



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
School of International Affairs

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ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS, CHRONOLOGY

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AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD

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ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS, CHRONOLOGY

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Preface

As rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, I am pleased to present to all those interested in the development of my country's foreign policy the third annual volume of *Azerbaijan in the World*, which contains both articles and interviews about the most important events concerning that policy and a chronology of Azerbaijan's interaction with the world.

But I would also like to take this opportunity to speak in more detail about the institution that supports this work, the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy.

Established to train diplomats to fill Azerbaijan's increasing number of missions abroad, ADA has grown into a school of international affairs providing degree programs for both Azerbaijanis and people from around the world.

ADA's masters degree program in diplomacy and international affairs continues to grow and now attracts students from Mexico to Pakistan and from Uganda to Hungary. The Academy is now launching bachelors programs in international studies and business administration—ones to be based upon a liberal arts model of education.

ADA's leadership development program, the first of its kind in our country, has become a model for civil service training in many areas. And we are very proud by our annual Baku Summer Energy School, which attracts renowned faculty and advanced students from more than 20

countries. During the two weeks of its sessions, the participants both gain an in-depth exposure to the developments in the Caspian basin and have the opportunity to meet with senior policy-makers.

In addition to academic programs, we take our responsibilities to Azerbaijani society seriously. We are building the first substantial foreign language library in Azerbaijan. We have combined research and teaching while seeking fresh insights into the challenges Azerbaijan faces as an increasingly important player on the international scene. And we are building a new—“green” and “smart”—campus, which will open by mid-2012 in Baku’s thriving downtown.

I look forward to welcoming you to our new campus and to our programs in the coming years, and I stand confident that you will find this volume of great value.

H.E. Hafiz Pashayev
Rector
Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy

Introduction

The year 2010 was a full one for Azerbaijan in the world. While the much hoped for breakthrough to a settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict did not happen, the difficulty lay not with Baku which maintained the position that is almost universally supported by the international community but with Armenia which has used a variety of schemes to drag out the negotiating process.

For many people, that will be the summary of the last year for Azerbaijan's foreign policy, but that would be a mistake. As the pages that follow show, Azerbaijan, led by President Ilham Aliyev and his balanced, multi-vector foreign policy, achieved an enormous number of successes, many of which are documented in this volume.

Among the most important are the following:

Azerbaijan expanded its diplomatic presence and activity throughout 2010, vastly increasing the number of its missions abroad and securing positions on key committees in the international organizations of which it is a member.

Baku hosted major meetings on the status of the Caspian, inter-religious cooperation and other matters, reinforcing its position as an increasingly important political, economic and international center.

Azerbaijan made progress on all of its projects to diversify its export of Caspian basin hydrocarbons, not only securing funding and international

backing but using this to solidify its relations with key partners around the world.

Baku secured international backing for its positions vis-à-vis Armenia and successfully opposed various Armenian actions in international organizations and national governments.

Azerbaijan solidified its relationship with Turkey in the first instance and expanded its ties with the neighboring states and regional powers.

This list could be expanded almost at will as a glance at the following pages will show. But the editors of *Azerbaijan in the World* believe that both the biweekly records it provides and the annual collections of which this volume is the third are most useful to those concerned about the international role of Azerbaijan and who have specific questions.

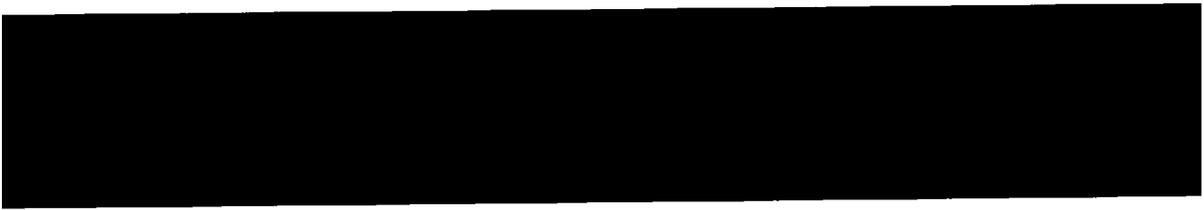
The editors are convinced that the articles included here provide key insights into what Azerbaijan is doing and that the chronology, which is taken from the biweekly itself, is ever more valuable because it allows anyone interested to trace what Baku is doing and how others are reacting to it.

As always, the editors welcome critical comments about what they have done and also submissions of articles and ideas for future issues. This volume is the product of past cooperation, and the editors hope that they can count on others to help expand the circle of those concerned about Azerbaijani foreign policy.

Paul Goble & Murad Ismayilov

Co-Editors

Azerbaijan in the World



**A SELECTION OF ESSAYS AND
ANALYTICAL ARTICLES**

Volume III, 2010

Conflict, Security, and
Foreign Policy

Volume III, 2010

CHANGES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS SINCE AUGUST 2008: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES FOR THE WORLD'S SUPERPOWER

James Nixey

Introduction

The three countries of the South Caucasus (sometimes referred to as the Transcaucasus)—Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia—form the most complex, combustible and unstable region in the former Soviet Union. Lying at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle East, they share deeply ingrained historical trauma, Soviet-era bad practice, economic mismanagement, corruption, social problems, weak institutions, conflicting tendencies toward authoritarianism and reform, inter-ethnic disharmony, border disputes and several low-intensity (or “frozen”) conflicts. Georgia, often the most visible of the three countries to the West, has undergone a brief but dirty “hot” war with the major regional power, Russia, after years of Russian threats and pressure. This was a pivotal event, which carried consequences for the capacity, scope, emphasis and effectiveness of engagement by the United States across the region.

With natural borders, large neighbours and considerable cultural homogeneity at various points in its history, the South Caucasus is a distinct and interconnected region with a total population of around 16 million. However, the three countries differ considerably, both internally and in their geopolitical orientations. Ancient as nations, but new as self-governing states, they have each taken separate routes since the break-up of the Soviet Union and independence in 1991.

Georgia is located strategically on the coast of the Black Sea; it was a “failed state” for at least the first half of the 1990s and then underwent a peaceful and democratic “Rose” Revolution in 2003. It has a staunchly pro-Western foreign policy orientation. It is predominantly Orthodox Christian and desires NATO and EU membership. There is no significant Georgian diaspora community. It suffers from unpredictable foreign policy decision-

making and was defeated (and, for some, discredited) in the war with Russia.

Azerbaijan is located strategically on the coast of the Caspian Sea; Baku was the world's first oil capital in the 1890s (and the world's first oil pipeline was built there in 1906). It is overwhelmingly Muslim, though nominally secular, and currently performs a delicate balancing act between Russia and the West.

Landlocked Armenia has poor relations with—and is currently blockaded by—its neighbours Turkey and Azerbaijan due to its continued occupation of part of the latter's territory. Its national assets are increasingly being bought up by Russia but it shares no border with that country. It has a large diaspora (more Armenians live outside Armenia than in it) and an influential (if diminishing) lobby in the United States. It is considered the world's first country to officially adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 AD and it is developing an increasingly close relationship with Iran.

Of the six countries that lie within the South Caucasus or that directly border the region—Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, Russia and Turkey—only Iran maintains embassies in each of the other five capitals.

Throughout the region, closed borders coexist with a relatively long history of federalism, while the interplay of geopolitical pressures and local politics at times creates a combustible mix. Although these are small countries, they can create big problems for great powers and, in consequence, could yet hinder the Obama administration in the conduct of its wider foreign policy.

Georgia

The war with Russia, the subsequent discrediting of the Saakashvili regime and the election of President Barack Obama have led to a cooling in US–Georgia relations. Even though President Obama singled out Georgia as a major point of difference between Russia and the United States, the “tough love” delivered by Vice President Joe Biden in his speech to the Georgian parliament in July 2009 (including criticism of Georgia's democratic deficiencies and warnings against further military engagement in South Ossetia and Abkhazia to reclaim these territories) has somewhat estranged the two countries. There is a notable concern in Tbilisi that, despite the continuing statements of support, Georgia has been

downgraded in the list of US priorities and the Georgian leadership is struggling to discern where it fits in American policy in the light of the “reset” of US relations with Russia.

Yet there have been elements of continuity with the George W. Bush era as well. The US–Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, which was signed by the Bush administration, has been taken up by the Obama administration. This allows for further US military training of the Georgian army and improvement of interoperability with NATO, as well as greater trade and economic assistance. An Enhanced Bilateral Investment Treaty, a Free Trade Agreement and access for Georgia to the General System of Preferences have also been pursued. The United States is also training Georgian police officers, judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers. These bilateral agreements sit alongside multilateral groupings such as the NATO–Georgia Council and the Annual National Plan in which the United States takes the lead roles. Although the US administration has been clear that the Charter does not provide security guarantees, its provisions have angered Russia as it sees them as directly infringing upon its sphere of influence. In the face of strong Russian opposition, Georgia also hosted two NATO PfP exercises in May 2009. But Georgia has had to face up to the reality that there are limits to US support. Although there have been negotiations for a new US base on Georgian soil, these have not yet produced any tangible results, and direct military assistance in the form of US troops on the ground will not happen under any circumstances.

Since August 2008, the United States has committed USD 30 million in humanitarian aid in its annual assistance programmes to Georgia, as well as a USD 1 billion multi-year package of economic aid for stabilizing the economy, helping refugees and democratic development. In addition, US-funded Radio Liberty began broadcasting news to South Ossetia and Abkhazia in November 2009 with the explicit aim of decreasing anti-Georgian sentiment and countering Russian propaganda. But the Abkhazian government’s view is that this is “Georgian propaganda” designed to promote Georgia as an attractive country for Abkhazia and South Ossetia; the breakaway republics have threatened to jam radio signals. However, international aid is masking the serious effects of the economic crisis on Georgia. Foreign investment has fallen by just under 75 per cent since the beginning of 2008. More helpfully for the long term, Georgia’s income

from trade with the United States is currently USD 360 million a year. In a sense, Georgia was lucky. The August war and subsequent aid promises came just before the global financial crisis. A few months later and the international community might not have felt so generous.

Azerbaijan

America's strategic commitment to Azerbaijan has diminished its ability to place the issue of human rights onto the bilateral agenda. Nonetheless, American policy-makers have stated that Azerbaijan will need to take democratic standards more seriously if it is to get what it wants from the partnership. Azerbaijani officials are frustrated that there is little US recognition of the country's economic achievements (the increase in energy prices has made it the world's fastest-growing economy for the last three years) and political stability. Like Russia, Azerbaijan is referring to historical precedent to accuse America of double standards. Slavery, gender barriers, racial discrimination and corruption in the United States have all been pointed to by Azerbaijan to rebut criticism and soothe domestic irritation at the United States' "interference in internal affairs."

President Aliyev decided at the last moment not to join an energy summit in Batumi, Georgia in January 2010, partly in protest at the decision of the US Congress to provide USD 8 million in humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh.

In spite of this current downturn, the US–Azerbaijan relationship is unlikely to be significantly harmed in the long term. For Azerbaijan, a good rapport with the United States is useful to exert leverage in dialogues with other powerful nations—principally Russia, as Gazprom attempts to maintain its near-monopoly on gas exports from the region and ensure that gas from Azerbaijan, or delivered from other Caspian producers to international markets via Azerbaijan, does not become a serious alternative gas supply for Europe. To keep the Americans happy, Azerbaijan maintains a contingent in Iraq, and doubled its troop numbers in Afghanistan in 2009 to 95.

Armenia

Armenia remains one of the highest per capita recipients of American economic aid under the Obama administration. In 2009, Armenia received

USD 48 million in assistance to Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia (AEECA) funds. The USAID–Armenia managed share was USD 31.85 million. However, US investment in Armenia (USD 21 million in 2007) is not as large as Armenian investment in the United States (USD 31 million in 2007), despite the close cultural and business links described above. What little US investment exists is mainly in the hotel and IT industries. The United States has also signed an agreement with Armenia to build a nuclear power plant in the country.

The Obama administration has expressed concern over Armenia's increased economic links with Iran—not least in the form of a Russian-backed pipeline sending Iranian natural gas to Armenia. Armenia's response is that increased ties with Iran will reduce its energy dependence on Russia. Ninety per cent of Armenia's energy currently comes from Russia and its USD 160 million of debt to Russia was cancelled in exchange for state assets. Much of the Armenian transport, energy and telecommunications industries are now controlled by Russia. Simply put, it is harder for the United States to play a role in Armenia because of the depth of Russian involvement there. Moreover, given the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, Armenia has little choice. The United States would still like the Armenian leadership to be a more active participant in dissuading Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons technology. Armenia's influence over Iran, like Russia's, is questionable, but Iran does enjoy closer relations with Armenia than with any of its other neighbours.

Finally, Armenia's relations with Turkey constitute the most positive progress that has been achieved in the region in 2009. The 2008 war in Georgia created the environment for the signing of protocols in October 2009 to establish diplomatic relations and open shared borders between Armenia and Turkey. There was a major push on the US side to get the Turkish–Armenian protocols signed in April 2009 in time for President Obama's visit to Turkey later that month for the Alliance of Civilizations forum. This made Azerbaijani leaders angry with Istanbul and Washington, and the process was delayed until October. However, if all goes well with the necessary parliamentary ratifications—a big “if”—Turkey will become an even more active player in the Caucasus region. The Obama administration has welcomed this rapprochement, but has also learnt its lesson of the spring and kept its distance, preferring to let the bilateral

dynamics take their own course. It should be noted also that, for fear of endangering any future agreement, President Obama did not use the word “genocide” when referring to the events of 1915 in his address to the Turkish parliament in April 2009, as he had during his election campaign. Instead, he used the other term Armenians use, “Mets Yeghern”—literally, the Great Calamity. As shown during Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s visit to the United States in December 2009, Washington is now less able to influence Turkish foreign policy as Turkey has, at the time of writing, refused to de-link its own rapprochement with Armenia from the issue of a settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Conclusion

While not as important as Iraq, Afghanistan, non-proliferation or fighting international terrorism, the South Caucasus has become a vital concern for US foreign policy as a result of the Georgia war. August 2008 was the first time since the fall of communism that Russia sent its forces across an international frontier in anger. This in itself has massive implications not only for the South Caucasus countries but also for other major American partners in the former USSR, such as Ukraine, as well as for NATO members themselves. The South Caucasus matters in itself but also in relation to other policy areas for the United States such as energy and the war on terror. The balance between them must be constantly reworked for the United States to avoid being caught up too closely with the region.

As many have now observed, August 2008 was a proxy war for Russia, not against Georgia, but against the West and particularly the United States. To counter this dynamic, the Obama administration may have to rethink its military capabilities to cope with a third simultaneous crisis or conflict situation in addition to Iraq and Afghanistan. However, regaining its influence in the region will give the United States the best chance of achieving durable solutions and ensuring that the South Caucasus countries are less vulnerable to internal and external forces of instability.

In contrast, retreat from this region by the Obama administration would have far-reaching, short- and long-term negative consequences for American interests, including an inevitable further rise in Russian (and

Iranian) influence. The Caucasus lies on the fault line in Western attitudes on how to deal with Russia. But Russia will react, whatever the United States does in the South Caucasus. And the United States will not be able to constrain it any more than it was able to in August 2008. At the same time, Russia will be similarly incapable of blocking all US policy actions. The South Caucasus states have all banked their autonomy, their legitimacy and their increasingly pro-Western orientation on a continuing American presence in the region. For some in South Caucasus, the United States has been just as unreliable in its principles as Russia and has lost some of its credibility. And today, even though the United States is the indispensable country for the independence of the South Caucasus states, we are entering a period of less American engagement there, not more. This has been made clear by the Obama administration. In itself, that may not be a wholly bad thing for a sensitive region riven by ethnic and civil conflicts. Nonetheless, to the extent that the United States will remain involved in the affairs of the three countries of the South Caucasus, future American engagement and leadership must be thoughtful and not fail them—or itself—a second time.

** This article is comprised of extracts from the chapter "The South Caucasus: Drama on Three Stages" in America and a Changed World: A Question of Leadership, edited by Robin Niblett, April 2010, Chatham House/Wiley Blackwell, London.*

TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION: FROM “EITHER-OR” TO “BOTH AND”

Paul Goble

The evolution of discussions about the Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the last 15 years provides some important lessons about the complex and evolving interrelationship of two principles of international law: the territorial integrity of states and the right of nations to self-determination.

In the early years of that conflict, both sides argued that the conflict in the South Caucasus required a decision as to which of these principles was the more important, with those who believed in the primacy of the territorial integrity of states generally dismissive of the right of nations to self-determination and those who believed in the right of nations to self-determination equally dismissive of the principle of the territorial integrity of states.

These polar positions, of course, reflected the specific features of the immediate post-Soviet period. On the one hand, Azerbaijan like the other former Soviet republics and like many powers around the world had a vested interest in arguing that the maintenance of territorial integrity of states against challenges based on claims by minorities for self-determination was absolutely critical for stability and development. And they did so even though, as the most thoughtful participants acknowledged, these states themselves had burst on the international scene on the basis of the principle of the right of nations to self-determination.

From the perspective of the governments of the new countries, the paramount question was this: how could the international community expect them to survive if it did not close the door to ethnically-based challenges to their borders or even existence?

And on the other, ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan, like minorities in other post-Soviet states, had an obvious interest in arguing that self-determination as a principle was more important than territorial integrity—

not least because they could see around them the results of massive claim of the rights of various peoples to self-determination against the assertion of the territorial integrity of the Soviet Union. And they took this position even though they too concluded that without effective state power, something they sought for themselves, there could be no hope for the nations on whose behalf they spoke.

Consequently, from the perspective of the minority nationalities, the overriding question was entirely different: how could the international community deny them the very right to self-determination that it had clearly recognized and supported in the case of the former Soviet republics?

Given these arguments, it is not surprising how the sides formed up around the world. The international community, a euphemism for the states of the world, came down hard on the side of territorial integrity either because its members faced or feared challenges to themselves or because they were fearful of the way in which any recognition of the right of nations to self-determination except *post facto* and in rare instances could trigger instability over large swaths of the world, particularly in what many chose to call “the newly independent states” of Eurasia. Indeed, as early as February 1992, the US government declared that it would support “no secession from secession” in the post-Soviet world, a statement that called into question what it had done in recognizing the former Soviet republics but that also indicated it would oppose any acts in the future in that region based on claims of national self-determination.

Meanwhile, many in the human rights and academic communities plumped for the other side in this debate, arguing that right of self-determination must take precedence over territorial integrity not so much because the world had just recognized the consequences of the former but much more because of the conviction that the rights of people, both individually and collectively, are more important than lines on the map. And consequently, unlike the governments which form the international community, they were deeply skeptical about any shift that appeared to downplay the rights of people at the expense of elevating the rights of the state.

The author of these lines, as some readers know, was among the latter camp. Having spent much of my career focusing on the way in which the lines Moscow drew in the South Caucasus were designed to create

imbalances and hatreds, with none of the peoples involved getting the borders any of them believed were properly theirs and all of them seeing territories they were convinced belonged to them being handed over to the control of others. I was convinced that in the fluid situation that existed in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, there would have to be border changes to achieve peace. Without them, I was certain, there would either be serious continuing ethnic problems with minorities mistreated or forced to move or the renewal of hostilities when the losing side felt it had a chance to win. In short, I believed that without changing the borders, the best that could be hoped for would be an unstable armistice rather than a genuine peace (Goble 1992).

In short, all concerned with this issue almost two decades ago conceived it as a classical case of “either/or” – either those involved must subordinate the right of nations to self-determination to the principle of the territorial integrity of states, with all the risks to human rights and democratic development that could entail, or subordinate the principle of the territorial integrity of states to the right of nations to self-determine, even at the risk of the spread of instability within existing states or among them.

Over the last 15 years, however, three developments have pushed those who would like to see some resolution of the Karabakh conflict from this “either/or” paradigm to a “both and” one, toward the conviction that the only way forward will inevitably involve the respect of both principles—however naïve or even impossible that may sound to anyone who has been involved with or tracked this intractable conflict and however many steps those on both side of the “either/or” divide will have to make in order to achieve this outcome.

The first of these developments is that the situation in the post-Soviet world has become distinctly less fluid. The kinds of things that seemed possible or even natural in 1991 now seem farfetched and dangerous. If the international community welcomed or at least sanctioned the disintegration of the Soviet Union, its members are certain to oppose any diplomatically arranged change—even if once such a change happens through force, they are likely to find ways to live with a world of “partially recognized” states.

That shift has given aid and comfort to the governments of the post-Soviet states who regularly invoke the principle of the territorial integrity of states—even as it has led many in the human rights world to despair about

the future of minorities now that it appears the ultimate sanction of such minorities against the powers that be under which they live appears to have been taken away from them by the same community many of whose members have benefited from that very right.

The second development, however, has had exactly the opposite effect. Far more than was the case before the end of the Cold War, European institutions in particular have dramatically expanded the number and kinds of monitoring that they do within countries to protect a wide range of rights. The Council of Europe, for example, has created a large number of special representatives, offices and missions. And the European Court of Human Rights has become a court of last resort for people in countries whose regimes mistreat their populations. Not surprisingly, minorities of various kinds view these institutions as key allies, even though they recognize that such agencies have little power to compel governments to behave. And equally unsurprisingly, governments view these groups as nuisances, accusing them of “double standards” or ignorance of local conditions, but often over time at least improving their treatment of their population in order to avoid continuing criticism.

As a result, these institutions are playing a key role in transforming the Westphalian world in which governments were more or less free to act as they liked within their borders into a post-modern one in which governments no longer have such complete freedom of action, unless they are prepared to be isolated internationally, a state which carries with it increasingly high costs. And that in turn reduces the significance of borders and their maintenance under the principle of the territorial integrity of states even as it opens the way for the manifestation of the right of nations to self-determination within existing borders.

But it is the third development, one within the South Caucasus region in particular, that is perhaps the most important in changing the discussion from an “either/or” to a “both and” paradigm. And it is this: both the proponents of the principle of the territorial integrity of states and the backers of the right of nations to self-determination have come to see that each of their positions requires the recognition of the validity of at least part of the argument of the other and that the promotion of one of these values to the complete exclusion of the other is not only counterproductive but potentially self-destructive.

That can be seen if one imagines a world in which either principle would be elevated to the point that the other could be entirely ignored. A commitment to the principle of the territorial integrity of states without an acknowledgement of the right of nations to self-determination would inevitably both undermine the possibility for the development of a participatory politics and an open-ended economic system and—and this is far more serious—raise questions about the basis of the state and its borders. If the state does not exist for its population, then what does it exist for? If people begin to ask that question insistently, their governments are going to face difficulties.

Conversely, if the principle of self-determination is elevated to the point where that of the territorial integrity of states is ignored, ever more groups will invoke it, even to the point of inventing themselves or reviving an identity long lost as ethnic entrepreneurs challenge the existence of that within the current borders. That in turn means that the principle will implode because it will end by calling into question or even destroying the only institutions capable of protecting the groups advancing such claims.

While the logic of these competing vectors has long been known, at least in the scholarly community, the implications of it have increasingly been taken into account by policy makers in the South Caucasus, sometimes on the basis of their own experiences and reflections and sometimes under pressure from others, self-interested or not. As a result, both sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been moving, as for example Azerbaijan did at the December 1996 Lisbon summit as expressed in an annex to the final communiqué, toward a settlement of the conflict that will take both the principle of the territorial integrity of states and the right of nations to self-determination into account.

As the two sides approach at least a partial resolution of the conflict, each is having to confront the implications of moving from the rhetorically and politically powerful claims of a world of “either/or” to the far more difficult but ultimately more sustainable outcome of “both and.” Curiously, most discussions of the possible endgame of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have focused on what Azerbaijan will gain—restoration of control over its territory on the basis of the principle of the territorial integrity of states—and on what Armenia will lose—its insistence on the right of nations to self-determination. But as the discussions proceed, it is likely

that all concerned will see that Azerbaijan will have to “pay” for its gains by making concessions to the principle of the right of nations to self-determination and Armenia will “recoup” some of its losses both by the concessions Baku is likely to make and by the benefits it will get from having borders recognized by the international community rather than being in dispute.

Exactly what formula it will employ is still unclear, but Azerbaijan is going to have to recognize the collective rights of the Armenian community within its borders, if it is going to be able to maintain its position in the international community. That will require a fundamental revision of the understanding of what Azerbaijan is and who Azerbaijanis are, a revision that is going to be far more difficult than many in Baku now expect, albeit one that the historical tolerance of the Azerbaijani people may open the way forward if the horrors of the conflict can be overcome.

Meanwhile, Armenia, once it acknowledges the principle of territorial integrity of states in this dispute will—to the surprise of many in Yerevan and elsewhere—find that it will also see the right of national self-determination reaffirmed as well. That superficially counter-intuitive conclusion reflects the reality, not always recognized by Armenians, that an Armenian state which lives in peace with its neighbors will gain a far better chance to become a modern nation rather than an historical cause, thus able to achieve its self-determination rather than remaining hostage to history and the diaspora.

These reflections do not mean that a favorable outcome combining both principles is easily or immediately achievable, but they do mean that the analyses and policies of the 1990s, which were based on the notion that there is an “either/or” choice in this conflict, are at the very least out of step with the new conditions and that the “both and” approach provides the basis for a peace and not just an armistice.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

Rauf Garagozov

Once, when talking about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, a philosopher acquaintance of mine noticed that “periodically representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia meet. That means, they can interact and there is something to talk about.” At the time, his assertion seemed logical and did not prompt any questions. However, subsequently, my doubts about that began to increase, not about whether they can interact but whether such interaction is productive. Are the two sides in fact prepared for dialogue, not simply to present their respective positions to but listen to one another. Reports about these negotiations in the media over more than 15 years do not inspire optimism on that point.

Clearly, bargaining involving many actors is going on and therefore the conflicting sides cannot come to an agreement even on what would seem to be generally accepted fundamental principles of international law. If these principles are not defined or remain subject to discussion as in our case, then negotiations are accompanied with enormous difficulties. In this sense, international mediators in the form of the OSCE Minsk Group, which have taken upon themselves the mission of resolving the conflict, really have encountered a difficult task, one that involves the squaring of a circle and thus a process which has not only a legal or political dimension but no less important a psychological one.

Unfortunately, experts who are entirely involved with a discussion of the legal or political aspects of the conflict in the best of circumstances mention the existence of the psychological “component” of the conflict which they, as a rule, see as representing the presence of negative stereotypes, hostile attitudes, negative opinions and feelings which enflame the attitudes of each side toward the other. But in our view, the psychological dimension of the conflict requires greater attention especially

if one considers several recent attempts to “enliven” the negotiating process. Indeed, it is possible that the consideration of the problem from a psychological perspective will help make our vision of the conflict more all-embracing and open new and hitherto unnoticed perspectives for its resolution.

In this essay, I would like to specially focus on the influence of collective memory on the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, all the more so because I have analyzed in other works the important role collective images about the past played in touching off the conflict (Garagozov 2008). Here, I will start from two postulates which have been confirmed by the investigations of social psychologists (Lambert 2009). The first of these holds that collective ideas about historical events can generate definite emotional states which in their turn are capable of influencing current social approaches. For example, Armenian collective memory, which is focused on the theme of “the Armenian genocide,” can give birth to a specific type of emotional state which can be designated as “ethnic fears” (Lake 2000). At one time, these emotional stages conditioned the appearance of confrontational attitudes among the Armenian population, which in the final analysis contributed to the outbreak of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (Garagozov 2006).

The second of these postulates holds that not only collective memory about the historical past influences current social positions, but that under definite conditions, current social conditions can influence the view people have of the past and the way that they assess it. For example, the process of Turkish-Armenian rapprochement, initiated by the Zurich agreements of October 2009, if they develop successfully, can potentially influence the reassessment of the Armenian events of 1915-1918 in the Ottoman Empire (see Garagozov 2009).

Taking this as a starting point, it becomes clear that memory about the events connected with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is capable of giving rise to various emotional states among the conflicting sides. Some one million Azerbaijanis who as the result of the conflict were expelled from their lands, deprived of their homes and property, and certain of them even of their relatives, it is obvious, experience entirely different emotions than those who seized their lands and stole their property. Put in simpler terms, Azerbaijanis experience anger and this is completely logical. When what

people believe is just is violated, they feel anger.

As for the Armenian side, it is obvious that one can observe somewhat different feelings. On the one hand, these include an unconcealed feeling of satisfaction as revealed in statements of Armenian propagandists such as “we, for the first time in our history, have defeated the Turks.” But on the other, one can see continuing feelings of concern because the Armenians at the same time recognize that they have generated anger among Azerbaijanis and other nearby peoples toward themselves by their actions (Garagozov 2010). One cannot fail to be concerned if one is surrounded by neighbors who are angry at you. This sense is undoubtedly reinforced by continuing discussion of “the Armenian genocide.” As a result, these various modes of feelings lead to varied social attitudes. Anger leads to a growth of aggressiveness and fear to heightened worries, a vicious circle which observers and investigators of the region have often noted (Scott 2009).

How can this understanding provide with guidance toward new paths of resolving the conflict? From what has been said arise several results which have a direct relationship to the development of a common schema of the resolution of the conflict. Above all, the necessity of achieving a common political agreement which resolves the conflict in principle is obvious. For example, quite often one can hear from international mediators about the need for establishing direct dialogue between Azerbaijanis and Armenians and about how important it is to achieve mutual trust between the sides. In these calls, there is nothing bad. The sides should meet, exchange opinions, and discuss problems.

But it is important to recognize the limited nature of such contacts. It is impossible to achieve full discussion and dialogue when the sides have the feeling and attitudes described above. In order to have a full dialogue begin, a number of conditions, which would make such a dialogue possible, must be fulfilled. With that goal in mind, a package of agreements should be developed which are intended, on the one hand, to achieve the restoration among the Azerbaijanis of their violated sense of justice, and on the other, to provide a guarantee of the security of the Armenian population, which takes into account their fears and concerns. The role of the mediators consists in the achievement of this condition.

After that has been achieved, the next stage of the process can begin, one that will move beyond the conflict and include within itself measures

for the restoration of trust and the laying down of conditions for dialogue between the sides. Simultaneously, the process of Turkish-Armenian rapprochement will experience new impulses for development. And as a result, the changing political circumstances and the shift of social attitudes can really make possible the reassessment of many tragic pages of the history of the interrelationship of the Armenians and the Turks. All that is a requirement for lasting peace in the region.

In the light of this schema, several recent initiatives connected with the Turkish-Armenian rapprochement and with the recognition of “the Armenian genocide” appear premature. From this it follows that the Zurich accord on the opening of borders between Turkey and Armenia regardless of what happens in the Karabakh conflict and the support by parliaments of several countries of the Armenian version of the events of 1915 hardly will make possible the achievement of genuine dialogue among the interested sides and the establishment of peace in the region.

Turkey closed the border with Armenia in 1993 after Armenia occupied Azerbaijani territories. The opening of that border now when Armenia has not liberated the territories it seized will regardless of the intention of the sides represent support for aggression. And parliamentary resolutions about “the Armenian genocide” will exacerbate rather than reduce the negative feelings Armenians have toward their neighbors and lead the Azerbaijanis to demand recognition of “the Azerbaijani genocide” or “the Turkish genocide,” a development that will only make future talks more difficult.

One must recognize that the histories of all these peoples of the region are full of extremely tragic events, and if one likes, it is possible to ‘recall’ many episodes from the past and treat them as “genocide.” Here, each people and even each ethnic group has its own truth, one that it sees as equally or more valid than the others. This is something many investigators who have studied the history of the region know but unfortunately, politicians who are responsible for taking decisions often do not recognize. Therefore, it is unwise to support the truth of only one side just because that truth is more widely known than the truth of the other, and it is self-deceiving to think that one can find some universal truth that all will accept.

Summing up, we can say: In this case, it would be just and wise to refrain from a settling of “historical scores” and to move to a new level of interrelations between peoples and governments of the region. Not the

past but a projected future must become the decisive argument in the construction of relations between Armenians and Azerbaijanis just as between Armenians and Turks. This, it seems to me, must become an imperative in the taking of political decisions.

As is widely recognized, squaring a circle is beyond our capacity, however much we would like to believe otherwise. But with imagination it is possible to project a desired future for which should be found new instruments capable of untying the Karabakh knot. This is a difficult task, but with the assistance of all forces interested in the security of the region, one can try to continue the search in this direction with some hope.

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ANOTHER TURN OF THE CAUCASUS KALEIDOSCOPE:
TURKISH-RUSSIAN RAPPROCHEMENT
AND THE KARABAKH CONFLICT

Paul Goble

When Armenia and Turkey signed the protocols calling for the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two longtime enemies and the opening of the border between them, many in Baku and the rest of the world assumed that this shift in the diplomatic game would prevent any rapid resolution of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Karabakh and the other occupied territories. But it rapidly became clear that there was a long and difficult path between the signing of these accords and their adoption and that the initial judgments about their consequences for Karabakh were overstated or at least premature.

Now, when a rapprochement is taking place between the Russian Federation and Turkey and when Moscow appears to be taking an even harder line than before in support of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan given its sharp criticism of the Armenian-organized “parliamentary elections” in Karabakh, many in Baku and the rest of the world have assumed that this move will force Armenia to accept the renewed Madrid Principles and withdraw from the occupied territories in short order.

Given Armenia’s historical dependence on Russia and given the current collapse of its effort to reach an accord with Turkey and thus have an alternative bridge to the world, such predictions about the consequences of the Russian-Turkish rapprochement for the Karabakh conflict certainly appear plausible, more plausible in fact than the earlier ones concerning the impact of the Armenian-Turkish rapprochement. Finding itself increasingly isolated if it does not agree to withdraw and recognizing that it will gain both renewed support from Russia and the opening of the Turkish border if it does, Armenia would seem to have compelling reasons to take precisely that step or at least move more rapidly in that direction than it has in the past.

But there are at least three reasons why such a reading may be too optimistic, reasons that those who want a settlement need to recognize in order to design more effective policies. First, the loss of Russian backing, if indeed that is a fair reading of what is happening, may lead Armenia to adopt an even harder line against any agreement. That counter-intuitive conclusion reflects what some have called the Masada Complex that has informed Armenian behavior in Karabakh and the other occupied territories over the last two decades. Believing that it is better to fight and even die than to retreat any further—the message of the great novel of the Armenian experience, Franz Werfel’s *The 40 Days of Musa Dagh*—at least some Armenians will say that they must rely even more on themselves than before and prepare for a final battle, even if it is one that they may even expect to lose.

Such apocalypticism—even if it is manifested only in part—could have the effect of making the current talks even more difficult, with Armenians believing that they may be able to torpedo the Russian-Turkish rapprochement or draw in the Iranians or some other outside power in ways that will work to their own advantage. At the very least, those in Yerevan who feel themselves now without serious allies are more likely rather than less to listen to and rely upon the Armenian diaspora, a group that is more radically anti-Turkish than is Armenia itself and one whose influence had been on the wane as a result of Yerevan’s rapprochement with Ankara. That could point to a new effort reflecting the combined efforts of Armenia and the diaspora to seek international condemnation for the events of 1915 in the Ottoman Empire.

Second, the Turkish-Russian rapprochement is certain to have a major impact on the role of outside powers in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, but it is unlikely by itself to change the positions of the two countries most directly involved, Azerbaijan and Armenia. What does that mean? In simplest terms, it suggests that both Russia and Turkey are likely to see a change in the Minsk Group, with Turkey added as a co-chair, or the development of alternative venues in which the other co-chairs, France and especially the United States, will have a lesser voice.

The drive to include Turkey as a co-chair is picking up steam with more and more commentators in Moscow saying that would be a good step and with Armenian opposition to such a move apparently less of an obstacle

than it was before. But any such change by the very nature of diplomacy would slow things down rather than speed them up, given that a reconstituted Minsk Group would inevitably have to go through a series of meetings so as to coordinate things with the new member. And because of that likelihood, it could even be the case that Armenia would view the inclusion of Turkey as a useful delaying action until something else turns up.

But the desire of Turkey to play a bigger role in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict and that of Russia to play a predominant one in which outside powers, particularly the United States but indeed all, including even Turkey, could combine to lead to a search for a new venue for discussing the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict. Many in Baku and other capitals are unhappy that the Minsk Group has not made more progress toward the resolution of the conflict, and many are beginning to focus on the fact that the US pushed for the creation of that group in the OSCE because it was the only international organization in which all the countries of the region were members except Iran. And consequently, there is a new willingness to explore alternatives to the Minsk Group, possibly involving an entirely different cast of characters.

It is unlikely, of course, that the Minsk Group will simply disappear. In the world of diplomacy, organizations frequently live on long after they have been effectively supplanted by others. (The last meeting of the League of Nations, for example, did not take place until AFTER World War II, a conflict the League had been set up to prevent). But if other groups do emerge, that will slow negotiations down still further as new players emerge and as each side takes the measure of the other. Consequently, moving away from the Minsk Group, something ever more governments appear ready to do, may have very different consequences than some of them appear to recognize.

And third—and this is far and away the most important factor—Russia and Turkey have both broader and very different interests in the Caucasus than just resolving the Karabakh conflict. On the one hand, that means that each of them will seek to maximize those interests even if it does not promote the rapid resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. While both oppose any use of military power to end the impasse—such a restarting of open hostilities could threaten their interests—neither appears likely to be willing to sacrifice its wider interests in order to achieve an

Armenian-Azerbaijani peace. Indeed, only if such an accord promotes their interests are they likely to push it very hard.

And on the other, the differences in their positions on many issues—Russia wants to restore its influence across what Moscow still calls “the near abroad,” the former Soviet space, and Turkey wants to expand its influence in the same region—means that there are distinct limits to the rapprochement of these two powers, limits that could undermine the accord they seem to have reached in much the same way that the underlying differences between Armenia and Turkey have prevented the adoption of the two protocols Yerevan and Ankara have signed.

Given all this, it is almost certainly wise to avoid becoming too optimistic or too apocalyptic in one’s predictions about the future of the South Caucasus on the basis of a single turn of the Caucasus kaleidoscope. It almost certainly will turn again, possibly bringing all the pieces into alignment for an agreement but equally possibly throwing them into disorder in such a way that no accord will be possible anytime soon.

ARMENIAN DIASPORA: INFLUENCE ON NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

Zaur Shiriyev

In recent weeks, Armenian parliamentarians and political analysts have called on Armenian diaspora organizations to press for international recognition of the Armenian regime in Karabakh (Hayrumyan 2010). Yerevan clearly places great hopes in this appeal given the experience and success Armenian diaspora groups have had in working with the legislatures and governments around the world. And the Armenian diaspora in turn is closely related to the Armenian government and its approach to the Karabakh conflict.

Members of the Armenian diaspora have played a significant role in Yerevan since 1991. During the early stages of talks about Karabakh, Gerard Libaridian, a US citizen, was the key architect of Yerevan's approach. Moreover, Raffi Hovanissian, the first foreign minister of Armenia, and Vartan Oskanian, who followed him in that post, were also members of the diaspora. Such people played a role both in Armenia and in the countries from which they came.

A key example of the latter is the role the Armenian diaspora in the United States played in getting the Congress to pass Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which banned all US government assistance to the Azerbaijani government, even though Armenia was receiving more assistance per capita than any other post-Soviet country. While the diaspora sent few of its members to fight in the war against Azerbaijan, it did help provide aid to refugees and stepped up its lobbying effort on behalf of Yerevan's positions (Koinova 2009, p. 6). And the conflict itself helped unite diaspora organizations that had been at odds for other reasons.

The first president of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian, was concerned that the involvement of radical Armenian diaspora in Yerevan's policies might cause problems, but even he was not opposed to having the diaspora work for Armenia abroad. Because of his concerns, the 1995 Constitution

banned dual citizenship, but because of the diaspora's power, his administration created a special passport for diaspora Armenians giving them all rights and privileges of a citizen except the right to vote, to be elected to office, or to serve in the armed services. Some in the diaspora denounced this approach as one designed to "milk" the diaspora for assistance without being willing to take its advice (Libaridian 1999, p. 103).

Ter-Petrossian's policy toward the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, however, did not satisfy many in the diaspora, and it was their opposition to his approach that limited his ability to make concessions toward an accord, something he hoped to achieve because of his recognition that only through a settlement could Armenia hope to achieve economic growth (Ter-Petrosyan 1997). Diaspora anger at his pragmatism in this regard is one of the reasons that he was driven from office, replaced by the more radical Robert Kocharian, who, coming from Karabakh, took a harder line on that conflict. The new president also convened conferences with the diaspora and pushed the diaspora's anti-Turkish line in his own statements. Kocharian's government attempted to use the diaspora to attract investment to Armenia, and some diaspora-based companies did come in. But the result of this was that the Armenian government lost ever more control over the country, effectively ceding it to the diaspora groups.

Since the Russia-Georgia war of August 2008, the situation has changed in the South Caucasus. It forced Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to turn to Turkey in an effort to find a path to the world given that Georgia was no longer a bridge but a wall as far as Armenia was concerned. But his steps in this direction infuriated many in the diaspora who view any ties with Turkey as anathema and who gave him a chilly reception when he sought to sell the protocols as necessary for Armenia's survival and growth. And many diaspora groups have sought to torpedo these accords by raising the issue of Karabakh independence and the events of 1915.

Throughout the post-1991 period, the actions of the Armenian diaspora show that Yerevan does not control its foreign policy but rather is limited in its actions not only by the power of other states, but also by the actions of people who are ethnically Armenian but not citizens of Armenia. Nowhere is that clearer than in the economic sector where Armenia continues to suffer because it is not able to take part in regional pipeline and other projects. Some in Armenia are beginning to recognize this and to take a

more moderate position on Karabakh, but until Armenia can act like a country rather than as a branch office of the diaspora, the people of Armenia will suffer.

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KARABAKH AFTER ASTANA

Paul Goble

Despite widespread hopes and even expectations that the OSCE summit in Astana would bring progress toward the resolution of what has become known as the Karabakh conflict, that did not happen. And while some diplomats are already seeking to put the best face on things by noting that “at least” there was a meeting between Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, something that was uncertain until the very last moment, the failure to make discernable progress in the negotiations raises some serious questions about the future of that conflict and the role of the OSCE’s Minsk Group in those discussions.

To understand why expectations were so high, it is necessary to recall three things. First, because Kazakhstan was OSCE chairman-in-office during the last year and because Astana had made it clear that progress on Karabakh was near the top of its agenda, many assumed that it very much hoped to orchestrate an accord to be announced at this summit meeting. Second, the intensity of visits and meetings of the OSCE Minsk Group, which consists of an American, French and Russian co-chair, has rarely been greater than over the last few months, a pattern that suggested the parties were making progress. And third, in support of the Minsk Group and the presidents of the two other co-chair countries, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev had taken a more active role in recent times, something many commentators have suggested is a pre-condition for progress.

Moreover, pressure seemed to be growing on Armenia to accept the modified Madrid Principles that would lead to Armenian withdrawal more or less immediately from five Azerbaijani districts and parts of a sixth as well as to an ultimate Armenian withdrawal from Karabakh itself. Turkey had made it clear that its opening to Yerevan would not really take off until Armenia agreed to this arrangement and began to implement it. Ever more countries, including Iran, and international organizations, such as NATO

and the European Union, have adopted increasingly toughly-worded resolutions in support of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. And Russia, despite its cultural sympathies with Armenia, has demonstrated that it is more interested in Azerbaijan as the ultimate prize of its Caucasus policy.

But despite that, there was little or no movement. Azerbaijan has already agreed to the renewed Madrid principles, but Armenia's leaders, apparently concluding that they have nothing to lose by simply maintaining the status quo, refused to make any significant steps in the direction of a final accord, despite the president of one Minsk Group co-chair country, the prime minister of a second and the secretary of state of the third and despite the hopes and even expectations of many who are concerned that the OSCE must demonstrate its ability to solve such conflicts or become increasingly irrelevant.

When it became obvious that no agreement was going to take place in Astana, the co-chair countries issued a statement which "recalled the joint statements of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, with the President of the Russian Federation, on November 2, 2008, in Moscow, and on October 27, 2010, in Astrakhan." They further agreed that a peaceful, negotiated settlement will bring stability and security and is the only way to bring real reconciliation to the peoples of the region. "The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan reaffirmed their commitment to seek a final settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based upon: the principles and norms of international law; the United Nations Charter; the Helsinki Final Act; as well as the statements of Presidents Medvedev, Sarkozy, and Obama, at L'Aquila on July 10, 2009, and at Muskoka on June 26, 2010."

And "the three OSCE Co-Chair countries pledged their support for the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia as they make the necessary decisions to reach a peaceful settlement. They urged the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to focus with renewed energy on the issues that still remain in the Basic Principles, and instructed their Co-Chairs to continue to work with the parties to the conflict to assist in these efforts. In order to create a better atmosphere for the negotiations, they called for additional steps to strengthen the ceasefire and carry out confidence-building measures in all fields," the kind of language diplomats use to conceal failure rather than to trumpet success.

President Aliyev was more openly angry about Armenia's failure to

move toward a resolution of the dispute. “Today,” he declared, “Armenia uses force to keep the occupied territories under its control and to block the return of internally displaced persons to their homelands. Nevertheless,” he said, “Azerbaijan remains committed to peace talks and the principles laid out by various international organizations.”

Unfortunately, the Azerbaijani leader continued, “instead of conducting negotiations toward the resolution of the conflict, Armenia continues to prefer to escalate the conflict, violate the ceasefire regime, conduct military exercises in the occupied territories, change the names of [Azerbaijani] cities and villages, pursue an illegal settlement policy, and attempt to transform the peace process into a senseless exercise.”

“Such behavior,” President Aliyev said, “gives grounds for thinking that Armenia does not intend to free the occupied territories but instead wants to maintain the status quo for a long period and make the talks conducted with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group into something meaningless.” We have been talking “for 20 years,” he said, “but there is no result. We are ready to continue negotiations, conclude them quickly and reach an outcome based on the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and corresponding to international norms and principles.”

