, Katana Gazi Sharifova, as perhaps the biggest individual influence on your art. Could you name other artists, in Azerbaijan or abroad, who have affected your journey?

Aliyeva: I would say it is specific works, rather than particular artists with all the work associated with them, that have inspired me. As an example, I can point to a huge vessel-type installation *Marsyas* by the sculptor Anish Kapoor, once exhibited at the Turbine Hall of Tate Modern Art Gallery in London. I also like the works of Marc Quinn who draws much of his inspiration and ideas from the world of biology, as well as Louise Bourgeois.

There are also several Azerbaijani artists whose work I appreciate and admire, including Tahir Salakhov, Sakit Mammadov, and Altay Sadikh-zadeh, amongst many other gifted individuals. I also enjoy works of many young Azerbaijani artists, such as Faig Ahmed who also likes mixing the traditional and the modern.

It is difficult to name specific artists who would inspire me at any particular stage in life. In that respect, music has probably had more effect on how I work, primarily Azerbaijani jazz now. I also recall how I was once powerfully inspired by one of Alim Gasimov's mugham concerts, to the extent that upon my arrival back home I spent the entire night painting in what one could refer to as a single burst of inspiration. I can't say I understand mugham particularly just yet, but I am gradually getting there, as I think mugham represents a form of expression one should mature towards. One way or the other, it had a powerful effect on me at that particular moment to inspire me into a night of unconscious creativity.

AIW: Which of your exhibitions do you consider a particular success and which of them is the most favorable memory you cherish?

Aliyeva: I strongly believe that every exhibition is a challenge, and any show in which you get even one person to come, see and appreciate your work is a success. Although I have a long way to go, and I have a lot of work to do, so far I have been very lucky, and I am very grateful for the recognition and appreciation of my work that I received from people for what I do. There may be no point in doing my work if it does not speak to anyone.

AIW: What is art for you then? That is, what is the principal objective driving you? Is it getting your paintings sold, getting them exhibited, or the very process of art creation?

Aliyeva: I think, the core of it is sharing. Whether the work gets sold and ends up hanging on someone's wall or gets exhibited otherwise, sharing may be the underlying motivating factor. Again, it is always a two-way process: people, I hope, get something from my work, and I always get something from people's reflections on my paintings.

AIW: What do you see as your next challenge?

Aliyeva: Every project is a challenge. The goals I set before myself are about ideas I want to realize and themes I want to reflect on, rather than particular galleries in which and particular audiences to which I would like to get my work exhibited. I have been thinking about establishing an organization, or a club if you like, perhaps even in Azerbaijan, that would bring together scientists and artists and have them work together, asking questions. The idea is to build a bridge, by virtue of this questioning exercise, between art and science in order to identify some gaps and downfalls in either discipline and address them. I am very passionate about this idea, but I know I still need to learn more within both fields, as well as about management.

AIW: You are an Azerbaijani, yet you are based in the United Kingdom and normally are exhibited outside the place of your origins. Do you feel you represent Azerbaijan with your art or do you see your art as more cosmopolitan in nature?

Aliyeva: I don't know how I am perceived, but I feel strongly that I am an Azerbaijani artist. Indeed, I feel more Azerbaijani in my work than anything else.

AIW: In what ways, then, do you think your art represents Azerbaijan and communicates Azerbaijani identity to the outside viewers?

Aliyeva: I strongly believe that every work radiates energy, a certain part of an artist's spirit. And I think this energy comes across to people who are sensitive to it. When exposed to a particular work of mine and the energy it embodies, the viewer is likely to sense the eastern character underlying my culture, feel the sunshine, for example, or tickle taste buds with Azeri food specialties, or anything one would easily associate with what Azerbaijan is all about. Besides, much of my work communicates Azerbaijani identity through the many details it normally features, be it the small references to my culture or color combinations that I create.

AIW: You note that the energy your work embodies communicates the Eastern character of where you come from. Is it, then, how you would identify Azerbaijan? Put differently, do you have a clear idea of what Azerbaijan and Azerbaijani culture is for you?

Aliyeva: Oh, I think it is such a mixture of things! Yet I certainly feel it is more Eastern than Western. I really don't know though, and it is a very interesting question. Probably because I moved several times between places, I have gone through and experienced a kind of an identity crisis, and my art has been my way of finding a way back home.

AIW: Given that you say you are not often in control of what you paint and the meaning of your art would normally come to you some time after its creation, I wonder what sort of a message your paintings communicate to you about your country? Does Azerbaijan emerge, through your paintings, as an embodiment of Eastern culture or Western culture, or indeed a mixture as you suggested? This is especially interesting given that you actually left Azerbaijan many years ago—indeed in 1994—and have had no or little chance to observe the many dramatic changes and transformations the country has undergone over the last two decades. Do you think your paintings reflect on and capture these dynamics and the evolution or do they rather capture, and get fixated on, an Azerbaijani image and an image of its culture as those were back then, before the time you moved?

Aliyeva: Indeed, I think my work rather portrays Azerbaijan as it was before 1994, which is why it communicates more of its Eastern character and remains blinded to the many Western elements that came to pervade the country over the last couple of decades. And yes, Azerbaijan is changing at a truly crazy pace, something that for me as an artist is actually very challenging to deal with. Maybe because I left my country when I was so young, I try—primarily through my art—to hold on to certain memories very tightly, as sometimes those memories are all you have; many of the reference points simply disappear sometimes. It would actually be very interesting to spend more time in Azerbaijan today, so as to feel the changes and reflect on them through my artwork.

AIW: Have there been instances of collaboration between yourself and other artists from Azerbaijan or indeed elsewhere?

Aliyeva: Most of my work is the product of an individual effort. I think I am a bit of a loner in this respect. I would certainly love to collaborate with others, but I think I need to grow more proactive in terms of reaching out to others. However, one of the recent collaborative projects in which I was involved and of which I am very proud and very happy about is my cooperation with renowned Azerbaijani violinist Sabina Rakcheyeva who approached me to illustrate some of the pieces from her wonderful first collection of music, *UnVeiled*. I also participated in another collaborative effort, which involved seven artists, four musicians, and three painters, named *Pass: on* and directed by Pablo Magee and Margareta Nystrom.

AIW: Have you ever engaged in any projects with any government agency in Azerbaijan?

Aliyeva: My only adult solo exhibition in Baku was in April last year, the result of my personal initiative and one funded from private sources.

AIW: There has been much attention on the part of Azerbaijani government to promoting different strands of culture and arts, such as mugham, for example. Do you feel that art is receiving its due?

Aliyeva: I think it is certainly great that the government is now paying so much more attention to issues related to culture. Yet I also think there is a fine line between promoting something because it makes your country look good and promoting something for what it is. Sometimes I am not sure which of the two is actually happening these days in Azerbaijan, and perhaps it is a combination of both. Regardless of what the driving factor is, however, I think it is certainly great it is happening at all.

AIW: More generally, what is your assessment of the current state of the artistic field in Azerbaijan and what do you think should be done to contribute to its further evolution? That is, what forms do you think the government's support for art could assume?

Aliyeva: I think the key to it is education, which is indeed the basis for anything progressive. Hence, the many workshops and lectures, including those featuring international scholars and artists, are all very positive developments. More of it would certainly be great. In this respect, updating the curriculum and programs in the art schools is a must. I suspect local art schools need a greater infusion of what is going on in the artistic field internationally. Consequently, bringing in some international experts could prove very helpful and engaging for young artists.

Also making things more competitive and merit-based for artists would also serve to create a healthy environment in the country's artistic field. In my view, fair competition drives progress and creativity and should be strongly encouraged.

Establishing independent agencies and organizations that would—on a competitive and merit basis—allocate funding to certain artistic projects would also be an asset. There is for example an organization *Yarat!*, which was recently established and is, to my knowledge, currently the only organization of its kind in the country solely dedicated to art; and it is doing a great job. I would certainly love to see more such groups emerging. Furthermore, there are also countries, like Germany for example, in which the government subsidizes studio space for artists (much like in the Soviet times) in which to work. Having an arrangement of this sort in Azerbaijan would be great.

In my view, it is also important to develop an overall environment in the country in which one could feel one could thrive as an artist, so that gifted people would not get discouraged from the pursuit of art because they would not be able to provide for their living by practicing art.

And finally, I think art is in many ways about freedom, so the country has to learn to be open to the diversity of ways in which an artist might wish to express himself through the art he creates even when he questions and explores the world around him and challenges many elements in that world. There is indeed a greater diversity in the current artistic field in Azerbaijan, including, for example, emerging installation work, which are fairly new to Azerbaijan, some cultural works; there are also increasingly more performance artists, like Ali Hasanov, who are gradually coming to light.

AIW: The government's interest in mugham reflects, among other things, its effort to mould a post-Soviet model of Azerbaijani identity. In that, mugham represents a key component. Is there a way in which you believe art by Azerbaijani nationals could help in these efforts to craft a specifically Azerbaijani national identity?

Aliyeva: I am not sure. I don't think there is any specific school or trend in art that would explicitly embody Azerbaijan, or indeed any other nation for that matter. There are certainly some elements in art that could give reference to one country or another or to one particular region, but it is hard to imagine one could "nationalize" the entire art, even if of one particular artist. Perhaps, African art represents this kind of clearly ethnic form of art, and there has recently been an explosion of Chinese art, which is very strongly national in character. But certainly with globalization progressing, efforts of "nationalization" of art will grow ever more challenging.