What is this failure going to mean for the future of the Karabakh conflict in general and for the OSCE Minsk Group in particular? Many officials and political leaders in Azerbaijan, from President Aliyev on down, have stressed that they are not prepared to wait forever for the return of the occupied territories and that Baku has the resources to take them back by force if Armenia refuses to negotiate in good faith. Usually, statements in this regard have been seen as part of the negotiating process, as the sticks behind any carrots, rather than as an actual threat of imminent action.

But clearly, Armenia’s unwillingness to be more forthcoming at Astana will lead to an increase in the volume of such statements, and Armenia may find itself confronted with the need to increase its own military effort or, more likely, to defer even more to an expanded Russian military presence, something that might prevent a conflict in the short term but that would expose Yerevan to even greater Russian influence over time, influence that Moscow would likely use eventually to secure a settlement in Karabakh that Azerbaijan would be happy about.

(Many analysts have long assumed that because of the religious and

cultural ties between Russians and Armenians and because Moscow in the past has benefited from tensions in the region that the Russian government will never change its position. But as one extremely wise Azerbaijani observer put it not long ago, in the South Caucasus, for Russia, “Georgia is the way, Armenia is the tool, but Azerbaijan is the prize.” Consequently, if Moscow does conclude that it stands to gain enormous influence in Azerbaijan by shifting away from Armenia, it is a near certainty that Russia will do just that.)

A military conflict is thus not likely in the short term unless something terrible goes wrong, and that is in itself a kind of victory. But if the guns are not going to fire, ever more people are going to ask some serious questions about the negotiations themselves, given, as President Aliyev pointed out, their lack of progress over almost a generation. And that means there may be calls for organizing a new grouping, especially as many of the participants at Astana pointed out that the OSCE should be renamed, reorganized, or otherwise transformed.

A shift on this point in the very near term may be unlikely as well. But as the actions of Russian President Medvedev have shown, the role of individual countries may expand at the expense of the Minsk Group. That may complicate matters, especially since the Minsk Group was drawn from the membership of the only international organization in which all the countries of the South Caucasus region or abutting it are included except Iran. Clearly, Iran like Turkey is going to want to have a larger role than it has had in the past, and that too will put pressure on all the parties for a new venue.

What form this might take is unclear, but it seems likely that there will be more bilateral efforts and somewhat fewer multilateral ones, a pattern that will reflect growing recognition of a fundamental reality: Ultimately, the two countries most immediately involved are going to have to agree, regardless of what the international community says. Azerbaijan, as President Aliyev said, is ready to do so. Astana showed that Armenia is not.

Energy Politics

Volume III, 2010

AZERBAIJANI GAS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT

Matt Stone

From the Western perspective, Azerbaijan is the geographic gateway to the Caspian Sea region's plentiful oil and gas resources. In the post-Cold War period, Western political and commercial actors have sought to build export routes for Caspian hydrocarbons that avoid both Russian and Iranian territory. In that regard, Azerbaijan is essential and irreplaceable. The focus of the 1990s was on oil, which culminated in the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline in 2005. Now the focus is on natural gas, with a number of gas export projects competing for a commitment of Azerbaijani gas—mainly from Shah Deniz phase 2—to justify their financing and construction. However, in recent years the global natural gas market has undergone three major changes that threaten to make Caspian gas less competitive in the European market.

The first trend is the expansion of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade and, in particular, the growth of the LNG spot market (Jensen 2004). While LNG has been traded on the world's oceans for a number of decades, the past decade has seen a major expansion in LNG capacity. Historically, LNG cargoes are traded on the basis of long-term take-or-pay contracts whereby a buyer commits to purchase a specified quantity of LNG from a given seller for a number of years at a price usually indexed to the price of crude oil. This contractual basis served to apportion the volume and price risk to the buyer and seller, respectively, which in turn is considered sufficient commercial guarantee to justify the enormous up-front capital costs necessary to build an LNG supply chain. Moreover, this contractual relationship served to lock LNG volumes into fixed trading relationships, thereby keeping those volumes off the market.

This paradigm is changing. A number of older LNG liquefaction facilities are now operating beyond the term of their original long-term seller's contracts. Many of these now sell exclusively or in part into a

burgeoning LNG spot market where cargoes go to the highest bidder. Additionally, some new facilities are also selling into the spot market. Qatar for instance is known to sell into the East Asian or Atlantic LNG markets depending on where the higher price can be found. This price arbitrage is increasingly frequent and expected, contributing to the gradual and imperfect formation of a global LNG spot price, which is partially independent of the oil-indexed LNG prices that have persisted for decades. The expanding liquidity of the LNG spot market means buyers with access to re-gasification infrastructure have more flexibility in choosing their gas trade partners according to price.

The second trend is the so-called “revolution” in unconventional gas production, primarily in North America. In the past decade, technological innovation has driven down the costs of the drilling method known as hydraulic fracturing, thereby increasing its commercial viability. This process, which uses a mixture of water, chemicals, and sand to break open reservoirs of gas locked in impermeable shale, has rapidly morphed the United States from imminent LNG importer (to supplement imports from Canada) into a potential LNG exporter. This has had the effect of diverting many LNG cargoes destined for North America to other markets, primarily Europe but also East Asia. Production of unconventional gas is also being mooted in other parts of the world, most significantly in Europe and China. If either were to replicate the U.S. success with unconventional gas production, the result would be an even larger glut of natural gas supply and depressed gas prices into the foreseeable future. For the sake of promoting energy security, Washington is aiding China and European governments in developing their unconventional gas resources.

The third trend, which has garnered less attention in the year since the failure of the December 2009 Copenhagen climate change summit, is the push to put a price on carbon emissions and thus to reduce the global economy’s carbon output. The European Union (EU) has been a trailblazer in this regard, having established the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2005, which operates as a cap-and-trade mechanism for a handful of carbon-emitting entities. ETS serves as a template for future cap-and-trade programs, including some at the state-level in the United States. While the Copenhagen summit’s failure and the Republican Party’s recent electoral success in the U.S. suggest that a global carbon emissions reduction and

mitigation regime is still some way off, the trend toward regulating carbon emissions remains intact. When it does happen, the price of carbon will have a material impact on the global demand for natural gas. Indeed, in the power generation sector, a low price for carbon would benefit gas, nuclear, and renewables at the expense of coal. However, at a higher price, both coal and gas demand would be hurt, while nuclear and renewables would become more commercially attractive. At this point, it appears that a weak regulatory framework for carbon emissions is the most likely, and therefore natural gas should benefit (at the expense of more-polluting coal). But many investors in natural gas infrastructure—power stations, pipelines, gas fields, etc.—invest with an outlook of three to four decades. There is no telling where the price of carbon will be in that time frame. There are some gas sector investors who currently condition their investment decisions based on assumptions of a high carbon price within two decades such that while gas looks like a good short to medium-term bet, it is much more ambiguous in the long-term.

(A fourth potential trend is the small but growing prevalence of natural gas use in the transportation sector, diversifying the sectoral demand for gas away from traditional uses in power generation and heating. This trend is still in an incipient phase, and doubts remain about the scalability of gas in the transportation sector.)

These three trends—the growing connectedness between regional gas markets via price arbitrage in the LNG market, the tsunami of new gas supply engendered by rapid development of unconventional gas, and the ambiguity about how gas will fare in a carbon-regulated business environment—present challenges for geographically constrained gas producers like Azerbaijan and the other Caspian states. In particular, the combination of new unconventional gas supply and growing volumes of LNG traded on the spot market has disrupted the supply-demand balance, pushing down spot prices in the European market. The prevalence of low spot prices is subverting the historic gas-pricing model in Europe—oil-indexation—which is gradually being supplanted by spot pricing as gas purchasers demand a loosening of the take-or-pay and pricing terms in their long-term contracts with sellers like Gazprom, Statoil, Sonatrach, and others (Stern 2009). It is not clear how comprehensively the European gas market will evolve toward spot pricing or what the eventual balance

between spot pricing and oil-indexation in contracts will be when supply and demand fundamentals return to balance. This ambiguous pricing environment is not conducive to the signing of long-term contracts to justify the construction of geopolitically complex and expensive pipeline projects.

Critically, these global gas market trends have in the past three years driven down the netback price European energy companies can reasonably offer Azerbaijan for its gas. Gas transportation projects like Nabucco, Interconnector Turkey-Greece-Italy, and Trans-Adriatic Pipeline are competing to offer Baku and the Shah Deniz consortium the best netback price for gas deliveries to each project. With European gas demand in the doldrums due to the economic slowdown and supply from unconventional gas and LNG on the rise, netback prices in the near term are likely to be well under 100 USD per thousand cubic meters (Mcm) and perhaps even less than 50 USD/Mcm. If the netback price, which accounts for transportation costs to bring the gas to market, is negative, then Azerbaijani gas is effectively “stranded.” Of course, the private firms that make up the consortiums for these pipeline projects cannot offer Baku any better than the market price for its gas (they would be punished by their shareholders if they did otherwise); a state-owned firm like Gazprom, which does not operate according to economic logic alone, can offer Azerbaijan higher-than-market prices in order to undermine the commercial feasibility of competing projects.

Ultimately, how Baku copes with these tectonic shifts in the global gas market—especially with regards to the government’s decision within the next year about which Southern Corridor project to favor, if any—will determine the future character and geography of the gas export corridor out of the Caspian Sea region, which will have important geopolitical and economic consequences for decades to come. Indeed, given the current state of the European gas market and the aforementioned macro-level trends in the global gas market, it may behoove Azerbaijan’s government to commit gas volumes to a Southern Corridor project even if in the short run the project does not seem particularly lucrative in terms of netback prices. The export flexibility and direct exposure to the European market that a new pipeline would allow may prove more than adequately compensatory in the long term.

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CONVERTING PETRO WEALTH INTO SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Ramil Maharramov

Azerbaijan's economy has grown at an unprecedented rate during the last decade, with real GDP increases averaging 21 percent between 2005 and 2009 alone (Fitch Ratings 2010). This spectacular growth reflects a major expansion of the oil and gas production and significant increases in public spending for both infrastructure and social needs. As a result, Azerbaijan's economy exceeded its 1991 level in 2005 and ranked fourth in the CIS in per capita income (The Economist Intelligence Unit 2010, p. 21). And it was one of the few post-Soviet states whose sovereign rating has risen to investment grade, clear testimony not only of the country's overall growth but also its prudent management of oil revenues and credit.

There was also a significant improvement in the standard of living and other social indicators. Between 2003 and 2009, the official poverty rate fell from 45 percent of the population to 11 percent, while unemployment fell from 15 percent to 6.5 percent in 2007 (Maharramov 2009). Like other countries, Azerbaijan has been affected by the global financial crisis but not nearly so severely. In 2009, for example, its economy expanded by 9.3 percent, the highest in the East European region but the least for Azerbaijan since 1999.

And Azerbaijan's future looks bright as well. With proven oil reserves of 7 billion barrels as of 2009, Azerbaijan's oil production has risen by 400 percent between 1997 and 2008 to 875,000 bbl/d. Over the course of same period the share that oil and gas production accounted for in GDP grew from 10 percent to 47 percent in 2009, a level likely to remain more or less constant until at least 2015.

Moreover, oil output is likely to rise further as new wells come online and new discoveries are made. Baku and the BP-led consortium are expected to approve a 10 billion USD project expanding Azeri Light oil production from the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli (ACG) fields to a rate of 1

million bbl/d rate until 2019. If that project does not go forward, Azerbaijan's oil production is projected to reach a peak in 2014 and then decline through 2024 (US Energy Information Administration 2009).

Azerbaijan exports most of its oil, thereby earning much needed foreign exchange and allowing it to finance capital imports and strategic economic development priorities. This plan is helped by declines in domestic consumption. In fact, domestic oil consumption fell from 203,000 bbl/d in 1992 to 128,000 bbl/d in 2008, thus allowing Azerbaijan to export 749,000 bbl/d in 2008, twice the level of 2005 and earning the country 29 billion US dollars in 2008 (US Energy Information Administration 2009).

In addition to oil, Azerbaijan also has proven natural gas reserves of 30 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). Industry analysts consider Shah-Deniz to be one of the world's largest gas field discoveries in the last 20 years, with possibly 15 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 600 million barrels of condensate recoverable. The startup of the Shah-Deniz gas field in 2007 transformed Azerbaijan from a net gas importer into a net gas exporter. In 2008, Azerbaijan produced 572 billion cubic feet of natural gas mainly from the ACG and Shah Deniz fields, of which 66 percent was consumed domestically. When Phase 2 of Shah Deniz is completed in 2016, its overall production capacity will reach 1 trillion Tcf. From 2016 on, ACG and Shah Deniz together are expected to be producing roughly 1.4 trillion cubic feet natural gas, much of which will be exported.

Because the oil and gas fields are nationally owned, revenues from them can be used by the government to increase public spending on both capital projects and current expenditures.

Consolidated public spending which includes both increased four times from 2.8 bln. AZN to more than 12 billion AZN during the 2003-2009 period, and consolidated public investments accounted for the largest share of increase in public spending. To renew much needed social and economic infrastructure, the government increased consolidated public investment expenditures 1000 percent to 4.4 billion manats in 2009. [1] Indeed, growth in non-tradable non-oil sectors such as construction, communication, trade, tourism and travel services have been largely driven by these government expenditures or by the multiplier effects of massive investments in the oil and gas sector.

Azerbaijan's non-oil sector is dominated by these non-tradable sectors

and by social services. The share of these industries in the non-oil economy has steadily increased, from 59 percent in 2002 to 67 percent in 2009. On the other hand, the share of the tradable sectors such as non-oil manufacturing and agriculture declined over the same period by 12 percent. Non-tradable sectors also grew much faster over the same period, posting 15.4 percent average real growth versus 5.8 percent average real growth of tradable sectors.

The non-oil sectors of the economy have withstood the global economic and financial crisis relatively well. They even grew 3.2 percent in 2009 thanks largely to rises in agriculture, communication, transportation, travel and tourism and trade. At the same time, non-oil manufacturing and the construction sectors declined by 13.8 percent and 8.2 percent respectively, reflecting the vulnerability of these sectors to international trends.

Diversification of the economy, development of the non-oil economy, creation of enabling business and investment environment remain major strategic objectives of the government. The National Employment Strategy (2006-2015), the State Program on Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction (2008-2015) and the medium-term economic social development program (2009-2012) focused on the creation of the supportive business environment, particularly in the non-oil sectors. As part of this, Azerbaijan has cut the number and rate of taxes since 1998. [2]

The positive changes in the business environment of the non-oil economy the government sought to create were reflected in the 2009 Doing Business ranking of 2009. According to the ranking (which assesses economies based on 10 indicators of business regulation), Azerbaijan was listed at the top as the most reforming country in both 2008 and 2009: It rose from 97th place to 33rd place in the global rankings over that period. Another World Bank survey on enterprise performance in 2009 reinforced those findings. [3]

At the same time, international financial institutions project that the oil and gas sector will not be the main driver of economic growth from this year through 2014 when the Chirag field becomes operational. But these projections do not account for Phase 2 Shah Deniz field development, which is expected to come online in 2016, the development of disputed oil fields with proven reserves in the Caspian sea, and the likely discovery of new oil and gas fields. Moreover, growth of the transit trade will also

partially offset the projected decline in oil production, once Kazakhstan and possibly Turkmenistan begin using Azerbaijan as a link to Western markets (The Economist Intelligence Unit 2009). And if the government and BP-led consortium approve a 10 billion USD project to tap the oil reserves below the ACG fields, this will extend oil production from the ACG fields at 1 million bbl/d rate until 2019 (US Energy Information Administration 2009).

But even if no new oil fields are discovered, Azerbaijan will continue receiving large oil revenues throughout the coming decade. IMF projects that Azerbaijan's Oil Fund assets will reach 98 billion US dollars by 2015, 6.5 times of the 2009 level. At more favorable world oil prices this amount could prove to be much larger. The coming on stream of the Phase 2 Shah Deniz field in 2016 will also boost growth, export revenues and international reserves further.

Nonetheless, at some point in the future, Azerbaijan will run out of oil and gas as its reserves are relatively modest. Consequently, Azerbaijan needs to reduce its dependence on revenues from this sector and improve the country's long-term outlook by developing a viable non-oil sector, promoting balanced regional economic development, organizing effective wealth redistribution schemes, creating favorable business environment, and making massive investments in human capital development.

Failure to do so could entail serious problems. At present, non-oil exports make up only 5 percent of overall exports, and the tradable sector accounted for only 9.7 percent of GDP in 2009. If these figures do not change, the economy's capacity will be strained after 2020 and the real GDP growth will slow. At the 2009 oil prices and hydrocarbons production forecast, the Economist Intelligence Unit projects annual average real GDP growth of 3.8 percent for the period of 2009-2030 and 2.8 percent for the period of 2021-2030, much lower than the historical average in the last decade (The Economist Intelligence Unit 2009). Put in the starkest terms: a viable non-oil sector in Azerbaijan is essential for social cohesion and harmony in the country, given that it provides employment and income to 98.9 percent of the total workforce, while the oil and gas extraction industry employs only the remaining 1.1 percent. [4]

The Economist Intelligence Unit projects that Azerbaijan's population will reach 10.3 million by 2030, with the working-age population growing by

0.44 percent between 2009 and 2030. The youngest working-age cohort (15-24) currently has the highest unemployment rate among all age groups. In spite of improvements in the performance of labor markets and reported reduction in unemployment, nearly a third of the population pointed to unemployment as the country's greatest problem except for the Karabakh conflict. [5]

In the future, Azerbaijan must further improve the business environment, generate an educated workforce, build new infrastructure, and improve opportunities in all non-oil and gas sectors. In 2010 staff consultations with the IMF, Azerbaijani authorities generally agreed with the Fund's recommendations on these and other points, including improved economic planning and budgeting and improved investment in human capital via education. For Azerbaijan to succeed, government efforts will not be enough. Individual Azerbaijanis must come to believe that investing in education will help them and their families and thus their country as well (Maharramov 2009).

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[2] IMF Article IV Country Report Statistics, May 2010.

[3] World Bank, Enterprise surveys: Azerbaijan, 2009.

[4] The State Statistics Committee, Labor market statistics, 2008.

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TURKMENISTAN WARMS UP TO CASPIAN DELIMITATION DEAL WITH BAKU

Matt Stone

The global economic crisis has put Ashgabat in a difficult position. In April 2009, faced with falling European gas demand, Turkmenistan's top gas customer, Gazprom, halted purchases of Turkmen gas, leading to the unexpected explosion of the Central Asia Center-4 pipeline. For the next nine months—until December 2009—Turkmenistan and Russia haggled over new terms for their bilateral gas trade, robbing Ashgabat of vital export revenues in the meantime. When gas exports to Russia finally resumed in January 2010, they did so at a much lower level—about 10 billion cubic meters per year (bcm/y) rather than 40 or more bcm/y previously exported [1]—and at a lower price—from something approximating 300 USD per thousand cubic meters in the first quarter of 2009 to a price less than 200 USD per thousand cubic meters through 2010. [2]

In response to his country's weakened position in the Eurasian gas trade, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov engaged other external partners, including opening pipelines to China and Iran, and awarding hydrocarbon sector contracts to German, Korean, Emirati, and Chinese firms (as well as a couple Russian firms). The most recent manifestation of this outreach was the government's indications in August [3] and October [4] that US, French, and Emirati firms may be the next in line to win contracts to develop oil and gas deposits in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea. In August, President Berdymukhammedov also called for negotiations to secure a 4 billion USD loan from China. With Chinese gas purchases increasing only incrementally and Russian purchases flat-lining until European gas demand rebounds, Turkmenistan's flurry of activity signals a government with its back to the wall, confused as to whence it will earn the currency necessary to preserve its domestic balance.

However, Ashgabat's external engagement is stymied by complex regional geopolitics. To the southeast, the Taliban insurgency in

Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan undermines investor confidence in a putative trans-Afghan gas pipeline, delaying its realization by at least another decade. To the south, Iran, which has been a willing buyer of Turkmen gas, is under the strain of multilateral sanctions, limiting the volumes it can reasonably purchase at the price Turkmenistan demands. And to the west, Ashgabat's disagreement with Baku over the proper delimitation of the binational maritime boundary and sovereignty over the Kapaz oil field (called "Sardar" by the Turkmen), as well as Russian and Iranian opposition to a trans-Caspian gas pipeline, has hampered Turkmenistan's goal of opening a westward-oriented oil and gas export corridor.

Despite mutual mistrust, the Turkmen government's actions in 2009-2010 suggest that it is looking to resolve its disagreements with Baku in order to open this export corridor. In July 2009, two weeks after vocalizing his country's interest in the Nabucco pipeline, President Berdymukhammedov called for international arbitration of the Azeri-Turkmen Caspian delimitation dispute, declaring, "We [Turkmenistan] are ready to accept any decision of an international court." [5] While initially interpreted by observers as a hostile move, the president's statement was the first indication that Ashgabat would be open to an internationally mediated resolution. In October 2009, the Turkmen government backed off the call for international arbitration—probably after clarifying the extensive process that arbitration would entail—but left the option on the table should bilateral negotiations fail. [6]

It seems there has been little tangible progress toward a negotiated solution in 2010, but the August announcement that approximately 40,000 barrels of Turkmen crude oil are now transiting the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline daily points to tentatively expanding bilateral cooperation in the energy trade (these volumes were previously shipped to Neka, Iran). [7] The precedent of exporting Turkmen crude oil by tanker to Baku and then through BTC may have demonstrative implications for a seaborne trans-Caspian natural gas export project, with Turkmen gas shipped to Baku and onwards through the South Caucasus Pipeline to Erzurum, Turkey. In this regard, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz announced on September 15 after a meeting with his Azeri and Turkmen counterparts in Istanbul that Turkey is interested in purchasing the 5 bcm/y of gas that Malaysian firm Petronas will produce in the Turkmen offshore, specifically calling for "the

long-term supplies of Turkmen gas across the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan and further abroad.” [8] Turkey itself may be attempting to broker a resolution between Baku and Ashgabat in order to open up access to Turkmen gas reserves for the Turkish domestic market and the Southern Corridor.

The creeping internationalization of the Azeri-Turkmen Caspian delimitation dispute is further complemented—or complicated, depending on one’s point of view—by European Union (EU) efforts to foster a bilateral deal on a trans-Caspian pipeline. In August, Bloomberg reported on an EU-sponsored framework for a trans-Caspian pipeline that, according to the document, should “not be interpreted as affecting Azerbaijan or Turkmenistan’s jurisdiction over sub-soil resources or their sovereign rights under international law to the Caspian Sea.” [9] The EU effort to tie Turkmenistan into the Southern Corridor without dealing with the fundamental issue in Azerbaijani-Turkmen relations hints at desperation: after a number of years of fruitless negotiations Brussels now wants to selectively and conveniently forget about Caspian delimitation. The proposal, however, is unlikely to succeed. Ashgabat understands that if it wants a favorable outcome in the delimitation dispute, it will need to leverage its copious gas resources to bring European (and Turkish) pressure to bear on Baku. To agree to a trans-Caspian pipeline without a final resolution to delimitation would be to sacrifice Turkmenistan’s main trump card.

And yet, when Turkmenistan was exporting over 50 bcm/y Ashgabat had the luxury of holding out for Western pressure on Azerbaijan. (At the same time, Ashgabat also had to worry about a Russian cutoff or Iranian belligerence in the event that the country did throw its support behind a trans-Caspian pipeline.) Now that Turkmenistan is exporting a little more than 20 bcm/y, Ashgabat does not have time to wait and may be more amenable to a speedy bilateral resolution that paves the way for the short-term opening of a trans-Caspian gas export corridor.

In December, the Caspian littoral states will meet in Baku to discuss—again—the legal status of the Caspian Sea. Moscow and Tehran will be vocal and forthright in their opposition to a trans-Caspian gas transportation project. Nevertheless, Turkmenistan is likely to be looking for a sign from Azerbaijan that the bilateral delimitation dispute could be

settled once and for all. The nationalist attitudes that have shaped Turkmen behavior during many years of talks may now be overshadowed by economic necessity.

Baku's window of opportunity may not last long, however. Once China ramps up its purchases of Turkmen gas and gas prices return to their record highs of 2008-2009, Ashgabat will again be able to afford to take a hardline stance in negotiations. In the meantime, Turkmenistan remains in a position of relative weakness.

Notes

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- [3] Turkmenistan.gov.tm, 12 August 2010.
- [4] Turkmenistan.ru, 9 October 2010.
- [5] Reuters, 10 July 2010.
- [6] Reuters, 1 October 2010.
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- [8] Reuters, 15 September 2010; Turkmenistan.ru, 16 September 2010.
- [9] Bloomberg, 3 August 2010.

Toward Multilateral Cooperation

Volume III, 2010

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE SOUTH CAUCASUS: AVAILABLE OPTIONS AND A STRATEGIC NECESSITY

Anne-Marie Lizin*

The South Caucasus region is important for Europe even if many Europeans do not yet recognize that reality. It will be a place where many of our strategic goals, especially economic, will either succeed or fail. And consequently, we in Europe need to develop special expertise on the region, get to know its leaders, and become familiar with their problems and prospects. It has certainly caught my attention, and I want to share some of my impressions here.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the South Caucasus has known neither stability nor balance, and the challenges that many in Eastern Europe experienced during the same decades have been even greater in this region. Europeans have focused on the Balkans and even committed forces there, but we have been less attentive to the non-Russian countries that emerged out of the USSR.

Perhaps nowhere has this relative lack of interest and attention been greater than in the Caucasus, a place to which Europeans have devoted only minimal attention in the form of OSCE resolutions and groupings and resolutions at the UN Security Council. Abkhazia, an autonomous region of Georgia, is the most obvious case where Europeans should have gotten involved, but the same conclusion applies with equal force to South Ossetia and to Nagorno-Karabakh.

One reason the South Caucasus is so important lies in the two powers that border the region, Turkey and Russia. On the one hand, Turkey is becoming increasingly important as a real actor for stability in its southern zone whilst taking care directly to inform Moscow at each step.

And on the other, Russia is again a growing presence in the South Caucasus: the failure of Mr. Saakashvili and the war he sparked in 2008 has given Russia a key ally in Abkhazia and reinforced total control over South Ossetia, while also opening the way to the possibility of reoccupying

Georgia in case of trouble. Russia is so sure of this that she took advantage of the days of conflict to show that its aircraft could also compromise the “transit” of oil and gas from the Caspian Sea, an important sector of the Georgian economy. Russian jets targeted the main pipeline in Rustavi, south of Tbilisi.

Russian influence on Armenia is overwhelming even though the Russian ambassador there tries to conceal this, but it is clear that no decision is taken by Yerevan that has not been discussed with him. The last presidential elections, which I observed as part of the OSCE mission, in February 2008, revealed Russia’s strength and its role in denying the least opportunity to the opponent, Levon Ter-Petrosian, whose manifesto mentioned searching for a peaceful solution to Nagorno-Karabakh and reducing Armenia’s military expenditure. Alone, such a poor country cannot manage the budget expenditure to maintain a force in this area.

But in addition to everything else, the South Caucasus must become a priority for Europe because all future energy options depend on it. It is crucial for us to know the actors of these three countries. Investments needed in the near future to allow the flow of gas between Europe and the Caspian Sea are essential. The UK, geographically at the end of the chain, has guaranteed contracts until 2015 and generally we consider that supplies to Northern Europe are guaranteed until 2020. In terms of investment, this is not a long time.

Projects have been on the table for several years, but the decision to finance the Nabucco gas pipeline across Turkey, to be fuelled in part by Azerbaijan and in part by Iran, continues to be met at every turn by the direct competition from a Russian pipeline project that could be supplied by Azerbaijan and laid under the Black Sea. Hesitations in financing this investment are also due to the fact that the profitability of such a pipeline is only guaranteed in the medium-term if it is supplied by Iran, and not just Azerbaijan. Russia is playing a clever game by offering Azerbaijan a very high price, much higher than that offered by its traditional ally, Turkey. [1]

The Europeans depend on the outcome of a game in which they are only one of the players: Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev does not want to see the restoration of a Russian monopoly on Caspian gas and is prepared to accept the risk of a loss of earnings on Azeri exports to maintain the possibility of a choice of partners for his country. The role of

France is crucial here: Total is present and hopes to increase its market share in the new gas fields in the Caspian Sea. Its pragmatic business approach, however, is very open to Russia: if Azerbaijan chooses to privilege Russia, Total will not balk at modernizing the old Russian pipelines that cross Daghestan, thus permitting gas from the Shah Deniz II gas field to go through Russian territory and be resold to Europeans upon payment of a transit price to Russia.

What does this mean for the future? First, it is imperative that we Europeans understand this region, the motivations of, and the issues faced by, its political, economic and energy leaders. Azerbaijan, for example, has a real demand for higher education; France can participate in this and prevent an American monopoly in that sector. Such a monopoly may be tempting for many, but presents the Azerbaijani president with the difficulty of being constantly criticized for the non-democratic nature of his country. Mr. Aliyev in fact refuses to allow the United States to use the territory of Azerbaijan in various actions to destabilize neighboring Iran. This firmness surprises American specialists who don't take into account the role of the Azeri diaspora in Iran and the need to protect it; a function assumed by President Aliyev.

Second, we must assess our dependence on Azerbaijan's energy decisions, the only real actor in this regard in the South Caucasus, and decide on a policy toward it which goes considerably further than the timid and slow efforts of the Eastern Partnership, of which Commissioner Fulle's visit to the region in April 2010 raised fears that it would once more be full of empty promises rather than genuine strategic options.

And third, we Europeans must invest in intelligence and support for this area, both at a European and a French level given that Germany does not have the same priorities in this respect and its pro-Russian energy choices should not prevent us from pursuing a much more dynamic policy toward the South Caucasus.

** This article was translated from French by Tristram Barrett.*

Note

[1] Turkey and Azerbaijan signed a long-awaited memorandum of understanding for the shipment of 11 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz field to Turkey on June 7, 2010.

THE EU AND THE SOUTH CAUCASUS: MORE ATTENTION BUT LITTLE SUCCESS

Anar Iskandarov

Despite the increasing attention the European Union is devoting to the South Caucasus, the EU's current approach is not capable of influencing the countries in that region to a significant degree. And that has proved to be the case despite the interest of all the countries in that region of developing closer ties with the EU and other European institutions and despite the evolution of EU policy over the course of the last 20 years from one that accepted Moscow's predominance in the region to an approach predicated on the ultimate integration of the three South Caucasus countries into Europe.

A major step in this evolution was the signing of Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCA) between the EU and the three countries of the region in April 1996. These Accords were intended to provide a suitable framework for political dialogue, to support the efforts made by the countries to strengthen their democracies and develop their economies, and to accompany their transition to a market economy and to encourage trade and investment. The PCAs also were designed to provide a basis for cooperation in the legislative, economic, social, financial, scientific, civil, technological and cultural fields. [1]

But things have not worked out that way. Because of the Karabakh conflict in the case of Azerbaijan and Armenia and because of the Russian-Georgian war which resulted in Moscow's recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, these agreements have not been able to promote a regional approach to relations between the EU and the South Caucasus. Indeed, the European Union, despite these agreements and despite the EU's professed interest in conflict resolution, has failed to develop the cooperation it might have because of these conflicts (Nuriyev 2007).

Another shortcoming of the PCAs is that they do not create the basis for the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital as is the case

with EU partnership accords elsewhere. The PCAs only give the three states the status of most favored nations, a necessary but insufficient condition for a move toward a free trade zone (Merdanov 2007). Moreover, because there is no reward for moving in that direction, the three countries have not been given incentives by the EU to do so. And consequently, the EU has not succeeded in promoting its policies in the South Caucasus.

One reason for this failure is that until 2003, the South Caucasus was a relatively low priority for the EU. Until that time, Brussels did not develop a specific policy for relations with that region but instead simply transposed policy formulations it had developed for other regions to it, something that could not but fail given the very different challenges the South Caucasus presents (Macfarlane 2004, pp. 119-134).

Another factor was the EU's deference to Russia in the region, especially in the light of Moscow's growing assertiveness there and elsewhere in "the near abroad" (Taylor 1996, p. 126). In the face of that development, the EU preferred to avoid direct involvement and promote the interests of its regions through other bodies such as the Council of Europe, the UN or the OSCE. And that was easy for it to do because membership for the South Caucasus states has not been on the agenda of the European Union and because the three states have not sought a more active EU involvement there (Lynch 2003).

But over the last seven years, the region has become more important for the EU not only because of Europe's interest in energy supplies but also because of security threats emanating from the region (Aliyeva 2006). As a result of these twin concerns, in 2004, the EU included the South Caucasus within the European Neighborhood Policy and appointed a Special Representative for the South Caucasus.

Unfortunately, these steps did not achieve their intended goals, all the more so because of the weakness of the mandate of the Special Representative. Unlike analogous positions for the Balkans or the Middle East, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus was charged only with generating ideas rather than promoting outcomes and his initiatives did not go beyond making visits to the capitals and calling for peaceful settlements of conflicts.

In addition, the European Neighborhood Policy suffered from several

other problems in the South Caucasus. The lack of prospects for full membership anytime soon limited its role as a stimulus for reforms (Light, et.al. 2000, p. 77). Moreover, the policies of individual European countries often were in conflict with those of the European Union (Helly 2007, p. 110; Cianciara 2008). And the European Neighborhood Policy never was able to square the circle of dealing with the three countries as individuals and the three as members of a region (Gurbanov 2008).

The EU's Eastern Partnership is the latest initiative intended to improve the political and economic relations with the EU of the six post-Soviet states of "strategic importance"—Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. At the core of this program are the promotion of human rights, rule of law, visa free travel, free trade, and closer cooperation on various inter-state projects. But it has suffered from internal inconsistencies and the doubts of states on both sides (Sadowska & Swieboda 2009, p. 1), as well as from opposition by Russia to some aspects of this program (Cianciara 2008).

Obviously, the further integration of the South Caucasus into the European Community will require a great deal of time and effort, but first of all, the EU needs to define a more coherent role for itself. There are some encouraging signs in this regard in the Association Agreements, but the EU clearly needs to approach both the region and the individual countries there with clearer goals and more energy.

Specifically, the EU should encourage the governments to design a well-defined strategic vision for integration into the EU, urge the establishment in each country of a special European integration ministry, promote democratization and economic growth, develop judicial reform, promote the fight against corruption, and upgrade the role of the Special Representative, even as it addresses broader security challenges together with Russia, Turkey and the United States.

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Note

[1] The texts of the Agreements are available at <http://www.europa.eu>, accessed 11 August 2010.

TEN YEARS OF AZERBAIJAN'S MEMBERSHIP
IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE:
A LOOK BACK AND INTO THE FUTURE

Marat Kengerlinsky

In January 2011, it will be 10 years since Azerbaijan has joined the Council of Europe (CoE) as a full member. On 17 January 2001, at its meeting the CoE's Committee of Ministers adopted a decision to admit the Republic of Azerbaijan to this Organization. Perhaps, 10 years are not too long from the historical point of view, especially given the fact that Azerbaijan's independence is only nearly 20 years old, but it is a substantial period of time in terms of the membership in a highly reputable and authoritative international organization, such as the CoE.

Azerbaijan is a member of many international and regional organizations. But the membership in the CoE is of particular importance. The CoE is a unique pan-European organization, the adherence to which means that every member state should commit itself to the principles of protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as set up, first of all, by the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as other CoE instruments. In turn, the CoE has the necessary power and mechanisms to monitor the implementation of these commitments and to take actions if necessary.

The above raises a number of questions: Has Azerbaijan been able to meet the CoE's expectation and fulfill the commitments and obligations taken before this Organization during the past 10 years? Has the membership in the Council of Europe been beneficial for Azerbaijan? What will the future for Azerbaijan within the CoE look like?

The current paper seeks to find answers to these questions, none of which is as simple as a first glance might suggest. For this purpose, it is useful to consider the general situation with the development of human rights and democracy in Azerbaijan and to examine the recent reports in respect of Azerbaijan prepared by the CoE's main bodies, namely the

Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.

Committee of Ministers' Ago Monitoring Group

In inviting Azerbaijan and Armenia to become members of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers of the CoE decided to monitor, on a regular basis, the democratic development of these countries. To do that, it set up an ad hoc Monitoring Group (Ago Group) composed of the Permanent Representatives of 13 member states and asked it to carry out regular reviews of the two countries' democratic development. The objective of the Ago Group is to monitor the country's obligations before the Organization during the post-accession period. The Group focuses on issues requiring particular attention in the light of the specific circumstances in each of the two countries. Its methods combine questionnaires to the countries concerned with country visits to assess the situation and produce recommendations. In the light of the assessment made by the Ago Group, the Committee of Ministers then draws its own conclusions and makes recommendations to the authorities in question.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Ago Group has paid several visits to the region and prepared a number of reports on Azerbaijan. According to the most recent Report on the Ago Group's visit to Azerbaijan on 20-25 November 2009, the assessment of the general situation with human rights in the country reveals significant progress which has been made in Azerbaijan in many areas despite the uncertain regional context and complex economic environment. The Ago Group appreciated the reforms and measures taken by the authorities to strengthen the system of protection and promotion of human rights and encouraged them to continue this work.

The overall conclusion was that Azerbaijan had successfully co-operated with the CoE and fulfilled most of its obligations before the latter. At the same time, however, the Ago Group underlined that important structural reforms still needed to be carried out in several important sectors, such as elections, the functioning of the courts, the police and the prison system, freedom of expression and the media, freedom of religion and the promotion of local self-government with a view to ensuring full compliance with the commitments undertaken by both countries. It was particularly emphasized that the constructive approach taken by the authorities of

Azerbaijan to continue and even intensify cooperation with the Council of Europe to meet these challenges was welcomed and supported by the Organization (Council of Europe 2009).

Furthermore, in its Resolution of 4 February 2010 based on that Report, the Committee of Ministers also welcomed progress made by Azerbaijan toward the fulfillment of its respective commitments and obligations before the Organization, in particular regarding the alignment of domestic legislation with the CoE standards and judicial reforms. It encouraged the authorities to make further progress, paying particular attention to structural reforms and their implementation which remained to be completed in such important areas as the election legislation and practice, the independence of the judiciary, the fight against corruption, media freedom, the democratic oversight of the police and local self-government.

At the same time, the Committee of Ministers called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue to abide by their joint undertaking at the time of their accession to achieve a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It encouraged the two countries' authorities to actively pursue the negotiation process, under the aegis of the OSCE Minsk Group with a view to a rapid solution to the problem, in the interests of the peace and stability of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and more generally of the region as a whole. It reaffirmed the CoE's readiness to offer its support, in order to contribute, within its competencies, to the creation of conditions for a peaceful settlement of the conflict (Council of Europe 2010).

Parliamentary Assembly's Monitoring Committee

The Parliamentary Assembly has established the Committee on the Honoring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (known as the "Monitoring Committee"). The Monitoring Committee is responsible for verifying the fulfillment of obligations assumed by member states under the terms of the Organization's Statute, the European Convention on Human Rights and all other CoE Conventions, as well as the honoring of commitments entered into by the authorities of member states upon accession to the CoE.

The Parliamentary Assembly may sanction persistent failure to honor obligations and commitments accepted, and/or lack of cooperation in its monitoring process, by adopting a resolution and/or a recommendation or

by non-ratification of the credentials of a national parliamentary delegation at the beginning of its next ordinary session, or by the annulment of ratified credentials in the course of the same ordinary session in accordance with its Rules of Procedure. Should the member state continue not to respect its commitments, the Assembly may address a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers requesting it to take the appropriate action in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of the Statute of the CoE.

Since the country's accession, as a result of intensive cooperation between the CoE and Azerbaijani authorities, a number of reports and resolutions in respect of Azerbaijan have been adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly. In its most recent Report of May 2010, the Assembly noted the overall progress achieved by Azerbaijan in honoring its obligations and commitments undertaken by the country while acceding to the Council in Europe in 2001. The substantial reforms in many areas, in particular judiciary, have been appreciated. Referring to the Report of the ad hoc Committee on the observation of the 2008 presidential election and to the Report of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on the 2009 Municipal elections, the Assembly noted that considerable progress had been made, particularly during the last presidential election in 2008 in meeting European standards (PACE 2010a).

Based on the above-mentioned 2010 Report's findings, on 24 June 2010 the Parliamentary Assembly adopted Resolution 1750(2010) in which it clearly acknowledged the country's progress in the human rights field since the accession to the Council of Europe. In particular, the Resolution stressed that the Parliament of Azerbaijan had reinforced its position vis-à-vis other state institutions and that the division of power between legislative, executive and judicial authorities had become more distinct and rigid. It also positively assessed cooperation of the Azerbaijani authorities with the Venice Commission in drafting important laws, such as the Electoral Code, the Law on obtaining information on activities of the courts, the Law on the status of municipalities, and the Law on normative legal acts.

At the same time, the Assembly noted with dissatisfaction that negotiations carried out under the OSCE Minsk Group to find a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict had so far brought about nothing. It stressed that the failure to resolve this conflict, which affected the country's

territorial integrity, was still impeding the democratic reforms undertaken in the country (PACE 2010b). The continuing occupation of these territories and the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs in the country remain a challenge for the country.

Conclusion

Adherence by Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe has brought important challenges to the domestic political and legal systems of Azerbaijan. The country has become part of the European community, sharing its common human rights principles and humanitarian values and undertaken certain international commitments and obligations. When joining the CoE in January 2001, Azerbaijan opted for European standards with respect to democracy, the rule of law and human rights. And this was its way. Since then, Azerbaijan has always been loyal and faithful to this choice.

As seen from the above, the CoE, including the Committee of Ministers and Parliamentary Assembly with their post-accession monitoring mechanisms, has been closely following the developments in the country and played a crucial role in assisting the country in its efforts to bring about the realization of human rights and democratization of the society. As this article has highlighted, the Organization gives a high mark to the process of democratization in Azerbaijan and commends the government for its efforts and achievements.

Unfortunately, the unresolved conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan hinders the full realization of human rights and democratic processes in the region. The continuous occupation of the large Azerbaijani territories by Armenia and massive ethnic cleansing of the Azerbaijani population from those territories still remain the gross human rights violation. Ordinary people, especially refugees and IDPs, are the victims of failure of political negotiations and of an excessive delicacy and awkwardness of the international community in bringing the parties to the final solution.

Apparently, the role of the Strasbourg machinery is only subsidiary to the guaranteeing of European Convention on Human Rights at the national level. The monitoring mechanism of the CoE, whatever it is, is in any case a temporary phenomenon and an effective recipe only for the country's post-accession period. But it cannot last forever. As soon as the country

has basically fulfilled its commitments and obligations, the monitoring should be lifted and the country should be treated equally as all those member states that are not subject to the above-mentioned monitoring.

After all, there must be a solid legal basis accompanied by reliable human rights implementation mechanisms for the protection of human rights at the national level. Thus, the better the system of protection in the domestic legal system, both in securing the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights and remedying violations of those rights, the more effective the implementation of international standards. And Azerbaijan has proved that it is doing just this and that it is on the right track.

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THE PROS AND CONS OF WTO MEMBERSHIP FOR AZERBAIJAN

Vugar Bayramov

Since the recovery of its independence, Azerbaijan has constantly been pursuing opportunities to expand its foreign trade, an effort that some argue would be helped if Baku were to become a member of the World Trade Organization. In fact, Azerbaijan began the accession process in 1997 but submitted the required memorandum on its foreign trade regime on April 22, 1999. And since that time, there have been a series of exchanges between Azerbaijan and the WTO working party on Azerbaijan which includes, among others, Australia, Japan, the European Union and the United States.

During a meeting in June 2009, Azerbaijan and these governments discussed a variety of issues related to import customs duties, subsidies in agriculture and the like but failed to reach a consensus. As a result, the working party submitted a series of new questions to the Azerbaijan mission. At the same time, Azerbaijani officials have been working with the WTO to develop legal arrangements and to come up with amendments to existing laws and rules on tariffs and services.

In the course of this process, some concerns have been raised about accession and its implications for Azerbaijan. Since Azerbaijan's tariffs on imported goods are quite low and far lower than those of neighboring countries, Azerbaijan may not see the increase in trade from WTO membership that other states could expect. At present, Azerbaijani important customs duties range from zero to 15 percent, with an average of about 10 percent, and it has committed to lowering this average to a range of 5-6 percent. Many other countries had far higher tariffs: Turkey for example imposed a duty on seasonal agricultural products of as much as 200 percent.

Another concern is that the WTO is now taking a tougher line on those countries, like Azerbaijan, currently seeking membership even though the

Doha round suggested that the countries now applying are precisely the ones who need the benefits the WTO can provide as long as their domestic industries enjoy some protection from the exports of countries who have benefited from earlier development.

After Azerbaijan formally applied to the WTO for membership, Baku established a National Coordination Group to oversee the problems of adapting Azerbaijani laws and rules to WTO requirements. The Group consists of representatives from relevant ministries, state committees, other agencies. Subsequently, in order to be in a position to continue negotiations, Baku created a special commission of senior government officials in August 2003. And it in turn formed nine working groups to analyze such issues as agrarian financing, intellectual property rights, social issues, investment adjustments, service issues, technical barriers, and the like. Overseeing these various bodies and ensuring they work in parallel is special secretariat.

As part of the accession process, Azerbaijan must review all its international trade arrangements and train local specialists on the WTO, as well as arranging visits for the Negotiating Party. All this taken together will allow Azerbaijan to expand its relations with other countries on the basis of ever greater trust. Azerbaijan already has relations with some international trade organizations, such as the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. As Azerbaijan pursues WTO membership, it must work with each of these under the aegis of the UN and IMF.

To achieve WTO status, Azerbaijan must amend some of its existing laws to bring them into correspondence with WTO rules. One area where there are going to be particular difficulties concerns agricultural subsidies because, just as in the case of tariffs, Azerbaijan starts with a very low amount compared to other countries and thus has less to trade away for other goals. Azerbaijan faces the challenge of protecting domestic agriculture against massive imports from countries where there are high agricultural subsidies, such as Sweden where farmers receive on average 33,000 US dollars in government aid each year.