AZERBAIJAN-IRAN RELATIONS: RISING TENSIONS AND AN INDEFINITE FUTURE

Arye Gut
Independent Analyst

Recently, as Azerbaijani media have reported, a protest action involving hundreds of young activists took place in front of the Baku embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They shouted "Shame to Iran," "Iran Sends Drugs and Terrorists to Azerbaijan," and other similar statements. The participants held photographs of Iranian Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and showed their anger at Tehran's policy toward Azerbaijan.

During the demonstration, there was no reaction from the Iranian embassy. It is important to begin by noting that this demonstration was a response to a protest on May 8 in front of the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in the Iranian city of Tabriz. Participants in the Baku protest expressed their opposition to the openly anti-Azerbaijani policy being carried out by certain circles in Iran, which involves close cooperation between Tehran and Yerevan, despite the fact that the latter continues its illegal occupation of 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan. If I am not mistaken, the demonstration in front of the Iranian embassy in Baku was the first major protest action in Azerbaijan against the unjust policy of Tehran toward Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan finds itself in quite a complicated geopolitical situation, one which requires that it constantly maneuver. While both Baku and Tehran often stress the "fraternal" nature of bilateral relations, there is an important sense in which the national and security interests of the two countries diverge. Most particularly, Azerbaijan sees the strengthening of its security and military potential as being connected to military cooperation with the United States and Israel and to the purchase from the latter of modern weapons systems. Iran, to the contrary, considers that such cooperation in a neighboring country represents a danger to its national interests.

Despite official Baku's numerous declarations that it does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that the territory of Azerbaijan will not be used for possible Western military operations against that country, Tehran does not believe this. Indeed, Tehran not only does not view the independent policy of Baku as something positive, but some circles in Iran, as in the past, still consider the very existence of an independent Azerbaijan something threatening in itself.

While Iran constantly complains about the strengthening of Azerbaijani-Israeli relations, it is paradoxically the case that namely Armenia has strategic relations with official Tehran, even though the latter constantly declares that it is the defender of all Muslims. Indeed, Tehran has in practice failed to note that this Iranian ally occupies 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan and that, as a result of Armenian aggression, there are a million Azerbaijani Shiite refugees near the Iranian border. Throughout the world, official Tehran speaks about its defense of "abused" and "oppressed" Muslims. But here, where it has a 600 kilometer-long border with Shiite Muslim Azerbaijan, 20 percent of whose territory is occupied by Armenia and where there are one million Muslim refugees, Iran pursues relations with the aggressor state.

One might in this case recall the great words of Lord Palmerston: "We have no permanent enemies or permanent friends; we have only permanent interests." Unfortunately, this is the harsh reality of international relations, and Azerbaijan clearly understands this and takes it into account.

Despite its positive words to Baku, certain circles in Iran have been seeking lately to create an extremely negative image of independent and secular Azerbaijan. To that end, Tehran has filled its media with anti-Azerbaijani programming, including those in the Azerbaijani language, like the *Seher* television channel.

A recent case has exacerbated these tensions. Some three months ago, Farid Huseyn and Shahriyar Hajizade were officially invited to Tehran for the presentation of a collection of poems by an Iranian poet. On their way home, the two were arrested in Tabriz. The Iranian authorities only acknowledged their arrest on June 21, but at first did not provide an official explanation of its cause. But today, nearly three months later, these two innocent Azerbaijani writers have still not been freed. Initially, the two were charged with violating immigration law and later were charged with drug trafficking and spying on behalf of Israel. Such charges could lead to the death penalty in Iran.

It is clear that the stronger international pressure on Iran becomes, the worse will be relations between Baku and Tehran. But the very worst thing is, as Azerbaijani journalist Azer Garib has pointed out, "Fariz Huseyn and Shahriyar Hajizade will sit in a horrific Iranian jail." All international human rights organizations ought to express their anger to the Iranian regime, which on the one hand call Armenia, which occupies 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan, its closest friend, and on the other in a completely open way violates the rights of citizens of the independent Azerbaijani state who came to Iran to participate in a poetry festival.