In addition to these substantive issues, there are some procedural problems in the accession process. Some officials in Azerbaijan do not fully understand the requirements of the WTO process, and thus it is essential that Baku form a group of competent cadres to make sure the process works to Azerbaijan's advantage. That will require a clear division of

responsibilities between the WTO and Azerbaijan and among various Azerbaijani institutions, government and private.

At present, Azerbaijan ranks 140th among 146 states in terms of corruption and 103rd out of 16 states in terms of economic liberalization, thus creating other challenges for WTO accession. And all these things worsen Azerbaijan's position now and after accession.

It is far from certain whether the government will be able to take all the steps necessary to address these problems. But that by itself does not mean that Azerbaijan should not or cannot pursue accession. WTO membership will bring significant benefits to society, especially among those involved in the export market, and it will help Azerbaijan integrate itself into the world with far greater access to the markets of other countries.

But besides real benefits, WTO access will involve some real losses as well, something that should be both acknowledged and addressed. Among these are:

- adaptation regress as a result of the production of non-competitive goods and provision of services;
- reduced receipts from customs duties;
- increased expenses for patents for technology imports;
- government spending to compensate for local industries driven out of business by foreign competition;
- societal adjustments of expenditure patterns given new flows of imports; and
- reduced efficiency of investments because of changes in the relative efficiency of domestic and foreign producers given reduced customs duties.

If WTO accession is to be a success, Azerbaijan must promote the development of the economy with an eye on the consequences of that accession. Baku officials must not forget that WTO accession is not so much a goal as a means to achieving broader goals. Having become members, we can increase our integration into the world economy, achieve more liberalization in foreign trade, and simplify customs supervision procedures, among other things. And we hope that accession will also give Azerbaijan greater access to international financial institutions, something that should by means of careful negotiation boost the country's economic well-being.

National Identity, History,
and Foreign Policy

Volume III, 2010

BLACK JANUARY AS THE AZERBAIJANI FOURTH OF JULY

Thomas Goltz

On the night that I agreed to write my analysis about the events of January 19/20 1990 in Baku, then capital of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan (AzSSR), I left my new Senior Political Science project class at Montana State University, walked to my car and reflected on the real and true level of international-awareness among my fourth-year “Capstone” graduating students, and sighed.

January 19, 2010 was the first meeting of our first class, and although several of the students had previously subjected themselves to “Goltz’s Gulag”—meaning a crash course in the political geography of the post-Soviet space—the majority of those university seniors specializing in the discipline called ‘Political Science’ were largely clueless not only about the basic geopolitical space in question, but also the very geography of Eurasia.

Accordingly, as a professor of “arcane” international subjects, I have developed a thick skin. I no longer expect my students to know where Russia is (or what it is) on a map on the first day of class, much less the real “where” and “what” of Azerbaijan. But I know that by the end of my class sometime in early May, they will not only be able to whiz through an expanded map quiz of some 50 entities, but also be responsible for a vast amount of information that they were previously ignorant about for the very good reason that nobody had ever bothered to talk to them about the issues facing the post-Soviet states in general, and Azerbaijan in particular.

These were some of the thoughts running through my brain when I turned the key in the 1992 Cadillac given to me by Vahid, the Susha refugee/used car dealer in Billings (“for my services to Azerbaijan over the years”) and drove the 30 kilometers through a canyon and over an icy pass to my home outside Livingston, Montana (population around 7,000 souls)

on the banks of the Yellowstone River, which has its headwaters in the world's first national park by the same name.

What does any of this have to do with the concept of “Black January”?

Believe me, I will eventually get to the point.

As intuited, the class I was teaching on January 19 is a senior thesis seminar in the department of Political Science. Accordingly, the first order of business was for me to introduce myself and explain where my areas of self-perceived expertise lay, and where my self-perceived areas of weakness were/are.

Not surprisingly, I extolled my accumulated knowledge on the Muslim world with a special focus on Turkey, and then on the post-Soviet world, with a special focus on the Caucasus, and an even narrower focus on Azerbaijan.

And this was the personal story I told them:

I first showed up in the Azerbaijani part of the crumbling, moribund part of the then-USSR in the summer of 1991 on my way to then-Soviet Uzbekistan, and completely by accident, because sometimes things happen like that.

The word in English is called “serendipity,” or less elegantly, “fate.”

The main point of the extended personal story to my students was that I was then as they were now essentially clueless about whatever that entity called the AzSSR part of the USSR was all about, but that I was a quick study because I had to be because I had the dubious privilege of arriving at *exactly* the time of the collapse of Soviet authority in Azerbaijan and the ensuing independence period.

I continued the tale in the following vein:

The weekly mass-meetings on Lenin (now renamed Freedom) Square resulted in the periodic “exclusive” interviews with people and personalities that the western media had no interest in knowing about, chief among them being a certain Heydar (“Gaidar”) Aliyev. Among the post-Soviet personalities that ranked as worthy of western attention at the time were then-Azerbaijani (post) Communist Party boss Ayaz Mutallibov and Sheikh ul-Islam Allahshukhur Pashazade (whom we quickly and accurately if not exactly deferentially started to call “Thank-God, Son-of-a-General”).

All this was very long ago, relatively speaking, and all summed up very nicely in my book about the chaotic period of 1991-94 (and maybe '96),

entitled *Azerbaijan Diary: A Rogue Reporter's Adventures in an Oil-Rich, War-Torn, Post-Soviet Republic*.

I never liked the title, although I stand by the book, I told my students.

(Weirdly, and while used by Azerbaijani diplomats as a “reality gift” item for their colleagues from Mexico to Vienna (and certainly London, Ottawa and Washington), it has yet to be published in Azerbaijani. The translation is done; the book is set. The best recommendation comes from my old friend, the Late Great Heydar Aliyev himself, who commanded that the book about the “difficult” rebirth of Azerbaijan be available in Azerbaijani almost a decade ago).

My point is this.

On the evening of January 19, 2010, when I surveyed my 25-odd students at Montana State University about what their general academic interests were and how we might find mutually interesting and challenging subjects for their respective “Capstones” (meaning senior thesis projects), the majority responded that they had selected me because they either had previously had classes with me or had heard about me through friends, and that they were all determined to experience what has deliciously been described as “Goltz’s Gulag,” meaning academic hell.

Nice.

That means they know me, student/academic-wise. That means they do not take my classes because they are easy. They take them because they want to learn, actually learn something.

Cool.

But what does any of this have to do with Black January?

Everything.

Everyone at my university knows that in addition to the fact that I am a demanding professor with low toleration for nonsense, and one of the few on staff who is consistently asked to travel and pontificate on a range of different subjects. But mainly, I am “Mister Azerbaijan.”

In addition to my Montana classes, I have spoken on Azerbaijan-related subjects in London, DC, NYC, Brussels, Berkley and Ottawa (to name a few venues) and have invitations pending to Mexico, Prague, New Delhi and Tokyo.

You might say that I have been lionized by certain sections of Azerbaijani society; you might also conclude that as a result of my high-

profile status in Baku, that I have also been demonized by those who disagree with whatever message I convey.

Usually and not surprisingly, my critics tend to be of the Armenian persuasion. Very specifically, they have declared me to be a stooge, a fraud, a paid-flunky for everyone from the CIA to Mossad and generally a pathological or at least well-trained liar.

The list is long.

As might be imagined, over the years I have developed a skin of steel about these nasty accusations and character-destroying fabrications.

Which brings me back to the point.

As a typical (!) American student in the late 1970s and early 1980s, if I had heard anything about Baku and Azerbaijan, almost all of it was negative.

Not only was Azerbaijan a part of generic “Russia,” but in addition to being a bastion of communism, it apparently was the next place to embrace Islamic fundamentalism, and of the virulent Shiite Muslim variety.

Indeed. How could Mr. Glasnost and Perestroika Mikhail Gorbachev *not* send in government troops to subdue this Islamic (and most likely, Iranian/Ayatollah Khomeini-based!) sedition?

That, my friends, is the way that the events of January 19/20, 1990 were seen in most of the world—at least by greenhorns like me.

Perched in Ankara, Turkey at the time, I recall the words of the late Turkish President, Turgut Ozal, on state TV. This is a paraphrase, but it captures the essence: *Shiite Muslims gone mad! Put them down, now!*

Ouch!

Today, that knee-jerk response to the events of Black January seems utterly ridiculous, insulting to the victims of the brutal killings of that night, and an absolute disgrace to media reporting of the events and subsequent analysis of how and why January 19/20, 1990 occurred.

But at the time, it was normal: a Moscow-based, maybe lil’-bit Russian-speaking correspondent of the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*, rightly focused on Kremlin intrigue, gets a call from that pesky “stringer” in the Caucasus, detailing anti-Armenian acts of violence and brutality in Baku—and all described in “religious” terms: *Ancient Christians versus Insane Shiite Muslims*, etc.

I can only speculate about the motives of those first reporters relating data about the events of January 20, 1990, because I was not there at the

time, and only showed up some 18 months later. But I do speculate about such things now, after some twenty years of reflection and on-the-ground-experience, because so much of the long-distance “western” reporting on Black January seems so totally skewed (Shiites versus Christians) that one has to wonder not only about the accuracy of the original press reports, but also the neutrality of the reporters.

Veracity, in a word.

My suspicion is tha... Ah, well. We shall not go there.

(The last thing I need right now is a libel suite; I nearly got hit up by one last year by suggesting that some Armenian natives of Karabakh are famous for growing garlic (which I do, too). This was turned into my having made some ethno-national-“racist” slur, with concomitant demands that I apologize to the Armenian nation, etc.).

But back to the point.

What everyone seems to agree upon is that Black January was a seminal event in Azerbaijani history, and one that paved the way for the demand for Azerbaijani independence from the USSR upon its collapse/implosion some 18 months later.

Now, having danced around the point for several essay hours in this missive, allow me to go for the throat.

January 19/20, 1990, was a watershed for the AzSSR.

It created an independence movement that ultimately resulted in the collapse of the superstructure called the USSR itself, and thus the independence of the AzSSR. And if the collapse of the superstructure—the USSR—is regarded as an absolute desirable, then how can the events of January 19/20, 1990 not be regarded as an absolutely necessary part of that process of the independence of the (now former) AzSSR?

IE: No January 20; no Independent Azerbaijan.

Let me take a hard, theoretical line:

Mourning the event—not the victims!—means the mourner wants to return to *Day Zero*, in this case, January 18, 1990.

That was the day when everything (relatively speaking) was fine in the bad-old USSR, the Cold War was still on (relatively speaking) and nobody had ever heard of the chunk of turf called Azerbaijan (like me then, or my

current students, now).

A return to Day Zero, January 18, 1990...Is that what the citizens of the proud, reborn Republic of Azerbaijan want?

Maybe—and that is up to you.

If you mourn the passing of the USSR, mourn January 19/20, 1990.

*If you celebrate Azerbaijani independence, then honor the martyrs of Black January not as victims, but as *leaders of a much larger cause.**

Thus, *if* the convoluted events of the late Soviet period culminating in Black January (with echoes in Georgia, Lithuania, etc) appear to have pre-determined the demise of the USSR, then *why not celebrate?*

Fourth-of-July American-style fireworks aside (I personally loath this aspect of celebrating American independence because I really, really hate war, and fireworks are an idiot's facsimile thereof), the bottom line is this:

Throughout history, those states/nations/transnational entities who have chosen to break from a distant, central power have most often done so at the price of local blood.

To reiterate: whether you like it or not, if there had been no traumatic late Soviet Azerbaijani experience, there would be little or no awareness in Montana (or elsewhere in core-USA) of anything academically related to post-Soviet Azerbaijan...

Hard truths, but true.

Lastly and very weirdly and horribly, I would like to return to the top of this missive: my driving home to my little community in the mountains of Montana in the relative middle of beautiful nowhere.

A certain Professor Goltz is doing so very specifically because in 1991, a relatively small chunk of "Russia" that no one had ever heard about that called itself "Azerbaijan" had just declared itself independent of the thing known generically as "Russia," meaning the USSR.

Then came war, confusion and chaos—but that small, eagle-shaped thing called "Azerbaijan" managed to put itself on the map.

No pain, no gain, as they cynically say.

Thus, while it behooves all friends of Azerbaijan to remember the victims of Black January, let us shift the focus from disconsolate mourning to sober celebration.

THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY AS A COLLECTIVE TRAUMA AND FACTOR OF COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Rauf Garagozov

The Khojaly tragedy has many aspects. Here I would like to consider three psychological and socio-cultural ones: that event as a collective trauma, the various ways in which Azerbaijanis could relate to the trauma, and how we may be able to overcome it.

To begin, I would like my readers to try to remember where they were and what they were doing when they first heard about Khojaly. I am sure that for the majority of Azerbaijanis 30 years old or older, that moment remains very much fixed in their minds even 18 years later. Psychologists call such recollections flashbulb memories. They arise in response to events that shock us, and the destruction of the Azerbaijani city of Khojaly and its civilian residents by Armenian militants is exactly that kind of event.

In that regard, I want to stress in particular that this event was not only a psychic trauma for those who were the participants or victims of force but a trauma for the entire population, including even those who were not subjected to violence or immediate witnesses of such acts. Specialists refer to such experiences as collective or cultural trauma, which arises because people feel a threat to their collective identity. After the events of Black January in 1990, this was the second collective trauma of Azerbaijanis of this dimension.

A society, subjected to collective trauma, experiences various changes in its perception of the surrounding world, its emotional situation, and its behavior. For example, when it experiences a shock, society can lose its customary confidence in its security and trust in its political leaders. Another result of collective trauma can be the spread of panic and fear among the population for a certain time. Indeed, at that time, we experienced a deep political crisis and panic seized part of the Azerbaijani population in the region that had come into contact with the Armenians.

It appears that the particular cruelty of the Armenians in relation to the

defenseless civilian population of Khojaly was intended to sow panic and fear among the local population. Serzh Sargsyan, who at that time was one of the field commanders who attacked Khojaly and who is now president of Armenia, has said: “Before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that it would be possible to joke with us, they thought that the Armenians were not capable of raising their arms against the civilian population. We were able to destroy this [stereotype]. That is what happened” (Waal 2005, pp. 134-135).

That statement makes a mockery of Sargsyan’s recent statement at the British Royal Institute of International Relations that “We Armenians as a people who experienced a Genocide have a moral duty before humanity and history to prevent genocides. We have done and will do everything for the further realization of the Genocide Convention. Genocide must not agitate only one people, because it is a crime against humanity.” [1]

Coming from the lips of a former field commander, these words sound like the apotheosis of hypocrisy but not only that. In general, it is symbolic that precisely someone involved in carrying about genocide should speak about “the moral duty in preventing genocide.” Not only is this a classical example of a wolf in sheep’s clothing, but it is testimony to the weakness and shortcomings of international institutions which in one part of Europe condemn Radovan Karadzic, the former president of the so-called republic of the Bosnian Serbs and in another offer a tribune for speeches of this kind to a similar field commander and current president of Armenia Sargsyan.

Why is this happening? Why is the West prepared to be so unprincipled or, more precisely, to apply its principles in one place but not another. These are complicated questions and a response to them requires the consideration of many aspects. Here I will take up only those moments which are connected with collective memory and identity.

In the history of each people, one can encounter events which give rise to collective trauma. However, peoples vary in their relationship to collective trauma. For example, some societies for whatever reasons “forget” about the trauma they have experienced. Thus, in Soviet times, the majority of Azerbaijanis “forgot” about the destruction of the Azerbaijani population of Baku, Shamakha, Karabakh, and Zangazur by Armenian bands in the beginning of the 20th century. Memory about these bloody

days was preserved only in the stories of the older generation who had witnessed the events. It is interesting that many of them later were afraid to speak about these events to their children and grandchildren. They were afraid because these reminiscences contradicted the official history which was taught in our schools. They did not see their memories as fitting into what sociologists refer to as “social frameworks.”

The Soviet policy of memory, which was carried out under the slogans of the struggle with “Pan-Turkism” and “Pan-Islamism” was especially pitiless in relation to the cultural memory and historical inheritance of the Azerbaijanis. As a result, the explosion of Armenian nationalism and separatism and the violence it entailed at the end of the 20th century was something unexpected for many of us. Militant Armenian nationalism, which led to the rise of the Karabakh conflict and military aggression against Azerbaijan forced us to focus ourselves on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflicts more generally. In that, the Khojaly tragedy was and is one of those traumatizing events which in a special way played a part in the formation of Azerbaijani collective memory.

But if one can be sure that memories about Khojaly will be preserved, the question of how and in what form they will be formed requires special consideration. A response to this question is important because to a large extent it defines the perspectives of the development of Azerbaijani national identity and also the relationship of the international community to this tragedy.

Dealing with traumatizing events, psychologists tell us, take two forms, “acting out” and “working through” the experience. In the first case, the trauma is not forgotten. On the contrary, what occurs is a process of cultivating and continually recollecting the traumatic event. But at the same time, the society avoids or is prohibited from a free discussion of the causes, factors and consequences of that traumatizing event. Indeed, that event is converted into a means for the achievement of some political goal or another. Making sense and reevaluating the traumatic events in a full and genuine way is blocked. As a result, the community which has not made the correct assessments risks experiencing similar traumas in the future.

Having analyzed the particular features of Armenian collective memory, I can with full conviction assert that it is caught in precisely that form of response to the collective trauma. Historically, the social framework for

Armenian collective identity was at one time given by the Armenian Church, the clergy of which composed the first historical stories of that nation. I do not have the opportunity here to focus on these stories, something I have done elsewhere, but I can say that the basic idea of these stories can be expressed as follows: “the Armenians are surrounded and persecuted by enemies” (Garagozov 2008). As a result, the forms of Armenian collective identity serve not so much as a means of the productive overcoming of collective trauma as a source for the preservation, cultivation or even in a certain way a continuing attachment to its invented or real sufferings.

As a result of these qualities of collective memory, which put an accent on hatred to members of other peoples and confessions, these stories led to the flourishing of Turkophobia among the Armenians which led to tragic consequences. Over time, having established an entire industry for the production of various stories about Armenian sacrifice and suffering, Armenian organizations have learned to play with skill on traditional stereotypes, prejudices and fears of the Western audience, to exploit the natural human feelings toward suffering and sympathy to the victims in order to achieve their political goals.

Western public opinion, which is not acquainted with historical details, often becomes the victim of the Armenian manipulation of facts and images. As an example, it is sufficient to look at two reports from the American media, from the March 3, 1992, issue of the *New York Times* and the March 16, 1992, issue of *Time* magazine, in which, in the course of brief reports about the Khojaly tragedy, the authors talk about it as a conflict between “Christian Armenia” and “Muslim Azerbaijan” rather than as a violation of the universal laws of humanity (The *New York Times* 1992; Smolowe & Zarakhovich 1992). In other media reports, the reporters suggested that the Armenians could hardly have committed the crimes of which they were accused because of their own national history.

The image of the victim is a winning image. And consequently, Armenian writers do what they can to maintain it and to counter or at least minimize any suggestion that Armenians are the victimizers. It is thus no accident that the crimes of Armenian militants committed in Khojaly are not admitted by the Armenian side. Instead, the Armenians are trying to come up with different justifying stories, with some of them even insisting

that the Azerbaijanis themselves committed the murders in Khojaly. I do not think that this is the way the security that the Armenians seek can be achieved. In fact, having committed these crimes, the Armenians have generated anger and hatred not only among the Azerbaijanis but also among all residents of the Caucasus, thus setting the stage for possible actions of revenge.

There is also another way of dealing with trauma—working through it. In this case, again, the trauma is not forgotten but rather fixed by collective acts of memory. The most important aspect of this way, however, is that society is able to show an ability and readiness to rework its understanding of the traumatizing events. That requires broad and all-sided discussion of the traumatic events, in order to make sense of their causes, factors, and consequences and the definition of moral and legal responsibility for what took place. As a result of this process, society obtains the opportunity to make sense and to draw lessons from its own experience in order to be in a position to avoid the repetition of such events in the future. This approach thus represents a productive reworking of the trauma, its conversion into lessons for the future rather than simply a permanent pain.

If we want to overcome productively our collective trauma, we must have a broad and free public discussion of the Khojaly events, which will create the conditions for the appearance of new and more thoughtful interpretations and also for sincere and convincing histories focusing on individual human beings, their sufferings, emotions, and feelings and that will be capable of “awakening” the conscience of others. Until now, the treatment of the Khojaly events, in the main, has been expressed in two forms: the formal and the emotional. Rarely do texts contain both, but precisely such forms of presentation are the most effective, and on us lies responsibility to expose the wolves in sheep’s clothing that operate under the banner of Armenian nationalism.

International organizations need to display greater skepticism to the stereotypes, prejudices, and geopolitical and economic calculations which often form the basis for judgments about crimes. No geopolitical system can replace or diminish the moral obligations and laws of human conscience. Crimes must be punished and criminals must be judged. Otherwise, shameful situations may arise when such people will have the chance to speak again from the tribunes of authoritative organizations.

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Note

[1] For the text of the speech (in Russian), see <http://517design.livejournal.com/375395.html>, accessed 25 February 2010.

NATION-BUILDING AND LANGUAGE POLICY IN POST-SOVIET AZERBAIJAN

Kyle L. Marquardt

Social-scientific literature has long accepted the fact that a national language can play an essential role in nation-building (for examples, see Fishman 1968, Anderson 2006). This role can be positive in terms of state-building: revitalizing a formerly oppressed national language can help a state find a new, independent identity. However, the role can also be divisive: a state can come into conflict with local minorities by attempting linguistic rationalization—that is, unifying the state under one language (Laitin 1988).

In Azerbaijan, language could have potentially played either role. On one hand, Azerbaijan was—and remains—largely ethnically Azerbaijani (90.6 percent in 1999, according to *The World Factbook*) and its titular population evinced a relatively high degree of Azerbaijani linguistic knowledge. [1] Such a situation would appear ideal for linguistic revitalization and unification of the state under Azerbaijani. On the other hand, Azerbaijan's urban centers had significant Russophone populations (Fierman 2009) and moreover its post-Soviet history was marred by ethnic conflict: aside from the Karabakh conflict, members of both the Lazgi and Talysh populations of Azerbaijan had engaged in secessionist activities. [2] As a result, attempts to use ethnic Azerbaijanis' demographic dominance to force the Azerbaijani language on the entire population could have led to greater unrest.

On the whole, the policy adopted by Azerbaijan's government mainly has avoided potential problems by emphasizing the symbolic aspects of language, not mandating changes in linguistic behavior: while the government framed the Azerbaijani language as a symbol of the independent Azerbaijani state and nation, it also made significant allowances to speakers of other languages. In practice, such a policy has meant that while usage of the Azerbaijani language was certainly encouraged, this encouragement has not been overtly coercive. Indeed, the

government has taken great pains to portray itself as a supporter of Azerbaijan's ethnic communities. At the same time, the demographic dominance of Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan has meant that more extreme language policies were unnecessary: even without greater pressure from the government, Azerbaijani has gradually become essential for most citizens of Azerbaijan *de facto* if not *de jure*.

To understand how this situation developed, it is necessary to describe the years immediately following Azerbaijan's independence, all of which occurred in the context of the chaos surrounding the Karabakh war. In 1992, Abulfaz Elchibay, the leader of the Azerbaijani Popular Front (APF), became president of Azerbaijan. In terms of language policy, the tone of the Elchibay government was both nationalistic and pan-Turkic. [3] Most controversially, the government officially designated the Azerbaijani language as simply being "Turkish." [4] Many Azerbaijani citizens perceived such a pro-Turkish stance as impinging on Azerbaijan's national uniqueness, and the resulting widespread disapproval resulted in the government backing down from its initial stance, renaming Azerbaijani "Azerbaijani Turkish."

In addition to unease surrounding the APF government's policy toward Azerbaijani, the APF's nationalist tone may have influenced the development of minority separatist movements in both northern and southern Azerbaijan. In southern Azerbaijan, Talysh military officers attempted to create an independent Talysh state (Matveeva 2002); though this act garnered little popular support, concerns about Talysh separatism remained. Meanwhile, members of the Lazgi minority formed the organization "Sadval," which was committed to the unification of predominantly Lazgi territories in Azerbaijan and Russia (Matveeva and McCartney 1998). All the while, the emigration of ethnic Russians and other minorities continued (Zayonchkovskaya 2002).

Whether or not these difficulties were actually a result of the APF government's nationalist and pan-Turkic policies or merely a function of the chaos produced by the Karabakh war is difficult to determine. Former members of the APF steadfastly claim that their policies were intended to promote the revitalization of all local cultures in Azerbaijan. In contrast, the government of Heydar Aliyev (1993-2003), which succeeded that of the APF, portrayed the APS's political positions as having exacerbated ethnic

instability in the country.

In any event, it is clear that Aliyev's government reached out to Russophones a great deal more than the APF, with Aliyev himself commenting often on the importance of the Russian language to the Azerbaijani people (Landau and Kellner-Heinkele 2001, p. 179). Aliyev's government also made overtures to speakers of other language in Azerbaijan, instituting provisions for the protection of minority languages in Azerbaijan. For example, Article 21.2 of the 1995 Azerbaijani Constitution states that the state "ensures the free use and development of other languages spoken by the people" of Azerbaijan. Though such measures were mainly symbolic, they signified a tonal shift from that of the APF.

Aliyev was able to avoid accusations that such policies were overly pro-Russian and/or insufficiently nationalist because he also worked to outflank the APF on the nationalist front: Aliyev framed his policies as a remedy not just for the ethnic divisiveness of the APF's time in power, but also its pan-Turkic leanings. For example, under Aliyev, "Azerbaijani Turkish" became "Azerbaijani" (Garibova and Asgarova 2009, p. 195), signaling an emphasis on the language's distance from Turkish. [5] Additionally, Aliyev took the step of enshrining Azerbaijani as Azerbaijan's state language in the country's 1995 constitution. This maneuver was especially politically beneficial in that it allowed him to highlight his Soviet-era support of the Azerbaijani language: the 1978 Constitution of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, written while Aliyev was First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party, also had enshrined the Azerbaijani language as an official language of the republic.

Finally, Aliyev was even able to co-opt a long-planned script change from Cyrillic to Latin by having his government actually mandate the change in 2001. [6] Consistent with the government's overall policies, propaganda accompanying the script change emphasized Azerbaijan's uniqueness: instead of emphasizing the language's common letters with Turkish, unique letters such as the schwa ("□") are the focus.

All of these acts of symbolic nationalism served to insulate Aliyev from criticism as he pursued a less superficially nationalist course than his predecessors (and that which was desired by his opponents). Aliyev's successor as president of Azerbaijan, his son Ilham Aliyev (2003-present) has largely continued such policies. Insofar as the Russian language is

concerned, with the exception of recent restrictions on foreign Russian-language broadcasting in Azerbaijan, Russian-language media has encountered little government interference, and government officials often boast that they have not closed down a single Russian-language school. However, the importance of Russian in Azerbaijan has unquestionably diminished. Almost all domestic government affairs are conducted in Azerbaijani, and demand for Russian-language education has decreased (while interest in other foreign languages, especially English, has increased) (Garibova and Asgarova 2009, p. 206).

Consequently, it is unsurprising that no government official whom I interviewed during field research in 2005-2006 considered Russian to be a threat to the development and spread of the Azerbaijani language. Instead, they emphasized the positive aspects of the Russian language's continued role in Azerbaijani society, arguing that the Russian language will have continued value given the Russian Federation's proximity and its long-standing economic and political ties to Azerbaijan. Even opposition leaders with whom I spoke believed that the government should not drastically change its position toward Russian; their main criticism was that the government's ties to Russia were slowing the transition to English.

In terms of the other languages spoken in Azerbaijan, the government's position was best stated in an essay by the former State Counsellor of the National Politics of the Azerbaijan Republic, Hidayat Orujov, wherein he comments that "the preservation of its unique historical wealth [is] a top priority of the life of the Azerbaijani multinational society, which constitutes the diverse and rich tapestry of the country's centuries-long heritage." Azerbaijan is thus able to show "the whole world its attitude toward its national minorities, and they [the minorities] in turn can demonstrate to the world community their true status in a democratic state, which keeps a constant and careful watch on them" (2003, p. 141). Protection of national minorities is thus portrayed as a means by which Azerbaijan proves its burgeoning democracy to the world, as well as a moral necessity.

Furthermore, Orujov confronts past minority-related problems in Azerbaijan, arguing that national minorities pose little threat to Azerbaijan's security: after acknowledging that there have been "attempts" to instigate separatist movements within Azerbaijan by unspecified outside actors, "to the credit of national minorities in our republic they understood on time the

threat they were creating primarily to themselves by such behaviour” (2003, p. 142). Separatism thus is framed as an issue that lies in Azerbaijan’s past; minorities are therefore deserving of the state’s protection. In fact, the Azerbaijani government does provide funding for the development of minority-language textbooks and media, as well as rent-free usage of government facilities for cultural activities; it also allows for education in various local languages.

At the same time, Azerbaijani politicians whom I interviewed also largely consider it self-evident that success in Azerbaijan requires proficiency in the Azerbaijani language; learning Azerbaijani must therefore be a top priority for minorities. The resulting tension has meant that the continued existence of many minority languages in Azerbaijan remains an open question: while some minorities appear to be maintaining their level of linguistic knowledge (such as the Udi, the Mountain Jews and the Avars), other ethnic groups appear to be losing ground to linguistic assimilation (Clifton et al. 2005a, Clifton et al. 2005b, Clifton et al. 2005c, Clifton 2009a, Clifton 2009b). Azerbaijani officials with whom I spoke were aware of these concerns, but noted that although they could encourage individuals to speak “their” language, the final choice to actually do so remains up to the individual.

In any event, the end results appear to be largely positive, at least in terms of unifying the state peacefully. After the Nagorno-Karabakh war there has been minimal ethnic conflict in Azerbaijan, and minorities are perceived to be learning the state language.

The final aspect of Azerbaijan’s language policy vis-a-vis language policy that remains for discussion is the government’s policy toward the Azerbaijani language itself. In this regard, the government’s approach has been largely hands-off: it has shown little inclination for removing Russian words from the language or mandating corpus reform in general, arguing instead that necessary changes will occur naturally. Indeed, New Azerbaijan Party Deputy Executive Chairman Mubariz Gurbanly told me explicitly that any program regarding language development should not be performed in a “primitive” manner (e.g. purification). [7]

Such an approach is consistent with the rest of Azerbaijan’s language policy: the government has largely avoided inserting itself into matters of everyday language use. The glaring exception to this rule—adoption of the

Latin script—was itself almost entirely superficial and symbolic, designed to show a clear break with the Soviet past. Such a symbolic policy has allowed the Azerbaijani government to portray itself as being a supporter of both Azerbaijani nationalism and the minority languages of Azerbaijan, while ethnic Azerbaijani's demographic dominance has ensured a gradual shift toward the national language. As a result, Azerbaijan has avoided conflicts while beginning the process of unifying the state under the Azerbaijani language.

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Notes

[1] For a detailed account of the relative status of the Azerbaijani language in the years preceding the disintegration of the Soviet Union, as well as the importance of demographics in determining sociolinguistic outcomes, see Fierman (2009).

[2] Neither the Talysh nor the Lazgi language is related to Azerbaijani. The Lazgi population of Azerbaijan is predominantly located along the Russian border, whereas the Talysh population is mainly located along the Azerbaijan-Iran border.

[3] My account of the APF's language policy and the popular reaction is largely based on those contained in Hunter (1994), Altstadt (1997) and Landau and Kellner-Heinkele (2001, p. 69).

[4] For a description of the controversy regarding the correct name for the Azerbaijani language, see Hunter (1994), Garibova (2009, p. 16) and Garibova and Asgarova (2009, p. 194).

[5] It should be noted that the Aliyev government did not deny the language's close relation to Turkish, and has in fact shown willingness to strategically deploy pan-Turkic rhetoric in support of some policy objectives.

[6] For a more detailed analysis of the script change, see Hatcher (2008).

[7] Interview with the author, Baku, Azerbaijan, February 2006.

BAKU AND CONTEMPORARY AZERBAIJANI IDENTITY: WHAT DO CHANGES IN THE CAPITAL MEAN FOR THE COUNTRY?

Leyla Sayfutdinova

Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the transformation of Baku has been the subject of discussions among past and present Baku residents. Although everyone agrees that Baku has changed dramatically and irreversibly, the reactions to this change vary greatly: some lament it while others welcome and celebrate it. This controversial issue was brought to public attention once more in late 2008, when the discussion transformed from conversations in the privacy of people's homes and low-key online forums into a highly charged debate involving prominent intellectuals and politicians. Particularly heated was the question of Baku's cosmopolitan past and its role in the Azerbaijani nationhood. But why is this so? Why is the cosmopolitan urban identity of Baku so problematic for Azerbaijani nationhood and why does this question generate so much passion?

In Soviet times, Baku, like Odessa or Tashkent, was famous for its cosmopolitanism, or, in Soviet parlance, "internationalism." But the emergence of this cosmopolitan culture actually dates back to pre-Soviet times, when Baku, as a center of Russian Empire's oil industry, drew people from various parts of the empire. This large settled population was diverse not only ethnically, but also in terms of occupation and class: it included workers in the oil industry, but also merchants and intelligentsia. Yet it was only in the Soviet period that Baku's heterogeneity became celebrated—as a case of true "proletarian internationalism." Baku's multi-ethnic population fit perfectly into the official Soviet framework of "merging of nations" and of creating a "Soviet person." And as these ideological constructs suggest, what was celebrated in Baku's cosmopolitanism was not simply a mixture, but rather a hybridity. Soviet authorities did encourage a further "internationalization" of Baku, through careful control of migration flows that favored highly skilled labor from other urban centers outside

Azerbaijan over unskilled rural migrants from Azerbaijan's countryside, as well as through education and cultural policy which made Baku into a predominantly Russian-speaking city. By the middle of 20th century, a hybrid Baku urban culture—a product of this complex policy-making and local traditions of intercommunal accommodation—emerged. This culture included its own code of behavior that distinguished “*bakintsi*,” the Russian name for bakuvites, from outsiders: from rural migrants on the one hand, and from newcomers from other cities of the Soviet Union, on the other. From rural migrants *bakintsi* were distinguished by their urban manners, higher level of education, and fluent command of the Russian language; from other newcomers by their emotionality, warmth, respect for the elders, hospitality, appreciation for good food, traditional gender roles, and, above all, pride in Baku's multi-ethnicity. Sometime in 1960s this sense of urban identity that transcended ethnic boundaries was expressed with a popular catch phrase “a nation of Baku.”

Bakintsi also developed their own distinctive intellectual and cultural elite. Needless to say, the cultural production of this elite was hybrid. Thus, musician Vagif Mustafa-zade became known for his merging of Azeri traditional *mugham* music with jazz; writers such as Rustam Ibrahimbayov and his elder brother Maqsd romanticized Baku in their fiction—in Russian; Muslim Magomayev, the first Soviet singer with star-like popularity, and Garry Kasparov, world chess champion, are some of the most known representatives of this cultural elite.

However, this celebrated and romanticized hybridization was not nearly as harmonious a process as many *bakintsi* believed. It did not reflect the goodwill and tolerance of Baku residents alone, but also the state policies such as migration restrictions and Russian-led internationalism. And finally, in Baku, which was a capital of a national republic, these policies came into contradiction with the counteracting policy of nationalization and indigenization of elites. This clash was revealed in late 1980s with the beginning of the Karabakh conflict. Despite the celebrated internationalist traditions, the interethnic strife affected Baku as well as other parts of Azerbaijan. Soviet migration policies proved ineffective in the conditions of a military conflict, as people displaced by the armed conflict in Azerbaijan's regions migrated to Baku. Many of the old urban residents began to flee from the city: first were Baku Armenians, followed by many

Jews and Russians, and also by many mixed families and ethnic Azerbaijanis who constituted the core of *bakintsi*. This was not all about ethnic relations—the restructuring of the Soviet economy was another important cause of this large-scale migration, as deindustrialization left many skilled Baku residents under- or unemployed. But together these complex social, political and economic transformations had led to a dramatic change in the composition of urban population of Baku, something that in turn affected the culture of the city and of Azerbaijan more generally.

There are two broad approaches that were developed in Baku in response to this dramatic change. On the one hand, there exists nostalgia and romanticizing of the past. In its extreme, the nostalgic approach sees Baku’s cosmopolitanism/internationalism as a harmonious, conflict-free, symbiotic experience of cohabitation and hybridization, a kind of “Golden Age” from which the city had now fallen. Many of such nostalgically minded people reject nationalism in all forms; on the other hand there are those who uphold the view that in Baku national identities were harmoniously complemented by a trans-ethnic urban one. Stories are told about old Baku courtyards where people of different ethnic backgrounds lived together, celebrated each other’s holidays and helped each other in difficult times, about friendships and love affairs across ethnic boundaries.

On the other hand, there is the rejection of the “myth” of the golden past, which sees the narratives of peace and harmony as, at best, ideological constructs imposed by the Soviet authorities, and, at worst, as outright lies. Stories are told about discrimination and intolerance that persisted despite the officially promoted ideology of internationalism, and especially of discrimination of ethnic Azerbaijanis by Russians and Armenians. The cosmopolitan Baku culture is seen in this discourse as a coercive attempt to assimilate and de-ethnicize Azerbaijanis and Azerbaijani culture. However, these two opposite approaches have two important things in common: first, they both share a homogenized and reified image of Baku’s internationalist/cosmopolitan past, and second, they both see a conflict between Baku cosmopolitanism and Azerbaijani nationalism. But if in the first nostalgic discourse nationalism is seen as a negative force that destroyed the glorious “nation of Baku,” in the second one it is justice that was achieved with independence.

Interestingly, the recent public outburst of the debate showed that yet

another approach to the Baku cosmopolitanism is developing, one that attempts to de-homogenize this past and to uncover the power relations that lie behind it. This approach acknowledges that Baku's cosmopolitanism was characterized by both harmonious co-habitation and practices of domination and discrimination. This approach also connects the Baku cosmopolitanism with Azerbaijani nationalism; yet, here they are not necessarily viewed as conflicting opposites. The contradiction is resolved through a civic rather than ethnic understanding of nation.

Thus, the debate on Baku cosmopolitanism reveals that the issue at stake here is not so much the Baku identity as such, but rather the nature of Azerbaijani nationhood. Nearly twenty years into independence, the issue is still far from settled.

It is not clear what course Azerbaijani nationhood will take, and therefore it is hard to say what the role of Baku's cosmopolitan past in this nationhood will be. At present, however, its role may be the very power of generating such a debate.

THE FORMATION OF CONTEMPORARY AZERBAIJANI SOCIETY: THE ROLE OF THE RUSSIAN CONQUEST IN THE RISE OF A NEW ELITE

Altay Goyushov, Naomi Caffee, & Robert Denis

To understand contemporary Azerbaijan, one has to understand the rise of the native secularly educated intelligentsia that came into being after the Russian conquest and that has been the driving force behind every crucial ideological transformation in Azerbaijani society. Not surprisingly, this has become a subject of particular debate in the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the restoration of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

There is an intense debate about who were the first messengers of the drastic changes that emerged after the Russian conquest. Some argue that poets and thinkers like Gasimbay Zakir, Mirza Shafi Vazeh or Seyyid Azim Shirvani introduced a new strand of critical thought, while others view them as part of an insignificant transitional episode. But it is not disputed that in comparison with these purely “Muslim-educated” literati, those who received a mixed Islamic and secular Russian or European education had a greater impact on Azerbaijani society than their predecessors and can be called the true founding fathers of a new kind of local elite.

For the first generation of Russified Azerbaijani intellectuals, Russian Imperial culture, the Russian language, and Russian schools were gateways to Western culture more generally. Having learned Russian, these new elites had access to Russian and Western culture. They became enamored of democracy, social justice, and the development of a secular national identity. They served as conduits of progressive thought.

Abbasgulu aga Bakikhanov, a descendant of the ruling dynasty and a nephew of the last khan of Baku, became the first representative of this new Westernized Azerbaijani intelligentsia. His mission of enlightenment was informed by both the traditional cultural values of the Muslim world and socially progressive European and Russian ideas, which is demonstrated by his choice of languages. In Bakikhanov’s time, knowledge of Arabic and

Persian were still considered crucial to a good education, but he chose to write some of his works in Russian and Azerbaijani (Aghayev and Hashimov 1989, pp. 187-188), thus symbolically taking the first step in the process of Westernization and national awakening.

Moreover, Bakikhanov wrote the first proposal for a Russian-style Azerbaijani school. Classes would be conducted in Russian, Azerbaijani and Persian. A Russian teacher would teach Russian, arithmetic, rhetoric, geography and history, while the Azerbaijani teachers would teach Persian and be responsible for religious education. Bakikhanov himself offered to teach a final fourth class, which would be devoted entirely to Arabic and “should be created only in order to show the people the government’s goal to preserve in its purity Muslim law” (Aghayev and Hashimov 1989, p. 199). This strategy of making progressive ideas palatable to the general population by tying them to traditional elements of culture is one that the Azerbaijani intelligentsia has repeatedly employed.

The Azerbaijani intellectuals who followed Bakikhanov were much more radical reformers. Mirza Kazimbay studied Arabic, philosophy and Islamic law with the best teachers available; but already as a young man, he was attracted by Western currents of progressive thought. In 1823, he converted to Christianity, a step which sets him apart from all other Azerbaijani “enlighteners.” He considered himself a member of Russian society and called for Russia to play a special role in civilizing the Muslim world (Kazimbäy 1985, pp. 380-381).

The key figure in the modernization and Westernization movement within Azerbaijan, however, was clearly Mirza Fatali Akhundzade (1812-1878). Born to a religious family in Shaki, Akhundzade spent his youth under the tutelage of Shia clerics. In 1834, he accepted a position with the Russian chancellery in Tiflis as the chief translator of Oriental languages and remained with the Russian Imperial Army as a professor and translator of Oriental languages until his death.

Akhundzade’s career had a wide-ranging influence on the Azerbaijani intelligentsia. His work was “an attack on... traditional customs and beliefs, arbitrary power, irrationalism, superstition, and [traditional] gender relationships” (Kia 1998, p. 5). His writings feature a clear dichotomy between reason and religion, as in his mid-century comedies—the first plays ever written in Azerbaijani—which focus on figures from traditional Islamic

society failing to adapt to modernity. The focus of Akhundzade's satire are traditional Islamic practice and the social order it supports, one he characterized as being marked by backwardness, inequality, stagnation, and superstition. In contrast, Akhundzade begins his most important philosophical statement, *Three Letters*, [1] with a utopian vision of pre-Islamic Iran. He imagines it as a constitutional monarchy which was just and economically thriving and goes on to lament the loss of these great progressive achievements while railing against Islam and Oriental despotism, which pushed Iran into backwardness (Akhundzade 2005, p. 23).

Although Akhundzade was pessimistic about the possibility of reforming Muslim society, he expended more energy and did more to bring about reform than anyone of his generation. He introduced Western literary genres to Azerbaijan and Iran, was the first to propose alphabet reform, helped to open schools, and actively participated in public debate. And his influence continued well into the following century.

If the first Azerbaijani intellectuals were primarily theorists of enlightenment, the next generation included practitioners. Specifically, the latter generation set out to convince the Azerbaijani public of the advantages inherent in Western civilization over traditional Muslim civilization. They created outlets for the dissemination of their views: a progressive education system, a national press, a national theater, etc. Although they were enthralled by Western ideas, they were still well-versed in Islamic law and Muslim philosophy, a set of knowledge that gave them legitimacy and made them formidable ideological opponents of the conservative sections of Azerbaijani society.

One of the most prominent figures of the second generation was Hasanbay Zardabi. Born in 1842, he received a traditional Muslim education and then in 1861, went to study the natural sciences in Moscow. Upon his return to Azerbaijan, Zardabi began actively promoting Western science and progressive ideas. He opened the first Azerbaijani theater, wrote the first Azerbaijani science textbook, helped to open several schools and, most crucially, and began publishing the first independent newspaper in Azerbaijani, *Ākinçi* ("The Ploughman"). Founded in 1875, *Ākinçi* was written in a spoken dialect of Azerbaijani, not Ottoman Turkish. The issues discussed in the pages of *Ākinçi* ranged from dairy production to Russian and Ottoman politics to the latest scientific discoveries in the West.

Zardabi published letters from his readers (including from Akhundzade), thereby creating the first forum for truly national debate on the most pressing issues of the time. The paper was published for only two years, and its circulation was never large (Badalov 2007), but its publication nonetheless marked a major step forward for the Azerbaijani intelligentsia.

As soon as the tsarist censorship permitted, more new newspapers appeared in Azerbaijan. Of these, the most impressive was the weekly satirical journal *Molla Nasraddin*, whose publisher and primary author was Mirza Jalil Mammadguluzade. Mammadguluzade, born in 1866 in Nakhchivan, was one of the first graduates of the new Azerbaijani section of the Gori Pedagogical Seminary, which Akhundzade had helped to open and whose graduates included an entire generation of Azerbaijani enlighteners (Abdullayev 1966, p. 100). Mammadguluzade's weekly was dedicated more to agitation than education. It mocked the ignorance, corruption and backwardness: The cover of the first issue shows several sleeping Muslims whom Molla Nasraddin tries in vain to wake them up.

When addressing his audience, Mammadguluzade always referred to them as "my Muslim brothers." Like the first generation of Azeri intelligentsia, Mammadguluzade saw Islam as the main component of his identity. Bakikhanov, Kazimbay and Akhundzade all knew Azerbaijani and Persian equally well. Their works were addressed equally to Caucasian Muslims, Iranians, and Ottoman Turks, who were all connected by a complex web of religious, cultural and linguistic ties. Azerbaijanis were Shia like the Iranians, and educated Azerbaijanis knew Persian. On the other hand, their native language was very closely related to Turkish, although Ottoman Turks were Sunni.