ARMENIANS SOUGHT CONTROL OF NKAO 45 TIMES DURING SOVIET PERIOD

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Prior to the outbreak of violence in 1988, Armenian nationalists unsuccessfully asked Moscow to transfer Nagorno-Karabakh from the Azerbaijan SSR to the Armenian SSR 45 times, an indication that the so-called Karabakh movement did not arise out of nothing. Indeed, from the late 1960s on, Armenian officials and literary figures cited Soviet policy decisions elsewhere in support of their case. However, only under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev did the Armenians receive promises that their claims would be seriously considered. And even then, Azerbaijani historians point out, most Soviet officials opposed the Armenian demands even if they were increasingly unwilling or unable to quash them. [1]

Although Armenian SSR leaders had sought the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijani to Armenian control in the 1920s and in the years after World War II, they increased their efforts in this regard at the end of the 1960s and subsequently, sometimes violating the union republic borders in an effort to create a *fait accompli* and sometimes invoking Moscow's decisions elsewhere as precedent. In 1968, for example, Armenian officials encouraged collective farmers in the Shamshadin district of the Armenian SSR to encroach on the territory of the Gadabay district of Azerbaijan by driving their herds into Azerbaijani territory and engaging in construction work at the border that destroyed Azerbaijani farms. [2]

The threat that this very local conflict would escalate ultimately forced Moscow to intervene, with the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union adopting a decision on June 23, 1968, calling on the Azerbaijani and Armenian leadership to address the issue without changing the borders. That forced the Armenian side to back down and pull its collective farmers away from the union republic border as established in 1928. One outcome of this was that the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR on May 7, 1969, called for the preparation of a new and more accurate map at the scale of 1:25,000 showing with great precision where the border was.

That was done, but the borders so designated infuriated collective farmers in the Gadabay district of Azerbaijan who argued that the new line had deprived them of lands they had been using and who noted that the Armenian collective farmers in the Shamshadin district of Armenia were building facilities 500 to 700 meters from the Azerbaijani village. Even if this construction was on the Armenian side of the border, the Azerbaijani collective farmers pointed out, it was leading to the cascading of stones from the explosions into Azerbaijan and affecting their production.

Armenian officials both in Shamshadin and Yerevan ignored this protest, and as a result, 41 Azerbaijani collective farmers travelled to Moscow to make their case to Soviet officials in June 1969. With the assistance of the permanent plenipotentiary representative of the Azerbaijan SSR in Moscow, E. Huseynov, the group sought to meet CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and Soviet Prime Minister Aleksey

Kosygin. In the event, they were received by A.I. Kiselev, an official of the organizational department of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Azerbaijanis told Kiselev that the Armenian collective farmer continued to inflict "great harm" to their homes and fields and were in fact seeking to force the Azerbaijanis "to resettle to another place." They added that they "did not understand why [they] should be forced to leave their homes, gardens, and the graves of [their] ancestors and move. Because that was not required [from them] even in tsarist times." The Azerbaijani collective farmers suggested that the Communist Party leadership of the Armenian republic stood behind the actions of the Armenian collective farmers, and they added that the local party secretary had even "organized an armed attack" against themselves. Kiselev responded by saying that the CPSU Central Committee would tell the Communist Party leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to put an end to such tactics.

The result of this was that the Central Committees of the Communist Party in Azerbaijan and Armenia adopted a decision, together with the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, calling for Armenian collective farmers to refrain from using land near the border lest such exploitation lead to further "undesirable incidents." Yerevan conceded this point in a decision of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR on December 26, 1969.

Although that decision ended this local conflict along the Armenia-Azerbaijani border, Armenian leaders three years later resumed their campaign to have Moscow transfer Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan to Armenia. In early 1972, for example, representatives of the Armenian intelligentsia send a letter to Leonid Brezhnev calling for "a small change of republic borders" involving the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. The authors of this appeal invoked not only the successful "friendship of the peoples" of Soviet times, but more specifically border changes between the Uzbek SSR and the Kyrgyz SSR and the Uzbek SSR and the Tajik SSR that Moscow had just approved.

More such letters followed in 1972 and 1973, all designed, Azerbaijani historians say, "to discredit in the eyes of the center the party leadership of the republic and to take Nagorno-Karabakh away from Azerbaijan." The chief consequence of this appears to be that Guren Melkumyan, who had been the first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast party committee, was replaced by Boris Kevorkov, an ethnic Armenian, but—unlike Melkumyan and all his predecessors—not "from either Karabakh or Armenia."

In a March 1973 speech, Kevorkov signaled that he would oppose any examples of "bourgeois nationalism" and specifically calls by Armenians for transferring Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. He continued this policy until he was removed in February 1988 when the Karabakh conflict entered its violent phase. Kevorkov's forthright position, however, sparked even more Armenian appeals to Moscow in this regard, appeals that were in every case turned down flat by Soviet and Communist leaders until Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and promised "to review" the Karabakh question.

That shift in the Soviet center encouraged the Armenian side to ever greater radicalism and led to the violence whose consequences continue to inflict suffering on the Azerbaijani people and indeed the entire region.

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/341240.html> (accessed 14 July 2012).

[2] See <http://news.day.az/politics/342633.html> (accessed 14 July 2012).

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan will be restored" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342158.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that tensions between Iran and Azerbaijan are being reduced thanks to "the will of both the Azerbaijan and Iranian side" (<http://news.day.az/politics/344028.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, chairman of the State Customs Committee, tells Vladimir Goshin, Belorussian minister for customs cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission, that Azerbaijan does not intend to join the Eurasian Customs Union (<http://news.day.az/economy/344015.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Sergey Naryshkin, speaker of the Russian State Duma, says that, "Azerbaijan and Russia have corresponding points of view on the key issues of international life" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342829.html>).

Adam Sterling, charge d'affaires at the US embassy in Baku, says that the United States welcomes Azerbaijan's national action program for improving the effectiveness of the protection of human rights and freedoms (<http://news.day.az/politics/343389.html>).

James Appathurai, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia, says that, "from the point of view of strategy, Azerbaijan has chosen firm partnership relations with NATO," but that it "is not seeking membership" in the Western alliance (<http://news.day.az/politics/342271.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

15 July

Adam Sterling, charge d'affaires at the US embassy in Baku, says that the US and Azerbaijan will conduct talks in Washington this week on security and economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/344106.html>).

14 July

The Foreign Ministry says that, under international law, flights crossing the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are illegal (<http://news.day.az/politics/344019.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, chairman of the State Customs Committee, tells Ziya Altunyaldis, Turkey's customs and trade minister, that Azerbaijan is ready to take part in the creation of a council of the heads of customs services of the Turkic language countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/344023.html>).

French Ambassador Pascal Munier hosts a reception on the occasion of Bastille Day (<http://news.day.az/politics/344053.html>).

13 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmon (<http://news.day.az/politics/343477.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Marcello Caballero Torres, Cuban ambassador to Baku, on the occasion of the latter's completion of his appointment to the Azerbaijani capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/343769.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "foreign investors are interested not only in the oil and gas sectors of the Azerbaijani economy, but in the non-petroleum sectors as well" (<http://news.day.az/politics/343413.html>).

The Foreign Ministry calls on Azerbaijanis to refrain from travelling to Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/343813.html>).

Valentina Matvienko, chairman of the Russian Federation Council, says in Yerevan that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can be resolved only by peaceful negotiations (<http://news.day.az/politics/343867.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group complete their latest visit to the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/343901.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev recalls Arif Aghayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Bishkek; Elman Arasly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Amman and Baghdad; and Sabir Aghabayov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Rabat, Tunis, Nuakshot, Dakar, Bamako, Lusaka, and Lisbon (<http://news.day.az/politics/343893.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Sabir Aghabayov Azerbaijani ambassador to Amman (<http://news.day.az/politics/343900.html>).

Health Minister Oktay Shiraliev receives his Turkish counterpart Faruk Celik, who proposes establishing special medical benefits for the citizens of each country living in the other (<http://news.day.az/society/343846.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov receives his Iranian counterpart Hamid-Reza Haji-Baba'ie, and proposes a joint commission on education (<http://news.day.az/society/343793.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov and China's ambassador in Azerbaijan sign a four-year cooperation agreement (<http://news.day.az/society/343735.html>).

Fuad Guliyev, director of the State Civil Aviation Administration, signs a cooperation agreement with Naser Husein Bander, director general of Iraq's Civil Aviation Administration (<http://news.day.az/economy/343723.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan's suggestions that Azerbaijan does not want to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by peaceful means are a provocation designed to conceal Armenia's unwillingness to make progress in talks (<http://news.day.az/politics/343759.html>).

Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmon says that Azerbaijan and Tajikistan plan joint investments in an oil processing plant in southern Tajikistan (<http://news.day.az/economy/343829.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that the development of the Turkish province of Igdir, which borders Nakhchivan, will promote the development of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/343836.html>).

Egemen Bagis, Turkey's minister for European Union relations, says that France must maintain a neutral position in order to be a co-chair country of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/343891.html>).

Toyli Komekov, Turkmenistan's ambassador to Baku, sends a letter of thanks to Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov for supporting the publication in Azerbaijani of a book that includes the speeches and interviews of Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammadov (<http://news.day.az/politics/343756.html>).

The Ryazan regional section of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress collects humanitarian assistance for flood victims in Krasnodar *kray* (<http://news.day.az/society/343882.html>).

12 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iranian Education Minister Hamid-Reza Haji-Baba'ie (<http://news.day.az/politics/343631.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish Labor and Social Security Minister Faruk Celik (<http://news.day.az/politics/343631.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku has always supported the idea of meetings between the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijan Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/343621.html>).