During this period of cultural and political awakening, identity issues were at the forefront of the intelligentsia's ideological battles. Influenced by European nationalist movements and particularly pan-Slavism, leading Azeri intellectuals began to see themselves as part of the wider Turkic-speaking world. Considering the anti-clerical stance of nearly all Azeri intellectuals, pan-Turkism was able to quickly replace Islam as the main component of Azerbaijani identity.

This ideological shift is vividly illustrated by the life of Ahmadbay Aghaoglu. After receiving a traditional Muslim education and then finishing a Russian gymnasium, Aghaoglu went to continue his studies in Paris.

Immersing himself in West European Oriental Studies, he became a frequent contributor to various Orientalist publications. Aghaoglu “left Russian Azerbaijan with a religious-imperial identity, i.e. as a *Rus Mūsəlman*,” [2] and forced to consider the question of his nationality by current intellectual trends in France, it was “easy to focus on Persia, the spiritual home of the religion which had always been one of his identifying affiliations” (Shissler 2003, p. 84). Aghaoglu became one of the leading proponents of Shia Muslim, i.e. Persian, identity among the Azerbaijani intelligentsia. Upon his return to the Caucasus, however, Aghaoglu began to reconsider this position. Many factors spoke in favor of promoting an ethnic, Turkic element as the main constituent of national identity.

By the beginning of the 20th century, Islam lost out as the primary source of revivalist ideology to the secularizing ideology of Turkic nationalism. Intellectuals like Alibäy Huseynzade still wanted to modernize their societies, but, unlike Akhundzade or Mirza Kazimbay, they were no longer content being ruled by Russia and assimilating to Russian or Western culture. Instead, they made it their mission to awaken the Turkic-speaking peoples of the Russian and Ottoman Empires to their common identity (Huseynova 2006, pp. 12-13).

In the 19th century, a newly formed generation of secularly educated individuals “evolved into the conscience of the nation” (Mostashari 1992, p. 129), overcoming initial resistance and ultimately defeating the Muslim clergy in the fight for moral leadership. The newly formed local intelligentsia launched attacks on the mullahs and sheikhs, portraying them as a source of the ignorance and backwardness of the Muslim community. By targeting the religious in popular mass media, plays and poetry, singling them out as a hindrance to education and development, intellectuals like Akhundzade, Zardabi, Sabir and Mammadguluzade completely compromised the “spiritual leadership” of the local Muslim community and fashioned a “cult of the secularly educated man.”

They also succeeded in transforming former “Shia Iranians” into “newly secular Azerbaijanis.” In 1918, after the fall of tsarist regime, Azerbaijan briefly became independent, and yesterday’s writers, doctors, teachers and lawyers became the new ruling political elite. But Sovietization significantly damaged the intelligentsia’s moral authority, as it lost its previously undisputed independence in shaping its own agenda and democratic legacy.

But, and this is crucial for today, the Azerbaijani Soviet intelligentsia (*ziyalilar* in Azerbaijani) were able to preserve several crucial ideological traditions of its pre-Soviet predecessors, which formed the foundation of a “powerful and sophisticated national movement” (Bennigsen 1979, p. 4). As a result, the Soviet Union’s demise was not the ideological catastrophe for Azerbaijani intellectuals some had expected. Instead, Azerbaijani historians, orientalists, philosophers and philologists quickly cut their ties with the Communist past and launched the ongoing reexamination of their earlier national rebirth.

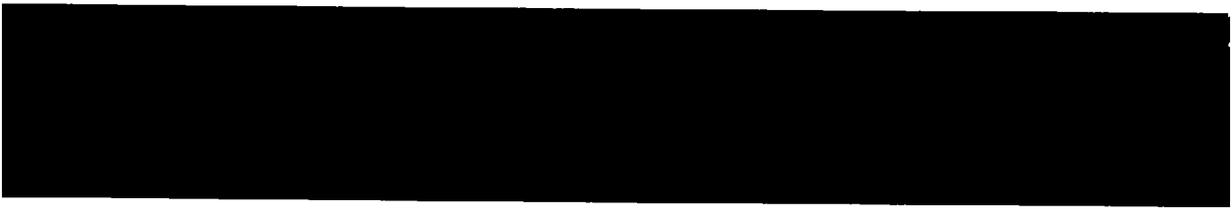
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Notes

[1] The full title reads as follows: “Hindistan şahzadəsi Kəmalüddövlənin öz dostu İran şahzadəsi Cəlalüddövləyə farsı dilində yazdığı üç məktubun və Cəlalüddövlənin ona göndərdiyi cavabın türki dilində tərcüməsi” [“An Azerbaijani translation of the Indian prince Kamaluddovla’s three letters written in Persian to his friend the Iranian prince Calaluddovla and Calaluddovla’s answer to them”).

[2] Russian Muslim.



A SELECTION OF INTERVIEWS

Volume III, 2010

AZERBAIJAN AND THE WORLD AT THE START OF 2010

The Roman god Janus after whom the month of January is named is always shown with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward. Thus, it is at the turn of each new year that people both consider what they have been through and where they are going. 2009 was a year full of events full of meaning for Azerbaijan and its relationship with the world. Below are the reflections of some of Azerbaijan's leading analysts and practitioners about both what had occurred in 2009 and what might lie ahead in 2010.

Azerbaijan in the World: What were Azerbaijan's major foreign policy achievements in 2009?

Elin Suleymanov [Consul General of Azerbaijan to Los Angeles, California]: Azerbaijan's diplomatic service celebrated the 90th anniversary of its founding in 1919, thus offering a chance to talk about Azerbaijan's place in the world. Indeed, instead of cataloguing Baku's achievements, I'd like to focus on Azerbaijan's growing international profile and its assumption of a leadership role in the region. These developments reflect President Ilham Aliyev's pragmatic and resolute foreign policy, a policy whose implementation under the leadership of Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov was over the last year more pro-active and persistent than ever before. Particularly important in my view has been Azerbaijan's success in raising international awareness of the importance of the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for the future of the entire region, as well as Baku's resoluteness in asserting itself as an independent and sovereign regional player basing its actions solely on its own national interests and perceptions.

Asim Mollazade [Milli Majlis deputy and chairman of the Democratic Reforms Party]: Among the achievements of the last year, I would point to Baku's success in attracting international attention to its conflict with Armenia and the intensified talks about the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Vafa Guluzade [former national security advisor and now an independent analyst]: 2009 was a difficult year for Azerbaijan in foreign affairs: we had a lot of difficulties, and as a result, Azerbaijan's relations with other countries deteriorated somewhat. Baku did gain ground in attracting attention to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but our relations with neighbors and other countries are more tense than a year ago. On a positive side, though, the latter fact has not turned Azerbaijan into some kind of rogue or pariah state although, as world history teaches us, that could happen.

Rasim Musabayov [an independent political analyst]: It is difficult to speak about concrete results from and achievements of 2009 just now, but I would point to the growth of Baku's independence in taking foreign policy decisions, its confidence and insistence on the defense of its own national interests.

Azerbaijan in the World: What were the major shortcomings of Azerbaijan's foreign policy in 2009?

Elin Suleymanov: Azerbaijan's foreign policy has been overall on a positive track. This success has produced some problems, which might be described more properly as growing pains. The Azerbaijani diplomatic service is stretched thin. It continues to suffer from a shortage of qualified and adequately trained mid-career personnel. This, of course, is a natural situation for a rapidly expanding service. The ministry's introduction of an entrance examination and the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy have helped, but we have more to do.

Another challenge is that we have so far failed to develop a dynamic way of presenting Azerbaijan in varying contexts. This, too, is a result of insufficient training.

Asim Mollazade: Azerbaijan cannot be indifferent to the criticism it has received from the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United States with regards to the media situation here. Armenia and Russia have

similar problems at home but have largely managed to escape such criticism.

Vafa Guluzade: Our main problem, Nagorno-Karabakh, is still unresolved, and no one is really supporting Azerbaijani policy. We live in a hostile environment: the country that is a victim of aggression—Azerbaijan—is not supported by the international community, while aggressor—Armenia—is beloved, by the United States and all allies in NATO. Support for Azerbaijani position is limited to declarations, which do not offer real support. We have also witnessed very negative television propaganda about Azerbaijan, like the film presented by *Euronews* which never mentioned the fact that Armenia's military action forced one million people to flee their homes or that 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory remains under Armenian occupation.

Another problem of the last year was increasing tension between Baku and Washington, with Baku increasingly incensed by US support for Armenia and by its criticism of Azerbaijani domestic affairs. We need to work toward a better relationship with Washington and recognize that some of US criticism is objective. Moreover, we should be trying to increase our integration with NATO. But we are not doing it. But most important: Our policy must be completely open. We must stop trying to balance everything because the era of balancing has ended. It is completely obvious that we are not able to be with Russia, because Russia itself is going to be with the United States. That is why there is no sense in balancing. Toward that end, we must adopt a cautious and sophisticated approach.

Rasim Musabayov: Our main shortcoming continues to be that we react rather than act, something that gives others the initiative. Obviously, the possibilities of Azerbaijan as a small country are limited in the international arena. However, it is necessary to search and use new possibilities and to formulate a discourse on problems that immediately touch our affairs.

Azerbaijan in the World: Some analysts have suggested that 2009 was dominated by an effort of all countries in the region to adjust to the new conditions created by the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia. How well do you think Baku has done in this regard?

Elin Suleymanov: Indeed, the August events of 2008 have brought about a dramatic change in our region. In my view, the Azerbaijani leadership managed this complicated situation with great success. This, in turn,

highlighted both Baku's ability to operate calmly in a regional crisis and the fact that Azerbaijan's long-standing pragmatic approach has been a correct policy to pursue. Azerbaijan, which has always perceived itself as a part of a greater region, has continued to deepen cooperation with all partners. Rather than seeking short-term benefits from the situation, Baku has worked towards strengthening regional stability for the long term.

Asim Mollazade: Azerbaijan provided humanitarian help to Georgia and at the same time continued normal relations with Russia, and it has maintained the energy corridor through Georgia despite the expectations of many of the converse.

Vafa Guluzade: In my view, the United States wanted Russia to act in August 2008 the way it did in order to demonstrate to all the countries of the region that Russia is an aggressive and revisionist state that threatens them. On the other hand, Georgia now, without Abkhazia and South Ossetia, is able to join NATO. In a way, the August war of 2008 and the ensuing occupation of Georgia's territories was about Georgian membership to NATO.

For Azerbaijan, the war meant that people in Baku again focused on the reality that fighting Armenia is about fighting Russia, something that could give Moscow a pretext for attacking Azerbaijan and occupying even more territories.

Rasim Musabayov: In the wake of the war, Azerbaijan confirmed its strategic partnership with Georgia by inviting President Saakashvili to Baku in the beginning of 2009. Moreover, despite Moscow's dissatisfaction, Baku sent a group of officers to work with NATO in Georgia. But all of this even taken together did not create obstacles for the development of partnership relations between Azerbaijan and Russia, especially in economic and humanitarian fields. Political dialogue continued at all levels. In a word, Azerbaijan demonstrated stability and faithfulness to the obligations it had assumed with all its partners.

Azerbaijan in the World: What specific challenges do you see the Turkish-Armenian rapprochement presenting to Baku now and in the future?

Elin Suleymanov: Dialogue between Turkey and Armenia could have a positive impact on our region. The concern here is not the dialogue itself but an attempt to pursue symbolic gestures instead of addressing real issues.

Azerbaijan has, from the very outset, stated that the real, most pressing problem for the region continues to be Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands. No sustainable normalization can be expected in the South Caucasus unless and until this challenge is dealt with. The problems involved in ratifying the protocols have proven Azerbaijan's point.

In fact, Turkish-Armenian discussions have reminded the world about the centrality of resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for the future of the region and that of Armenia itself. The main objective for Azerbaijan, therefore, is to work together with Turkey and other partners to continue efforts towards a fair settlement of the conflict instead of playing politics of symbolic gestures. Among the key factors for that is the need to engage in an intensive multifaceted and wide-ranging outreach to the Turkish society.

Asim Mollaşade. When President Aliyev refused to attend the Istanbul conference, Baku showed once again that no serious progress can be made in the South Caucasus without Azerbaijan's full participation. Azerbaijan explained that it is not against the Turkish-Armenian rapprochement per se, but that the latter could only proceed once that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been resolved.

Vafa Guluzade. In my view, the latest effort at Turkish-Armenian rapprochement has failed, in large part because Ankara did not take Baku into consideration in the beginning of the process. It is now clear that the Turkish parliament is not going to ratify the Zurich protocols until there is some progress in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Indeed, one could say that blocking the ratification of the protocols represents a major victory for Azerbaijani foreign policy in 2009.

Rasim Musabayov. Azerbaijan has been able to insist on its point of view without provoking a rupture with Ankara. The Turkish government not only has confirmed the impossibility of moving forward without progress on Nagorno-Karabakh but has provided Azerbaijan with a new supply of arms. It is important for Azerbaijan to consolidate its latest gains and arrive at a situation when Russia's regional policies would grow increasingly friendlier to Azerbaijan and its concerns without a similar positive turn in the Armenian-Turkish relations. That will secure Azerbaijan's leadership position in the South Caucasus.

Azerbaijan in the World: What do you see as the prospects for a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in 2010?

Elin Suleymanov: One can only hope that the progress registered during talks in 2009 will lead to a settlement. In recent statements, President Aliyev has stressed the urgency of resolving the problem and demonstrated a constructive approach at the talks. Other factors point in the same direction including a growing international realization after August 2008 of the dangers presented by unresolved conflicts, Turkey's commitment to seek progress on Nagorno-Karabakh as the price of ratification of the protocols, and Russia's involvement at the presidential level in talks about the conflict.

Asim Mollazade: There appear to be good chances for the completion of at least a framework agreement early in 2010. That should lead to an acceleration of the talks.

Vafa Guluzade: I do not think that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be settled in 2010. The great powers are not interested in resolving it. Russia benefits from a policy of no war-no peace, and the US supports Christian Armenia rather than Muslim Azerbaijan. I fear we may soon face a problem like the one the Palestinians have: ever more international declarations and ever less progress toward a genuine settlement.

Rasim Musabayov: The OSCE Minsk Group talks on the basis of the so-called Madrid Principles are headed toward a time at which participants will not be able to avoid saying yes or no. Because the cost of failure would be so high for so many, I believe that the participants will find a way to reach an agreement. The chances for that are not so small, and it is important not to miss this chance.

AZERBAIJAN AND PAKISTAN

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Abdul Hamid
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of
Azerbaijan

February 12, 2010
Baku, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan and the World: What do you see as the most significant characteristic of the relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan?

Ambassador Hamid: The core of relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is the existence of the highest level of political and diplomatic relations between the two countries. In both countries, there exists a tremendous goodwill for each other and both have supported each other in times of trial and tribulation. This goodwill is not only at the level of their leadership and government, but also among their population at large. Our countries have a lot of similarities and have gone through almost similar crises in their post-independence periods.

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

Amb. Hamid: Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize independence of Azerbaijan on the dismemberment of the Soviet Union. It was a time when Azerbaijan was facing its worst crisis and was fighting for its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan's recognition of Azerbaijan's independence was prompt and timely. Similarly, Pakistan played a pivotal role in 1993 in adopting UN Security Council Resolutions

in support of Azerbaijan and its territorial integrity. Interestingly, Pakistan was a Non-Permanent member of the UN Security Council at the time and used its influence to support Azerbaijan. Similarly, Pakistan played an important role in the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 10693 supporting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, one which was passed in March 2008.

Pakistan has trained a number of both civil and military personnel in a number of areas like military training, training of diplomats in its foreign service academy, revenue collection, banking, rail transport, postal, life insurance and range of other services.

Our countries enjoy excellent relations, and yet, there is potential to further improve upon in certain areas like trade and economics.

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

Amb. Hamid: Pakistan's economy had been growing rapidly, although its growth slowed down over the past few couple of years. In the coming years, the economy is expected to accelerate again and create more demand for energy supply. At present, no significant cooperation exists in the energy sector between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. One of the reasons for this could of course be the distance between the two countries.

AIW: What are the main components of trade and areas of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan?

Amb. Hamid: Although we enjoy very close friendly relations at diplomatic level, these close ties have not been translated into significant commercial gains. Currently, the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Pakistan stands at about six million US dollars. We are mostly exporting rice, industrial lubricants, medicines, polyethylene products, textiles and garments. However, we feel there is a lot of untapped potential for promotion of bilateral trade. One way of enhancing the interaction between the business communities of our two countries could be through more frequent trade delegations and assisting businesspersons with issues like visa and targeted market research.

AIW: What is the state of bilateral cooperation in the military field?

Amb. Hamid: Defence Cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is governed by a bilateral agreement which provides for cooperation in almost every field, including training and defence production. Furthermore, both

countries sign a defence cooperation plan every year covering activities and events scheduled for the following year. There is a regular exchange of high level (military) visits to both countries. So far, Pakistan has trained 75 Azerbaijani defence officials gratis, while 19 are currently undergoing training in different military institutions in Pakistan. Similarly, we have a robust cooperation in the defence industries.

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

Amb. Hamid: Pakistan and Azerbaijan are bound by historical ties of a common religion and various cultural affinities. However, during the Soviet era, these links were temporarily severed. The post-Soviet period has seen revival of these cultural links and efforts are underway to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of culture. Both countries acknowledge the fact that people-to-people interaction plays an important role in bringing the nations together.

AIW: Do you see any hurdles that Pakistan and Azerbaijan will have to overcome in order to improve their relationship? What are the plans for the future?

Amb. Hamid: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have excellent bilateral cooperation in different fields except in the field of trade and economics. We feel that relations in trade and economics are not commensurate with the potential and the level of relations between the two countries in other fields. The current international relations are shaped by bilateral trade volume and economic cooperation. Pakistan feels that both our countries will have to do a lot in this regard. So we can say, that not having addressed relations in the field of trade and economics up to their potential may be regarded as hurdle to further improve relations between the two countries.

AIW: Some analysts have suggested that 2009 was dominated by an effort of all countries in the region to adjust to the new conditions created by the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia. How well do you think Baku has done in this regard?

Amb. Hamid: Yes, of course, the war between Russia and Georgia and subsequent events, have led the countries in the region to adjust to the new realities. In my opinion, the policy pursued by Azerbaijan is pragmatic and in line with the realities in the region, as no country in the Caucasian region can ignore the neighbouring countries and their regional politics. Azerbaijan has successfully and skilfully maintained the balance.

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

Amb. Hamid: The diplomatic career is the world's best profession. A diplomat always gets opportunities to rub shoulders with the elite of the world, and indeed diplomacy is the first line of defence for any country. For wars don't result in the solution of different issues faced by the world and, ultimately, countries have to seek negotiated solutions through diplomacy. I would like to advise young entrants to broaden their horizon and to get to know world history and politics by finding and keeping abreast of relevant literature. As this career provides the opportunity to move around in the world on different postings and assignments, the knowledge of various languages would always be an added value for interaction. Thus, they should concentrate to have a working knowledge of at least two major languages. I would like young people to feel encouraged to join this elite profession. The diplomatic profession is to be full of challenges, opportunities and privileges throughout their career.

AZERBAIJAN AND INDIA

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Debnath Shaw
Ambassador of India to the Republic of Azerbaijan

February 25, 2010
Baku, Azerbaijan

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

Ambassador Shaw: Relations between India and Azerbaijan are time-tested and multi-faceted. The basis for relations between the two countries is the historical, cultural and trade relations between the people of India and Azerbaijan. In the contemporary era, we have established friendly and all-round relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan soon after its independence in 1991 and opened India's resident diplomatic mission in Baku in 1999.

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

Amb. Shaw: In the almost two decades since Azerbaijan's re-emergence as an independent, vibrant, modernizing and fast developing nation our bilateral ties have been concentrated on establishing direct relations in various fields, in contrast to the indirect relations New Delhi had with Baku, mainly through Moscow, in the Soviet era. Perhaps, this is the reason that our ties are below the potential that exists. Both sides need to make greater efforts in this direction. I am quite clear in my mind that my primary task as Ambassador of India is to work relentlessly for direct contact and dialogue between the two governments and peoples in various sectors and at various

levels. There is huge gap in perceptions and information about each other, which has to be fulfilled as a first step. We must learn and understand each other's aspirations and concerns directly and not through third eyes. The role of think tanks and research institutes in both countries is crucial in this regard. In this area, the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and similar institutions could certainly play a vital role.

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

Amb. Shaw: Energy security is an important element of the Indian government strategy as our USD 1.1 trillion economy is on a high growth trajectory and the country does not have sufficient hydrocarbon energy resources of its own to sustain GDP growth rates of 9 per cent per annum and beyond, to meet the challenges of poverty alleviation and all-round and inclusive social and economic development of our over 1.1 billion people. Azerbaijan's oil and natural gas are naturally of interest to India. Currently, Indian oil refining companies are making spot purchases of Azerbaijani light crude, shipped primarily through the BTC pipeline. Indian refiners would like to establish mutually beneficial long-term business relations with SOCAR. If Azerbaijan's excess energy resources can be used to manufacture products such as fertilizers, of which we are a major global consumer, we would certainly be interested to examine jointly the feasibility of such a project. Thanks to the assistance of oil industry engineers from Azerbaijan in the 1950s and 60s, such as Eyyub Taghiyev, the Indian oil exploration and production industry has today evolved into a global player. There is potential for cooperation in the E&P sector in Azerbaijan as well.

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

Amb. Shaw: Our primary trade consists of Azerbaijani crude oil exports to India. From India, Azerbaijan is buying synthetic textiles, garments, pharmaceutical products, tea, meat, machinery and industrial equipment. Like Azerbaijan, India, too, is investing heavily in its knowledge-based economy and other vibrant non-oil sectors. Promising areas of economic cooperation and collaboration exist in IT, telecommunications, designing and engineering consultancy, erection and establishment of infrastructure projects, especially in the power and renewable energy sectors, and also some areas of agriculture, such as tea growing and processing, and

education, including in the burgeoning IT education sector. Azerbaijan's historical role as the crossroads of several silk road routes, including one from India, can be revived if some infrastructure projects, including a railway link to Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf, which serves as the main enter port for India's trade with the Caucasus region and south eastern Europe, are contemplated.

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

Amb. Shaw: The social and cultural exchanges between the two countries are mainly people driven. The two governments are currently discussing cooperation agreements in the fields of culture, education, tourism, environmental conservation, among others. Meanwhile, in recent years a few performing artists from India and Azerbaijan have staged performances in Baku and Delhi respectively. More are necessary and will take place once the cultural agreement is signed. Tourism promotion work will result in larger numbers of residents of each country visiting the other. This is very important for the growth of our knowledge and understanding of each other, which we consider vital for the growth of a mature relationship. The Azerbaijan University of Languages in Baku is preparing to establish an India Centre with a Hindi language teaching unit. This will be major development. There are a few centers in India doing research work on the Caucasus region, including Azerbaijan, and we wish to support their effort. We also hope to get some cultural events such as a photographic exhibition and perhaps a music/dance performance from India to Azerbaijan. The Indian community in Azerbaijan of about 400+ persons, organized as the Indian Association, organizes outreach activities with the local community through social/cultural celebration events with music, dance and Indian food, usually held in conjunction with major India festivals.

AIW: Do you see any hurdles that India and Azerbaijan will have to overcome in order to improve their relationship?

Amb. Shaw: Both sides have to overcome lack of knowledge, understanding and trust in order to catapult the relationship to an even higher level. Direct flights and establishment of shipping and banking facilities will help the process.

AIW: India has always expressed its full support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. Why then did it vote against UN General Assembly Resolution 10693, which was passed in March 2008?

Amb. Shaw: India's policy on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue has always been transparent and consistent. India supports the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan, and we hope that the dispute can be resolved peacefully through dialogue. This will continue to be our position.

AIW: Some analysts have suggested that 2009 was dominated by an effort of all countries in the region to adjust to the new conditions created by the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia. How well do you think Baku has done in this regard?

Amb. Shaw: Azerbaijan's foreign policy strategy of friendship and good ties in all directions, has served it well both with regard to the geo-strategic situation in the region and its own effort to deal with the global economic downturn. Thus, we see that Baku has fared very well on both counts. Its diplomatic space has expanded in 2009 with the opening of a number of new diplomatic missions and visits of major leaders to Baku. Economically, the *manat* held its ground and Azerbaijan's economic growth was the highest in the region and among the highest in the world.

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

Amb. Shaw: Work hard. Be a good listener and practice your public speaking skills. Not everyone is a born extempore speaker. Do not hesitate to prepare in advance what you want to say or write in a public forum. Learn to go out and enjoy public events. Writing good reports and analysis is important. It is also important in diplomacy to be seen and heard in the public domain. Do not hesitate to attend as many events, including media events, as possible. Place yourself as a salesman selling a product or service. In this instance, the product/service is your own country. How well you convince your interlocutor about your country and its viewpoint will, to a great extent, depend on your "selling" skills.

AZERBAIJAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

An Interview with H.E. Mr. Fakhreddin Gurbanov
Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United Kingdom

March 5, 2010
Baku, Azerbaijan / London, UK

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

Ambassador Gurbanov: Relations between Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom include a vast spectrum of issues from bilateral political ties to cultural and educational links. Cooperation in these areas rests on a solid foundation and is likely to further deepen in the future. But I regard energy cooperation between our two countries as being at the core of our ties, given that Britain has been a leader in helping to develop Azerbaijan's energy resources since the mid-1990s and that UK-based companies have since then established strong presence in, and invested heavily in, our country's energy sector. On the basis of success in that area, our ties are now broadening and deepening in many different dimensions.

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

Amb. Gurbanov: Initially, after Azerbaijan regained its independence, the ties between our countries were mainly focused on creating and extending energy cooperation and on developing the regional energy export infrastructure. Indeed, nearly all British companies which set up their presence in Azerbaijan during those days were in one way or the other

linked to the energy sector. Now, our relations have expanded across the spectrum, and I take pleasure in noting that there are frequent high-level contacts and bilateral visits. President Ilham Aliyev's official visit to London last July, in particular, has moved our relations to a new level.

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

Amb. Gurbanov: UK energy companies led by BP have played a crucial role in bringing the energy infrastructure in our country up to the state of the art as exemplified in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipelines. Today, there are around 5000 British citizens working in Azerbaijan, most of them in the energy sector. Britain has been and remains the largest foreign investor in Azerbaijan's hydrocarbon sector and accounts for more than half of foreign direct investment in our country. In recent years, we have expanded cooperation in this area by joint agreements to exploit offshore oil and gas reserves. Among the most important was the accord signed between SOCAR and BP in the presence of President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Gordon Brown in London, in July of last year.

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

Amb. Gurbanov: Our two countries are seeking to expand our cooperation beyond the energy sector. Indeed, that goal lies behind the foundation of the UK-Azerbaijan Business Council, which brings together both UK- and Azerbaijan-based companies. This group has organized two trade missions to Azerbaijan over the last few months, and we are seeing the fruits of that effort as British investments increase in Azerbaijan's finance, insurance, agriculture, and consultancy services sectors, among others. Indeed, one of the priorities that the Business Council has set for itself is to promote Azerbaijani investment in the UK. I see a great potential for cooperation in tourism, renewable and green energy, and banking, and we will do everything we can to promote that.

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

Amb. Gurbanov: Culture and public diplomacy play a key role in bridging gaps between peoples and supporting diplomatic work. Cultural and public diplomacy have often proved a more effective foreign policy tool as compared to conventional diplomatic practices. With that in mind, we have

sought to establish strong people-to-people relations between Azerbaijan and Britain. Our embassy has helped to organize a vast array of cultural events, exhibitions, and concerts featuring Azerbaijani artists. We have strong ties with the well-established Azerbaijani communities in London and other cities. The Azerbaijan House—a culture, community, friendship and resource center in London—is crucial in supporting us in our efforts to raise awareness among the British of our culture and uphold the sense of belonging of the Azerbaijani community in Britain. And British universities are one of the most favored destinations for Azerbaijanis studying abroad. In 2009 alone, more than 90 Azerbaijani students enrolled in British universities at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Meanwhile, British public diplomacy has established a strong presence in Azerbaijan, in large measure through the British Council. Cultural diplomacy is actually one of the areas in which we are trying to share experience with, and learn from, each other. Several study tours to the UK have been organized to that effect over the last few years.

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

Amb. Gurbanov: In addition to the obvious requirements of language skills and knowledge of the rules of diplomatic life, Azerbaijanis entering diplomatic work need to acquire a broad knowledge of the world and its rapidly changing nature. Personally, I see both economic and cultural issues becoming the defining elements shaping the future of global affairs. Moreover, young diplomats need to know more about and appreciate the impact of the global communications revolution. Underlying all of this, of course, must be a feeling of devotion to your country, patience and determination in upholding the interests of your country, and a sense of pride in representing it. Azerbaijanis have these things, and I hope they will always bring them to diplomatic work.

AZERBAIJAN EXPANDS ITS FOCUS ON SOUTH AMERICA

An Interview with Mr. Mammad Ahmadzada
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Argentine Republic

November 29, 2010
Baku/Buenos Aires, Azerbaijan/Argentina

Azerbaijan in the World: How have relations between Azerbaijan and Argentina evolved in the post-Soviet era and what was the rationale behind Baku's decision to open up an embassy there?

Ambassador Ahmadzada: The Argentine Republic recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on March 9, 1992, and the two countries established diplomatic relations on November 8, 1993. Starting from the mid 2000's, Azerbaijan began to build closer ties with Argentina and other South American countries, as a part of a strategy under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev aimed at strengthening the country's international standing. The visit to Argentina by Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov on April 3, 2006 was important in this regard. So, the opening of our embassy in Argentina, the first diplomatic mission of Azerbaijan in South America, is due to our country's proactive foreign policy and the expansion of its diplomatic presence around the globe. Azerbaijan views its ties with Argentina as offering enormous opportunities for greater cooperation in many fields, and considers this country as a gateway to the whole South American region.

AIW: What are your first impressions of Argentina?

Amb. Ahmadzada: A very interesting country! Argentina is rich in natural resources, climate zones, fertile land, multicultural diversity, economic potential and so much more. It is one of the regional powers of South America and a member of G20, all factors that have given it a leading position in Latin America. A posting here is important not only for bilateral cooperation, but also because, due to its academic and research centers, Argentina is the best place for gaining an understanding of the whole region.

Buenos Aires, a huge megalopolis that has drawn people from all over the world, has a rich and vivid social and cultural ambience. As they say in Argentina, “the city enjoys to the fullest all 24 of the 24 hours of the day.” Considered a center of the European culture of South America, Buenos Aires is full of theaters, cinemas, museums, art galleries, French and Italian style architecture, boutique parks, gardens, antique fairs, memorable tango shows, and restaurants offering the famous Argentine beef. And I cannot fail to mention sports, especially football and the legendary Maradona. All these things make Argentina an important tourist destination. I believe that this place can become an attractive tourist destination for Azerbaijanis as well, once it is discovered. However, for us, as an embassy, promoting tourist flows is just one side of the coin, the other side being about facilitating people to people contacts, laying bridges for mutual understanding and close ties between the two cultures.

AIW: What has already been done during the short time of the embassy’s operation in Buenos Aires?

Amb. Ahmadzada: The Azerbaijani diplomatic mission arrived in Buenos Aires in mid-August 2010. We have already settled in, and today our Embassy is in full operation. While getting organized, we also began to make contacts with government institutions, members of the legislature, the diplomatic corps, businesses, academics, media and a wide range of other groups and individuals.

Recognizing that many people in South America know relatively little about Azerbaijan, the embassy has launched an active public diplomacy. The embassy organized a “Presentation of Azerbaijan” at the Argentine Foreign Ministry’s National Foreign Service Institute (ISEN). In addition, *La Revista Diplomática Placet*, the Argentine diplomatic magazine, recently published a special edition devoted exclusively to Azerbaijan, in a joint work with the

embassy, including articles about National Leader Heydar Aliyev, President Ilham Aliyev, as well as the country's foreign policy, its economy, history, culture, tourism, sports, and cuisine. The special edition titled "Azerbaijan—rich heritage, prosperous present and brilliant future" is meant to serve as the very first guide on Azerbaijan ever published in Spanish. And finally, as we believe that high-level visits and first-hand impressions about the country are important, the embassy organized the visit of Ambassador Alberto Pedro D'Alotto, the deputy foreign minister of Argentina to Baku at the end of November.

AIW: What were the agenda and results of the visit of Argentina's deputy foreign minister to Baku?

Amb. Ahmadzada: It was the first ever official visit of a high-ranking member of the Argentine government to Azerbaijan. Therefore, in order to create the whole picture of Azerbaijan and provide insight to the overall potential sectors of cooperation, a comprehensive program was elaborated for the Argentine dignitary. During his visit, Deputy Minister D'Alotto met with Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, Deputy Foreign Ministers Khalaf Khalafov and Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, Minister of Agriculture Ismat Abbasov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development Sevinc Hasanova and SOCAR Vice-President Davud Mammadov. The Argentine deputy minister also visited the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he met with Deputy Foreign Minister and Rector Hafiz Pashayev and discussed bilateral cooperation.

Among the most prominent results of his visit was the signing of "Memorandum of understanding on the establishment of political consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic" and "Memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the National Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic."

Deputy Minister D'Alotto also gave an exclusive interview to Trend news agency about the current state of, and future prospects for, bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Argentina.

Given how recently Azerbaijan's embassy opened, I think that this visit

highlights the keen interest of the Argentine government in Azerbaijan. Deputy Foreign Minister Alberto Pedro D'Alotto repeatedly emphasized in his meetings that he was impressed by the rapidly growing economy and ongoing developments in Azerbaijan and that Argentina is keen to be part of them. I hope this visit will lead to a variety of initiatives on both sides.

AIW: What are the existing and potential areas for cooperation? What are the plans for the future?

Amb. Ahmadzada: There is a solid foundation for political dialogue between Azerbaijan and Argentina. The principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are the basis for the development of the relations between the two countries. Both parties are keen to have intensive political consultations on bilateral, regional and global issues.

Economic cooperation is especially important. At present, bilateral trade between the two countries is relatively modest, but is increasing rapidly, having risen by approximately 70 percent this year. Trade consists mainly of Argentine exports of pharmaceutical products, soybean oil, sugar, other agricultural products and foodstuff, and some Azerbaijani exports of chemical products. But there is ample room for expansion in both directions, as well as in other sectors. In particular, high-end Argentine agricultural technologies can be useful for increasing the capacity, productivity and export potential of the agriculture sector of Azerbaijan. To this end, the Embassy is working to expand contacts between business people of the two countries.

The Embassy is planning to continue the public diplomacy to promote Azerbaijani reality, including the country's historical and cultural heritage, the ongoing development of the country, its leading regional role, the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the position of Baku regarding the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the religious tolerance and Azerbaijan's role in intercultural dialogue, as well as the country's business-investment climate and opportunities and its tourism potential, among other areas. With that aim, the embassy will work towards creating more understanding of Azerbaijan in Argentina and the South American region, as well as foster friendship and cooperation.

OIL REVENUES AND AZERBAIJAN

A Conversation with Dr. Jeffrey Frankel
Professor, Harvard University, and
Visiting Professor, Baku Summer Energy School

July 7, 2010
Baku, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan in the World: Azerbaijan receives a substantial income from oil, and experts project that in a few years, its earnings will rise substantially when off-shore gas fields come on line. How should Baku use this money most wisely?

Prof. Jeffrey Frankel: The first thing Azerbaijanis must be aware of is the unfortunate experiences of other countries in such circumstances. Most of them spend the money quickly on high visibility projects with few long-term positive consequences. That has happened many times, sometimes even in the presence of the best of intentions. Indeed, it is so common that a term has arisen to describe it: the natural resource curse. Sometimes this happens because governments assume that the money will always be coming in and thus fail to save enough for when the oil runs out or prices fall: unfortunately, even the countries that say they are going to save the oil revenue end up not doing it, because it is so tempting just to spend. And sometimes it happens because governments try to monopolize the earnings rather than include individual citizens and private markets as players.

AIW: Do you expect oil prices to remain high?

Prof. Frankel: Given demand from China and other Asian economies

where the recession of 2008-09 is already over, prices are likely to go up as demand increases while supplies fail to expand at the same rate.

AIW: Given your years of experience in the White House, do you think we should extract as much oil as possible and sell it, or should we extract it more slowly so that future generations will be able to benefit?

Prof. Frankel: That is an excellent question. Doing it slowly is a way of saving for the future. Some countries make the mistake of extracting it too fast and damage the environment in the meantime. After they have used it up, they don't have the economy; they don't have the environment; they have lost everything. Here is one example, although it doesn't involve oil. The island of Nauru in the South Pacific used to have the highest income per capita in the world because much of the island consisted of phosphate deposits. By over-mining these deposits, the people of Nauru ruined their island, and, worse, they did not save enough. As a result, they are poor again. You don't want to repeat that.

AIW: Now that you are giving lectures on the resource curse at the Baku Summer Energy School, what is your overall impression of the school and Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy organizing the event?

Prof. Frankel: I have been very pleased to be here. Many people make the mistake of thinking that education and research and development are important only in the manufacturing sector and that these things are not needed in the energy and raw materials sectors. But in fact, technical progress is important there as well. Consequently, I am both glad to see and impressed by the research and training taking place at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. I hope ADA will play a role in helping Azerbaijan think about the future.



**CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S
FOREIGN POLICY IN 2010**

Volume III, 2010

Key Government Statements on
Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

Volume III, 2010

DECEMBER

President Ilham Aliyev says that “as long as Azerbaijani lands remain occupied, Armenia will live in fear” (<http://news.day.az/politics/245071.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that in the course of the next year, Azerbaijan will increase pressure on international and regional organizations responsible for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/245964.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that US President Barak Obama’s decision to give Matthew Bryza a recess appointment as ambassador to Baku shows that “the Armenian diaspora in the US is not all powerful” and that “the US is interested in good strategic relations with Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/246025.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says in Astana that “Armenia is seeking to preserve the status quo and to make the negotiation process infinite” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240795.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan had had “certain hopes” for a breakthrough on Karabakh in 2010 (<http://news.day.az/politics/243267.html>).

Gular Ahmadova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijan is inclined toward a military solution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/242190.html>).

NOVEMBER

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan never was and never will be subject to discussion” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240748.html>).

The President’s Office says that “the thoughts and judgments ascribed to President Ilham Aliyev” in the latest batch of Wikileaks materials “do not reflect reality and are absolutely without foundation. These materials are an open provocation, which pursues the goal of undermining the relations of Azerbaijan with neighboring states and creating distrust among the heads of those states” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240827.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “we will be able at any moment to restore the territorial integrity of the country by military means” (<http://news.day.az/politics/237353.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that “the declaration of the US State Department on the elections [in Azerbaijan] generates surprise and regret” (<http://news.day.az/politics/237795.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that “the day is not far away when shipments from Central Asia will reach Europe via the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway” (<http://news.day.az/economy/237036.html>).

OCTOBER

President Ilham Aliyev tells his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich during a visit to Kyiv that “from the moment of the acquisition of independence, special friendly relations have always existed between Azerbaijan and Ukraine” (<http://news.day.az/politics/235693.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that “Russia is a strategic partner of contemporary Azerbaijan but one of the questions which blocks the development of the partnership is the fact that Moscow up to now has not supported in a clear way the interests of Baku in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/235769.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev says during a visit to Beijing that “if peace talks do not yield results, Azerbaijan will use all means, including the power of the army, for the restoration of the territorial integrity of the country. For this in the ranks of our Armed Forces, serious preparatory work is being carried out” (<http://news.day.az/politics/236141.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the recent changes in visa procedures are intended to bring Azerbaijan into correspondence with European standards (<http://news.day.az/politics/234797.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan occupies a special place on the energy map of the world.” His remarks come as he breaks ground for the new administration center of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) (<http://news.day.az/politics/233096.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev, at the opening of a Jewish school, says that “for centuries in Azerbaijan, there has been tolerance shown toward all peoples and national minorities, including the Jews” (<http://news.day.az/society/231828.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the recent visit of the OSCE Minsk Group to the occupied territories, the first such visit since 2005, was intended to determine the extent of Armenian-organized artificial

population transfers (<http://news.day.az/politics/233671.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran, says that Baku is prepared to agree on having Iran play a mediating role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/231742.html>).

SEPTEMBER

President Ilham Aliyev tells the UN General Assembly that “the continuing armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is a major threat to international and regional peace and security” (<http://news.day.az/politics/229973.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the Millennium Development Goals UN Summit in New York that despite the occupation of 20 percent of its territory by Armenia and the presence of approximately a million refugees and internally displaced persons, Baku is fulfilling all the obligations on development that it has undertaken to complete by 2015 (<http://news.day.az/politics/229567.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, the Milli Majlis speaker, tells Ludec Sefzig, chairman of the EU committee of the Senate of the Czech Republic, that the delay in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict is due in large part to the activities of the Armenian lobbies in various countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/231067.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says on the occasion of the visit to Baku by his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev that “the right of a people to self-determination must not lead to the violation of the territorial integrity of countries.” In other comments, he says that Azerbaijan’s relations with Russia are those “between strategic partners, neighbors and good friends” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226791.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Muslim countries must always demonstrate solidarity” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226374.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the vice president of PACE and a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the visit of President Dmitry Medvedev shows that while “Russia periodically strengthens its positions in Armenia,” such actions “do not threaten Azerbaijani-Russian relations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/227086.html>).

AUGUST

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that Azerbaijan does not intend to join either NATO or the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty until one or the other "condemns Armenia as an aggressor" (<http://news.day.az/politics/225352.html>).

Elchin Huseynli, an arms control expert at the Azerbaijani foreign ministry, says that Baku supports the convention against cassette weapons but cannot sign it because part of Azerbaijan is currently occupied (<http://news.day.az/politics/221832.html>)

JULY

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the meeting in Almaty between himself and his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan was “without result” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219714.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE, says that the Armenian side at the ministerial bilateral in Almaty “once again demonstrated its unconstructive position” on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/219916.html>).

Nazim Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Kazakhstan, which currently holds the OSCE Chairmanship, has done a great deal to promote a settlement between Azerbaijan and Armenia but that the United States and the Russian Federation, each for its own reasons, have blocked progress (<http://news.day.az/politics/220049.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the recent deaths of Armenian military personnel in the occupied territories reflect conflicts among the three groups which make up Yerevan’s forces there: Armenians from Armenia, Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh and “mercenary criminals from many countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/221455.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “never during the negotiations has the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan been put under doubt” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217659.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says in an interview in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* that “Azerbaijan seeks to develop cooperation with the European Union and NATO but does not intend to become a member of either” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217508.html>).

JUNE

President Ilham Aliyev says in a statement read on Armed Forces Day that Azerbaijan's spending on the military has increased more than 13 times over the last seven years and now stands at more than 2.1 billion US dollars annually (<http://www.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/170772/>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Azerbaijani armed forces that they must "be ready to liberate the occupied territories at any time" (<http://news.day.az/topnews/215887.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that "we very much want that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries using their authority and the possibility of influence will force the Armenian side to accept the renewed Madrid Principles" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213311.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Istanbul summit of the Conference on Cooperation and Development of Trust in Asia that "Azerbaijan seeks to play an important role in questions of regional cooperation" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213284.html>).

MAY

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the military potential which exists today in Azerbaijan allows us at any moment to successfully and in a short time fulfil any task” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211477.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the conclusive stage of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict is beginning and that while no exact date can yet be given, “the Azerbaijani flag will again fly over Khankandi.” He adds that “it is necessary to conduct elections with the participation of both communities who must define the future status [of Nagorno-Karabakh] within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211287.html>).

The draft Military Doctrine of Azerbaijan identifies Armenia as “an aggressor,” Milli Majlis deputy Zahid Oruj says (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211902.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “if the Russian plan for the return of occupied Azerbaijani territories is calculated to take a number of years, then this does not correspond to our interests” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209003.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the number of co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group could be increased to four (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209035.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, head of the State Customs Committee, says “Armenia is using the occupied territories of Azerbaijan for the transit of narcotics” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209165.html>).

APRIL

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Baku Summit of Religious Leaders of the World that “religious and national tolerance in Azerbaijan has a very large and glorious history” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206013.html>).

Anar Mammadkhanov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that to his “great regret” American policy in the South Caucasus reflects “an ignorance of historical realities [and] a superficial acquaintance with geopolitical aspects” of the situation there, shortcomings that can lead to “unpredictable consequences” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206032.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the US risks the loss of its most important and reliable partner in the region of the South Caucasus” by its recent statements and actions (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205375.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, says that “the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been in vain” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204436.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “Azerbaijan is seeking alternative paths of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204464.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “we have entered into the decisive phase of the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204184.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the unconstructive position of Armenia and its policy of dragging out the peace process are creating major obstacles for the resolution of the conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202841.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “between Azerbaijan and Russia there is developing a strategic partnership” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204256.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan “welcomes those efforts of Iran which have been directed to the achievement of peace and stability in [the] region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203364.html>).

MARCH

President Ilham Aliyev says that “it is possible to say that in principle, the basic part of the negotiations on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been completed” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200494.html>).

The Foreign Ministry responds to the statement of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to a Syrian paper by reiterating that “the negotiation process on the Armenian-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at present presupposes the search and identification of mutually acceptable compromises” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200860.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov says that Baku plans in 2010 to open embassies in Serbia, Oman, Argentina, Thailand, Croatia, Libya, Lebanon, and Estonia and a consulate general in Batumi. That will increase the total number of Azerbaijani diplomatic missions abroad from the current 65 to 74 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199682.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that Azerbaijan is developing its forces so as to be able “at any moment to liberate our lands from the enemy.” He says Baku wants a peaceful settlement, “but no one should forget that the Armenians seized these lands by any but peaceful means... Our lands were occupied by military force,” and “we cannot tolerate this situation” forever (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197148.html>).