Labor and Social Security Minister Fizuli Alakbarov signs a cooperation agreement with his Turkish counterpart Faruk Celik at the conclusion of the seventh session of the Azerbaijan-Turkey commission on cooperation in the labor and social security sectors (<http://news.day.az/society/343656.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia President Serzh Sargsyan's background explains Yerevan's current unjust policy and the West's dissatisfaction with that policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/343451.html>).

Azerbaijani youth organizations appeal to UN Secretary General Pan Gi-moon to intervene with Iran on behalf of the two Azerbaijani poets currently under arrest there (<http://news.day.az/politics/343615.html>).

Bahram Sanan, Iran's deputy roads and urban planning minister, visits Baku and meets with officials of Azerbaijan's environment and natural resources ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/343503.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul ratifies the TANAP pipeline accord with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/343486.html>).

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says that Kyiv is interested in developing cooperation with Azerbaijan in the energy sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/343483.html>).

11 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Francisco Arroyo Vieyra, deputy chairman of the Mexican Senate (<http://news.day.az/politics/343400.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "Azerbaijan is a wonderful place for foreign investment" (<http://news.day.az/politics/343078.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Dragoljub Ljepohan, the outgoing ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/343427.html>).

Musa Gasymlı, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia tries to lay total responsibility for all incidents on the ceasefire line on Azerbaijan in order to conceal its own responsibility for them (<http://news.day.az/politics/343211.html>).

The St. Petersburg regional section of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress expresses sympathy and support to all those who have died or are missing in the Krasnodar floods, as well as to their relatives and friends (<http://news.day.az/society/343391.html>).

The Second Global Summit of the International Model of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation adopts a resolution labeling the Khojaly massacre genocide and calling on Armenia to withdraw its forces from Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/343286.html>).

Igor Popov, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that that group discussed the recent incidents along the ceasefire line during its visit to the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/343365.html>).

Francisco Arroyo Vieyra, deputy chairman of the Mexican Senate, says that Mexico will be opening an embassy in Baku in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/343347.html>).

10 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group

(<http://news.day.az/politics/343182.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Gonzalo de Benito, state secretary of the Spanish Foreign Ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/343182.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Bernard Fontana, executive director of the *Holcim* company (<http://news.day.az/politics/343182.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms new rules requiring foreign ships to obtain special licenses to pass through Azerbaijani territorial waters (<http://news.day.az/economy/343122.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Kestutis Kudzmanis, Lithuania's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/343225.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Muhammed Ruigi, head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (<http://news.day.az/politics/343225.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair groups must put pressure on Armenia to withdraw from Azerbaijani territory or otherwise there will be no forward movement toward a resolution (<http://news.day.az/politics/343106.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, tells Gonzalo de Benito, state secretary of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, that Azerbaijan hopes to learn from Spain on tourism issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/343151.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia violates the ceasefire every time a significant figure comes to the region in order to distract attention from its occupation policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/342970.html>).

Azerbaijani soldiers take part in military exercises in Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/343030.html>).

Azerbaijan sends a second caravan of humanitarian assistance to flood victims in Russia's Krasnodar region (<http://news.day.az/society/343118.html>).

The All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress organizes assistance to victims of the flooding in Russia's Krasnodar region (<http://news.day.az/society/343068.html>).

Igor Popov, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that no future meeting between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia has yet been planned (<http://news.day.az/politics/343216.html>).

Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that the group's meeting with President Ilham Aliyev was "very constructive" (<http://news.day.az/politics/343216.html>).

Gonzalo de Benito, state secretary of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, says that Spain is preparing to open an embassy in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/343139.html>).

Gonzalo de Benito, state secretary of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, says that Spain is

interested in cooperating with SOCAR both within Azerbaijan and abroad (<http://news.day.az/economy/343167.html>).

9 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Marta Dassu, Italy's deputy foreign minister, and Claudio De Vincenti, Italy's deputy economic development minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/342857.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Lamberto Zannier, secretary general of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/342857.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Vinod Kumar, India's incoming ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/342862.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev orders the dispatch of humanitarian assistance to victims of the flooding in Russia's Krasnodar region (<http://news.day.az/society/342744.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the OSCE should increase its efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/342832.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Turkmenistan has not sent Azerbaijan any official proposals concerning the Kapaz gas fields in the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/342843.html>).

Deputy Foreign Ministers Khalaf Khalafov and Nadir Huseynov lead foreign ministry officials in marking the annual holiday of diplomatic workers (<http://news.day.az/politics/342811.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says that despite the relative youth of its diplomatic corps, Azerbaijan is "well represented in the world" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342760.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says that Azerbaijan seeks to use its energy resources as an instrument for strengthening its independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/342772.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kyiv, attends a conference of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/342969.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that, "Azerbaijan hopes that Russia as co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group and a leading state of the region will increase its efforts for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342896.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, tells OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier that in the absence of an agreement between Baku and Yerevan, "Azerbaijan will use all possible means, including military actions, to free its lands" from Armenian occupation (<http://news.day.az/politics/342919.html>).

Samad Seyidov and Asef Hajiyev, two Milli Majlis deputies, take part in Batumi in the Ninth International Conference of the European Union and Its European Neighbors (<http://news.day.az/politics/342860.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the OSCE does not always work effectively, particularly in resolving longstanding conflicts in its region (<http://news.day.az/politics/342800.html>).

The Committee for the Defense of the Rights of two Azerbaijani writers detained in Iran calls on Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to release them and allow them to return to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/342922.html>).

Lamberto Zannier, secretary general of the OSCE, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict represents a serious threat to regional security and the economic development of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/342837.html>).

Sergey Naryshkin, speaker of the Russian State Duma, says that, "Azerbaijan and Russia have corresponding points of view on the key issues of international life" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342829.html>).

8 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergey Naryshkin, speaker of the Russian State Duma (<http://news.day.az/politics/342726.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev awards Sergey Naryshkin, speaker of the Russian State Duma, Azerbaijan's Friendship Order for his contributions to strengthening cultural ties between Azerbaijan and Russia (<http://news.day.az/politics/342715.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev awards Mikhail Shvydkoy, Russia's special envoy for cultural cooperation, Azerbaijan's Friendship Order for his contributions to strengthening cultural ties between Azerbaijan and Russia (<http://news.day.az/politics/342716.html>).

7 July

President Ilham Aliyev signs a decree giving Parvin Mirzazade the diplomatic rank of ambassador first class and Elkhan Azayev and Masim Hajiyev the rank of minister second class (<http://news.day.az/politics/342661.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that as a result of its development, Azerbaijan has become an investment exporter (<http://news.day.az/economy/342638.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says Armenia must end its occupation of Azerbaijani lands before Ankara could think about normalizing Armenian-Turkish relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/342594.html>).

6 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the Russian Duma Committee on Compatriots Abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/342499.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kestutis Kudzmanis, Lithuania's outgoing ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/342499.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iran's outgoing ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/342530.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives James Appathurai, NATO's special representative for the South Caucasus and Central Asia (<http://news.day.az/politics/342513.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that occupation of foreign territories, ethnic cleansings on occupied territories and efforts to change borders with the use of force are "unacceptable in the 21st century" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342496.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives General Mete Salty, chief of staff of the Turkish Military Academies (<http://news.day.az/politics/342459.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov meets with Belorussian Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikov in Minsk (<http://news.day.az/economy/342380.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfaz Garayev visits Sofia to consult with Bulgarian officials and to open an exhibition on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/economy/342662.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, receives participants of the Global Conference of Young Leaders (<http://news.day.az/politics/342403.html>).

Azay Guliyev, an Azerbaijani deputy to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that body must, "openly tell Armenia concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that it does not agree with the preservation of the status quo and the legalization of the occupation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342509.html>).

The joint committee of the parliaments of Azerbaijan and Russia meets in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/342462.html>).

The Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden sends a letter to international organizations based in Europe asking them to express their concern about the state of the two Azerbaijani poets under detention in Iran (<http://news.day.az/society/342747.html>).

Van Rompuy, president of the EU Council, says that the EU will continue to seek to gain access for its representatives to the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjoining regions (<http://news.day.az/politics/342455.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis says that Vilnius "decisively supports the desire of Azerbaijan to intensify its dialogue with the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342500.html>).

Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the Russian Duma Committee on Compatriots Abroad, says that he is certain that his discussions with Azerbaijani parliamentarians will lead to agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/342539.html>).

5 July

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan will be restored" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342158.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Mohammad Dahim Qaqar, director general of the National Administration of Afghanistan for Combatting Natural Disasters (<http://news.day.az/politics/342317.html>).

Elkhan Polukhov, ambassador to Pretoria, meets with South African Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies (<http://news.day.az/politics/342294.html>).

Gudsi Osmanov, consul general in St. Petersburg, attends the fourth international forum there on sea tourism (<http://news.day.az/economy/342411.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that, "the Azerbaijani diaspora has achieved such a level that it already stands out among the diasporas of the world" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342247.html> and <http://news.day.az/society/342275.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that the two Azerbaijani poets arrested in Iran are innocent of all charges (<http://news.day.az/politics/342203.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that the murder of Igbal Mahmudov, the chairman of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Donetsk, was politically motivated (<http://news.day.az/politics/342293.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy, leads a parliamentary delegation to Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/politics/342328.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Turkish government always defends "at a high level" the interests of Azerbaijan in the international arena (<http://news.day.az/politics/342288.html>).