At the direction of President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijani officials are stepping up their effort to inform the international community about the crimes committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis,” including but not limited to Yerevan’s effort to annex part of Azerbaijan and carry out “ethnic cleansing” in the occupied territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197801.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev telephones Turkish President Abdulla Gul to tell him that Azerbaijan considers the decision of the US Congressional Committee “unjust” and a “crude distortion of historical truth” that is

“capable of leading to the growth of tensions in the region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198186.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, chairman of the Milli Majlis Human Rights Committee, says that the US State Department’s 2009 Human Rights Report, which is sharply critical of the situation in Azerbaijan, does not reflect the reality but rather the efforts of “people who hate Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199221.html>).

FEBRUARY

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory from immemorial times. Everyone knows that Armenians were resettled on these lands in the 19th century. Karabakh is an indivisible part of Azerbaijan. This is confirmed by historical truth and the norms of international law. Never will there be created on Azerbaijani territory a second Armenian state. Nagorno-Karabakh will never be independent. The whole world knows about this, and the sooner Armenia recognizes this truth, the sooner the issue will find its resolution. And after the problem is resolved, a broadscale peace can be established since the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the largest problem of the region. Without its resolution, no other problem can be solved” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196327.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that “there is no need for the participation of the Azerbaijani community in the process of talks on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196979.html>).

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, under the direction of its President Mehriban Aliyeva, notes that in this year, meetings and demonstrations on the anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy are taking place in more than 100 places around the world (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196868.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev reaffirms that “Azerbaijan will never agree to the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh and will not adopt any mechanisms or procedures which will potentially lead to its separation” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193557.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Sochi summit was “one of the important moments in the current stage of the negotiation process concerning the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192796.html>).

JANUARY

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Cabinet of Ministers that the military potential of Azerbaijan is “growing,” that Azerbaijan’s standing in the world is rising, and that progress is being made toward a resolution of the Karabakh conflict now that Armenia has recognized that the conflict must be resolved on the basis of the territorial integrity of states (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190295.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells the *Wall Street Journal* that “Armenia will be able to freeze the negotiating process on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict if this question will be considered in isolation from the question of the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192050.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells *Bloomberg* news service in Davos that “many questions” still remain unanswered concerning the Nabucco project (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192048.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the London Conference on Aid to Afghanistan that Baku will “continue military assistance until there is stability in Afghanistan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192299.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov says that Azerbaijan will open ten additional diplomatic missions in 2010. It will establish embassies in Serbia, Oman, Argentina, Thailand, Croatia, Lebanon, Libya, and Estonia, and a consulate general in Batumi. At the present time, he adds, Azerbaijan has 65 diplomatic missions abroad (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189066.html>).

The Foreign Ministry releases a report on its activities in 2009, detailing Baku’s efforts to resolve the Karabakh conflict and to promote Azerbaijani interests around the world (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189695.html>).

Key Statements by Others
about Azerbaijan

DECEMBER

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, the secretary general of the Economic Cooperation Organization, says that that body “highly values the participation of Azerbaijan in [its] initiatives” (<http://news.day.az/politics/244389.html>).

Onur Oymen, a member of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that in the event of a war with Armenia, Azerbaijan can count on the support of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/243781.html>).

James Appathurai, special representative of NATO’s secretary general for the Caucasus and Central Asia, says that “Azerbaijan is a reliable partner of NATO” (<http://news.day.az/politics/243660.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that his country, “on the basis of the declaration signed in Astana will increase the activity of its mediating efforts for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/242912.html>).

The final text of the Astana Declaration adopted by the OSCE summit is released (<http://news.day.az/politics/241506.html>).

NOVEMBER

Robert Simmons, special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that “the doors of NATO are open for new members, including Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240260.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says that “without a peaceful and secure resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is impossible to say that we live in a single and free Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240086.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that if outside pressure on the South Caucasus ends, then the Karabakh conflict can be resolved (<http://news.day.az/politics/238858.html>).

Observers from the OSCE and the European Parliament give a positive assessment of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237527.html>).

Turkish National Defense Minister Vejdi Konul says that “Azerbaijan and Turkey intend to raise to a higher level cooperation in the sphere of defense industries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/236569.html>).

The UN Development Program says that “among the 169 countries of the world” it has rated, Azerbaijan has achieved “the most significant successes in human capacity development over the last five years” (<http://news.day.az/society/236843.html>).

OCTOBER

The US Department of State values the efforts of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev toward the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/235894.html>).

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes the joint declaration in Astrakhan issued by the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia (<http://news.day.az/politics/235893.html>).

The Turkish Foreign Ministry welcomes the joint declaration of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia in Astrakhan and hopes that it will advance the cause of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/236197.html>).

Peter Semneby, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that “it would be very tragic if the Karabakh conflict were not resolved within the course of another 40 years” (<http://news.day.az/politics/233985.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that media reports about a crisis in relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan over the display of the Turkish flag are untrue (<http://news.day.az/politics/232228.html>).

Aleksandr Nikitin, the director of the Moscow Center of Euro-Atlantic Security at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, says that “the OSCE is an ineffective place for the search for ways of resolving the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/233015.html>).

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi says that there is “great potential” for cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan in the defense industry sector (<http://news.day.az/politics/233134.html>). He adds that “we do not see any obstacles to the conduct of military exercise in the Caspian together with Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/233132.html>) and that Tehran supports the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict “within the framework of international law and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.”

SEPTEMBER

Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov says that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is a holy thing and it must be supported in all variants of the solution of the Karabakh problem” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230961.html>).

Ali Agha Mohammadi, deputy first vice president of Iran, says that “the goal of [his] visit [to Baku] is to raise the level of economic cooperation to the same level as political relations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230739.html>).

Andrey Kelin, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry’s CIS Countries Department, says that “Nagorno-Karabakh cannot participate in negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan as a separate side since Azerbaijan considers [Nagorno-Karabakh] to be its territory” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230227.html>).

Vaira Vike-Freiberga, former president of Latvia, special representative of the UN secretary general and vice president of the Experts Group on the Long-term Development of the EU, says that a new group of negotiators is necessary for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/229116.html>).

Anne-Marie Lisin, honorary chairman of the Belgian Senate, says that the appointment of a special representative of the UN for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict may have a positive impact on the negotiating process (<http://news.day.az/politics/229088.html>).

Former Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga says the UN should name a special representative on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/228252.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says in Baku that his visit is “a very important day in the history of Russian-Azerbaijani relations” because “today we have closed the last of the major issues which had existed between our countries” by signing an agreement delimiting the land border

between the two states (<http://news.day.az/politics/226791.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that the border between Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, to which Presidents Ilham Aliyev and Dmitry Medvedev recently agreed, is “with very small exceptions, the line of the administrative border which existed at one time between the RSFSR and the Azerbaijan SSR” (<http://news.day.az/politics/228725.html>).

Citing an anonymous Kremlin source, RIA Novosti says that “Moscow does not intend to defend Armenia from Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226681.html>).

Bernard Fassier, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that for the first time in the last nine years, the three co-chairs have travelled directly from Baku to Karabakh passing through the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/227594.html>).

AUGUST

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that to date “only the OSCE Minsk Group” has demonstrated its “effectiveness” in promoting the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/224648.html>).

The US State Department says in its annual report on terrorism that Azerbaijan “actively opposed terrorist organizations seeking to move people, money, and material through the Caucasus” and “demonstrated an increasing level of seriousness and urgency in taking steps to combat terrorist financing” (<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2009/140885.htm>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry in a survey of Russian-language media in the post-Soviet states says that the Russian-language press in Azerbaijan, consisting of 50 print titles and seven information agencies, “has preserved its influence and popularity and continues to play an essential role in the formation of public opinion in Azerbaijan” (<http://www.vestikavkaza.ru/news/politika/diplomatia/23962.html>).

JULY

Florian Peter, political counselor of the German embassy in Baku, says that “international laws connected with the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are on the side of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/220992.html>).

Bernard Fassier, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that there are “no parallels” between Nagorno-Karabakh and Kosovo and therefore the International Court’s decision on the latter has no bearing on the former (<http://news.day.az/politics/220695.html>).

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova says that “Azerbaijan is a model of inter-cultural dialogue” (<http://news.day.az/society/221392.html>). She adds that she is concerned by Armenia’s destruction of the cultural-historical heritage of Azerbaijan in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/221497.html>).

Russian Federation Council Speaker Sergey Mironov says that “Russia will not send into Nagorno-Karabakh its peacekeepers; this is a problem of the two sides, Azerbaijan and Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217038.html>).

Former Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh says that “in the Caucasus region, Azerbaijan is a symbol of progress and modernization” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218468.html>).

JUNE

The presidents of Russia, the United States and France, the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries, issue a joint statement at the G-8 summit in Canada on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict calling on the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia “to take the next step and complete the work on the Basic Principles” for an accord (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/g8-summit-joint-statement-nagorno-karabakh-conflict-dmitry-medvedev-president-russi>).

Irfan Gunduz, a member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, says that Ankara “is not interested in the resumption of military action” between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Any such conflict would “negatively affect the development of society and the country as a whole.” Consequently, Turkey “will try to do everything so that events will not head in that direction” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215293.html>).

The President’s Office releases the text of President Barak Obama to President Ilham Aliyev that Secretary of Defense Robert Gates brought with him in which the US leader says that “the United States recognizes Azerbaijan’s important contributions to regional and international security” and expresses the hope that “we will be able to broaden and deepen our relationship in the months and years ahead” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213045.html>;

http://azerbaijan.usembassy.gov/uploads/images/wSa0TrM_p94ZA6oQ2rBnjw/President_Obama_3s_Letter_to_President_Ilham_Aliyev_En.pdf).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that “Russia better than other countries knows the genesis of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and the positions of the sides and feels bad because this problem has remained unresolved for such a long time” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213736.html>).

At a joint press conference in Istanbul with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says that

“any interference or pressure on one of the sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is very risky and that Russia would not want that Azerbaijan or Armenia would say that they were being pressured” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213201.html>).

MAY

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Turkey “cannot laugh when Karabakh is crying bitter tears” and that Ankara remains committed to resolving all conflicts in its region on the basis of its policy of having no problems with its neighbors (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211711.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that “Moscow supports the principle of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state.” Consequently, it rejects as illegitimate the May 23 voting there (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210723.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Moscow and Baku will sign a treaty on the state border before the end of 2010 but that it is premature to set an exact date (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208926.html>).

Iranian Interior Minister Mustafa Muhammad Najjar says that “no forces will be able to destroy the good relations between Baku and Teheran” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207171.html>).

Afghanistan’s Deputy Defense Minister, Gen. Zakir Azimi, says that Kabul is interested in an expansion of the Azerbaijani mission in his country (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208574.html>).

Gianfranco Fini, the president of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, tells visiting Milli Majlis speaker Ogtay Asadov that “Azerbaijan has encountered a double injustice:” its land is occupied, and the international community is not supporting a just resolution of the problem” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207953.html>).

APRIL

Iranian Interior Minister Mustafa Mohammad Najar tells Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iran Javanshir Akhundov that Tehran “wants to broaden cooperation with Azerbaijan in the area of security, the police, and border affairs” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206127.html>).

Boris Klimchuk, Ukrainian ambassador in Baku, says that “GUAM is in the highest degree a useful organization” but that it is “another question” how to bring it “into line with new realities, by considering the developments among our neighbors” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/205540.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that “the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict can become the basis for the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204100.html>).

MARCH

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that “the resolution of the Karabakh question is the key to the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200995.html>). And Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that there have been significant advances in the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200943.html>).

The OSCE reports that 19 people died along the ceasefire line between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces in 2009 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201169.html>).

Jennifer Davis, US representative in NATO, says that the alliance “is conducting discussions with Azerbaijan in the defense sector, on democratic reforms and on the question of preparing a military doctrine” and that “if Azerbaijan will be interested in membership in the Alliance, then it will be possible to work on that” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198630.html> and <http://www.day.az/news/politics/198615.html>).

French President Nicolas Sarkozy says in the course of a joint press conference with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that “Russia and France intend to continue to work in close cooperation for the resolution of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

FEBRUARY

US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns says that “US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are personally interested in the successes of the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group, considering them to be part of a guarantee of regional security” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195823.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that “cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia in the military sphere is mutually profitable” to both countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196523.html>).

Seyyid Kazim Mousavi, the head of the Iran-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary group friendship, says that “any country which attacks Azerbaijan will be considered as a country that has declared war on Iran as well” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196590.html>).

The Embassy of Kazakhstan in Azerbaijan says that “during its presidency in the OSCE, Kazakhstan will maintain a neutral position on Nagorno-Karabakh in order that [Astana] will not be accused of Turkic solidarity” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194633.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairperson-in-office of the OSCE, says “a referendum in Nagorno-Karabakh can be conducted only after the return of internally displaced persons” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194922.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Islamic Conference declares the Khojaly tragedy to be “a crime against humanity” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192480.html>).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman says that “Israel respects the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and that we hope that all the agreements which have been achieved within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group will be realized” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194016.html>).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman says that “in Azerbaijan there exists a unique model which can serve as an example for many parts of the world” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194406.html>).

JANUARY

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, says that “the OIC will always support Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192007.html>).

Sergey Naryshkin, chief of the Presidential Administration of Russia, says that “in Russia, the strategic and mutually profitable relations with Azerbaijan are highly valued” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191223.html>).

Participants in the Batumi Energy Conference reaffirm their commitment to the territorial integrity of the participating countries, including Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189783.html>).

Vahit Erdem, head of the Turkish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, says that “until the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, we will not ratify the protocols and will not open the border with Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189367.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan asks his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to play “a big role” in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189589.html>).

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DECEMBER

31 December

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is awarded the Service to the Turkish World Prize by TURKSAV, the association of writers and artists of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/246071.html>).

The Consulate General of Azerbaijan officially opens in Batumi (<http://news.day.az/politics/246084.html>).

Azerbaijanis around the world officially mark the Day of Solidarity of Azerbaijanis of the World (<http://news.day.az/politics/245207.html>).

30 December

Abdulkerim Aydemir, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "a catastrophic future awaits Armenia" unless Yerevan changes course (<http://news.day.az/politics/245755.html>).

29 December

The European Union, responding to a note of protest from Azerbaijan, says it was not informed about the goals and program of Tomasz Poreba, a European Parliament member, in Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/245829.html>).

28 December

Shukru Ayalan, a member of the Turkish delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that Armenia "does not have the bravery" for attacking Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/245520.html>).

27 December

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the memorandum on energy and transportation cooperation with Iran signed on November 17 (<http://news.day.az/politics/245568.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfaz Garayev says that his ministry has sent to international organizations a report about the status of historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/culture/245550.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova receives Erling Skjonsberg, Norwegian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/245572.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the adoption in 2010 by the German parliament of a document recognizing the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan may produce “a civil war” in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/245066.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says that he has “learned a great deal from [President] Ilham Aliyev” (<http://news.day.az/politics/245456.html>).

Reshat Dogru, a member of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “Armenia does not have time for reflection” (<http://news.day.az/politics/245196.html>).

25 December

The Azerbaijani embassy in Moscow hosts a reception in advance of the Day of Solidarity of Azerbaijanis of the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/245494.html>).

24 December

President Ilham Aliyev says that “as long as Azerbaijani lands remain occupied, Armenia will live in fear” (<http://news.day.az/politics/245071.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia planned to draw Azerbaijan into a major provocation” by the actions of its soldiers along the cease-fire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/244991.html>).

23 December

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Istanbul summit of the Organization of

Economic Cooperation that Azerbaijan “devotes very great significance” to the activities of that group (<http://news.day.az/politics/244722.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “for the solution of problems in the Caucasus, Azerbaijan territories must be freed from occupation and Azerbaijani refugees must return to their lands” (<http://news.day.az/politics/244984.html>).

Mujdat Kushku, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “the actions of Armenia ever more deepen the atmosphere of distrust” (<http://news.day.az/politics/244710.html>).

22 December

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the US as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group “unfortunately somewhat reduced its activity during the course of 2010” and that this in turn is “negatively affecting the relations of the United States with Turkey and Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/244402.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there “cannot be any discussion about the sovereignty of Armenia” in the course of discussions about the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/244557.html>).

The Italian newspaper *Il Foglio* issues a formal apology to Azerbaijani First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva (<http://news.day.az/politics/244778.html>).

Atila Kaja, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that recent actions by Armenians “can lead to use of force for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/244497.html>).

21 December

The Foreign Ministry summons the Polish ambassador and the EU representative to Azerbaijan to formally protest the illegal visit to the occupied territories by Tomasz Poreba, the main rapporteur for the European Parliament on Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/244574.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that “Azerbaijan has a decisive influence on regional processes” (<http://news.day.az/politics/244502.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, criticizes the Organization of the

Collective Security Treaty for suggesting that Azerbaijan's military spending is "disproportional" (<http://news.day.az/politics/244575.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia "as in previous years, has continued its efforts to oppose the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/244239.html>).

20 December

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information provision department of the President's Office, says that "today time is working for Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/244273.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Armenian forces continue their provocations along the cease-fire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/244227.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian parliament's adoption of a law permitting the conclusion of treaties with unrecognized states, is "a loss for Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/244047.html>).

19 December

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev completes a four day visit to Egypt to discuss expansion of bilateral trade (<http://news.day.az/economy/244106.html>).

Rovzet Gasymov, the head of the international relations department of the Central Election Commission, says that "the presidential elections in Belarus took place in a normal atmosphere" (<http://news.day.az/politics/244163.html>).

18 December

Rufat Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he has observed no problems in the presidential vote in Belarus (<http://news.day.az/politics/244068.html>).

The Society of Slovenian-Azerbaijani Friendship holds its first session in Nova Gorica (<http://news.day.az/politics/244061.html>).

Azerbaijani diaspora organizations in the US launch a campaign against Congressional adoption of a resolution calling for the recognition of "the Armenian genocide" (<http://news.day.az/politics/244039.html>).

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko awards Ziyad Samadzade, a

Milli Majlis deputy, with the Francisca Skorina Medal (<http://news.day.az/politics/244101.html>).

17 December

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Khalil Akynji, secretary general of the Cooperation Council of Turkish Language States (<http://news.day.az/politics/243960.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that the industries he is responsible for have increased production by 115 times (<http://news.day.az/economy/243809.html>).

Azerbaijani media report that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton telephoned President Ilham Aliyev on December 15 (<http://news.day.az/politics/243772.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova sends an appeal to her Russian counterpart Vladimir Lukin asking him to intervene to defend the rights of Azerbaijani citizens who may have been affected by the ethnic clashes in Moscow and other Russian cities (<http://news.day.az/society/243980.html>).

Milli Majlis members say the Armenian parliament's adoption of legislation governing relations with unrecognized states is "the latest maneuver" of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/243926.html>).

The Milli Majlis confirm the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. It includes Bahar Muradova, Eldar Ibrahimov, Fattah Heydarov, Rabiyyat Aslanova, Azay Guliyev, and Aghalar Valiyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/243923.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with Magid Eldib, the rector of the Egypt's Ain Shams University (<http://news.day.az/politics/243870.html>).

Giedrius Cekuolis is named the new special representative for protracted conflicts during the Lithuanian presidency of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/243855.html>).

Ulvi Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says "Armenia does not have any resources for the conduct of a war" against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/243812.html>).

Oguz Oyan, a member of the Turkish delegation to the OSCE

Parliamentary Assembly, says that Ankara “cannot move in the direction of the normalization of relations with Armenia” as long as Armenia is occupying Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/243695.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazimly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the OSCE Minsk Group in recent times “has done nothing particularly significant” for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/243595.html>).

Onur Oymen, a member of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that in the event of a war with Armenia, Azerbaijan can count on the support of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/243781.html>).

16 December

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov is presented with a special award from the Russian Emergency Situations ministry for his cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/243648.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to Moscow, says that “the Karabakh conflict has become a factor of ethnic divisions in the South Caucasus” (<http://news.day.az/politics/243733.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Budapest, publishes an article there on bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/243702.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the possibilities for Armenia in a military confrontation with Azerbaijan are close to zero” (<http://news.day.az/politics/243625.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “ever more citizens of Armenia are dissatisfied with the policies of the leadership of [that] country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/243142.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan was the first state which offered Russia help in putting down recent forest fires and that Russia “positively” evaluates this step (<http://news.day.az/politics/243667.html>).

Serik Primbetov, Kazakhstan’s ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are reliable partners whose cooperation has “great potential” to increase (<http://news.day.az/politics/243756.html>).

Mehmet Ceylan, deputy chairman of the foreign relations committee of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “the fate and future of the

protocols signed between Turkey and Armenia entirely depends on the future of Azerbaijani-Armenian relations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/243713.html>).

15 December

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his South Korean counterpart Kim Sung-Hwan in Seoul (<http://news.day.az/politics/243271.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian media are distorting information about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/243392.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives the Austrian and Dutch ambassadors to Azerbaijan, Sylvia Meier-Kajbic and Arjen Uijterlinde (<http://news.day.az/politics/243435.html>).

Azerbaijan opens an honorary consulate in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/243434.html>).

Bahar Muradova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the OSCE mission report about the occupied territories should be comprehensive and based on facts (<http://news.day.az/politics/243454.html>).

Serik Primbetov, Kazakhstan’s ambassador to Baku, says that the OSCE Summit declaration on Karabakh represents a step forward in the process of resolving that conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/243440.html>).

Kazakhstan awards Azerbaijani artist Polad Bulbuloglu the Prize of Peace and Progress (<http://news.day.az/politics/243384.html>).

14 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Hungarian Ambassador Jolta Chutora (<http://news.day.az/politics/243275.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva takes part in a UNESCO meeting in Paris in her capacity as a good will ambassador of that organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/243201.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with Egyptian First Lady Suzanne Mubarak during sessions of an international forum against human trafficking in Luxor (<http://news.day.az/politics/243258.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says there is no other path for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict than the withdrawal of Armenian

forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/243141.html>).

Musa Gasymlı, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian parliament's discussion about the possibility of recognizing Karabakh as an independent state reflects the crisis of power in Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/242999.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is seeking to intimidate Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/242861.html>).

Emanuelis Zingeris, the chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament's foreign relations committee, says that Vilnius considers Azerbaijan the most developed state in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/243358.html>).

The OSCE expresses the hope that the issue of the withdrawal of snipers from the Azerbaijani-Armenian ceasefire line can be resolved soon (<http://news.day.az/politics/243354.html>).

The European Committee on Social Rights of the Council of Europe publishes its report on the state of social rights in Azerbaijan and other countries which have signed the European Social Charter (<http://news.day.az/politics/243309.html>).

13 December

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian parliament's short-circuited discussion of recognizing Karabakh was "only a bluff" (<http://news.day.az/politics/242525.html>).

Hamza Hamit Homrış, a member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and of the Turkish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, says that "a war for Karabakh may restart" (<http://news.day.az/politics/242714.html>).

12 December

President İlham Aliyev leads the Azerbaijani nation in commemoration of the memory of Heydar Aliyev on the seventh anniversary of the latter's death (<http://news.day.az/politics/242904.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets in Egypt with Anne-Marie Lizin, the honorary president of the Belgian Senate (<http://news.day.az/politics/242903.html>).

11 December

President Ilham Aliyev receives Alain Guidetti, Austrian ambassador to Baku, on the latter's completion of his diplomatic mission to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/242863.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Wolfgang Ruttenstorfer, the president of Austria's OMV Company (<http://news.day.az/politics/242882.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov as well as with the foreign ministers of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Ashkhabad (<http://news.day.az/politics/242829.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan was among the countries which "supported the neutrality of Turkmenistan at the United Nations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/242884.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov says that the Council of Europe has expressed satisfaction with the policies Azerbaijan has carried out in the areas of his responsibility (<http://news.day.az/society/242838.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov says that Ashkhabad continues to support the view that the Caspian Sea should be subdivided into internal waters, territorial sea, and a common water space (<http://news.day.az/politics/242886.html>).

10 December

President Ilham Aliyev takes part in the summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/242540.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev says that the European Union in the next few months may adopt a decision about beginning negotiations on the simplification of a visa regime with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/242647.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, the head of the law enforcement department of the President's Office, says that the European Court's precedent law is part of Azerbaijan's legal system (<http://news.day.az/politics/242599.html>).

Chingiz Askarov, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the European Human Rights Court, says that the ministerial committee of the Council of Europe is satisfied with the execution of the decision of the

European Court regarding Eynulla Fatullayev, the editor of *Реальный Азербайджан* and *Gündəlik Azərbaycan* (<http://news.day.az/society/242779.html>).

Azerbaijan's permanent representation to the European Union sends a letter of protest to Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, concerning falsehoods in a film shown at that institution by Armenian representatives (<http://news.day.az/politics/242744.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he does "not believe in the success of peace talks with Yerevan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/242386.html>).

Shusuko Watanabe, Japan's ambassador to Baku, says that Tokyo supports the broadening of economic ties between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/242692.html>).

Roland Kobia, the head of the representative office of the European Union in Baku, meets with Azerbaijani human rights activists on the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/242760.html>).

Janan Kalsyn, a deputy in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, says that "Ankara expects that Armenia will withdraw its forces from the territory of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/242334.html>).

9 December

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Russian and Armenian counterparts, Sergey Lavrov and Edvard Nalbandyan, in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/242531.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Ukrainian counterpart Konstantin Grishchenko on the sidelines of the CIS summit in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/242443.html>).

The Protocol Service of First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva issues a statement expressing its outrage at slanderous inventions about her published in the Italian journal "Il Foglio" on the basis of reports supposedly from a German diplomat (<http://news.day.az/politics/242550.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that Armenia continues to show its lack of respect for international law (<http://news.day.az/politics/242403.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, meets with

Ayatollah Lutfullah Safi Gulpaigani in Qum (<http://news.day.az/politics/242503.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, chairman of the Milli Majlis human rights committee, says that “2011 will become a turning point in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/242365.html>).

Hardijs Baumanis, Latvia’s ambassador to Baku, says that relations between Latvia and Azerbaijan are characterized by a high level of stability, developed political dialogue and cooperation between both the legislative and executive branches of government (<http://news.day.az/politics/242339.html>).

Richard Morningstar, special representative of the US Secretary of State for energy issues in Eurasia, says that “the fate of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline must be resolved by Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan” (<http://news.day.az/economy/242481.html>).

Adam Sterling, charge d’affaires at the US embassy in Baku, says that Washington intends to redouble its efforts as a co-chair in the OSCE Minsk Group over the next year (<http://news.day.az/politics/242500.html>).

Adam Sterling, charge d’affaires at the US embassy in Baku, says that “we are trying to overcome the difficulties created by WikiLeaks” (<http://news.day.az/politics/242498.html>).

8 December

The Foreign Ministry denounces Yerevan’s policy of resettling Armenians from Syria and Armenia in the occupied territories as a violation of international law (<http://news.day.az/politics/242308.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku does not accept Georgia’s proposal to exchange sections of territory along their common border (<http://news.day.az/politics/242271.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, begins a nine-day visit to Egypt to take part in an international forum on combating human trafficking (<http://news.day.az/politics/242273.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadguliyev meets with European Union officials to discuss accelerating cooperation between Azerbaijan and the EU (<http://news.day.az/politics/242129.html>).

The Azerbaijan State Committee on Standardization, Metrics and Patents signs a memorandum of cooperation with the Metrics Institute of

Germany (<http://news.day.az/economy/242305.html>).

Azerbaijan and Turkey are preparing to begin joint production of weapons systems (<http://news.day.az/economy/242222.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “international organizations are conducting a two-faced policy” regarding the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/242087.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that the Astana Summit of the OSCE demonstrated “all the defects” of that organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/242130.html>).

Philip Gordon, US assistant secretary of state, says that the United States welcomes the actions of Russia concerning the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/242133.html>).

Egemen Bagysh, Turkish state minister and head of Turkey’s delegation for negotiations with the European Union, says that his country’s parliament will not ratify the Armenian-Turkish protocols until the Karabakh conflict is resolved (<http://news.day.az/politics/242233.html>).

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon presents a certificate of gratitude to Azerbaijani fire fighters who participated in the extinguishing of the recent fires in Israel (<http://news.day.az/society/242231.html>).

Wolfgang Ruttendorfer, the head of the Austrian energy company OMV, says that negotiations with Azerbaijan are “a priority” for the Nabucco project (<http://news.day.az/economy/242302.html>).

Teymuraz Sharashenidze, a candidate to become Georgia’s ambassador to Baku, says that ensuring “the dynamic development” of bilateral ties would be his chief task (<http://news.day.az/politics/242196.html>).

7 December

The Foreign Ministry says that there must not be any discussion about providing any form of representation internationally for an “unrecognized entity” (<http://news.day.az/politics/242113.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Mexico, pays a working visit Uruguay (<http://news.day.az/politics/241949.html>).

Huseyn Najafov, Azerbaijani consul general in Georgia’s Adjar Autonomous Republic, meets with the head of that republic, Levan Varshalomidze (<http://news.day.az/politics/242107.html>).

The Milli Majlis international relations committee discusses the

ratification of the agreement on strategic partnership and mutual assistance between Azerbaijan and Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/242076.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Turkish world has the necessary potential to occupy an influential position in world politics” (<http://news.day.az/politics/242103.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the future of the Armenian people is questionable” given Yerevan’s refusal to move forward on resolving the Karabakh issue (<http://news.day.az/politics/241858.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that he discussed the Karabakh conflict at the Russian-EU summit in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/242117.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis tells the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs that during Lithuania’s chairmanship of the OSCE, the resolution of outstanding conflicts will be a major focus (<http://news.day.az/politics/242060.html>).

The US embassy in Baku says that “for Washington, Azerbaijan is a very important partner” (<http://news.day.az/politics/242056.html>).

Michal Labenda, Poland’s ambassador to Baku, says that NATO’s new strategic concept defines further steps for warding off new threats (<http://news.day.az/politics/242006.html>).

Azerbaijan and Italy sign an agreement eliminating visa requirements for bearers of diplomatic and official passports (<http://news.day.az/politics/242084.html>).

A delegation from the Russian Federation’s Krasnodar kray visits Baku to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/242022.html>).

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development approves a new strategy for Azerbaijan for 2011-2013 (<http://news.day.az/economy/242452.html>).

6 December

Baku releases a new book, *The Azerbaijani Model of Development*, the idea for which came from the head of the President’s Office Ramiz Mehtiyev and the chief editor of which is Ali Hasanov (<http://news.day.az/politics/241916.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijani and NATO experts are consulting within and on the Individual Partnership Action Plan between

Baku and the alliance (<http://news.day.az/politics/241911.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that "Azerbaijani diplomacy in all cases connected with the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict undertakes immediate steps and will be able to use effectively all means within the framework of the OSCE and the United Nations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/241859.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Baku's pressure on Yerevan "will be increased" (<http://news.day.az/politics/241744.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the Astana summit showed that the position of Azerbaijan on Karabakh is just and recognized internationally and that those countries which up to now have supported Armenia are now beginning to understand the essence of this problem." As a result, he says, "Armenia is in panic" (<http://news.day.az/politics/241504.html>).

Azerbaijani officials take part in a meeting of the Security Committee of the International Maritime Organization (<http://news.day.az/economy/241780.html>).

Syrian Deputy Oil Minister Hasan Zainab says that his country will begin importing natural gas from Azerbaijan in 2011 (<http://news.day.az/economy/241856.html>).

The participants in the symposium, the Turkish World in the 21st Century, adopt a resolution which among other things denounces the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/241915.html>).

Rauf Denktash, the leader of the Turks of Northern Cyprus, says that "Heydar Aliyev was a personality who made a major contribution to the development of the Turkish world and Azerbaijani-Turkish relations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/241893.html>).

Ethan Goldrich, the director of the office of Caucasus Affairs and Regional Conflicts of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, visits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/241866.html>).

5 December

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan's incoming ambassador to Egypt, presents his credentials to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, along with a

letter of greetings from President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/241710.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, head of the representation of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Russia, takes part in the opening of a memorial plaque in honor of Azerbaijanis who died in the defense of Leningrad (<http://news.day.az/politics/241703.html>).

Rasim Musabayov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the actions of Armenia throw open challenges” to Azerbaijan and the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/241684.html>).

4 December

The Defense Ministry says that Azerbaijan has not violated the ceasefire regime as Yerevan has claimed (<http://news.day.az/politics/241619.html>).

Eliyor Ganiyev, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign economic relations of Uzbekistan, visits Baku to take part in the national economic exhibit Tashkent has opened there (<http://news.day.az/economy/241646.html>).

3 December

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade says at the opening of the Uzbekistan national exhibition in Baku that “we must devote efforts to make use of the potential of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan” in all areas (<http://news.day.az/economy/241525.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the international relations department of the President’s Office, says that meetings with Armenia should occur only when a result can be expected (<http://news.day.az/politics/241462.html>).

The Azerbaijani council of ministers has approved the establishment of cultural centers at Azerbaijani embassies abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/241423.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the OSCE summit in Astana showed that “bipolarity” had returned to the OSCE region (<http://news.day.az/politics/241442.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Mexico, pays a working visit to Chili (<http://news.day.az/politics/241342.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, tells the international

symposium in Cyprus on the Turkish World in the 21st Century that the Karabakh issue “must be a problem not only of the Azerbaijani people but of the entire Turkish world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241477.html>).

Garib Mammadov, the head of the Azerbaijani State Committee on Land and Cartography, says that Baku is conducting preparatory steps for demarcating the border with the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/241465.html>).

Officials of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party discuss cooperation with the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (<http://news.day.az/politics/241527.html>).

The chiefs of the general staffs of the CIS countries agree to expanding military cooperation within the group (<http://news.day.az/politics/241480.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that he highly values his meetings with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev because “we are one nation but two different states. Trust between us is unlimited” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241341.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul calls on the countries of the OSCE to increase their efforts toward the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/241340.html>).

Slovenian President Danilo Türk says that “mutual trust has to be strengthened for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241343.html>).

The final text of the Astana Declaration adopted by the OSCE summit is released (<http://news.day.az/politics/241506.html>).

Adam Sterling, the charge d'affairs of the US embassy in Baku, condemns the release of documents by WikiLeaks (<http://news.day.az/politics/241379.html>).

2 December

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the President's Office, says that the Astana declaration presupposes the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/241287.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that “at Astana, Azerbaijan encountered the

unconstructive position of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241184.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that “Azerbaijan cannot become a field of struggle for the realization of someone else’s interests” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241215.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that the WikiLeaks documents are intended to weaken relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/241197.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information department of the President’s Office, says that “Azerbaijan is being transformed into a center of intellectual dialogue” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241204.html>). In other comments, he says that the European Union must take a more definite position on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/241199.html>).

Elkhan Nuriyev, the head of the Center for Strategic Studies attached to the President of Azerbaijan, says that “Azerbaijan attracts Europe as a country with a young democracy” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241230.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Ottawa, meets with Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay (<http://news.day.az/politics/241155.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia will attempt to begin an escalation of its aggressive actions” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241113.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there are “forces in the world for whom the publications of WikiLeaks are useful” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240988.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that the close relations between Ankara and Moscow have led to progress in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/241251.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “Turkey is ready to support the peaceful resolution of conflicts” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241154.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, says “Turkey and Azerbaijan are indivisible” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241265.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, the incoming chairman-in-office of the OSCE, says that the co-chairs of the Minsk Group must “step up the tempo” of talks on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/241187.html>).

Georgian Energy Minister Aleksandr Khetaguri says that Azerbaijan is Georgia’s “strategic partner” (<http://news.day.az/economy/241323.html>).

Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz says that “Turkey is carrying out together with Azerbaijan new energy projects” (<http://news.day.az/economy/241240.html>).

1 December

President Ilham Aliyev meets with other leaders attending the OSCE Summit in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/240968.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives Edouard Dayan, the general director of the Universal Postal Union (<http://news.day.az/economy/241149.html>).

The OSCE Summit in Astana adopts a declaration on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/241032.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “no one will be able to harm the fraternal relations of Turkey and Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241069.html>).

Romanian President Trajan Basescu says that the use of force to resolve conflicts on the territory of OSCE member states is “unacceptable” (<http://news.day.az/politics/241084.html>).

Austrian President Heinz Fischer says that the OSCE’s main task is to resolve the conflicts on the territories of its member states (<http://news.day.az/politics/241063.html>).

US Secretary of State says that the US seeks “the renewal of efforts” toward a solution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/240959.html>).

Hardijs Baumanis, Latvia’s ambassador to Baku, says that his country is interested in broadening its legal base of cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/241103.html>).

Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE representative on freedom of the media, expresses confidence that Azerbaijan in the near future will adopt a law on defamation (<http://news.day.az/politics/241018.html>).

NOVEMBER

30 November

President Ilham Aliyev meets in Astana with Dunya Miyatovic, the OSCE representative for media freedom (<http://news.day.az/politics/240795.html>).

The President's Office says that "the thoughts and judgments ascribed to President Ilham Aliyev" in the latest batch of Wikileaks materials "do not reflect reality and are absolutely without foundation. These materials are an open provocation, which pursues the goal of undermining the relations of Azerbaijan with neighboring states and creating distrust among the heads of those states" (<http://news.day.az/politics/240827.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, says that the appearance of the Wikileaks documents in the run-up to the OSCE summit in Astana makes the discussion of difficult questions such as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict more difficult (<http://news.day.az/politics/240828.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijani ambassador in Mexico who is jointly accredited to Costa Rica, presents his credentials to Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla (<http://news.day.az/politics/240773.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev meets with his Greek counterpart Spyros Kouvelis in Saloniki to discuss energy issues (<http://news.day.az/economy/240830.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev, together with his Uzbek counterpart Kabul Berdiyev, visits the Heydar Aliyev Azerbaijan National Cultural Center in Tashkent (<http://news.day.az/politics/240851.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia for a long time has been involved in illegal arms sales” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240708.html>).

Tahir Suleymanov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that hypocrisy and Armenian diplomacy have been “synonyms” for a long time (<http://news.day.az/politics/240518.html>).

The Azerbaijani diaspora in Kazakhstan calls on the OSCE to put pressure on Armenia so that Azerbaijani refugees from Karabakh and the other occupied territories can return home and enjoy their full rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/240787.html>).

The National Security Ministry conducts a course for a group of high-ranking Afghan officers (<http://news.day.az/politics/240891.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Moscow is working closely with its fellow Minsk Group co-chairs in advance of the OSCE Summit in Astana but that he is not in a position to say whether there will be a meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents or what progress toward a resolution of the Karabakh conflict that session will have (<http://news.day.az/politics/240870.html>).

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut says that “for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Ilham Aliyev and Serzh Sargsyan, must meet on a regular basis” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240807.html>).

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, who will serve as chairman-in-office of the OSCE beginning in January 2011, says that resolution of drawn out conflicts will be “one of the priorities” of his chairmanship (<http://news.day.az/politics/240759.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iranian ambassador to Baku, says that the countries of the Caspian region must solve their own problems and strengthen themselves in order that outside powers take them seriously (<http://news.day.az/politics/240904.html>).

Michal Labenda, Polish ambassador to Baku, says that “Azerbaijan remains a priority partner of Poland” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240752.html>).

The Observer Mission of the Commonwealth of Independent States releases its final report on the November 7 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan which concludes that the elections met all international norms.

29 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan never was and never will be subject to discussion” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240748.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Craig Kennedy, president of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/240679.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev names Nadir Huseynov a deputy foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/240644.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Vagif Sadykhov ambassador to Italy (<http://news.day.az/politics/240644.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign affairs department of the President’s Office, says that the reports about conversations between President Ilham Aliyev and US officials are false (<http://news.day.az/politics/240641.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov speaks by telephone with Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/240627.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a cooperation agreement for 2011 with his Uzbek counterpart Kabil Berdiyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/240551.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev calls for fundamental legal and institutional changes in the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/240715.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that she expects the Armenian president to attend the OSCE summit lest he and his country be further isolated (<http://news.day.az/politics/240347.html>).

Emil Karimov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Bulgaria, presents his letters of credence to the president of that country, Georgi Parvanov (<http://news.day.az/politics/240678.html>).

The State Committee for Work with the Azerbaijanis Living Abroad is planning for the creation of a Congress of Azerbaijani Youth of the World (<http://news.day.az/politics/240566.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, receives the American and Russian co-chairs of that group and his personal representative to the Minsk Group, Andrzej Kasprzyk

(<http://news.day.az/politics/240716.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office says that the upcoming OSCE summit “will give a boost to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240655.html>).

Igor Popov, Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, meets with Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, to discuss the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/240569.html>).

Petros Efthymiou, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, says that “the time has come” to make the OSCE more politically effective, especially on issues such as longstanding conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/240637.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/240618.html>).

Herbert Salber, director of the OSCE conflict prevention center, says that the OSCE summit in Astana will give a positive impulse to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/240548.html>).

Birgen Keles, a member of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that she does “not expect anything from the OSCE summit in Kazakhstan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240286.html>).

28 November

The First World Congress of Azerbaijani Youth takes place in Frankfurt. Among the Azerbaijani leaders speaking to the delegates are Leyla Aliyeva, the president of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Russia, Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov, Head of the Social-Political Department of the President’s Office, Ali Hasanov, and a large group of Azerbaijani ambassadors and consuls general from around the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/240447.html>).

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut says that the resolution of the Karabakh conflict requires a constructive approach from all sides (<http://news.day.az/politics/240474.html>).

Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that it is too soon to say whether there will be a meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents at the OSCE summit in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/240503.html>).

27 November

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/240451.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Canada, speaks to a gathering of deputies of the Province of Ontario (<http://news.day.az/politics/240363.html>).

Fazail Ibrahimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “leading personalities of Armenia may be involved in the financial scandal in the US” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240234.html>).

Ulvi Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that in Astana may begin “the process of forcing Armenia to peace” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240202.html>).

Igor Popov, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that meetings of the co-chairs with Armenian and Azerbaijani officials set the stage for further progress in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/240399.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, the honorary president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, is no longer fulfilling the position of special representative of that body on the Karabakh and Georgian conflicts (<http://news.day.az/politics/240448.html>).

26 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives HRH Prince Andrew, the Duke of York (<http://news.day.az/politics/240353.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Montenegrin Foreign Minister Milan Roćen (<http://news.day.az/politics/240300.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Peter Semneby, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/240350.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Montenegrin counterpart Milan Roćen sign an accord eliminating visa requirements for diplomats and others holding official passports from their two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/240301.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev takes part in the Black Sea Economic Forum (<http://news.day.az/economy/240360.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “in the event of war, the Armenian armed forces will attack one another” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240034.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that she expects the Armenian president to show enough “good sense” to come to the OSCE summit in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/240144.html>).

Khanhuseyn Kazymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia always chooses not to show up when negotiations become the most difficult (<http://news.day.az/politics/240005.html>).

Javid Huseynov, the general director of the Azerbaijani-American Council, says that “with the occupation of Azerbaijani lands, the appetite of Armenian irredentism grows” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240073.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia can ultimately involve “completely unexpected problems” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240172.html>).

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko says that his country is discussing with Azerbaijan and Venezuela the formation of a joint logistical company (<http://news.day.az/economy/240325.html>).

Bernard Fassier, French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says he has no information as to whether the Armenian president will be at the Astana summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/240288.html>).

Robert Simmons, special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that “the doors of NATO are open for new members, including Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240260.html>).

25 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/240159.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkmenistan Deputy Prime Minister Khydyr Saparliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/240124.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister Waldemar Pawlak (<http://news.day.az/politics/239998.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the President’s Office, says that the OSCE “must increase pressure on

Armenia” in order to resolve the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/240152.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijani ambassador in Kyiv, receives a delegation of members of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Crimea (<http://news.day.az/politics/240045.html>).

Musa Gasymlı, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that time has come to put Armenia in its place (<http://news.day.az/politics/240036.html>).

Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan announce at the conclusion of the second session of the Azerbaijani-Turkmenistan joint inter-governmental commission that they will jointly monitor the world energy markets (<http://news.day.az/economy/240235.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and the Institute of the Foreign Service of Argentina sign a cooperation memorandum (<http://news.day.az/politics/240085.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam, expresses his gratitude to the government of the Turkish province of Sivas for its help with Azerbaijani hajis who were in an accident there (<http://news.day.az/society/240069.html>).

Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, says that “without a peaceful and secure resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is impossible to say that we live in a single and free Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/240086.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that it is currently impossible to talk about what will be the results of the OSCE summit as far as the Karabakh conflict is concerned (<http://news.day.az/politics/240139.html>).

Ruhi Achykegez, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “Armenia has made its aggressiveness more harsh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239865.html>).

24 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Polish Deputy Prime Minister and
Economics Minister Waldemar Pawlak
(<http://news.day.az/politics/239893.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Kamil Khasiyev ambassador to Croatia
(<http://news.day.az/politics/239976.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev is named “Man of the Year” by the Romanian journal, *Balkanii si Europa* (<http://news.day.az/politics/239892.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs a cooperation agreement that calls for political consultations with the Argentine deputy foreign minister Alberto Pedro d’Alotto (<http://news.day.az/politics/239968.html>). Argentine deputy foreign minister d’Alotto in turn calls for a just and lasting resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/239940.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the President’s Office, says that Baku “expects that the OSCE will take a more decisive position” on the Karabakh conflict in order to bring about its resolution (<http://news.day.az/politics/239969.html>).

Altay Efendiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Spain, says that bilateral relations are developing favorably (<http://news.day.az/politics/239830.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the occupation of Azerbaijani lands is a deeply immoral action” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239777.html>). He adds that the possibility of progress at Astana “depends on the position of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239804.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov receives Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Alberto Pedro d’Alotto, as well as Shusuko Watanabe, Japanese ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/239938.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that “relations between Azerbaijan and Poland have reached a new level” (<http://news.day.az/economy/239864.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov speaks to an international conference of justice officials in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/240718.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov receives the three Minsk Group co-chairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/239977.html>).

Andrey Chupov, a representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency, says that his organization will help Azerbaijan to open a Center of Radiation Technologies at the Baku Institute of Radiation (<http://news.day.az/society/239899.html>).

23 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives former German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (<http://news.day.az/politics/239786.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov announces an agreement on cooperation with Belarus in this area for 2011-2013 (<http://news.day.az/economy/239762.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Michal Labenda, Poland's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/239799.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, discusses bilateral ties with Ecuador's deputy foreign minister, Kintto Lucas (<http://news.day.az/politics/239628.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the declaration adopted at the NATO summit in Lisbon "strengthens the position of Azerbaijan" on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/239798.html>).

Mario Baldi, Italian ambassador to Baku, says that the partnership relations between Azerbaijan and NATO are useful for Baku given its complicated neighborhood (<http://news.day.az/politics/239748.html>).

22 November

President Ilham Aliyev speaks by telephone with Syrian President Bashar Asad (<http://news.day.az/politics/239611.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/239500.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Armenian and Russian counterparts, Edvard Nalbandyan and Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/239607.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Lisbon (<http://news.day.az/politics/239549.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs an agreement with his Portuguese counterpart Luis Amado eliminating a visa requirement for diplomats and others carrying official passports (<http://news.day.az/politics/239575.html>).

Azerbaijan's permanent representation to NATO says that the Lisbon

Summit declaration “yet again affirms [the alliance’s] support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239620.html>).

The Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry says that Armenia’s “total war” against Azerbaijan continues through the use of “ecological” methods (<http://news.day.az/politics/239553.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “we expect a lot from the OSCE summit concerning the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239423.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the recent declarations of the Armenian president are “hysterical” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239173.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says “we will give help in everything to fraternal Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239497.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov says that “the Caspian is a unique water resource, for whose fate all the countries of the region are responsible” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239512.html>).

Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet says that it is important for the European Union to call on Russia to take a more active stand on resolving the conflicts in Transdnistria and Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/239619.html>).

20 November

President Ilham Aliyev takes part in the NATO summit in Portugal (<http://news.day.az/politics/239097.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the OSCE summit in Astana should characterize Armenia as an aggressor (<http://news.day.az/politics/239350.html>).

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, secretary general of NATO, says that he does “not think that NATO can play a definite role in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239248.html>).

19 November

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, visits Guyana and meets that country’s foreign minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett (<http://news.day.az/politics/>

239034.html).

Azerbaijani and Greek officials reach agreement on the final version of a draft inter-governmental agreement on water transport (<http://news.day.az/economy/239158.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements by the president of Armenia are intended to lead to a breakdown in negotiations on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/238981.html>).

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko calls on Azerbaijan to participate in swap oil deals (<http://news.day.az/economy/239143.html>).

The US Department of State calls on the sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict “to remain in dialogue and to avoid rhetoric which can increase tension” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239033.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that the United States and its European Union partners are working on expanding cooperation with suppliers of natural gas to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/239219.html>).

NATO names James Appathurai to be the alliance’s special representative for Central Asia and the South Caucasus, in place of Robert Simmons who has been in that position for seven years (<http://news.day.az/politics/239110.html>).

The UN Committee on Social and Humanitarian Issues and Cultural Questions adopts an Azerbaijani resolution on missing persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/239036.html>).

18 November

President Ilham Aliyev says, that “at the bilateral level, affairs between Azerbaijan and Russia are going well.” His comments came following his meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238987.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev and says that “relations [between the two countries] are developing very dynamically, successfully and positively” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239028.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammadov and says that bilateral relations are developing “successfully” (<http://news.day.az/politics/239023.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Baku as part of the Caspian summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/238851.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad meet in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238957.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammadov and his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad meet in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238951.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus receives Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (<http://news.day.az/politics/238970.html>).

Sports and Youth Minister Azad Rahimov receives his Lebanese counterpart Ali Huseyn Abdullah (<http://news.day.az/society/238932.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, says that “the US can and should do much more to put pressure on Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/238918.html>).

Ali Huseynov, chairman of the Milli Majlis legal policy and state construction committee, attends an international conference on administrative law in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/238906.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the probability of the renewal of military actions in Karabakh is very high” (<http://news.day.az/politics/238353.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko says that he hopes that a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict will lead to “flourishing and stability” in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/238994.html>).

Mehmet Hanifi Alyr, a deputy in Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that it is “unrealistic” to think that peace in the South Caucasus can be achieved without Turkish participation (<http://news.day.az/politics/238356.html>).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that if outside pressure on the South Caucasus ends, then the Karabakh conflict can be resolved (<http://news.day.az/politics/238858.html>).

The Turkmenistan government says that “the Caspian Summit in Baku

is called upon to give a new dynamism to negotiations about the Caspian” (<http://news.day.az/politics/238843.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Azerbaijan, says that infrastructure for the transportation of gas from the Caspian basin to Europe in the second phase of the development of the Shah Deniz field should be ready by 2016-2017 (<http://news.day.az/economy/238968.html>).

17 November

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives her Iranian counterpart Azam as-Saadat Farahi (<http://news.day.az/politics/238817.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (<http://news.day.az/politics/238823.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent Armenian military exercises in the occupied territories do not “by themselves” mean anything (<http://news.day.az/politics/238729.html>).

Sergey Ryabkov, Russian deputy foreign minister, says that Moscow hopes to sign an agreement on the Caspian Sea among the five littoral states at the Baku summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/238727.html>).

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin confirms Vice Prime Minister and Presidential Plenipotentiary to the North Caucasus Federal District Aleksandr Khloponin as the Russian co-chair on the inter-governmental commission on economic cooperation between Russia and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/238812.html>).

16 November

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijani permanent representative to the United Nations, meets in Belize with that country’s foreign minister Wilfred Erlington (<http://news.day.az/politics/238623.html>).

Ermukhamet Ertysbayev, political advisor to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, says that he has “the impression” that there is forward progress on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/238707.html>).

15 November

Azerbaijani and Georgian officials meet to discuss and train for the joint administration of the border of their countries.

13 November

President Ilham Aliyev directs the Foreign Ministry to make preparations for the opening of Azerbaijani embassies in South Africa, Vietnam, Brazil and Iraq (<http://news.day.az/politics/238400.html>).

Heydar Asadov, head of the Accounting Chamber, meets with European Commission officials to discuss reforms in the system of financial administration (<http://news.day.az/economy/238355.html>).

Rafael Mirzoyev, deputy minister for emergency situations, visits the Republic of Korea (<http://news.day.az/politics/238367.html>).

Annamammad Mammadov, the ambassador of Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan, dies (<http://news.day.az/politics/238329.html>).

12 November

President Ilham Aliyev's website opens a new page for foreigners visiting Azerbaijan at president.az/foreign (<http://news.day.az/politics/238245.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Latifa al-Fahad al-Savah, the chairman of the State Committee of Kuwait on Women's Issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/238254.html>).

Zakir Hashimov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Astana, says that Baku hopes that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be discussed at the upcoming OSCE summit in Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/238175.html>).

The Permanent Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a resolution on the basis of a report prepared by Azerbaijani deputy Rafael Guseynov on sound and light pollution (<http://news.day.az/politics/238286.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, sends a note to Yerevan, the Armenian foreign ministry says, reporting that he was misquoted by Azerbaijani media concerning the occupied territories and the need to open a corridor between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/238193.html>).

11 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that "Azerbaijan is among those countries of the region which conduct an independent policy" (<http://news.day.az/>

politics/237912.html).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Iraqi trade minister Shafaaddin Mohammad as-Safi (<http://news.day.az/politics/238094.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Jouque Lambertus Herman, chief of staff of the NATO Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC-B), to discuss cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO (<http://news.day.az/politics/238027.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Iraqi trade minister Shafaaddin Mohammad as-Safi (<http://news.day.az/politics/238097.html>).

Parvin Mirzazade, chief of the State Protocol Administration of the Foreign Ministry, receives Agus Trimartono, the charge d'affaires of the Indonesian embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238100.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Budapest, hosts a meeting of Azerbaijani students on the eve of Constitution Day (<http://news.day.az/politics/238177.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, speaks to students at the University of California in San Diego and California State University in Fullerton (<http://news.day.az/politics/238005.html>).

Mehman Suleymanov, military attaché of the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran, meets with Iranian defense minister Ahmad Vahidi along with other military attaches in the Iranian capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/238087.html>).

Maharram Zulfugarly, head of the election staff of the Association for the Support of the Development of Civil Society in Azerbaijan, calls the US State Department's characterization of the Azerbaijani parliamentary elections "not objective" (<http://news.day.az/politics/238064.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "in the very first battle, Armenian forces will suffer a crushing defeat" if military actions resume between Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/237888.html>).

Ahmet Davutoglu, Turkish Foreign Minister, says that Ankara wants the problems between Azerbaijan and Armenia to be solved "by peaceful means on the basis of mutual respect" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237925.html>).

The co-chairs of the Minsk Group present their annual report to the Permanent Council of the OSCE in Vienna.

10 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iraqi Trade Minister Shafaaddin Mohammad as-Safi (<http://news.day.az/politics/237811.html>).

Vasif Talybov, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic receives members of the Turkish Constitutional Court (<http://news.day.az/politics/237916.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov is elected vice president of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Organs (<http://news.day.az/politics/237864.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that the recent meeting in Astrakhan between the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation raise hopes that progress can be made in resolving the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/237802.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that "the declaration of the US State Department on the elections [in Azerbaijan] generates surprise and regret" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237795.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that international observers agreed that Azerbaijan's parliamentary elections took place in conformity with democratic values and thus he expressed surprise at the contrary view expressed by the US Department of State (<http://news.day.az/politics/237866.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls upon PACE President Movlud Chavushoglu to block the anti-Azerbaijani declarations of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237860.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "it is possible to expect an increase in armed incidents" on the line separating Armenian and Azerbaijani forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/237565.html>).

Eldar Guliyev, former permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and executive director of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress, says that there are positive signs in the process toward a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/237712.html>).

The Azerbaijan Central Bank hosts an international seminar on

cooperation in the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism (<http://news.day.az/economy/237828.html>).

An office of the Europe-Azerbaijan Society opens in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/237829.html>).

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev says there have been definite moves forward on the Karabakh issue within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/237780.html>).

9 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that “international financial structures have faith in the long-term rapid development of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/237489.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Janez Lenarcic, the director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and notes the contradictory assessments of international organizations of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237683.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says it does not understand the declaration of the US State Department on Azerbaijan’s parliamentary elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/237711.html>).

Elman Zeynalov presents his credentials as Azerbaijani ambassador to Riga to Latvian President Valdis Zatlers (<http://news.day.az/politics/237724.html>).

An Azerbaijani delegation takes part in a Dushanbe meeting of the leaders of the special services of the Commonwealth of Independent States (<http://news.day.az/politics/237584.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that it is impossible to ignore the occupation of Azerbaijani territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/237595.html>).

The Council of Europe says that the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan were distinguished by a calm atmosphere and notes that all opposition parties took part in the political process (<http://news.day.az/politics/237642.html>).

The US Department of State notes the peaceful character of the Azerbaijani parliamentary elections but points to serious problems both in the electoral process and on the day of the elections, including lack of

balance in media treatment of candidates from various parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/237616.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that the CIS and Russia are interested in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict and are working toward that goal (<http://news.day.az/politics/237657.html>).

Richard Morningstar, Special Representative of the US Department of State for Eurasian Energy Issues, tells an international conference in Washington that relations between the US and Azerbaijan are a combination of continuity and evolution (<http://news.day.az/politics/237728.html>). In other comments, he says that “there is no individual more prepared for work as US ambassador in Azerbaijan than Matthew Bryza” (<http://news.day.az/politics/237727.html>).

Uzbekistan marks the Day of the Azerbaijani State Flag (<http://news.day.az/politics/237698.html>).

8 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that “we will be able at any moment to restore the territorial integrity of the country by military means” (<http://news.day.az/politics/237353.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergey Lebedev, the executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States (<http://news.day.az/politics/237580.html>).

Observers from the OSCE and the European Parliament give a positive assessment of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237527.html>).

Mustafa Kabakcy, co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Turkey interparliamentary group and head of its observer mission in Azerbaijan, says that the parliamentary vote in Azerbaijan corresponded to international norms and standards (<http://news.day.az/politics/237423.html>).

Svetlana Orlova, coordinator of the observers group of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that the elections in Azerbaijan were well-organized and attracted a high level of participation (<http://news.day.az/politics/237427.html>).

Elena Dubrovina, head of the observer mission of the Russian Central Election Commission, says that no violations were observed in the

Azerbaijani elections and that no complains from participants reached the observers (<http://news.day.az/politics/237404.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that the presence of opposition candidates on the ballot demonstrates the democratization of the electoral process in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237421.html>).

Observers from GUAM assess the elections in Azerbaijan as free and just (<http://news.day.az/politics/237437.html>).

Haluk Ipek, deputy chairman of the ruling Justice and Development Party in Turkey, says that “Ankara has frequently declared that it will not open the borders with Armenia until Azerbaijani territories are freed from occupation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/237531.html>).

Mustafa Kabakcy, co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Turkey interparliamentary group, says that “the positions of Azerbaijani and Turkish parliamentarians on the Karabakh conflict are identical” (<http://news.day.az/politics/237435.html>).

The US City of San Diego declares Azerbaijani Day and invites Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan’s consul general in Los Angeles, to speak (<http://news.day.az/politics/237445.html>).

Arif Ibrahimov, the founder of the Geo-Turan Georgian-Azerbaijan Foundation for Cultural Relations, is decorated by the Georgian government (<http://news.day.az/society/237515.html>).

Mehmet Ceylan, a member of the Turkish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly says that the presidents of Turkey and Armenia may meet at the OSCE summit in Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237098.html>).

7 November

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets his Uzbek counterpart Eler Ganiyev at the Azerbaijani exhibition in Tashkent (<http://news.day.az/economy/237366.html>).

The Turkish embassy in Baku organizes an exhibit on assistance for Pakistan (<http://news.day.az/society/237293.html>).

6 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Svetlana Orlova, the deputy speaker of

the Russian Federation council and the coordinator of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly observers group (<http://news.day.az/politics/237250.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in Moscow with his Russian and Armenian counterparts, Sergey Lavrov and Eduard Nalbandyan, in Moscow to discuss the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/237258.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, the chief of the State Migration Service, receives Herbert Quelle, Germany's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/237247.html>).

The Days of the Culture of Turkmenistan program concludes in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/237321.html>).

Armenia returns to Azerbaijan the bodies of two Azerbaijani soldiers killed at the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/237122.html>).

Eleven citizens of Armenia in Azerbaijan seek transfer to a third country rather than a return to their own, according to Shahin Sayilov, secretary of the Azerbaijan State Commission for the Affairs of Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons (<http://news.day.az/society/237274.html>).

Uzbekistan Prime Minister Shavgat Mirziyayev visits the Azerbaijan National Exhibit in Tashkent and meets Shahin Mustafayev, Azerbaijan's economic development minister (<http://news.day.az/economy/237240.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Yerevan must by concrete actions demonstrate its intention to normalize relations with Turkey and its status in the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/237205.html>).

5 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives the observer mission of the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/237106.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Prince Halid ibn Saud bin Halid al Saud, the deputy foreign minister of Saudi Arabia (<http://news.day.az/politics/237071.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives the international observer mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language

Countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/237166.html>).

The Foreign Ministry calls on the international community to focus on the racist character of recent statements by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and to condemn them (<http://news.day.az/politics/237167.html>).

The Foreign Ministry condemns acts of terror in Iraq (<http://news.day.az/politics/237169.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov announces agreement with Turkey on the production of certain kinds of weapons systems (<http://news.day.az/economy/237141.html> and <http://news.day.az/economy/237082.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev says that Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan must develop their cooperation in the oil and gas sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/237070.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that “the day is not far away when shipments from Central Asia will reach Europe via the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway” (<http://news.day.az/economy/237036.html>).

The NATO parliamentary assembly has removed from its fall schedule a draft resolution on Karabakh but will consider it at a later date (<http://news.day.az/politics/237055.html>).

4 November

Ramiz Mehtiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, tells the UN development program that “human development is one of the priorities of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/236854.html>).

Ramiz Mehtiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that Yerevan’s plans to rename places in the occupied territories are “a new game of definite forces in Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/236881.html>). He adds that Yerevan is converting the occupied territories into “illegitimate and illegal” places (<http://news.day.az/politics/236872.html>).

Ambassador Arif Mammadov, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, is appointed a member of the administrative council of the European Resource Center for Education (<http://news.day.az/politics/236972.html>).

Mahmud Karimov, the head of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, says that the academy’s Institute of Archaeology and

Ethnography is creating in Guba a center for the preservation of mass burials of victims of genocide (<http://news.day.az/society/236922.html>).

Fikrat Akchura, the UN Development Program representative in Azerbaijan, says that the United Nations will continue to cooperate with Azerbaijan in the non-oil sector and effective governance (<http://news.day.az/politics/236923.html>).

The Azerbaijan-American Council condemns anti-Semitism in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/236876.html>).

Mohammedmehdi Ahundzade, the special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian issues, says that “there is enormous potential in the Caspian which is not being used fully” (<http://news.day.az/politics/236817.html>).

Metin Ilmaz, a Turkish deputy from the ruling Party of Justice and Development, says that Armenia is not a free actor as far as its decisions are concerned (<http://news.day.az/politics/236601.html>).

Azerbaijan finds sympathy and support for its position on self-determination while respecting existing national borders at a meeting of the UN General Assembly Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Questions (<http://news.day.az/politics/236812.html>).

3 November

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Konul (<http://news.day.az/politics/236737.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “the OSCE summit may be a turning point in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” and announces that he plans to meet his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/236744.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/236709.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan continues to support efforts of the international community to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236779.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev says that “the terrorist activity directed against the Azerbaijani and Turkish peoples has not received sufficient recognition” (<http://news.day.az/politics/236708.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov meets with Turkish National

Defense Minister Vecdi Konul to discuss joint projects (<http://news.day.az/politics/236775.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that the exchange rate between the manat and the US dollar should remain stable (<http://news.day.az/economy/236624.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that the deputy foreign ministers of the five Caspian littoral states are reducing their differences on an agreement concerning security on the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/236652.html>).

The Justice Ministry agrees on accords on legal cooperation with India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Marocco and Algeria (<http://news.day.az/politics/236753.html>).

Hasan Hasanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Warsaw, hosts a meeting of leaders of Azerbaijani diaspora organizations in Poland (<http://news.day.az/society/236633.html>).

Saffet Kaya, a deputy of the ruling Turkish Party of Justice and Development, calls on Armenia to ask forgiveness from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236510.html>).

2 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish National Defense Minister Vecdi Konul (<http://news.day.az/politics/236616.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives BP Executive Vice President Andy Inglis on the completion of his assignment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236567.html>).

Agricultural Minister Ismat Abbasov visits the Netherlands (<http://news.day.az/society/236539.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Argentina, meets with that country's president Cristina Fernández (<http://news.day.az/politics/236463.html>).

Hassan Qashqavi, Iranian deputy foreign minister, says that Iran's share of the Caspian is 20 percent and that Tehran plans to mobilize "all possible efforts" to secure its rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/236473.html>).

1 November

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that defense industry

production has risen 3.2 times this year over last (<http://news.day.az/economy/236366.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov signs a protocol on the exchange of ratification documents on the extradition treaty between Azerbaijan and the Chinese Peoples Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/236375.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to the UN secretary general seeking his support in condemning recent statements by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan as racist (<http://news.day.az/politics/236278.html>).

NATO Days begin in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236283.html>).

OCTOBER

31 October

The Turkish Foreign Ministry welcomes the joint declaration of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia in Astrakhan and hopes that it will advance the cause of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/236197.html>).

29 October

President Ilham Aliyev tells his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich during a visit to Kyiv that “from the moment of the acquisition of independence, special friendly relations have always existed between Azerbaijan and Ukraine” (<http://news.day.az/politics/235693.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Vagif Sadykhov Azerbaijani ambassador to Italy (<http://news.day.az/politics/236057.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev telephones his Turkish counterpart Abdulla Gul on the occasion of the latter’s birthday celebration (<http://news.day.az/politics/236008.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets in Beijing with Chinese National Defense Minister Liang Guanglie (<http://news.day.az/politics/236060.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the President’s Office, says that “the active mediation” of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in the Karabakh conflict is “creating a situation in which Armenia must, having reviewed its position, adopt definite steps and adopt a constructive position” (<http://news.day.az/politics/235996.html>).

Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Orudzh Zalov takes part in the third

international congress in St. Petersburg on “Security on the Highways in the Name of Security of Life” (<http://news.day.az/society/236140.html>).

The Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry says that Armenians have “completely destroyed” the eco-system” in the Zangilan district of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/235925.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, meets with Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (<http://news.day.az/politics/236185.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador in Cairo, says that relations between Azerbaijan and Egypt are progressing rapidly (<http://news.day.az/politics/235897.html>).

Ismatulla Irgashev, Uzbekistan’s ambassador to Baku, says that Tashkent consider Azerbaijan to be “a factor of stability and security in the South Caucasus region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/235939.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, says that he hopes that there will be definite progress on the Karabakh conflict at the upcoming OSCE summit in Astana (<http://news.day.az/politics/235932.html>).

Hulusi Kilic, Turkey’s ambassador to Baku, visits the memorial to Turkish soldiers in Baku on the occasion of the 87th anniversary of the formation of the Republic of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/society/236045.html>).

Sergey Markov, a Russian Duma deputy, says that the Astrakhan summit hardly represented a step forward but “the main thing is that it prevented steps backward” (<http://news.day.az/politics/235898.html>).

Abdulla Çalyskan, a member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, calls on the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries to redouble their efforts to reach an agreement on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/235823.html>).

Ural Mukhamedzhanov, the chairman of the Kazakhstan parliament, says that Kazakhstan in its capacity as OSCE president-in-office, is actively seeking to advance discussions on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/235891.html>).

The First Congress of the Association of Azerbaijanis of Kazakhstan opens in Almaty (<http://news.day.az/society/236062.html>).

Russian law enforcement agencies say that Yerevan is continuing to arm

terrorists of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) (<http://news.day.az/politics/235938.html>).

28 October

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that if Yerevan adopts a law recognizing the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh or about its unification with Armenia, this once again shows that Yerevan is not prepared to play a constructive role in the resolution of the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/235746.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that the Astrakhan declaration of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia recommitting all of the parties to the Karabakh conflict to earlier agreements was "a positive result" of their meeting (<http://news.day.az/politics/235720.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that "the development of Azerbaijani-Russian relations involve all spheres including inter-parliamentary cooperation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235733.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, receives a delegation of members of the Russian Duma and Federation Council during a Baku roundtable on "The Role of Parliament in the Development of Civil Society" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235876.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that reports that a Russian university has concluded a cooperation agreement with an institution in the occupied territories are not true (<http://news.day.az/politics/235761.html>).

Mazahir Panahov, the head of the Central Elections Committee, says that 859 international observers from 69 countries are registered to observe Azerbaijan's upcoming parliamentary elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/235834.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia will be forced to peace" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235682.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Congress of Local and Regional Governments of the Council of Europe has an important role to play in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/>

235855.html).

Sergey Vinokurov, the chief of the Administration for Inter-Regional and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries of the President's Office of the Russian Federation, says in Baku that "the strategic partnership between Russia and Azerbaijan is a guarantee of stability" in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/235782.html>).

Sergey Markov, a Russian Duma deputy, says that "for the restoration of peace and stability in the South Caucasus region, the dominating influence of one of the super-powers or a union of states" such as between Russia and Turkey "is necessary" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235756.html>).

Leonid Slutsky, the deputy head of the Russian Duma's international relations committee, says that the Russian parliament welcomes the agreement on the Karabakh conflict achieved at the Astrakhan summit of the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/235735.html>).

Mustafa Isen, the secretary general of the President's Office of Turkey, says that cooperation between Ankara and Baku is continuing to develop ever more rapidly (<http://news.day.az/politics/235695.html>).

Zeynep Daghy, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, calls on Yerevan to stop making "populist" declarations which only harm its relations with its neighbors (<http://news.day.az/politics/235606.html>).

The Ukrainian government has named a square in Kyiv for Heydar Aliyev, the former president of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/235809.html>).

27 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and the special representative of the OSCE president (<http://news.day.az/politics/235690.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says in Astrakhan during a ceremony erecting a statue of his father Heydar Aliyev that "centuries' long friendship, cooperation and common past connect us with Russia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235542.html>).

The presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia after their summit in Astrakhan release a joint declaration recommitting the sides to the

principles contained in the November 2008 declaration they issued in Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/235627.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov sign in Astrakhan appendices to the Azerbaijani-Russian border agreement (<http://news.day.az/politics/235686.html>).

Maxmud Mammadgulyev, deputy foreign minister, says that Azerbaijani entrepreneurs should more actively participate in the process of the accession of Azerbaijan to the World Trade Organization (<http://news.day.az/economy/235545.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets Chen Binde, the chief of staff of China's Peoples Liberation Army to discuss bilateral cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/235517.html>).

The Defense Ministry rejects Armenian charges that Azerbaijani forces fired first in a clash along the ceasefire line on October 26 (<http://news.day.az/politics/235577.html>).

Yevgeny Sloboda, the head of the CIS elections observer mission to Azerbaijan, says that preparations for the elections there are going successfully (<http://news.day.az/politics/235575.html>).

Majid Namju, Iranian energy minister, says that a priority task of his ministry is "the synchronization of the electric energy grids of Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia" (<http://news.day.az/economy/235587.html>).

Mehdi Gazanfari, Iranian trade minister, says that trade between Iran and Azerbaijan could double in the near future (<http://news.day.az/economy/235518.html>).

26 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from the incoming Japanese ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/235511.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from the incoming Polish ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/235505.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from the incoming Palestinian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/235503.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Buenos Aires, meet

with Argentina's Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Culture Héctor Marcos TIMERMAN to discuss bilateral cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/235369.html>).

Zakir Hashimov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Astana, says that cooperation between Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in trade can increase significantly (<http://news.day.az/politics/235353.html>).

Tural Rzayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Kuwait, meets with Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber as-Sabah to discuss the development of bilateral ties (<http://news.day.az/politics/235333.html>).

Manouchehr Mottaki, Iranian foreign minister, confirms the readiness of Tehran to serve as a mediator in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/235513.html>).

Manouchehr Mottaki, Iranian foreign minister, says that the summit of Caspian basin states which will take place in Baku "has great importance from the point of view of cooperation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235512.html>).

Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Zafar Caglayan leads a delegation of 125 Turkish businessmen to Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/235504.html>).

25 October

President Ilham Aliyev names Emmit Richard "Art" McHaffie Azerbaijan's honorary consul in Santa Fe, New Mexico (<http://news.day.az/politics/235316.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev gives an interview to the Ukrainian national television company in advance of his visit to Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/235278.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets with his Russian counterpart Sergey Ryabkov to discuss security in the Caspian Sea basin (<http://news.day.az/politics/235308.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Google Earth photography proves that Armenians in the occupied territories are mining gold that belongs to the Azerbaijani people (<http://news.day.az/politics/228444.html>).

The Azerbaijan embassy in Bucharest, together with the State Committee of Azerbaijan for work with the Diaspora, hold an international conference on Baku's role in the energy security of Europe

(<http://news.day.az/economy/235609.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that "Iran condemns any policy of occupation" and thus supports Azerbaijani territorial integrity as the basis of a resolution of the Karabakh conflict. He also says that it is "very unfortunate" that the OSCE Minsk Group has not made progress in that direction (<http://news.day.az/politics/235320.html>).

24 October

The election observer mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe says that preparations for the vote are proceeding in a peaceful environment (<http://news.day.az/politics/235068.html>).

23 October

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information department of the President's Office, says that "the pragmatic policy conducted by Azerbaijan serves the development of the entire region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/234936.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, the Milli Majlis speaker, says that Baku is "interested in conducting democratic, transparent and free parliamentary elections" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235021.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, speaks to the Turkish-Asian Center for Strategic Research (TASAM) on "The Turkish Council, the Turkish Diaspora and Social-Economic Cooperation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235031.html>).

John Laird, a member of the British House of Lords, says that "the world community must undertake more serious measures for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/235050.html>).

The annual Baku Symposium on the *South Caucasus in a Changing World* completes its work and adopts a resolution calling for the development of regional ties and cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/235007.html>).

22 October

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that it is "difficult" to speak about cooperation involving all three countries of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/234791.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the recent changes in

visa procedures are intended to bring Azerbaijan into correspondence with European standards (<http://news.day.az/politics/234797.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the question of Iran's nuclear program must be resolved by diplomatic negotiations (<http://news.day.az/politics/234785.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, the deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis, calls on Russia to define its position on the question of the end of Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/234865.html>).

The Milli Majlis adopts a law on the creation of Azerbaijani embassies in the South African Republic, Brazil, Iraq and Vietnam (<http://news.day.az/politics/234807.html>).

Peter Schieder, former president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the South Caucasus is important for the security of the entire world (<http://news.day.az/politics/234773.html>).

21 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives the election monitors of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/234625.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that "the results of 2010 will be successful for Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/234430.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Viktor Maslov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council defense and security committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/234626.html>).

Communications and Information Technology Minister Ali Abbasov signs a cooperation agreement with Austria's Deputy Federal Minister of Economy, Family, and Youth Josef Mayer (<http://news.day.az/economy/234684.html>).

Eldar Ismayilov, president of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijanis are increasingly interested in joining the Central Eurasian Banking Federation (<http://news.day.az/economy/234681.html>).

Akif Mustafayev, the national secretary of TRACECA from Azerbaijan, says that the TRACECA corridor regulations include environmental protection measures (<http://news.day.az/economy/234655.html>).

The French National Assembly formally says that it has no knowledge of a reported visit by French parliamentarians to the occupied territories

(<http://news.day.az/politics/234709.html>).

Radek Matula, the Czech ambassador to Baku, says that “the Czech Republic supports Azerbaijan in its efforts to deepen relations with the European Union” (<http://news.day.az/politics/234630.html>).

Marcello Caballero Tores, Cuban ambassador to Baku, says that Havana considers that Azerbaijan supports the UN resolution on the need to end the economic, trade and financial blockade of Cuba imposed by the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/234599.html>).

Mohammed Jahromi, the head of the Iranian Bank of Export Development, says that Baku and Tehran can develop closer ties because Azerbaijan is “an independent country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/234613.html>).

20 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives David Liddington, UK’s Conservative Party Europe Minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/234482.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, the head of the law enforcement department of the President’s Office, says that the new visa rules are fully in correspondence with international law (<http://news.day.az/politics/234338.html>).

Deputy Taxation Minister Sahib Alakparov meets in Paris with his French counterparts to discuss bilateral cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/234360.html>).

Gudsi Osmanov, Azerbaijan’s consul general in St. Petersburg, meets with Pskov oblast deputy governor Gennady Bezlobenko to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/234500.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a bilateral defense cooperation plan with his Ukrainian counterpart Mikhail Ezhel (<http://news.day.az/politics/234509.html>).

David Liddington, UK’s Conservative Party Europe Minister, says that there are “a multitude of possibilities” for bilateral business development between Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom (<http://news.day.az/politics/234313.html>).

David Liddington, UK’s Conservative Party Europe Minister, says that Azerbaijan’s “wealth of energy resources” give it the potential to play a leading role in European energy security (<http://news.day.az/economy/234487.html>).

David Liddington, UK's Conservative Party Europe Minister, says that Europe must become more active in seeking a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/234432.html>).

Michael Lavon-Lotem, Israeli ambassador to Baku, visits Nakhchivan and meets with Vasif Talybov, the head of the Autonomous Republic's Supreme Majlis (<http://news.day.az/politics/234440.html>).

19 October

President Ilham Aliyev issues a decree changing the visa procedures for visitors to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/234291.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Stewart Levi, US Deputy Treasury Secretary (<http://news.day.az/politics/234193.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the new visa regulations do not affect visitors from Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/234295.html>).

Marie L. Yovanovitch, US ambassador to Yerevan, says that Matthew Bryza, whom President Barak Obama has nominated to be US ambassador to Baku, "has the absolute trust of the president and secretary of state of the United States" (<http://news.day.az/politics/234264.html>).

US and Turkish officials meeting in Washington discuss the Karabakh conflict, Turkish defense minister Vejdî Konul says (<http://news.day.az/politics/234179.html>).

18 October

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, says that "the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a clear example of how war blocks intercultural dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/politics/233990.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, receives an honorary certificate from the Beverly Hills city council in honor of Azerbaijan's independence day (<http://news.day.az/politics/234365.html>).

The Dutch government bans the sale of food products which list as their point of origin locations in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/234075.html>).

17 October

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies announces that it is conducting talks with Iran about possible joint projects

in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (<http://news.day.az/economy/233866.html>).

16 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Vitaly Smirnov, the honorary president of the Russian Olympic Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/233827.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Wolfgang Grossruck, vice president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/233799.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, the human rights ombudsman, discusses cooperation with Audrey Glover, the head of the OSCE elections monitoring group (<http://news.day.az/politics/233812.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iranian ambassador to Baku, opens the fifth international exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran there, including products from more than 20 Iranian companies in the regions of Iran (<http://news.day.az/economy/233815.html>).

15 October

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili during a visit to Tbilisi (<http://news.day.az/politics/233707.html>). He also meets with Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri (<http://news.day.az/politics/233598.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to the Russian Federation, participates in a CIS forum of the creative and scientific intelligentsia (<http://news.day.az/society/233525.html>).

Azerbaijan introduces certain changes in its visa procedures and posts these changes on the website of the Foreign Ministry (<http://news.day.az/society/233611.html>).

The defense ministry says that Armenian forces are not, Yerevan's claims notwithstanding, in a position to "neutralize" Azerbaijani snipers along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/233678.html>).

Azerbaijan is one of only 13 member states that have fully paid their UN dues this year, United Nations officials say (<http://news.day.az/politics/233655.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, receives Wolfgang Grossruck, Vice-

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and head of the OSCE election observer mission in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/233705.html>).

Valeh Alaskarov, deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis natural resources, energy and ecology committee, receives Rolf Gempelman, a deputy of the German Bundestag (<http://news.day.az/politics/233711.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian society is now nearly in revolt because of the deteriorating situation in that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/233493.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan, says Ankara remains committed to “the text and spirit of the Ankara-Yerevan protocols” signed a year ago (<http://news.day.az/politics/233591.html>).

Officials from India’s Punjab State visit Azerbaijan to discuss agricultural cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/233712.html>).

Lena Ag, secretary general of the Swedish Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, says women’s organizations from Azerbaijan and Armenia must become involved in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/233593.html>).

14 October

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov visits Italy to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/economy/233447.html>).

The State Property Committee signs a memorandum on cooperation and mutual understanding with the Korean finance and strategy ministry (<http://news.day.az/economy/233456.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the Sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Caucasus Muslims Department, receives Saad Mustafa Mujbir, Libyan ambassador to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/233476.html>).

13 October

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Richard Stone, head of the National Conference in Support of the Jews of Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic Countries and Eurasia (<http://news.day.az/politics/233319.html>).

Samad Seyidov, chairman of the Milli Majlis committee on foreign relations, outlines the ways in which the 2011 state budget provides for increased funding for Baku’s foreign policy activities (<http://news.day.az/>

politics/233233.html).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Armenian efforts at resettlement in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan have political goals (<http://news.day.az/politics/233213.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the Sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Caucasus Muslims Department, receives Sylvia Meier-Kajbic, Austrian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/233344.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev presents award to officials of the Emergency Situations Ministry of Azerbaijan for their help in extinguishing the forest fires in Russia last summer (<http://news.day.az/society/233309.html>).

The Palestinian Authority may open an embassy in Baku before the end of October, according to sources there speaking on condition of anonymity (<http://news.day.az/politics/233164.html>).

12 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jaime Enrique Inocencio Garcia Amaral, the incoming Mexican ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/233159.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Dragoljub Ljepoja, the incoming ambassador to Baku of Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://news.day.az/politics/233158.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sidi Mohamed Ould Taleb Amar, the incoming Mauritanian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/233143.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Patrick Nailobi Sinyinza, the incoming Zambian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/233141.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives David Nieves Velasquez Caraballo, the incoming Venezuelan ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/233140.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Qais Salim Ali Al Said, the incoming ambassador to Baku of the Sultanate of Oman (<http://news.day.az/politics/233138.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Adel Mohammad Adaileh, the incoming Jordanian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/233137.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Mohammad Mehdi Akhundzadeh, Iranian deputy foreign minister and special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/233098.html>).

Khalaf Khalafov, deputy foreign minister, hosts his counterparts from the other Caspian states to discuss the draft agreement on security cooperation in the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/233135.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that there are now 66 Azerbaijani embassies, consulates and permanent representatives abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/232988.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that the 2011 state budget provides for an increase in defense spending of 89.7 percent (<http://news.day.az/politics/233047.html>).

Azerbaijan's Committee on Land and Cartography provides the OSCE Mission visiting Karabakh with the necessary maps (<http://news.day.az/politics/233076.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the year since the signing of the Ankara-Yerevan protocols has been "a genuine test" of the strength of Azerbaijan-Turkish relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/233008.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a member of the Milli Majlis international relations committee, says that contacts between Turkey and Armenia "in one form or another have already existed for a long time" (<http://news.day.az/politics/232830.html>).

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi says that there is "great potential" for cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan in the defense industry sector (<http://news.day.az/politics/233134.html>).

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi says that "we do not see any obstacles to the conduct of military exercise in the Caspian together with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/233132.html>).

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi says that Tehran supports the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "within the framework of international law and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/233119.html>).

11 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mohammad Mehdi Akhundzadeh, deputy foreign minister of Iran and the special representative of the Iranian president on Caspian questions (<http://news.day.az/politics/232912.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi (<http://news.day.az/politics/232911.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Elman Idayat oglu Zeynalov ambassador to Latvia, Tofiq Nadir oglu Zulfugarov ambassador to Estonia, and Emil Zulfugar oglu Karimov ambassador to Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/politics/232947.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev names Huseyn Nizami oblu Najafov consul general in Batumi (<http://news.day.az/politics/232949.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi (<http://news.day.az/politics/232946.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev says that Armenia is the main cause of tension in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/232862.html>).

Transportation Minister Ziya Mammadov receives his Lithuanian counterpart Eligijus Masiulis (<http://news.day.az/economy/232945.html>).

Vugar Aliyev, head of sector in the social-political department of the President's Office, says that the Socialist International should clearly express its position on Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/232872.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to the United States, speaks to an international conference on "The US and the Countries of Eurasia—Business Cooperation" at Creighton University in Iowa (<http://news.day.az/politics/233394.html>).

Ali Larijani, speaker of the Iranian parliament, says that Iran and Azerbaijan have "beautiful relations, our views are fraternal and we are connected by a common history." With regard to the division of the Caspian, he says, negotiations have been unnecessarily prolonged (<http://news.day.az/politics/232913.html>).

Kiro Manoyan, a representative of the Armenian Dashnaksutyun Movement, in Baku for a meeting of the Socialist International, says that delays in ratifying the protocols between Turkey and Armenia are linked to Ankara's pressure on Yerevan to resolve the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/232869.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and former president Robert Kocharyan have more than once acknowledged that they took part in the mass murder of peaceful citizens” (<http://news.day.az/politics/232746.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the only obstacle” to the normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations is “the aggressive policy of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/232676.html>).

Irfan Gunduz, a member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, says that the establishment of ties between Ankara and Yerevan “in any format will become possible only after there will have been movement forward in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/232751.html>).

10 October

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi says that relations between Baku and Tehran in the military and security areas are developing rapidly (<http://news.day.az/politics/232763.html>).

Luis Ayala, the secretary general of the Socialist International, says that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict disturbs all of us” (<http://news.day.az/politics/232745.html>).

9 October

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov says that Baku plans to open embassies next year in Lebanon, Oman, Estonia and Croatia (<http://news.day.az/politics/232687.html>).

Duisen Kaseinov, the secretary general of TURKSOY, welcomes President Ilham Aliyev’s call for the creation of a foundation as part of that organization’s operation (<http://news.day.az/politics/232681.html>).

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development publishes its preliminary report on its strategy for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/232637.html>).

8 October

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that Baku has “frequently” dispatched appeals to the OSCE and other international organizations concerning missions to the occupied

territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/232432.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets with his Ukrainian counterpart Ivan Gnatishin in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/232582.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, permanent representative to the United Nations, files a protest with the UN Secretary General concerning Armenia's display of the Armenian national flag and the flag of "the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" in New York (<http://news.day.az/politics/232486.html>).

Members of the Azerbaijani and Armenian delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe meet (<http://news.day.az/politics/232418.html>).

The ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party together with the International Diaspora Center, the National NGO Forum, and the Scientific Center of Armenian Research at Baku State University holds a conference on "The Defense at the International Level of the Rights of Azerbaijani Refugees Expelled from Armenia (Western Azerbaijan)" (<http://news.day.az/society/232692.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that in the course of the occupation by Armenia of Azerbaijani territories, "hundreds of children were killed" (<http://news.day.az/politics/232421.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "contacts between the governments have not ceased and that the possibility of Armenian-Turkish meetings at a high level always exists" (<http://news.day.az/politics/232447.html>).

Latvian President Valdis Zatlers tells Tofiq Zulfugarov, incoming Azerbaijani Ambassador to Latvia, that he is satisfied with the current level of bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/232521.html>).

Ian Kelly, US representative to the OSCE, says that the United States is "concerned" by the deterioration of the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/232455.html>).

7 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives BP Executive Director Robert Dudley (<http://news.day.az/politics/232336.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives incoming Jordanian

ambassador to Baku Adel Mohammad Adaileh (<http://news.day.az/politics/232372.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan's suggestion that Azerbaijan is involved in "terrorist activity" is an example of "extraordinary cynicism" (<http://news.day.az/politics/232348.html>).

First Vice Prime Minister Yagub Eyubov announces an agreement with Ukraine on the production and development of new products (<http://news.day.az/economy/232370.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Audrey Glover, the head of the observer mission of the OSCE's Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/232407.html>).

Azerbaijani officials intervene to block the efforts of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to have its own display at an international exhibition in Germany (<http://news.day.az/politics/232377.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a resolution calling on Armenia to return the bodies of two Azerbaijani soldiers killed during a clash on the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/232241.html>).

Ji-ha Lee, Korean ambassador to Baku, says that bilateral ties between the Republic of Korea and Azerbaijan are expanding rapidly in a wide variety of fields (<http://news.day.az/economy/232261.html>).

A book by Vilayat Guliyev entitled "From the Heritage of the Azerbaijani Political Emigration in Poland" is published in that country in Russian (<http://news.day.az/society/232409.html>).

6 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/232190.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov signs a cooperation agreement with his Kazakhstan counterpart Vladimir Bozhko (<http://news.day.az/society/232093.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, the head of the State Migration Service, receives Turkish Ambassador Hulusi Kilic and Indian Ambassador Debnath Shaw (<http://news.day.az/politics/232151.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, speaks on

US-Azerbaijan relations at the California State University in Long Beach (<http://news.day.az/politics/232074.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, head of the Milli Majlis security and defense committee, says that reports about a renewal of Armenian-Turkish talks come from Yerevan and should be treated with skepticism (<http://news.day.az/politics/232027.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the President's Office, is the author of a new textbook on geopolitics (<http://news.day.az/politics/232058.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that ignoring Azerbaijani interests in the South Caucasus will lead to disaster (<http://news.day.az/politics/231863.html>).

Border guard officials from Azerbaijan, Russia and Kazakhstan conduct a special operation against bio-pirates in the waters of the Caspian off Astrakhan (<http://news.day.az/economy/232166.html>).

Ismetulla Irgashev, Uzbekistan's ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan is "one of the main strategic partners" of his country (<http://news.day.az/politics/232233.html>).

The French embassy in Baku says that it has no information about an effort by the Armenians to have a display by the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic at an exhibit in Marseilles (<http://news.day.az/politics/232079.html>).

The European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance releases a report on Azerbaijan containing a series of new recommendations (<http://news.day.az/politics/232122.html>).

5 October

President Ilham Aliyev says that "Azerbaijan today plays an important role in energy security not only in the region but across the continent" (<http://news.day.az/politics/231870.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, Novruz Mammadov, Fuad Alaskarov and Elnur Aslanov, senior officials of the President's Office, take part in the first international meeting in Sochi of senior officials dealing with security (<http://news.day.az/politics/232302.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/232024.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives outgoing Japanese Ambassador Masamitsu Oki (<http://news.day.az/politics/231852.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that conflicts that are allowed to fester for a long time can have the most negative consequences for stability in the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/233324.html>).

Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says at a meeting in Malta that “in the 21st century, diplomatic education cannot be conducted only within the borders of individual states” but must take place at an international level as well (<http://news.day.az/politics/231888.html>).

The Azerbaijani and Armenian delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe meet (<http://news.day.az/politics/232022.html>).

Samad Seyidov, chairman of the Milli Majlis foreign relations committee and Ali Huseynov, chairman of the Milli Majlis committee on legal policy, meet in Vilnius with Andronius Azubalis, Lithuanian foreign minister, to discuss joint European Union programs (<http://news.day.az/politics/232000.html>).

Bahar Muradova, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that Azerbaijan should be represented in the OSCE delegation visiting the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/231993.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls on that body to take steps to restore the rights of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/231829.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, tells visiting Israeli chief rabbi Shloma Omar that “Azerbaijan is the only country of the former Soviet empire where there has not been any religious discrimination” (<http://news.day.az/society/231973.html>).

Evda Abramov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the development and flowering of the life of Mountain Jews in Azerbaijan is a bright example of the peaceful co-existence of two religions, Islam and Judaism” (<http://news.day.az/society/231920.html>).

Herbert Quelle, German ambassador to Baku, says that “interest in

Azerbaijan in Germany is growing day by day” (<http://news.day.az/politics/232020.html>).

The Iranian council of ministers confirms Tehran’s agreement with Azerbaijan on border arrangements (<http://news.day.az/politics/231860.html>).

Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh says that Amman supports the position of Baku on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/231832.html>).

4 October

Education Minister Misir Mardanov visits Saudi Arabia to discuss bilateral cooperation in education (<http://news.day.az/society/231699.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran, says that Baku is prepared to agree on having Iran play a mediating role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/231742.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Argentina, makes a presentation on Azerbaijan’s foreign policy at the Instituto del Servicio Exterior de la Nacion (<http://news.day.az/politics/231733.html>).