Chingiz Abdullayev, secretary of the Writers' Union of Azerbaijan, calls on Iran to release the two Azerbaijani writers detained there and on the international community to pressure Tehran to do so (<http://news.day.az/politics/342303.html>).

Van Rompuy, the president of the European Council, says that the European Union is prepared to offer additional help to strengthen trust in order to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/342250.html>).

James Appathurai, NATO's special representative for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that NATO "supports the mutually acceptable peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342183.html>).

Konstantin Biryuli, deputy director of the Russian Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, says that, "the chance for compromise in Russian-Azerbaijani negotiations about the extension of the time of rental of the Gabala radar station still has not been lost" (<http://news.day.az/politics/342214.html>).

4 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mohammedbaqir Bahrami, Iran's ambassador to Baku, on the completion of his assignment in the Azerbaijani capital

(<http://news.day.az/politics/342075.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Pascal Meunier, incoming French ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/342075.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that espionage charges against the two Azerbaijani poets under arrest in Iran are baseless (<http://news.day.az/politics/341986.html>).

Azerbaijan joins six other CIS countries in calling for the states of the region to take effective steps in combating crimes of a racial, ethnic and nationalist character (<http://news.day.az/politics/342050.html>).

Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, says the European Union will continue to insist that Azerbaijan and Armenia increase their efforts to reach an agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/342056.html>).

The Montenegrin parliament creates an Azerbaijani friendship group (<http://news.day.az/politics/342140.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that the condition for the reopening of the Turkish border with Armenia is well known—the withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/342122.html>).

Adam Sterling, US charge d'affaires in Baku, says that US-Azerbaijani relations in the security area are "at a very high level" (<http://news.day.az/politics/341941.html>).

3 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Marcos Timerman (<http://news.day.az/politics/341926.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mikhail Shmakov, president of the World Conference of Trade Unions, and Vladimir Shcherbakov, secretary general of that organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/341857.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that reports that the US has cut off Azerbaijani purchases of arms in that country are not true because "Azerbaijan has never sought to purchase arms from the US" (<http://news.day.az/politics/341869.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that Argentina can be a window for the Azerbaijani entrepreneurs in South America (<http://news.day.az/economy/341886.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev receives Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Marcos Timerman (<http://news.day.az/economy/341874.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, receives a group of young governmental and NGO leaders from the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/341930.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that declines in the price of oil create enormous risks for Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/341613.html>).

Arif Pashayev, president of the Azerbaijani Engineering Academy, receives his Slovenian counterpart, Imre Igor (<http://news.day.az/society/341888.html>).

Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, says that, "the EU sincerely is in support of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/341778.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the EU representation in Azerbaijan, says that the visit of the head of the European Union to Azerbaijan is yet another example of the deepening of relations between the EU and Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/341821.html>).

2 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Alexandra Moreno Piraquive, a senator from Columbia (<http://news.day.az/politics/341703.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev presents Alexandra Moreno Paraquive with an honorary diploma of the President of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/341745.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Evgenia Tanceva, chief justice of the Constitutional Court of Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/politics/341703.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive about the creation of a consulate general in Odessa, Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/341940.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Azerbaijani authorities are taking all steps, which international law allows, to seek the release of the two Azerbaijani poets under arrest in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/341648.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev is elected administrator of the Black Sea Bank for Trade and Development (<http://news.day.az/economy/341601.html>).

Ilgar Mukharev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City and Quito, says that Azerbaijan is interested in investing in Latin America (<http://news.day.az/economy/341700.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the upcoming presidential elections in Armenia will be fraudulent just as the recent parliamentary election there was (<http://news.day.az/politics/341349.html>).

Herbert Quelle, Germany's ambassador to Baku, says recent German media reports about Azerbaijan do not reflect the views of the German government (<http://news.day.az/politics/341589.html>).

Daniel Ciobanu, Romania's ambassador to Baku and coordinator for cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO, says that the Western alliance highly values Azerbaijan's contribution to its mission in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/341584.html>).

Alexandra Moreno Paraquive, a senator from Columbia, says the Columbia

parliament may adopt new resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/341681.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City and Quito, says that Azerbaijan is interested in investing in Latin America (<http://news.day.az/economy/341700.html>).

Mahabbat Ibrahimov, director general of the Tajikistan Center for Mining Operations, visits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/341607.html>).

Note to Readers

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