Officials of the Transportation Ministry take part in Ankara talks on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway construction project (<http://news.day.az/economy/231686.html>).

The Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, in partnership with the Geneva Center for Security Policy, conducts a ten-day course for 19 Afghan citizens on “Supremacy of Law and Good Administration” (<http://news.day.az/society/231795.html>).

The UNDP says it will not take part in the upcoming OSCE Minsk Group visit to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/231697.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that his organization expects the upcoming elections in Azerbaijan to be “free, just and democratic” (<http://news.day.az/politics/231745.html>).

2 October

President Ilham Aliyev confirms a series of July 2010 bilateral

agreements with Portugal (<http://news.day.az/politics/231606.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms a series of July 2010 bilateral agreements with Mauritania (<http://news.day.az/politics/231604.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the July 2010 cooperation agreement between Baku and the Turkish Council on Capital Markets (<http://news.day.az/economy/231607.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells NATO ambassadors that Yerevan is not interested in the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/231571.html>).

Askar Abdullayev, the head of the State Tariff Committee, receives his Iranian counterpart Muhammad Rza Nasiri in Baku who says that Iran is interested in adopting the principle of “a single window” in its trade with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/231573.html>).

Novruz Guliyev, deputy ecology and natural resources minister, says that environmental protection is an important part of Azerbaijani state policy (<http://news.day.az/society/231610.html>).

Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Germany, takes part in a session of the German-Azerbaijan Forum (<http://news.day.az/society/231585.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that the current situation in the South Caucasus “satisfies the interests of no one” (<http://news.day.az/politics/231587.html>).

1 October

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov tells Ján Kubiš, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, that Baku is concerned about the possible construction of a new atomic energy station in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/231471.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets in Geneva with Swiss secretary of state for foreign affairs Peter Maurer to discuss bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/231382.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Hungary, is interviewed by “Magyar Nemzet” on bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/231400.html>).

The State Committee on Work with the Diaspora publishes a new book on the activities of the Turkic language diasporas of the world.

SEPTEMBER

30 September

President Ilham Aliyev receives Japanese Ambassador Masamitsu Oki on the completion of his assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/231222.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Boyko (<http://news.day.az/politics/231220.html>).

Iranian Deputy Vice President Ali Agha Mohammadi says that not a single Iranian company is operating in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/231161.html>).

The Milli Majlis ratifies the convention on the legal status of labor migrants and members of their families in the CIS countries (<http://news.day.az/society/231252.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan has adopted the big lie technique of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels (<http://news.day.az/politics/231135.html>).

29 September

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Norwegian Ambassador (<http://news.day.az/politics/231111.html>), incoming German Ambassador (<http://news.day.az/politics/231095.html>) and incoming Latvian Ambassador (<http://news.day.az/politics/231089.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Ludec Sefzig, chairman of the EU committee of the Senate of the Czech Republic (<http://news>).

day.az/politics/231110.html).

The Foreign Ministry accuses Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan of making “insinuations” in his comments about Baku’s position on the OSCE Minsk Group Madrid Principles (<http://news.day.az/politics/231062.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign affairs department of the Presidential Administration, calls the declaration of Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan regarding the negotiations about the Karabakh conflict “absurd” (<http://news.day.az/politics/231042.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov says that Baku does not exclude providing additional financing for the Georgian section of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway (<http://news.day.az/economy/231094.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfaz Garayev receives Alirza Beygi, head of the Iranian province of Eastern Azerbaijan, to discuss the establishment of joint tourist companies (<http://news.day.az/economy/231011.html>).

Elman Rustamov, the head of the administration of the Central Bank, receives Ali Agha Mohammadi, the deputy vice president of Iran, who suggests that the two countries use their national currencies for trade (<http://news.day.az/economy/231128.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam, receives Konstantin Romodanovsky, the head of the Federal Migration Service of Russia (<http://news.day.az/politics/231061.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the process of normalizing relations between Ankara and Yerevan is “frozen” because of Yerevan’s intransigence on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/230868.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he has “always considered the OSCE Minsk Group to be a touristic organization” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230806.html>).

Elshad Nasirov, vice president of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, receives Babak Afghahi, the chairman of the trade development organization of Iran, who says that Tehran is interested in the purchase of oil, gas, oil produces and other products from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/231113.html>).

28 September

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ali Agha Mohammadi, deputy first vice president of Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/230864.html>). Mohammadi says that “the goal of [his] visit [to Baku] is to raise the level of economic cooperation to the same level as political relations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230739.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev launches his own Youtube site at <http://www.youtube.com/presidentaz> (<http://news.day.az/politics/230843.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is checking reports about the activities of a Russian educational institution in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/230872.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Abdulwahid Radi, chairman of the house of representatives of the Moroccan parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/230769.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Canada, discusses the expansion of ties with the Canadian provinces during a visit to Prince Edward Island (<http://news.day.az/politics/230895.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Pascale Meige Wagner of the International Committee of the Red Cross to discuss the return of the bodies of two soldiers of Azerbaijan killed by Armenians (<http://news.day.az/politics/230835.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov meets with Firuza Mukhammadjanova, the head of the Uzbek Kamolot youth movement, to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/society/230822.html>).

Rustam Usubov, the first deputy procurator general, signs a cooperation agreement with Elena Leonenko, the deputy chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/society/230819.html>).

Vice Admiral Shahin Sultanov, commander of the Azerbaijani navy, meets with Tariq Majid, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of Pakistan to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/230775.html>).

Deputy Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov receives a Cuban delegation and says Azerbaijan wants to expand cooperation in the fields of medicine, agriculture and tourism (<http://news.day.az/politics/230886.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova receives Kyrgyzstan ombudsman Tursumbek Akun (<http://news.day.az/society/230792.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the recent statements of Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan reflect a “defeatist” attitude (<http://news.day.az/politics/230446.html>).

Japanese Ambassador to Azerbaijan Masamitsu Oki says that Tokyo intends to support the GUAM countries and their promotion of democracy and market economies (<http://news.day.az/politics/230804.html>).

Audrey Glover, head of the observer mission of the OSCE Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, says that her organization expects the upcoming parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan to show forward movement on the path toward the development of a democratic society (<http://news.day.az/politics/230832.html>).

27 September

President Ilham Aliyev makes a working visit to Tashkent where Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov tells him that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is a holy thing and it must be supported in all variants of the solution of the Karabakh problem” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230961.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that the proposal of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon concerning the withdrawal of snipers from the line of control is an interesting one requiring careful study (<http://news.day.az/politics/230614.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev tells visiting Iranian deputy vice president Ali Agha Mohammad that Azerbaijan has the ability to supply gas to the northern provinces of Iran (<http://news.day.az/economy/230706.html>).

Hicran Huseynova, the chairman of the State Committee for Problems of the Family, Women and Children, meets with UNPFPA regional director Zahidul Huque to discuss expanding cooperation between their organizations (<http://news.day.az/society/230715.html>).

The foreign ministers of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference meet in New York and, in the final communiqué of the meeting, call for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict on the basis of the principles of territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders of

Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/230642.html>).

25 September

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov proposes that the Organization of the Islamic Conference conduct its 2014 summit in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/230433.html>).

24 September

President Ilham Aliyev meets with US President Barak Obama in New York (<http://news.day.az/politics/230351.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Bagirov tells Zokir Vezirov, Dushanbe's ambassador to Azerbaijan, that Baku is interested in "ever greater cooperation with Tajikistan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/230349.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov receives Abdelwahid Radi, the chairman of the Moroccan House of Representatives (<http://news.day.az/politics/230325.html>).

Rossana Boldini, a member of the Italian Senate, meets with Milli Majlis deputies in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/230347.html>). She says that the two countries need to take "definite steps" to expand cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/230182.html>).

Abdelwahid Radi, chairman of the Moroccan House of Representatives, says on his arrival in Baku that "Morocco is interested in the development of relations with Azerbaijan in all spheres" (<http://news.day.az/politics/230201.html>).

23 September

President Ilham Aliyev tells the UN General Assembly that "the continuing armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is a major threat to international and regional peace and security" (<http://news.day.az/politics/229973.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki (<http://news.day.az/politics/230000.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/>

politics/230421.html).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs in New York a communiqué with his Grenada counterpart Peter David on the establishment of diplomatic relations between their two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/230199.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets with his Georgian counterpart David Chalagania to discuss the delimitation and demarcation of the Azerbaijani-Georgian border (<http://news.day.az/politics/230025.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Yagub Eyubov signs a protocol in Tashkent with his Uzbek counterpart Batyr Khodzhayev on the completion of the latest session of the Uzbek-Azerbaijan intergovernmental commission (<http://news.day.az/economy/230132.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that Ankara devotes “great importance” to the peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/230137.html>).

Sahad Ali Aldosari, Saudi Arabian ambassador to Baku, says that his country “supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and favors the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem by peaceful means on the basis of the fulfillment of all resolutions of the UN Security Council, the OIC and other international organizations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230134.html>).

Aleksey Ostrovsky, chairman of the CIS Affairs Committee of the Russian Duma, says that “international public opinion on the issue of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is on the side of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/230081.html>).

Caroline Brown, British ambassador to Baku, visits Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/230005.html>).

US Congressman Michael MacMahon, a member of the Azerbaijan Working Group, calls on the US Senate to confirm Matthew Bryza as US ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/230125.html>).

22 September

President Ilham Aliyev meets in New York with Richard Morningstar, the representative of the US secretary of state for Eurasian energy issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/229973.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with his Greek and Canadian counterparts, Dimitris Droutsas and Lawrence Cannon (<http://news.day.az/politics/229850.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tehran, says that the number of ethnic Armenians in Iran has declined from 200 to 250,000 in the time of the shah to some 65,000 today (<http://news.day.az/politics/229935.html>).

21 September

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in New York with his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze (<http://news.day.az/politics/229618.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov attends a meeting in New York of his counterparts from the Turkic world hosted by Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (<http://news.day.az/politics/229568.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, meets with Sergey Vinokurov, the chief of the Russian Presidential Administration for Inter-regional and Cultural Ties (<http://news.day.az/politics/229709.html>).

A delegation of the youth organization of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party takes part in the work of the Fifth Congress of the Union of Youth of the Regions of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/229736.html>).

Roland Kobia, leader of a European Union delegation, says in Baku that "the Eastern Partnership may serve as a platform for the promoting of mutual understanding between Armenia and Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/229733.html>).

Azerbaijan displays the products of its defense industry at an international exhibition in Cape Town (<http://news.day.az/economy/229688.html>).

20 September

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-zade receives Xiaoyu Zhao, the vice president of the Asian Bank of Development (<http://news.day.az/economy/229475.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov receives his Kyrgyzstan counterpart Aliyasbek Alymkulov to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation

(<http://news.day.az/society/229470.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov meets with Sadettin Kalkan, secretary general of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and Berik Aryn, deputy head of the apparatus of the Senate of Kazakhstan, to discuss the development of ties within the Turkic Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/229542.html>).

Ayдын Hasanov, a member of the Milli Majlis defense and security committee, says that if a war begins over Karabakh, “the [Azerbaijani] army will fulfill the mission laid on it in the shortest possible time” (<http://news.day.az/politics/229095.html>).

Safa Mirzoyev, head of the apparatus of the Milli Majlis, says that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language States reflects their solidarity (<http://news.day.az/politics/229436.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, speaks to the private American research center Stratfor (<http://news.day.az/politics/229395.html>).

Faig Bagirov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Ankara, meets with Mehmet Ali Shahin, head of the Grand National Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/229471.html>).

Fred Tanner, Director of Geneva Center for Security Policy, meets with Elkhan Nuriyev, director of the Baku Center for Strategic Research, to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/229464.html>).

Azerbaijani, Turkish and Georgian officers take part in a staff exercise in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/229452.html>).

19 September

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, says that a report on “the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” has been included in the calendar of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/229318.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Yerevan is completely wrong to claim that Armenia has the strongest and best prepared military force in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/229320.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran, calls on Tehran to focus its attention on the issue of the destruction of cultural monuments on the territories occupied by Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/>

229330.html).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iranian ambassador to Baku, says that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict directly affects the national policy and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran” because “Iran is the only one of the countries neighboring the Caucasus which suffers from the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/229339.html>).

18 September

Chingiz Asgarov, Azerbaijan’s representative to the European Court for Human Rights, says that if the court holds that Armenia controls the occupied territories, “this will be the first judicial decision concerning the occupation by Armenia of Azerbaijani land” (<http://news.day.az/politics/229280.html>).

Dashgyn Shikarov, charge d’affaires at the Azerbaijani embassy in Pakistan, visits a middle school for girls built there by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation (<http://news.day.az/society/229282.html>).

17 September

Nizami Jafarov, the head of the working group on inter-parliamentary ties between Azerbaijan and Turkey, says that relations between the two “must be strategic in all respects” and that “a special organization” should be created to promote that (<http://news.day.az/politics/228962.html>).

Elchin Guliyev, head of the State Border Service, meets Ahmadi Mogadam, the commander of the Iranian police forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/228994.html>).

Khady Rajabli, the chairman of the Milli Majlis social policy committee, considers measures to improve the lives of Azerbaijanis working in the Russian Federation and other CIS countries (<http://news.day.az/society/229121.html>).

A protest by the Justice Ministry causes the International Prosecutors Association to remove from its agenda the question of admitting the prosecutor general of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/229123.html>).

Caroline Brown, British ambassador to Azerbaijan, meets with Mazahir Panahov, head of the Azerbaijani Electoral Commission (<http://news.day.az/politics/229123.html>).

day.az/politics/229189.html).

Walter Fust, director general of the Kofi Annan Foundation and president of UNESCO's International Program for the Development of Communications, says he supports naming a special UN representative for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/229173.html>).

Mustafa Kabakci, a deputy of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that the resolution of the Turkic summit yet again demonstrates the support which Azerbaijan enjoys for the maintenance of its territorial integrity (<http://news.day.az/politics/229125.html>).

Ismatulla Irgashev, Uzbekistan's ambassador to Baku, presents a book by Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov entitled "The Higher Spirituality is an Unbeatable Force," saying that the translation of this work into Azerbaijani will further strengthen relations between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/229067.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Turkey, as one of the initiators of the Karabakh peace process, seeks to play an active role in advancing that effort (<http://news.day.az/politics/229042.html>).

16 September

President Ilham Aliyev says in Istanbul at the summit of Turkic language countries that "the desire of peoples for self-determination must not destroy the territorial integrity of countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/228870.html>). In other comments, he reaffirms that "Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory from time immemorial" (<http://news.day.az/politics/228663.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets in Istanbul with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev (<http://news.day.az/politics/228941.html>).

Ambassador Arif Mammadov, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, is elected chairman of the group of rapporteurs of the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe on education, culture, ecology and youth (<http://news.day.az/politics/228974.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, chairman of the State Committee on Work with the Diaspora, discusses the state of the Azerbaijani community in Latvia with former Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga (<http://news.day.az/politics/228968.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the AGRI project

“raises yet higher the role of Azerbaijan in providing energy security to Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/228982.html>).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammadov says that Ashgabat has no intentions of hurting the “fraternal relations” it enjoys with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/228919.html>) and that the East West pipeline in his country is linked to the Nabucco Project (<http://news.day.az/economy/228930.html>).

Robert Gates, US secretary of defense, says that it is necessary to increase efforts to prevent outbreaks of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/228862.html>).

The European Union transfers to Azerbaijan the first tranche of three million Euros to support the energy sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/228935.html>).

15 September

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Turkish counterpart Abdulla Gul in the framework of the summit of Turkic language countries in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/228692.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu and discusses the opening of Azerbaijani representations within Turkish embassies in African countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/228779.html>).

Elchin Guliyev, the head of the State Border Service, visits Tehran to discuss border issues with his counterparts (<http://news.day.az/society/228507.html>).

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates confirms that the United States is interested in cooperating with the Russian Federation in the operation of the Gabala radar station (<http://news.day.az/politics/228673.html>).

The summit of Turkic language countries agrees to the establishment of a new international organization, the Council of Cooperation of Turkic Language Countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/228633.html>).

Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that he and his colleagues expect additional proposals about the resolution of the Karabakh conflict at the OSCE summit in Astana in December (<http://news.day.az/politics/228598.html>).

14 September

President Ilham Aliyev and his Georgian counterpart Mikhail Saakashvili, his Romanian counterpart Traian Basescu, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban sign the Baku Declaration on the AGRI [Azerbaijan-Georgia-Romania Interconnector] project (<http://news.day.az/economy/228440.html>; <http://news.day.az/politics/228597.html>; <http://news.day.az/politics/228595.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/228605.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Oktay Asadov receives former Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga to discuss her proposal for the appointment of a special UN representative on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/228524.html>).

Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov decorates Elman Zeynalov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Sofia (<http://news.day.az/politics/228290.html>).

13 September

President Ilham Aliyev receives former Latvian president Vaira Vike-Freiberga (<http://news.day.az/politics/228312.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives World Bank Vice President Philippe Le Hou  rou (<http://news.day.az/politics/228319.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs several decrees on visa regulations (<http://news.day.az/society/228369.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the acquisition of the S-300 defense system will deter "Armenian adventurism" (<http://news.day.az/politics/228197.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that the AGRI project "opens the opportunity for the supply of gas not only to Romania but also to Hungary, Bulgaria and other European countries and also to Turkey" (<http://news.day.az/economy/228232.html>).

Elkhan Gahramanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, says that there exists "an enormous potential" for the development of economic ties between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/228167.html>).

Emin Eyyubov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the European Union, takes

part in the 20th Economic Forum in Poland (<http://news.day.az/politics/228274.html>).

Milli Majlis deputies support the idea of appointing a special representative of the UN secretary general on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/228304.html>).

The Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus protests against the plans of an American clergyman to desecrate the Koran (<http://news.day.az/politics/228289.html>).

12 September

Former German Foreign Minister Joscha Fischer says that Nabucco is “the last chance for European countries to gain access to the Central Asian market of natural gas” (<http://news.day.az/economy/228116.html>).

10 September

Azerbaijani citizens were among those who died or were injured during the terrorist attack in Vladikavkaz (<http://news.day.az/society/227935.html>).

9 September

Zakir Hashimov, the incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Astana, presents his credentials to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev (<http://news.day.az/politics/227847.html>).

E. Agayev, an administration head in the foreign ministry, takes part in the GUAM ministerial meeting in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/227998.html>).

Azerbaijan retains its leadership among CIS countries in terms of business competitiveness, according to the World Economic Forum (<http://news.day.az/economy/227825.html>).

8 September

President Ilham Aliyev greets the Azerbaijani people on the Ramazan holiday (<http://news.day.az/politics/227752.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Rene van der Linden, the president of the Dutch Senate (<http://news.day.az/politics/227702.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tina Kaidanov, US deputy assistant

secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia (<http://news.day.az/politics/227697.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence of the incoming ambassadors from Latvia and Norway (<http://news.day.az/politics/227700.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives incoming Brazilian ambassador to Azerbaijan Paulo Antoniu Pereira Pinto (<http://news.day.az/politics/227743.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a member of the Milli Majlis defense and security committee, says that the recent visit of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev shows that Moscow “is not pursuing any imperial goals” in this region and “does not intend to threaten the strategic and national interests of Baku” (<http://news.day.az/politics/227592.html>).

Elman Rustamov, the president of the National Bank of Azerbaijan, receives a delegation of FATF to discuss Azerbaijan’s success in combating illegal currency flows, money laundering and the financing of terrorism (<http://news.day.az/economy/227730.html>).

Fakhri Hasanov, the deputy director of the Economic Reforms Institute, receives a delegation of Korean officials who are in Baku to study Azerbaijan’s approach to economic reform (<http://news.day.az/economy/227714.html>).

Ian Biggs is named the new Australian ambassador to Turkey with joint accreditation to Azerbaijan and Georgia (<http://news.day.az/politics/227699.html>).

7 September

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group together with the special representative of the chairman-in-office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/227456.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva in her capacity as president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation signs a memorandum of cooperation with James Billington, the Director of the Library of Congress (<http://news.day.az/politics/227564.html>).

Veronica Kotek, the CoE representative in Azerbaijan, says that the Council of Europe “devotes great importance” to the upcoming parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/>

227424.html).

Peter Semneby, the EU special representative for the South Caucasus, says that internally displaced people are “a serious obstacle” for resolving conflicts in that region (<http://news.day.az/politics/227393.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Baku, greets the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the Ramazan holiday (<http://news.day.az/society/227475.html>).

Elkhan Nuriyev, the director of the Baku Center for Strategic Studies, receives Ji-ha Lee, South Korea’s ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/227512.html>).

Former US Defense Secretary William Perry speaks at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (<http://news.day.az/politics/227537.html>).

6 September

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peter Semneby, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/227272.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Dutch Ambassador (<http://news.day.az/politics/227282.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that Yerevan is trying to shift the blame for the lack of progress in talks on Karabakh from itself to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/227333.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, condemns the recent violations of the ceasefire in the zone of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/227335.html>).

Elman Arasly, Azerbaijani ambassador to Amman, meets with Jordanian industry and trade minister Amer Hadidi to discuss bilateral economic cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/227298.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the increase in the number of Armenian provocations on the ceasefire line is “not accidental” but represents a concerted policy by Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/227153.html>).

Peter Semnebi, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that the EU is concerned by “incidents which have taken place on the line of the front” between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/227180.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, condemns the recent violations of the ceasefire in the zone of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/227335.html>).

5 September

Movlud Chavushoglu, the head of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “the main condition for the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia is the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/227110.html>).

4 September

Samad Seyidov, the vice president of PACE and a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the visit of President Dmitry Medvedev shows that while “Russia periodically strengthens its positions in Armenia,” such actions “do not threaten Azerbaijani-Russian relations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/227086.html>).

3 September

Ziyafat Askarov, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the adoption by the United Nations of a resolution on the occupied territories will “put Armenia in a difficult position” (<http://news.day.az/politics/227073.html>).

Samad Seyidov, vice president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the adoption by the United Nations of a resolution on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan will further “weaken the position of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226928.html>).

2 September

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva host Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Russian First Lady Svetlana Medvedeva at an official dinner in the Gulustan Palace (<http://news.day.az/politics/226791.html>).

Emil Karimov, Azerbaijan ambassador to Rome, says that “the government of Italy supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226636.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy on the defense and security

committee, says that “Armenia will never recognize the separatist NKR” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226492.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent comments by Armenian officials are having a negative effect “on the image of Armenia in the world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226333.html>).

Aydyn Aliyev, the head of the State Tariff Committee, signs a cooperation agreement with his Austrian counterpart Reinhold Lopatka (<http://news.day.az/economy/226631.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam, receives Ingushetia leader Yunusbek Yevkurov in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/226766.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davugoglu visits Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/226797.html>).

1 September

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia has been challenging international law but that the international community has not responded in the way that it should to Yerevan’s violations (<http://news.day.az/politics/226299.html>).

Azerbaijan and Georgian officials participate in a meeting of the council created by the Baku-Tbilisi memorandum on mutual assistance in the transportation sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/226592.html>).

Ramil Hasanov, the secretary of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language Countries, says that the role of that body in “broadening and strengthening cooperation between its members and Europe in the energy area will be significant” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226599.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Ankara is carefully following the frequent violations of the ceasefire regime in the Karabakh region (<http://news.day.az/politics/226587.html>).

The United Nations thanks Azerbaijan for its assistance in overcoming the consequences of the earthquake in Haiti (<http://news.day.az/politics/226491.html>).

AUGUST

31 August

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, announces that he has extended the mandate of Andrzej Kasprzyk, his personal representative on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference (<http://news.day.az/politics/226446.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence from incoming Dutch Ambassador (<http://news.day.az/politics/226423.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, publishes an op-ed in the Washington Times about US-Azerbaijani relations (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/aug/30/the-us-needs-eurasia-and-vice-versa/?page=1>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is important for Azerbaijan to use discussions at the UN General Assembly to show the justice of Azerbaijan's position and the crimes Armenia is committing on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/225960.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is impossible to speak about any opening of the borders with "an aggressor state" and consequently Turkey cannot open its borders with Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/225976.html>).

Ismatulla Irgashev, Uzbekistan's ambassador to Baku, says that "the position of Uzbekistan on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem remains clear and unchanged" in support of Azerbaijan's position on territorial integrity (<http://news.day.az/politics/226278.html>).

30 August

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan is already one of the leading sports powers of the world” (<http://news.day.az/politics/226180.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov discusses by telephone with his Russian opposite number Grigory Karasin the upcoming visit to Baku of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (<http://news.day.az/politics/226261.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Armenia is trying different maneuvers which “reduce to nothing” the value of the renewed Madrid Principles offered by the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/225706.html>).

Dunyamin Khalilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that because Karabakh is on Azerbaijani territory, the new agreement between Moscow and Yerevan will not lead Russia to intervene in the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/225593.html>).

The International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent says that there are more than 4500 missing persons from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/226196.html>).

28 August

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the Turkish-Armenian borders will not be opened for the NATO exercise (<http://news.day.az/politics/225980.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says there is no need to be concerned by the extension of the Russian military base in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/225982.html>).

27 August

President Ilham Aliyev directs sending an additional one million US dollars to help the victims of flooding in Pakistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/225774.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Kyiv, presents his credentials to Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich (<http://news.day.az/politics/225813.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Cairo, presents

copies of his letters of credence to Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit (<http://news.day.az/politics/225808.html>).

Otto Hauser, Azerbaijan's honorary consul in Stuttgart, says that "the number of deputies in the Bundestag who support Azerbaijan is growing" (<http://news.day.az/politics/225732.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that the St. Petersburg proposals call for signing a document under the aegis of the OSCE Minsk Group that specifies what the two sides have agreed to and what they have not yet agreed on (<http://news.day.az/politics/225851.html>).

26 August

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that "if Armenia wants to drag Russia into a war in Nagorno-Karabakh, this is a major mistake" (<http://news.day.az/politics/225671.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Oganyan's comment that "Russia will guarantee the security of Armenia regardless of where the threat to it originates" suggests that Oganyan views himself as Russian defense minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/225598.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia has confused what it wants with what is in its discussion of the St. Petersburg proposals on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/225472.html>).

Tural Rzayev, Azerbaijani ambassador in Kuwait, says that the Kuwaiti government "supports the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/225506.html>).

Vasif Talybov, the head of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, receives Paulo Antonio Pepeira Pinto, Brazil's ambassador to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/225497.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Ankara will not open the Turkish border with Armenia even temporarily for the NATO exercises (<http://news.day.az/turkey/225676.html>).

Annamammad Mammadov, Turkmenistan's ambassador to Baku, says that Ashgabat is "interested in the establishment of firm and long-lasting trade ties with Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/economy/225568.html>).

25 August

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku is studying the basing agreement between Russia and Armenia in order to determine whether it is consistent with the obligations Russia has undertaken as a signatory of various international agreements (<http://news.day.az/politics/225366.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the absence of a US ambassador in Azerbaijan is not affecting in a negative way the relations between the two countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/225354.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan does not intend to join either NATO or the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty until one or the other “condemns Armenia as an aggressor” (<http://news.day.az/politics/225352.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the opening of the borders of Turkey with the aggressor Armenia does not correspond to the interests of Turkey or of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/225338.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that the agreement between Moscow and Yerevan to extend the life of the Russian base in Armenia gives reason “to call Armenia a dependent country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/225446.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Iraqi Ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/225447.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that even a temporary opening of the Turkish-Armenian border would encourage the Armenian side (<http://news.day.az/politics/225457.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that “Armenia must end its occupation policy against Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/225466.html>).

A website for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language Countries goes online (<http://news.day.az/politics/225391.html>; <http://www.turk-pa.org/>).

24 August

Nazikh Gassub, Azerbaijani consul in Beirut, says that a group of Armenian visitors to the Lebanese capital did not have any meetings with officials (<http://news.day.az/politics/225242.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh ul-Islam, secures Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill's agreement to help gain the return of the body of the Azerbaijani soldier who was killed by Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/225288.html>).

A Turkish foreign ministry official says that if Ankara does not agree to allow a NATO convoy to cross the Turkish-Armenian border, then the NATO exercises planned for mid-September, may be put off (<http://news.day.az/politics/225279.html>).

Turkey proposes to Azerbaijan that the two countries jointly produce military helicopters (<http://news.day.az/society/225302.html>).

The Iranian embassy in Baku calls on Azerbaijanis to send assistance to flood victims in Pakistan (<http://news.day.az/society/225222.html>).

Baku State University press officer says that the University is going to establish a Center for the Study of Ideological and Diversionary Activity of Armenia against Azerbaijan and the Entire Turkic World (<http://news.day.az/politics/225239.html>).

23 August

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, publishes an op-ed in the Washington Post noting that "today, Azerbaijan is a non-ideological, pragmatic and independent player committed foremost to guarding its national interests. In terms of regional stability and long-term U.S. interests, such pragmatism is exactly what is needed" (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/aug/23/us-should-court-a-changing-azerbaijan/>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that what is important is that "the Armenian-Turkish borders will remain closed because of the occupation policy of Yerevan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/224979.html>).

Ali Bilge Cankorel, head of the Baku office of the OSCE, says that the large number of international observers who plan to come for the upcoming parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan are an indication of the success of the country (<http://news.day.az/politics/224980.html>).

22 August

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says in Salzburg that “unresolved conflicts are a major obstacle for the development” of the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/224923.html>).

21 August

The Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry says that Armenia is destroying natural resources in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/224809.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border in the framework of NATO exercise could bear negatively on Turkish-Azerbaijani interests” (<http://news.day.az/politics/224839.html>).

Vahid Erdem, head of the Turkish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, says that “the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border is linked to a number of conditions. Without these conditions [being met], the opening of the border between the two countries is impossible” (<http://news.day.az/politics/224755.html>).

20 August

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov takes part in a Salzburg conference on the construction of ethical market economies (<http://news.day.az/politics/224541.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that “Baku hopes that Moscow will follow all the obligations it has taken on itself concerning the non-use [of its military base in Armenia] against Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/224637.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev says that to date “only the OSCE Minsk Group” has demonstrated its “effectiveness” in promoting the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/224648.html>).

Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Nino Kalandadze says that Tbilisi has “no basis for being concerned” that Armenia working with Russia will threaten regional security (<http://news.day.az/georgia/224730.html>).

19 August

Azerbaijan and Turkey announce plans to hold a series of meetings on expanding cooperation in the defense industry sector (<http://news.day.az/politics/224490.html>).

Azerbaijan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations sends a letter to the UN Secretary General and the UN General Assembly concerning Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/224454.html>).

Gudrat Gurbanov, chief of the State Naval Administration, says that Baku will introduce by the end of September further monitoring and control over the national sector of the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/society/224426.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Moscow will never sell Azerbaijan or any other country in a region where this might lead to the destabilization of the situation S-300 air defense systems (<http://news.day.az/politics/224397.html>).

Mustafa Kabakçi, Turkish chairman of the Turkish-Azerbaijani inter-parliamentary group, says that "the resolution of the Karabakh conflict is a major issue not only for Azerbaijan but also for Turkey" (<http://news.day.az/politics/224542.html>).

18 August

Elchin Guliyev, head of the State Border Service, says that the situation along the Azerbaijani-Iranian border remains tense because of drug smuggling (<http://news.day.az/society/224214.html>).

A Milli Majlis delegation visits the Pakistani embassy to express their sympathies with regard to the Pakistani flood disaster (<http://news.day.az/politics/224355.html>).

Milli Majlis deputies say that if Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signs an agreement with Yerevan on extending the Russian base there, this will have "a negative influence" on security and stability in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/224309.html>).

17 August

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish President Abdulla Gul and tells him that "the possibilities of influence by Turkey and Azerbaijan [on events

in the world] are expanding” (<http://news.day.az/politics/223913.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, receives Arunas Valinskas, a member of the Lithuanian parliament and of the Lithuanian-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary group (<http://news.day.az/politics/224133.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Murad Bayar, an advisor on defense industry to the Turkish defense ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/224046.html>).

Nasib Nasibli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia does not represent for Iran [any] strategic interest and geopolitical significance” (<http://news.day.az/politics/223510.html>).

Yevgeniy Sloboda, head of the elections department of the CIS Executive Committee, visits Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/224151.html>).

16 August

The Azerbaijani government decides to send 100,000 US dollars in financial aid to Kyrgyzstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/223897.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives incoming Iraqi Ambassador (<http://news.day.az/politics/223868.html>).

Murad Najafbayli, Azerbaijani ambassador to Switzerland, says that the Swiss consider Azerbaijan “a reliable exporter of oil” (<http://news.day.az/politics/223848.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh ul-Islam, receives visiting Turkish President Abdulla Gul (<http://news.day.az/politics/223984.html>).

The European Union has extended the mandate of Peter Semneby, its special representative for the South Caucasus, for another six months (<http://news.day.az/politics/223926.html>).

13 August

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the Azerbaijani state is a strong state” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/223405.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms Azerbaijan’s participation in the central plenipotentiary organ of the CIS for the struggle against terrorism (<http://news.day.az/politics/223625.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the agreement with Macedonia on customs cooperation (<http://news.day.az/society/223627.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the agreement with Morocco on cooperation concerning families, children and women (<http://news.day.az/society/223621.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives departing Dutch Ambassador Jan Lucas van Hoorn (<http://news.day.az/politics/223570.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to the United States, attends an Iftar given by US President Barak Obama at the White House (<http://news.day.az/politics/223640.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “Turkey will do everything necessary for the resolution of the Karabakh problem” (<http://news.day.az/politics/223581.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that “it is important to devote maximum effort for dialogue in the resolution of conflicts on the territory of the South Caucasus and [conduct a] search for a compromise between the competing sides” (<http://news.day.az/politics/223547.html>).

12 August

Ramiz Rzayev, the chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Court, receives Ernst Hirsch Ballin, the Dutch justice minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/223451.html>).

Lala Abbasova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “there was never a normal army in Armenia, and Yerevan has always relied on the army of Russia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/223201.html>).

Mohammed Taghi Mohammed Ali, the new consul general of Iran in Nakhchivan, presents a copy of his letters of credence to Vasif Talybov, the chairman of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Supreme Majlis (<http://news.day.az/politics/223338.html>).

Philippe Jottard, Belgian ambassador to Azerbaijan, reaffirms that Brussels supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/223391.html>).

11 August

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Moldovan Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Igor Bodiou (<http://news.day.az/>

politics/223272.html).

The Center of Strategic Studies in the Office of the President of Azerbaijan expands cooperation with the think tanks of Israel, its director, Elkhan Nuriyev, announces (<http://news.day.az/politics/223209.html>).

10 August

Milli Majlis speaker Ogtay Asadov receives Ernst Hirsh Ballin, the Dutch justice minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/223091.html>).

Azerbaijan sends Pakistan one million US dollars to help overcome the consequences of flooding there (<http://news.day.az/politics/223063.html>).

9 August

President Ilham Aliyev receives outgoing Dutch Ambassador Jan Lucas van Hoorn (<http://news.day.az/politics/222893.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives his Dutch counterpart, Ernst Hirsch Ballin (<http://news.day.az/politics/222960.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, head of the State Migration Service, receives Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin (<http://news.day.az/society/222942.html>).

Procurator General Zakir Garalov receives Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin (<http://news.day.az/politics/222947.html>).

Kuwait Emir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah tells incoming Azerbaijani Ambassador Tural Rzayev that he welcomes the development of ties with Azerbaijan and is confident that they will expand in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/222944.html>).

8 August

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku does not plan to suspend the work of the Azerbaijani embassy in Moscow or withdraw any of its diplomats because of the fires around the Russian capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/222722.html>).

6 August

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov speaks by telephone with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov (<http://news.day.az/politics/222549.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish, Kyrgyzstani and Kazakhstani counterparts in Bodrum (<http://news.day.az/politics/222434.html>).

5 August

Ali Alizade, the incoming Azerbaijani consul general in Tabriz, says that the consulate there intends to expand its operations in that northern Iranian city (<http://news.day.az/politics/222390.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that during his upcoming visit to Azerbaijan, President Abdulla Gul will focus on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/222270.html>).

Halil Akinci, Turkey's ambassador to Moscow, says that Russia must intensify its role in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/222277.html>).

4 August

Milli Majlis speaker Ogtay Asadov receives the incoming Iraqi ambassador to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/222254.html>).

The US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations postpones consideration of the nomination of Matthew Bryza to be ambassador to Azerbaijan until September (<http://news.day.az/politics/222092.html>).

3 August

Turkish transportation minister Binali Yildirim says in Baku that the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway will "create conditions for the further strengthening of strategic cooperation among Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey" (<http://news.day.az/economy/221984.html>).

The Baku office of the International Committee of the Red Cross has appealed to Yerevan to return the body of Mubariz Ibrahimov, the Azerbaijani soldier who was killed in a clash along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/221993.html>).

2 August

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence of incoming Moldovan ambassador Igor Bodiou (<http://news.day>).

[az/politics/221854.html](http://news.day.az/politics/221854.html)).

The Foreign Ministry issues a warning to Azerbaijanis against visiting Pakistan in connection with the latest developments there (<http://news.day.az/politics/221888.html>).

Ramiz Mehtiyev, the head of the Office of the President of Azerbaijan, receives his Russian counterpart Sergey Naryshkin (<http://news.day.az/politics/221763.html>).

Alain Guidetti, Swiss ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that “Bern supports the supply of Azerbaijani gas to Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/221897.html>).

Germany’s incoming ambassador to Azerbaijan arrives in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/221963.html>).

A Tajik military delegation visits the Heydar Aliyev Higher Military School in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/221765.html>).

JULY

30 July

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives UNESCO's Gold Mozart Medal from Irina Bokova, the secretary general of that organization. Among her other duties, the Azerbaijani first lady is a good will ambassador for UNESCO (<http://news.day.az/society/221556.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of NATO says it will not avoid discussions of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict despite calls for it to do so from the Armenian parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/221525.html>).

29 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, who says that "Azerbaijan is a model of inter-cultural dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/politics/221300.html> and <http://news.day.az/society/221392.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Luis Ayala, the secretary general of the Socialist International (<http://news.day.az/politics/221303.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov receives a delegation of deputies of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/221355.html>).

Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Zafer Chaglayan says that "Turkey supports and will support the return of the Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/221268.html>).

Russian arms export officials say that media reports saying that Moscow has sold Azerbaijan C-300 air defense systems are not true (<http://news.day.az/politics/221227.html>).

28 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Zafer Chaglayan (<http://news.day.az/politics/221173.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmudov receives the incoming UN Coordinator for Azerbaijan, Fikret Akchura (<http://news.day.az/politics/221151.html>).

The Foreign Ministry sends notes of protest to the embassies of Spain, Great Britain and Ireland whose nationals took part in an archeological expedition in Karabakh without Baku's permission (<http://news.day.az/politics/221197.html>).

The Emir of Kuwait says that his government devotes "enormous importance to its relations with Azerbaijan" and that he personally looks forward to visiting Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/221118.html>).

Günther Oettinger, the EU commissioner on energy, says that "Azerbaijan is a major energy player in the region and major partner of the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/economy/221189.html>).

27 July

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia has taken "an irrational and unconstructive position" in the talks on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/society/220971.html>).

Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili says that Tbilisi intends to simplify border crossing procedures with Azerbaijan as well as with Armenia (<http://news.day.az/society/221027.html>).

Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri says that the Azerbaijan-Georgian transport corridor will soon become a real competitor to the Russian and Iranian corridors (<http://news.day.az/economy/220973.html>).

26 July

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that "the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border is not a subject of discussion" with regard to the NATO exercises in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/220816.html>).

Peter Semneby, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, says that the European Union "considers premature the conduct of any

referenda on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/220817.html>).

24 July

Vasif Talybov, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, receives Geno Boros, Hungarian ambassador to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/220506.html>).

23 July

President Ilham Aliyev says that “after the restoration of independence, the free press in Azerbaijan rapidly developed” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/220218.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan does not accept the International Court’s decision on Kosovo or believe that it is applicable to Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/220432.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, says that he is “not satisfied” with the work of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/220427.html>).

Azerbaijan and Georgia establish a joint commission to promote trade (<http://news.day.az/economy/220481.html>).

US Senator Richard Lugar says that “the absence of a US representative in Azerbaijan can be an obstacle to the guaranteeing of the interests of Washington” there (<http://news.day.az/politics/220494.html>).

22 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives TOTAL President Yves-Louis Darricarrère (<http://news.day.az/economy/220250.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that “if Armenia does not liberate the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, then a very complicated situation will arise in the region, and Armenia will be responsible for this” (<http://news.day.az/politics/220323.html>).

21 July

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, on behalf of President Ilham Aliyev, decorates seven members of the Azerbaijani diplomatic service for

their contributions (<http://news.day.az/society/220141.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “Armenia will not be able to develop in the region without Turkey and Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/220149.html>).

Milli Majlis speaker Ogtay Asadov speaks at the Third World conference of Parliamentary speakers in Geneva (<http://news.day.az/politics/220147.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Paris lodges a complaint with ARTE TV for its showing of an anti-Azerbaijani film, “Haut Karabagh: Gomchassar” (<http://news.day.az/politics/220041.html>).

Aykhan Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Kars, meets with Kars Governor Ahmet Kar (<http://news.day.az/politics/220063.html>).

Laure Borgomano, counselor at the French permanent representation to NATO, says that “the process of the integration of [Azerbaijan] in the world community is just as important as the result” (<http://news.day.az/politics/220052.html>).

Tair Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says “the only way out” of the current impasse on Karabakh is “the force variant” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219872.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a member of the Defense and Security Committee of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijan agreed not to use force to resolve the Karabakh conflict while talks were going on, “but for “about 20 years, Armenia has used one and the same tactic” in order to prevent progress, thus making the question of the use of force again topical (<http://news.day.az/politics/220016.html>).

20 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Supachai Panitchpakdi, the Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (<http://news.day.az/politics/219919.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives ENI chief executive officer Paolo Scaroni (<http://news.day.az/politics/219920.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Oktay Asadov meets with Kazakhstan Senate Chairman Kasym-Zhomart Tokayev at the Geneva Conference of Parliamentary Speakers (<http://news.day.az/politics/219873.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE, says that the Armenian side at the ministerial bilateral in Almaty “once again demonstrated its unconstructive position” on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/219916.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that “Armenia is openly declaring that Russia and the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty give it confidence” to push Yerevan’s line in its conflict with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/219949.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/219939.html>).

The outgoing ambassador of the Netherlands Jan Lucas van Hoorn says “the signing of the association agreement with the European Union brings Azerbaijan closer to Europe” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219863.html>).

Lavon Lotem, Israel’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Israel is very interested in the elimination of the visa regime for holders of diplomatic passports and has made proposals to Baku in that regard (<http://news.day.az/politics/219852.html>).

Rabbi Marc Dworkin, the director of the American Jewish Committee, says that Azerbaijan can play “an important role” in the establishment of Jewish-Islamic dialogue and cooperation in the Middle East (<http://news.day.az/politics/219832.html>).

19 July

President Ilham Aliyev says in Tbilisi that “Azerbaijani companies are very interested in Georgia” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/219579.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko (<http://news.day.az/politics/219753.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the meeting in Almaty between himself and his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan was “without result” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219714.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Romanian counterpart Teodor Baconschi on the sidelines of the OSCE ministerial in Almaty (<http://news.day.az/politics/219820.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natick Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan and Georgia will be able to supply electrical energy to Turkey and Iran”

(<http://news.day.az/economy/219641.html>).

Deputy Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov says that “economic relations between Germany and Azerbaijan are built at a high level” (<http://news.day.az/economy/219718.html>).

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov meets with his Armenian counterpart Ovik Abramyan in Geneva on the sidelines of the Third World Conference of Parliamentary Speakers (<http://news.day.az/politics/219794.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Almaty meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers “demonstrated that the sides of the Karabakh conflict are still very far from an agreement,” whatever the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs say (<http://news.day.az/politics/219659.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan is confronted by “an anti-Azerbaijani coalition of Armenia and the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219668.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko says that “relations with Azerbaijan have great importance for Ukraine” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219731.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko calls for increasing the economic cooperation within the framework of GUAM (<http://news.day.az/politics/219720.html>).

18 July

President Ilham Aliyev visits Georgia and meets with his Georgian counterpart Mikhail Saakashvili (<http://news.day.az/politics/219579.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran, predicts growth in trade between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/219633.html>).

17 July

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan in Almaty together with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, but they do not release a joint statement (<http://news.day.az/politics/219489.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his counterparts from Poland, Macedonia, Israel and Turkey as well as with Robert

Simmons, the special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus and Central Asia on the sidelines of the OSCE ministerial in Almaty (<http://news.day.az/politics/219544.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu expresses disappointment over the results of the meetings of the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers concerning the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. “We had expected results from this meeting,” Davutoglu says, but “unfortunately nothing was achieved” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219551.html>).

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev says that “Kazakhstan supports the efforts of the president of Russia for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219478.html>).

16 July

President Ilham Aliyev says that «there are between Azerbaijan and Mauritania mutual interests for the resolution of political and economic issues” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/219210.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Makhmud Mammadgulyev says that the European Union says that Azerbaijan needs to become a member of the World Trade Organization if it wants to join the EU. At the same time, he reports, the EU favors easing but not eliminating the visa regime between Azerbaijan and the EU (<http://news.day.az/politics/219430.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Makhmud Mammadgulyev says “the resolution of the Karabakh conflict is one of the directions of the agreement on the association of the European Union and Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219393.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is “very difficult to work with Armenian diplomacy” when Yerevan’s leaders say one thing in private talks and a diametrically opposite thing in public (<http://news.day.az/politics/219336.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, the first vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, asks visiting Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz to support Baku as a sit for a future meeting of the presidents of the OIC countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/219399.html>).

Aynur Jamalgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the activity of the present co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group may seem passive because

when Matthew Bryza served in that capacity, he frequently gave baselessly optimistic declarations about the course of Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiations. But after a certain time, he himself distanced himself from his own words” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219316.html>).

French Minister for European Affairs Pierre Lellouche says that “Azerbaijan is a country with powerful economic potential” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219391.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Ankara has not raised the possibility of placing Turkish peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh with either Azerbaijan or Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/219364.html>).

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut says that the meeting of the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers on the sidelines of the OSCE ministerial is “very important” for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/219404.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy, says that “negotiations on an association agreement demonstrate the commitment of the EU to deepening relations with Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219329.html>).

The European Court for Human Rights has agreed to hear on September 15 a case brought by a group of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Azerbaijan against Armenia.

15 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz (<http://news.day.az/politics/219210.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Portuguese Foreign Minister Luís Amado (<http://news.day.az/politics/219215.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan has accepted the OSCE Minsk Group renewed Madrid Principles calling for the return of Kalbajar and Lachin districts over a five year period” (<http://news.day.az/politics/219173.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Hungarian Ambassador Yeno Boros and Polish Ambassador Krzysztof Krajewski in connection with the completion of their diplomatic assignments in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/219248.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that talks later this month between the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia will have to consider various proposals for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/219232.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Armenia is delaying the return of the body of an Azerbaijani soldier killed last month at the ceasefire line for no good reason (<http://news.day.az/politics/219206.html>).

Talat Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador in Kyiv, in the name of President Ilham Aliyev, decorates Azerbaijani diplomat Elkhan Aliyev for distinguished state service (<http://news.day.az/society/219199.html>).

14 July

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive on the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/219063.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Swedish Ambassador Hans Gunnar Aden, Norwegian Ambassador Jon Ramberg and Latvian Ambassador Michails Popkovs on the completion of their diplomatic postings in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/219016.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/219010.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets with his Georgian counterpart David Chalanganiya to discuss the delimitation of the Azerbaijan-Georgian border (<http://news.day.az/politics/219041.html>).

The Foreign Ministry suggests that Yerevan should not be trying to change the basis of the negotiations toward a settlement of the Karabakh conflict by making references to other ideas besides the renewed Madrid Principles (<http://news.day.az/politics/219021.html>).

Farhad Abdullayev, the chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Court, signs a cooperation agreement with his Moldovan counterpart Dimitru Pulbere (<http://news.day.az/society/218939.html>).

Fuad Ismayilov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Austria, says that Baku “expects objectivity” from the OSCE concerning the situation in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/218881.html>).

Gabriel Keller, French ambassador in Baku, says that “Azerbaijan is considered by French entrepreneurs as a partner with broad possibilities” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218886.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Ankara will not harm the interests of Azerbaijan as Turkey pursues the normalization of relations with Armenia (<http://news.day.az/turkey/218973.html>).

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorsky tells Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan that “Poland supports all principles of international law and supports the resolution of the Karabakh conflict exclusively by peaceful means” (<http://news.day.az/armenia/219103.html>).

13 July

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Celeste A. Wallander, US deputy assistant secretary of defense, who tells him that “the United States is devoting efforts for the just resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in correspondence with the norms and principles of international law” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218734.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul receives outgoing Azerbaijani Ambassador Zakir Hashimov on the conclusion of the latter’s posting in Ankara (<http://news.day.az/turkey/218789.html>).

Manfred Grund, a member of the German parliamentary group “Germany-South Caucasus,” says that “the area in which cooperation between the parliaments of Germany and Azerbaijan is particularly important is European integration and the implementation of European legal standards in national legislation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218731.html>).

12 July

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the process of conducting elections in Azerbaijan is improving with each year” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218535.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives outgoing Norwegian Ambassador Jon Ramberg on the completion of his diplomatic assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/218631.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives outgoing Hungarian Ambassador Jenő Boros on the completion of his diplomatic assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/218619.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives outgoing French Ambassador Gabriel Keller (<http://news.day.az/society/218671.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives outgoing Polish Ambassador Krzysztof Krajewski (<http://news.day.az/society/218669.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Greek Ambassador Ioannis Metaxas (<http://news.day.az/society/218667.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Lithuanian Ambassador Kestutis Kudzmanas and signs an agreement on bilateral cultural cooperation (<http://news.day.az/society/218665.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov speaks by telephone with his Russian counterpart Grigory Karasin (<http://news.day.az/politics/218707.html>).

Azerbaijani defense officials conduct their annual review of and analyze the prospects of relations with the US military (<http://news.day.az/politics/218571.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, the incoming Azerbaijani Ambassador to Hungary, presents his letters of credence to Hungarian President László Sólyom (<http://news.day.az/politics/218668.html>).

Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic tells visiting Azerbaijani Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev that Serbia and Azerbaijan have “great potential for the further development and strengthening of trade and economic cooperation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218751.html>).

10 July

President Ilham Aliyev visits Crimea to take part in an informal CIS summit (<http://news.day.az/politics/218349.html>).

Bahar Muradova, Milli Majlis deputy chairman and head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, tells a meeting of that body that she “cannot understand” either the failure of the OSCE to do more to solve the Karabakh conflict, given Azerbaijan’s willingness to do so, or declarations that Karabakh is “a completely uncontrolled territory.” It is controlled, she points out, by Armenia as an occupying power (<http://news.day.az/politics/218413.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says he welcomes the criticism of the Armenian government offered by outgoing Parliamentary Assembly president Joao Soares. “For the last five years,” he continues, he “does not remember such

a statement by the leadership of the OSCE” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218403.html>).

The Milli Majlis hosts a visiting delegation of members of the Great Britain-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary group (<http://news.day.az/politics/218420.html>).

Officials of the Milli Majlis meet with their counterparts from Turkey’s Grand National Assembly in the Ankara office of the TURKSOY organization to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/218395.html>).

9 July

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the recent visit to the Caucasus by the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group has moved settlement talks forward and that he will discuss the question of the liberation of Kalbajar and Lachin districts with his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/218184.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says that “the successes of diplomacy” are closely related to “the achievements of Azerbaijan in other areas as well” (<http://news.day.az/218138.html>).

8 July

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the economic results achieved by Azerbaijan in recent years occupy a special place in the world” (<http://news.day.az/218026.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Jenő Boros, Hungarian ambassador to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/218015.html>).

Fahraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to the United Kingdom, says that “the strategic location of Azerbaijan has played a significant role in the development of Azerbaijani-British relations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218003.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “if Armenian politicians want to feel the force of the Azerbaijani army, that opportunity can be offered to them” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217988.html>).

Ahmet Kara, the governor of the Turkish province of Kars, says that, media reports notwithstanding, Ankara does not intend to make any

preparations for opening the Turkish-Armenian border (<http://news.day.az/politics/218087.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that “the international community must continue to provide support” for the resolution of conflicts in the still unstable South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/218056.html>).

Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that “the negotiation process on Nagorno Karabakh now is at the most complex stage” (<http://news.day.az/politics/218051.html>).

7 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze (<http://news.day.az/politics/217887.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Egyptian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Sameh Fahmy (<http://news.day.az/politics/217899.html>).

Azerbaijan has prepared a new resolution on humanitarian affairs in the occupied territories for discussion at the 64th session of the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/217804.html>).

6 July

President Ilham Aliyev names Ali Alizade the consul general of Azerbaijan in Tabriz, Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/217765.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Iraqi ambassador to Azerbaijan, Heidar Shi Hubeishi al-Barrak (<http://news.day.az/politics/217758.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Mariko Peters, a Dutch parliamentarian (<http://news.day.az/politics/217730.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova sends a letter to the International Committee of the Red Cross seeking that organization’s help in recovering the body of an Azerbaijani soldier killed June 18 during clashes along the ceasefire line with Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/217748.html>).

Sheikh ul-islam Allahshukur Pashazade receives Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia’s ambassador to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/217731.html>).

Adam Sterling replaces Donald Lu as charge d’affaires at the US

embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/218058.html>).

Ivonna Iguero, a United Nations official involved with ecological questions, says “the UN is ready to support the preservation of bio-diversity in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” (<http://news.day.az/society/217637.html>).

5 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/217485.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Seyyid Mohammad Hoseini, the Iranian minister of culture and Islamic guidance (<http://news.day.az/politics/217490.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev calls on the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group to “adopt more effective measures” in order to end the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/217545.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, receives David Allan Harris, the executive director of the American Jewish Committee (news.day.az/politics/217584.html).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is an indication of the importance which the United States devotes to relations with [Azerbaijan]” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217442.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says, in response to Armenian comments, that the only basis for talks on Nagorno-Karabakh is the renewed Madrid Principles of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/217581.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group release a statement in reaffirming the commitment of their three countries to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/217574.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, meets with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/217546.html>).

NATO’s international summer school, this year devoted to financial ssecurity, opens in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/217445.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, the chairman of the State Committee on Work with

Azerbaijanis Living Abroad, marks the eighth anniversary of the founding of that outreach organization (<http://news.day.az/society/217530.html>).

4 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and says that “after we acquired our independence, ties between the US and Azerbaijan have developed very successfully” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217329.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that President Barak Obama is seeking the complete repeal of Article 907 which restricts US aid to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/217375.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives David Allan Harris, the executive director of the American Jewish Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/217372.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group arrive in Baku a day earlier than planned in order to meet with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (<http://news.day.az/politics/217350.html>).

3 July

Andrzej Kasprzyk, the personal representative of the OSCE chairman-in-office, says that “armed incidents and the death of people along the ceasefire line between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces must push both sides toward the most rapid resolution of the conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217270.html>).

2 July

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jean-Paul Philippot, president of the European Broadcasting Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/217191.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that some Armenian officials are suggesting ideas which “directly contradict” the entire peace process in order to delay a resolution of the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/217045.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, receives a delegation of European Parliament members (<http://news.day.az/politics/217174.html>).

Bahar Muradova, Milli Majlis vice-speaker, calls on the OSCE to help recover the body of the Azerbaijani soldier who was killed along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/217152.html>).

Nazim Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the statement by Armenian defense minister Seyran Oganyan that Yerevan “will strengthen its positions” on the front with Azerbaijan is “nothing more than a bluff” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216879.html>).

Aynur Jamalgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan will be forced to use force to liberate the occupied territories if the OSCE Minsk Group does not push harder or continues to “equate” the rights of Azerbaijan whose territories are occupied and Armenia which is “the occupying state” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216705.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group say that their “most immediate goal is to organize in Almaty a meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217199.html>).

French President Nicholas Sarkozy tells Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Paris, that France devotes “great importance to its relations with Azerbaijan and hopes that ties between the two countries will continue to develop” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217150.html>).

Russian Federation Council Speaker Sergey Mironov says that “Russia will not send into Nagorno-Karabakh its peacekeepers; this is a problem of the two sides, Azerbaijan and Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/217038.html>).

Nikolae Ureche, Romanian ambassador in Baku, says that his embassy will fulfill the functions of NATO coordinator in Azerbaijan for another two years (<http://news.day.az/politics/217046.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that the first stage of talks about the association agreement between Azerbaijan and the European Union will take place in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/217014.html>).

1 July

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will bring cooperation between the US and Azerbaijan to a new level” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/216984.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that Armenia’s proposal to pull back snipers from the ceasefire line will “not solve the problem or put an end to the occupation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216908.html>). It adds that Baku

is doing everything it can via all international channels to recover the body of the Azerbaijani soldier who was killed by Armenian forces June 18 (<http://news.day.az/politics/216899.html>).

Ismayil Omarov, director general of Azerbaijan's public television, says that Azerbaijan as the host country invited the Armenian public television chief to come to Baku to take part in the 64th session of the General Assembly of the European Broadcasting Union but that the Yerevan official did not show up (<http://news.day.az/politics/216955.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairman-in-office, says that "the time has come" for compromise and a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/216970.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that the EU "can play a more active role" in resolving the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/216952.html>).

Philip Gordon, US Assistant Secretary of State, says that "the leaders of the G-8 have made a declaration which shows their support for the mediating mission of the Minsk Group at the very highest levels" (<http://news.day.az/politics/216877.html>).

Iranian Economics and Finance Minister Seyyid Shamsaddin Hoseini says that Tehran has proposed to Baku that the two countries create a joint company to promote investments in the insurance and stock trading sectors (<http://news.day.az/economy/217436.html>).

Nikolay Patskevich, Belarusian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that ties between Baku and Minsk are experiencing "a serious growth" (<http://news.day.az/politics/216985.html>).

The Chinese Foreign Ministry says that Beijing supports the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and would not like to see any further violence along the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/216978.html>).

Marcelo Caballero Torres, Cuban ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Havana is interested in broadening its trade with Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/216991.html>).

JUNE

30 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov.

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/216755.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his German counterpart Guido Westerwelle in Berlin (<http://news.day.az/politics/216788.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “Azerbaijan devotes great importance to the visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during which there will be discussions about “energy, international security, human rights and democracy,” as well as Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/216680.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku is “satisfied with the declaration of the presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216669.html>).

Sultan Gasymov, Azerbaijani consul general in Yekaterinburg says that “the basic direction of [Baku’s] foreign policy is the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216792.html>).

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to the United Kingdom, says that Baku’s relationship with the governments of Central Asia is based on a common interest in developing the exploitation and export of petroleum (<http://news.day.az/politics/216784.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijani ambassador to France, the Holy See and Monaco, presents his letters of credence to Albert II of Monaco (<http://news.day.az/politics/216756.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the declaration of the presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries is “very important and deserves approval” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216783.html>).

Azerbaijan and Syria sign an agreement under the terms of which Baku will supply Damascus with up to 1.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas over the next 20 years (<http://news.day.az/economy/216701.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman in office of the OSCE, says that “only the conjunction of two factors—the further activity of the OSCE Minsk Group and the desire of the two sides, Armenia and Azerbaijan, to find a way out of the drawn out conflict—can solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216796.html>).

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek says that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is part of the national problem of Turkey” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216654.html>).

Philip Gordon, US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, says that “Azerbaijan and Armenia will gain from moving forward in the process of the OSCE Minsk Group” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216655.html>).

Kandeh K. Yumkella, the director-general of UNIDO, says that energy and environmental issues continue to be priorities in the relationship between Azerbaijan and his organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/216653.html>).

29 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Josefina Topalli, the speaker of the Albanian parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/216604.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kandeh K. Yumkella, the director general of UNIDO (<http://news.day.az/politics/216626.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Soufian al-Allaw, Syrian petroleum and mineral resources minister and co-chair of the Syrian-Azerbaijan inter-governmental commission (<http://news.day.az/politics/216623.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives GDF Suez President Jean-François Cirelli (<http://news.day.az/politics/216628.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the recent declaration of the presidents of the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries is "very important" because it recognizes that "an occupation is an occupation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/216633.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that he very much values the Turkish-Brazilian effort to find "elements of trust between Iran and the international community" (<http://news.day.az/politics/216638.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets a working group of the German Bundestag to discuss bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/216636.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the limit of compromises by Azerbaijan [with Armenia] has been exhausted" (<http://news.day.az/politics/216469.html>).

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation hosts an international conference on "The Dialogue of Cultures under Conditions of Globalization" (<http://news.day.az/society/216516.html>).

Significant differences have been found between the Russian and the English versions of the joint text of the declaration by the presidents of the Russian Federation, the United States and France on the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/216242.html>).

Paweł Wojciechowski, deputy foreign minister of Poland, is in Baku to discuss the Eastern Partnership and to attend the Azerbaijani-Polish business forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/216502.html>).

Azerbaijan, at the request of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenka, extends Minsk a 200 million US dollar credit (<http://news.day.az/politics/216621.html>).

The first Azerbaijani-Syrian intergovernmental commission on economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation takes place in Baku. The co-chairs of the group are Azerbaijani agricultural minister Ismat Abbasov and Syrian oil minister Sufayan al-Alao (<http://news.day.az/economy/216495.html>).

28 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peer Stanchina, outgoing German

ambassador to Azerbaijan on the conclusion of his assignment in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/216405.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan discusses the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with the presidents of Russia and the US, Dmitry Medvedev and Barak Obama, at the G-20 Summit (<http://news.day.az/turkey/216378.html>).

Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan says that Yerevan “highly values” the joint Russian-US-French declaration on Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/armenia/216343.html>).

27 June

Tadeusz Ivinski, a Polish deputy to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “it is extremely risky to use Kosovo as an example of the resolution of this or that conflict since in fact one nation cannot achieve self-determination in the borders of two states.” And consequently, he says he is skeptical that any country will ever recognize “a self-proclaimed formation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216314.html>).

26 June

President Ilham Aliyev says in a statement read on Armed Forces Day that Azerbaijan’s spending on the military has increased more than 13 times over the last seven years and now stands at more than 2.1 billion US dollars annually (<http://www.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/170772/>).

The presidents of Russia, the United States and France, the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries, issue a joint statement at the G-8 summit in Canada on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict calling on the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia “to take the next step and complete the work on the Basic Principles” for an accord (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/g8-summit-joint-statement-nagorno-karabakh-conflict-dmitry-medvedev-president-russi>).

Lt. Gen. Vahid Aliyev, assistant to the President for defense questions, says on the occasion of Armed Forces Day that “in the case of war, Azerbaijan, unlike Armenia, will fight not with the peaceful population but only with the armed forces of the aggressor” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216217.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the armed forces of Azerbaijan have won the image of the most disciplined and professional army in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216211.html>).

25 June

The Azerbaijani representation at NATO together with the Azerbaijani embassy in Belgium hosts a reception on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/215951.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan’s ambassador in Moscow, hosts a reception to mark the 92nd anniversary of the creation of the Armed Forces of the Azerbaijan Republic (<http://news.day.az/society/216132.html>).

Azerbaijan’s embassy in Kyiv organizes a reception to mark the 92nd anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces (<http://news.day.az/society/216233.html>).

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov meets with his Iranian and Qatar counterparts, Shamsaddin Huseini and Yusif Husein Kamal (<http://news.day.az/economy/216131.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “recognizing its weakening position in the negotiation process, Armenia is engaging in provocations on the line of the front” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216065.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, an Azerbaijani representative to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “instead of accusing Azerbaijan, the delegation of Armenia would be better off occupying itself with correcting the situation in its own country” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215984.html>).

Pedro Agramunt Font de Mora, a Spanish parliamentarian, and Joseph Debono Grech are the new co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/216096.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the discussion there of the report of the co-rapporteurs on Azerbaijan “showed that the number of people correctly analyzing the objective and real processes in Azerbaijan is gradually increasing” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215995.html>).

Thorbjørn Jagland, secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that his organization “considers the most rapid return of the body of the Azerbaijani soldier who died on the Armenian side of the line of the dislocation of forces to be important” (<http://news.day.az/politics/216030.html>).

Soufian al-Allaw, Syrian petroleum and mineral resources minister, calls for expanding cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/topnews/216041.html>).

24 June

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Azerbaijani armed forces that they must “be ready to liberate the occupied territories at any time” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/215887.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-zade receives Michael Spindelegger, the Austrian minister for European and international affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/215790.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives copies of the letters of credence of the incoming Iraqi Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Heydar Shia Hubeysli al-Barraq (<http://news.day.az/politics/215912.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Gabriel Lansky, a member of the Austrain-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce (<http://news.day.az/politics/215882.html>).

Azerbaijan’s State Commission for Military Prisoners, Hostages and Missing Citizens has appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to help secure the return of the body of the Azerbaijani soldier who died at the line of the front (<http://news.day.az/society/215911.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Yerevan’s opposition to the re-establishment of the subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh is evidence of “the unconstructive position of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215857.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, says that “the question of the legal status of the Caspian awaits its resolution” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215933.html>).

Reinhold Mitterlehner, Austrian economy, sport and family affairs minister, says that Vienna “hopes for the rapid signing of contracts” for the

purchase of gas from the Caspian region (<http://news.day.az/economy/215824.html>).

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visits the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/armenia/215935.html>).

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Oganyan visits the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/armenia/215885.html>).

23 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives UNIDO director general Kandeh Yumkella (<http://news.day.az/politics/215757.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iranian Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Seyed Shamsedin Hosseini (<http://news.day.az/politics/215750.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Michael Spindelegger, the Austrian minister for European and international affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/215749.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells the 35th annual session of the Islamic Bank of Development meeting in Baku that “Azerbaijan is a very favorable country for investing” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/215671.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku can drop its “militant rhetoric only after the de-occupation of Azerbaijani lands by the Armenians” (<http://news.day.az/topnews/215657.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, an Azerbaijani deputy to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “intolerance against other peoples and ethnic cleansing have become the state policy of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215788.html>). In other comments, she asks PACE to focus on shootings on the occupied territories by Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/215597.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, an Azerbaijani deputy to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, presents a document on Soviet political repression for consideration by that group (<http://news.day.az/politics/215642.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia’s lack of natural resources and its territorial claims on neighboring countries is leading to that country’s “political and economic collapse” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215723.html>).

Austria opens an embassy in Baku. Attending the ceremony for Vienna is Austrian minister for European and international affairs Michael Spindelegger (<http://news.day.az/politics/215759.html>).

Austrian minister for European and international affairs Michael Spindelegger says that “political cooperation with Azerbaijan is for us no less important than economic cooperation” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215667.html>).

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz says that Ankara has increased security on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline (<http://news.day.az/oilgas/215611.html>).

Ahmed Mohamed Ali, the president of the Islamic Bank of Development, says that “we want Armenia to liberate the occupied lands of Azerbaijan and observe the resolutions of the United Nations” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215752.html>).

Saed Ali Sagayan, Iran’s ambassador to Armenia, says that “the proposal of Iran concerning mediation of the Nagorno-Karabakh resolution is still on the table” (<http://news.day.az/armenia/215710.html>).

22 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Fikret Akchura, the new UN resident coordinator for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/215495.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Austrian Ambassador to Baku, Sylvia Meier-Kajbic (<http://news.day.az/politics/215573.html>).

Talat Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Kyiv, takes part in a ceremony on the reburial of the remains of 25 soldiers of the Soviet Army who died during World War II (<http://news.day.az/society/215768.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that an Armenian is “the guilty party” in the case of the violation of the ceasefire (<http://news.day.az/politics/215551.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy who serves on the security and defense committee, says that at some point in the future, the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities will be involved in discussions to overcome the results of the conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/213500.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, an Azerbaijani deputy to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, distributes a declaration on “the necessity of the

intensification of the activity of the sub-committee on Karabakh” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215413.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Azerbaijani and Armenian deputies to PACE have had a meeting (<http://news.day.az/politics/215583.html>).

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenka approves the agreement with Azerbaijan on joint efforts to combat terrorism and fight money laundering (<http://news.day.az/society/215670.html>).

Peter Semneby, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, criticizes the violation of the ceasefire on the Azerbaijani-Armenian line and calls on the sides to take all measures to prevent a recurrence and to ensure that negotiations can go forward (<http://news.day.az/armenia/215494.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, expresses “serious concern” about the violation of the Azerbaijani-Armenian ceasefire (<http://news.day.az/politics/215511.html>).

Irfan Gunduz, a member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, says that Ankara “is not interested in the resumption of military action” between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Any such conflict would “negatively affect the development of society and the country as a whole.” Consequently, Turkey “will try to do everything so that events will not head in that direction” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215293.html>).

Armen Rustamyan, an Armenian deputy to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Yerevan is “categorically” against the re-establishment of a subcommission on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/armenia/215550.html>).

21 June

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov meets with Bilge Cankorel, head of the Baku office of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/society/215407.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that Azerbaijan is one of the most attractive places for investment in the CIS (<http://news.day.az/economy/215267.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that the latest Armenian provocation will be met with “harsher measures” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215507.html>).

Kamil Khasiyev, Azerbaijani permanent representative to NATO, says that Azerbaijan and NATO have developed mutually profitable and dynamic relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/215325.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the continuation of the Karabakh conflict puts under question the very existence of Armenia” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215235.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, an Azerbaijani deputy to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe says that the Council of Europe should devote “particular attention” to the restoration of equal rights for Azerbaijani refugees and forced resettlers” (<http://news.day.az/politics/215384.html>).

Azerbaijani and European Union officials have the first meeting of the joint technical talks within the framework of the Eastern Partnership (<http://news.day.az/politics/215409.html>).

Peter Semnebi, the special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, expresses concern about the recent developments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/armenia/215375.html>).

Father Konstantin, the press spokesman for the Orthodox Eparchate of Baku and the Caspian, says that “the construction of any religious objects on the territory of Azerbaijan must be agreed to by the authorities of Azerbaijan,” including those on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/society/215280.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group “decisively condemn the application of force” along the line dividing Azerbaijani and Armenian forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/215411.html>).

20 June

Mammad Musayev, the president of the National Organization of Entrepreneurs, takes part in the International Conference of Labor in Geneva (<http://news.day.az/economy/215150.html>).

19 June

The Defense Ministry confirms that there was a firefight between the armed forces of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/topnews/215118.html>). There are casualties and one dead among Azerbaijani forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/215117.html>).

18 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim al ash-Sheikh, chairman of the Consultative Council (Majlis al-Shura) of Saudi Arabia (<http://news.day.az/politics/214994.html>).

Tamerlan Garayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to India, is given an award by the Indian government for his contribution to relations between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/214978.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister and the chairman of the State Committee for the Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, says that "on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are being established terrorist groups" as well as the preparation and distribution of narcotics (<http://news.day.az/politics/214873.html>).

Nicolae Ureche, Romania's ambassador to Azerbaijan and coordinator for development of ties with NATO, says that "the NATO mission has given a high rating to the realization by Azerbaijan of the plan of individual partnership" (<http://news.day.az/politics/214875.html>).

Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs Michael Spindelegger says that the opening of an Austrian embassy and Austrian library in Baku represents "a turning point" in Austrian-Azerbaijani relations (<http://news.day.az/topnews/214975.html>).

Krzysztof Krajewski, Poland's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that he "believes that ties between our countries will continue developing further in the future" (<http://news.day.az/society/215002.html>).

Armenian Justice Minister Gevorg Danielyan visits the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/armenia/214951.html>).

17 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in St. Petersburg. He also meets with his Russian and Armenian counterparts, Dmitry Medvedev and Serzh Sargsyan, in St. Petersburg (<http://news.day.az/topnews/214796.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that a new UN convention for the defense of the rights of internally displaced persons needs to be adopted (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214694.html>).

National Security Minister Lt. Gen. Eldar Makhmudov receives

outgoing Toon Vandenhoove, the outgoing representative of the International Red Cross to Azerbaijan, and Sherine Pollini, Vandenhoove's replacement (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214794.html>).

Emergency Situations Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov receives Robert Simmons, the special representative of the Secretary General of NATO for the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214724.html>).

A group of Milli Majlis receive a delegation of their Canadian counterparts (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214769.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, takes part in the 58th session of the Assembly of the West European Union at which a document on "frozen" conflicts is adopted (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214777.html>).

Eynulla Madatli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan, says that Pakistan is "one of the important countries" for Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214743.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that "Turkey is dissatisfied with the situation existing around the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

The US State Department gives a positive assessment of Azerbaijan's efforts in combating human traffickicking (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214767.html>).

16 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Pakistani counterpart Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and tells him that Baku is interested in investing in his country (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214474.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Robert Simmons, special representative of the Secretary General of NATO for the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214466.html>).

Interior Minister Col. Gen. Ramil Usubov receives Robert Simmons, special representative of the Secretary General of NATO for the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214588.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmudov receives Robert Simmons, special representative of the Secretary General of NATO for the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214573.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, says that

“it is no accident that the US secretary of defense visited namely Baku” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214481.html>).

Peru through its Permanent Mission to the UN says that it does not recognize as legitimate the parliamentary elections in Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214536.html>).

15 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov visits Pakistan and meets with his counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214347.html>).

Ross Wilson, former US ambassador to Azerbaijan, says during a visit in Baku that he regrets there has been “no result, no agreement and not even an agreement on basic principles” for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict although he adds that “there is will on both sides, both here and in Yerevan, as well as in Moscow, Paris, and Washington” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214345.html>).

14 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Ross Wilson, former US ambassador to Baku (2000-2003) and current head of the Eurasian Center at the Atlantic Council (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214192.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that there are no Azerbaijanis in southern Kyrgyzstan and thus there is no need for the opening of an airlink with that country (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214205.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev takes part in an Istanbul ministerial meeting on Turkey as a world trade bridge (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/214265.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, meets with his Georgian counterpart David Bakradze on the sidelines of a conference of speakers at the European Parliament (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214120.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements from Yerevan suggest that Armenian leaders have an “inadequate” understanding of reality (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213836.html>).

Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim al-Ash Sheikh, the speaker of the Saudi Arabian parliament, says that Riyadh has “always supported the

territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214189.html>).

13 June

Elman Mammadov, a member of the Milli Majlis security and defense committee, says that Armenia is running out of time to subscribe to the renewed Madrid Principles for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213498.html>).

12 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Fikrat Akchuran, the new UN resident coordinator for Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213999.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that “the resolution of the Iranian problem by means capable of leading to catastrophic consequences and the escalation of tensions is unacceptable to Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213988.html>).

The Foreign Ministry announces that Azerbaijan and India have reached agreement on cooperating in the legal sphere following three days of talks in New Delhi (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/214012.html>).

11 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Tariq al-Hidan, deputy foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213710.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that “we are ready to discuss proposals on changes in the election law with any international organization” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213864.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a member of the Milli Majlis security and defense committee, says the current situation in Armenia is “catastrophic” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213501.html>).

Azerbaijan military prosecutors take part in an international conference of military prosecutors in Kazan (<http://www.day.az/news/society/213821.html>).

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin discusses the Karabakh conflict with his French counterpart François Fillon (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213793.html>).

Ali Bilge Cankorel, the head of the Baku office of the OSCE, says that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is an obstacle on the path to the development of democracy” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213770.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that “Russia better than other countries knows the genesis of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and the positions of the sides and feels bad because this problem has remained unresolved for such a long time” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213736.html>).

10 June

President Ilham Aliyev confirms an agreement between Azerbaijan and Kuwait on cooperation in the areas of sports and youth policy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213693.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Fiorello Provera, vice-chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the European Parliament (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213622.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov speaks by telephone with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213564.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov signs an agreement with United Arab Emirates counterpart Tariq al-Hidan eliminating visa requirement for diplomats from the two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213588.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the UN Security Council resolution on Iran requires further study before Baku will comment upon it (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213563.html>).

Maj. Gen. Ramiz Nagiyev, chief of the Azerbaijani Police Academy, discusses cooperation with his Jordanian counterparts in Amman (<http://www.day.az/news/society/213635.html>).

9 June

President Ilham Aliyev says that “we very much want that the OSCE

Minsk Group co-chair countries using their authority and the possibility of influence will force the Armenian side to accept the renewed Madrid Principles” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213311.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov takes part in Istanbul in a session chaired by his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu and including the Lithuanian, Thai and Bangladeshi foreign ministers (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213324.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, receives Fiorello Provera, vice-chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the European Parliament (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213484.html>).

Defense Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev takes part in a NATO meeting in Brussels on peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213430.html>).

Vahdat Sultan-zade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Turkmenistan, says that relations between Baku and Ashgabat are developing well (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213374.html>).

Lt. Col. Eldar Sabiroglu, Defense Ministry spokesman, says that “the main goal [of the military doctrine of Azerbaijan] is the creation of a conceptual document which can ensure the military-political security of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213391.html>).

Tahir Rzayev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the powers that are in Armenia do not know what to do with the renewed Madrid Principles” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213181.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “war would have catastrophic consequences for Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213198.html>).

8 June

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Istanbul summit of the Conference on Cooperation and Development of Trust in Asia that “Azerbaijan seeks to play an important role in questions of regional cooperation” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213284.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Istanbul (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213318.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in Istanbul (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213323.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Macedonian President Georgy Ivanov in Istanbul (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213137.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Istanbul (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213316.html>).

The Milli Majlis adopts the country's new military doctrine (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213263.html>). Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the growing authority and power of Azerbaijan are clearly evident in the [new] military doctrine" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213308.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev says that "the agreement [on the supply and transit of gas Baku and Ankara have signed] will still further strengthen economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey" (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/213145.html>).

Aynur Jamalgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that if the international community had given even "the most minimal just relationship" to the Karabakh conflict, that conflict would already have been solved (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213024.html>).

The Organization for the Liberation of Karabakh wants to be represented in the Milli Majlis, its leader Akif Nagi says (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213243.html>).

Fiorello Provera, vice-chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the European Parliament, says that the EP intends to broaden cooperation with Azerbaijan within the framework of the Eastern Partnership (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213182.html>).

7 June

President Ilham Aliyev meets Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212967.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov participates in the special session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the Flotilla of Freedom incident (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213113.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that basing of foreign troops on the territory of Azerbaijan can take place only in extraordinary circumstances (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213074.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Baku's position on Israeli actions against the Flotilla of Freedom "completely satisfies"

Ankara (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213114.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discusses the Karabakh conflict with his French counterpart Bernard Kouchner (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213123.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that “Azerbaijan and Turkey are united by indestructible fraternal ties” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213033.html>).

Azerbaijan and Turkey sign an agreement on gas deliveries (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/213077.html>).

Fifteen organizations of Azerbaijanis living in Sweden create the Congress of Azerbaijanis of Sweden (<http://www.day.az/news/society/213084.html>).

6 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who hands over to the Azerbaijani leader a letter from President Barak Obama (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212950.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov expresses concern about breaks in the negotiating process on the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212924.html>). He says that political leaders “must not allow” that to happen (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212877.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the international relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that US President Barak Obama’s decision to appoint Matthew Bryza as ambassador to Azerbaijan is “the correct choice” because Bryza “knows the region well” and has experience with Karabakh negotiations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212919.html>).

A delegation of Milli Majlis deputies attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meet with the president of that body, John Tanner (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212927.html>).

5 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the Venice Commission about the steps Azerbaijan has taken to guarantee human rights (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212889.html>).

Arif Mammadov, the permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the

Council of Europe, says that the proposal to reestablish the subcommittee on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will help promote a solution (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212897.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “Armenia is feeling weakness” because of its policies (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212896.html>).

Thorbjørn Jagland, the secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that “Azerbaijan is going in the correct direction in the establishment of human rights” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212866.html>).

Belarusian Foreign Minister Sergey Martynov says that the visit of President Aleksander Lukashenka shows that Minsk is ready to develop joint production facilities in Azerbaijan as well as to take other steps toward deeper cooperation between the two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212900.html>).

Werner Hoyer, minister of state at the German foreign office, says that Berlin does not recognize either the Nagorno-Karabakh regime or “parliamentary elections” organized by it as legitimate (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212868.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Moscow “wants to have the maximum possible friendly relations with Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212886.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan, attends the opening of a memorial in Shamakha of the Grave of the Unknown Turkish Soldier (<http://www.day.az/news/society/212856.html>).

4 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenka and tells him that “relations between Azerbaijan and Belarus are developing in a very dynamic fashion” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212416.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in Brussels (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/213030.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “the Belarusian market in energy transit is interesting for Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/>

politics/212649.html).

Emin Eyyubov, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the European Union, publishes an article in the British journal *The Parliament* describing cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212612.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, meets with Russian Duma speaker Boris Gryzlov, who tells him that "the position of Russia" on the Karabakh conflict is "unchanged: Russia recognizes and respects the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212738.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on the United Nations and other international organizations to put pressure on Armenia to resolve the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212776.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "if Armenia does not show a constructive approach, the alternative variant will be a military resolution of the conflict" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212719.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that individuals who illegally visit the occupied territories must be kept from entering Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212016.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the OSCE Minsk Group should dissolve itself because it constantly talks about progress but has not produced any (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212287.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, head of the Moscow office of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, says that "Azerbaijan can become a bridge between civilizations" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212777.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iran's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that "on the Karabakh question, Iran has always stood alongside Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212684.html>).

Ali Bilge Cankorel, head of the OSCE's Baku office, meets with Azerbaijani officials to discuss the upcoming parliamentary elections (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212774.html>).

3 June

Ogtay Asadov, the Milli Majlis speaker, tells Russian Federation Council head Sergey Mironov that "Russia is the only neighboring country" with which Baku does not have problems, including border issues

(<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212552.html>).

Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, tells a UNICEF conference that Armenian officials have not been telling the truth to that international organization about Yerevan's policies in the occupied territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212782.html>)

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, tells the 10th Doha Forum in Qatar, that "Azerbaijani refugees expect still greater efforts from the European Parliament toward the resolution of the Karabakh problem" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212593.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Israeli actions against the Flotilla of Peace could end with a break in relations "not only between Turkey and Israel but between Israel and Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212583.html>).

Hungary's Foreign Ministry says that Budapest does not recognize as legitimate "the parliamentary elections" recently held in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212493.html>).

2 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Werner Gruber, a leader of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212353.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Richard Morningstar, Special Envoy of the US Secretary of State for Eurasian Energy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212318.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan's recent statements about the Karabakh talks reflect "the highest level of cynicism" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212350.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, tells the Doha Forum in Qatar that "Armenia, by continuing its occupation policy, is causing great harm to regional cooperation" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212396.html>).

Yevda Abramov, a Milli Majlis deputy of Jewish origin, says that his "position in connection with the recent events which have taken place between Israel and Turkey coincides with the positions of the Azerbaijani foreign ministry and Presidential Administration" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212357.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "if the OSCE Minsk

Group pushes the powers that be of Armenia to the wall, a well-known scenario will play out,” one that will repeat what Yerevan has done in the past (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212177.html>).

Three Milli Majlis deputies attend the 35th Plenary Session of the General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212242.html>).

The sixth session of the Azerbaijani-Belarusian intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation takes place (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/212405.html>).

Lavon Lotem, Israel's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that the presence of two Azerbaijani citizens among those arrested on the Flotilla of Freedom boats will not have any influence on relations between Israel and Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212282.html>).

Richard Morningstar, Special Envoy of the US Secretary of State for Eurasian Energy, says that “without Azerbaijani gas, the realization of the Southern Corridor project is impossible” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/212288.html>).

1 June

President Ilham Aliyev tells that Baku Conference on Oil and Gas in the Caspian Region that “Azerbaijan is a very favorable and attractive country for investment” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212133.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Richard Morningstar, Special Envoy of the US Secretary of State for Eurasian Energy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212175.html>).

British Prime Minister David Cameron says in a message to the Baku Conference on Oil and Gas in the Caspian Region that “the Azerbaijani economy is one of the most rapidly developing economies of the world” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/212273.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the external relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has intensified” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212207.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the external relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Israeli attack on the

humanitarian flotilla must be investigated and “a just assessment given” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212200.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, expresses the hope that problems between Turkey and Israel will be resolved peacefully (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212117.html>).

The Muslimm Spiritual Directorate of the Caucasus calls on Israel to take “corresponding measures in connection with the use of force by Israeli military units against volunteers from the ‘Flotilla of Freedom’” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212161.html>).

Azerbaijani parliamentarians meet with their Belarusian counterparts and note “the high level of cooperation between the two countries” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212123.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with various foreign leaders at the 10th Doha Forum in Qatar (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212137.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in a message to the Baku Conference on Oil and Gas in the Caspian Region, says that “Azerbaijan is developing as an important and reliable supplier of energy resources to the world market” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/212094.html>).

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger says that “we highly value the contribution of Americans of Azerbaijani origins to our ‘Golden State’” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212069.html>).

Yusuf Yazar, Turkey’s deputy energy and natural resources minister, says that Baku’s oil and gas policies are a reflection of Azerbaijan’s level of development (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/212277.html>).

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations program supports the idea of holding the first congress of that program’s youth movement in Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212099.html>).

MAY

31 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the Chinese Central Bank (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211980.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Michael Link, a member of the German Bundestag (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/212006.html>).

Defense Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev receives Celeste Wallander, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211883.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov meets in London with British parliamentarians and the British Foreign Office to discuss strengthening bilateral ties (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211975.html>).

The draft Military Doctrine of Azerbaijan identifies Armenia as “an aggressor,” Milli Majlis deputy Zahid Oruj says (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211902.html>).

Azerbaijani and Russian parliamentarians meet in Moscow for a session of the Inter-Parliamentary Commission on Cooperation between the two legislatures (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211936.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the main thing that Armenia is to take on itself is the obligation to liberate the occupied territories” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210583.html>).

Svetlana Orlova, vice speaker of the Russian Federation Council, says that the five Duma deputies who worked as election monitors in Karabakh and were then declared persona non grata by Azerbaijan had gone to the occupied territories on their own rather than as part of an official Russian government delegation (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211996.html>).

29 May

Vahdat Sultan-zade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Ashgabat, says that Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan are studying the possibilities for cooperation in the energy sector (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/211675.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Turkey "cannot laugh when Karabakh is crying bitter tears" and that Ankara remains committed to resolving all conflicts in its region on the basis of its policy of having no problems with its neighbors (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211711.html>).

28 May

Azerbaijan marks the Day of the Republic in honor of the foundation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211476.html>).

27 May

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva lead the nation in a ceremony on the eve of the Day of the Republic. In his remarks, the President says that "the military potential which exists today in Azerbaijan allows us at any moment to successfully and in a short time fulfil any task" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211477.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev receives Fu Ziyang, China's Vice Minister of Commerce (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/211533.html>).

The political parties represented in the Milli Majlis issue an appeal to the parliaments of the world not to accept the voting in Nagorno-Karabakh as legitimate (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211398.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that unless Yerevan accepts the renewed Madrid Principles and negotiates in good faith toward an agreement, "Armenia will continue the process of political and economic suicide" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211355.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, the deputy head of the Milli Majlis, leads an Azerbaijani delegation to the spring session of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO that is taking place in Latvia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211346.html>).

The Romanian foreign ministry says that Bucharest does not recognize

the “parliamentary elections” organized in Nagorno-Karabakh on May 23 as legitimate (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211305.html>).

The governors of seven US states send greetings to Baku on the occasion of the Day of the Republic (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211373.html>).

26 May

The Azerbaijani government sends to the Milli Majlis a draft military doctrine that the deputies are to consider in the near future (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211151.html>).

Defense Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev makes a working visit to Moscow at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Anatoly Serdukov (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211133.html>).

Namik Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Tbilisi, meets with Zurab Kharatishvili, the president of the Central Electoral Commission of Georgia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211171.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “it had been made clear to Armenia that it must end the occupation of Azerbaijani territories” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211139.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “the current status quo in the Caucasus contradicts the interests of everyone” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211129.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that “the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway is a step to the rebirth of the Silk Road” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/211163.html>).

The Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe says that the voting conducted in Nagorno-Karabakh on May 23 “is not recognized by the international community” as legitimate (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211208.html>).

The Organization of the Islamic Conference calls on the international community to denounce the voting held in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh on May 23 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211157.html>).

The Norwegian foreign ministry sends a note to its Azerbaijani counterpart saying that Oslo views the recent “vote” in Nagorno-Karabakh as “fictional” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211283.html>).

The Iranian foreign ministry says that reports that Tehran sent

observers to the “so-called ‘parliamentary elections’” in Nagorno-Karabakh are untrue (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211143.html>).

The Netherlands does not recognize the voting in Nagorno-Karabakh as legitimate and expresses its support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211136.html>).

The French foreign ministry says that the May 23 voting in Nagorno-Karabakh “cannot in any circumstances define the future status” of that part of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211110.html>).

President Barak Obama nominates Matthew Bryza to be the US ambassador to Azerbaijan. Bryza’s candidacy must be confirmed by the US Senate (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211112.html>).

25 May

President Ilham Aliyev named Mammad Ahmadzade Azerbaijani ambassador to Argentina (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211089.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Belgian Senator Anne-Marie Lizin (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211084.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov speaks on Azerbaijani foreign policy to the Oxford Union Society (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210739.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, says that the lack of resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict “creates the conditions for conducting illegal ‘elections’ by the separatists” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210991.html>).

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the deputy secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that “the Council of Europe stands for the most rapid resolution possible of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/211009.html>).

Štefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, says that “the elections conducted in the countries of ‘the Eastern Partnership’ are an indicator for cooperation with the European Union” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210928.html>). In other comments, he says that the EU intends to expand its cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210931.html>).

Kanat Saudbayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, says that the May 23 voting in Nagorno-Karabakh “must not

influence the outcome of the process of resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210949.html>).

Arnold Schwarzenegger, governor of the US state of California, sends greetings to Azerbaijan on the occasion of Republic Day (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210910.html>).

24 May

President Ilham Aliyev welcomes to Baku the participants of the 7th Conference of Council of Europe states devoted to gender equality (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210880.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives UN Deputy Secretary General Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210904.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the deputy secretary general of the Council of Europe (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210851.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210906.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Walter Kälin, the representative of the UN Secretary General on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210871.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receive Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary General (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210785.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the deputy secretary general of the Council of Europe (www.day.az/news/politics/210734.html).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva tells a Council of Europe conference on gender equality being held in Baku that “gender and equality are among the most important bases of any democratic society” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210902.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “by means of the illegal ‘elections’ in Nagorno-Karabakh, the separatist regime hopes to prolong its existence” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210721.html>).

The Foreign Ministry issues a declaration saying that the voting in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh on May 23 was illegal (<http://www.day.az/>

news/politics/210855.html).

The Foreign Ministry dismisses as an emotional outburst Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan's assertion that the people of the "so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" have the right to define their future without regard to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210896.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that "if the co-chairs [of the OSCE Minsk Group] force Armenia to accept the renewed Madrid Principles, this will open broad opportunities." He adds that "we expect an answer from the president of Armenia and the minister of foreign affairs" who up to now have not said "yes" or "no" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210876.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs two intergovernmental accords with his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Aboul Gheit, and Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy rector Hafiz Pashayev signs a cooperation accord with Egyptian ambassador to Azerbaijan Sabir Mansour (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210836.html>).

Gudrat Gurbanov, the head of the State Maritime Administration of Azerbaijan, takes part in the London meeting of the Committee on Maritime Security (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210845.html>).

Emin Eyyubov, Azerbaijani ambassador in Brussels, says that recent events have shown that the Armenian lobby is not capable of winning what it wants (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210865.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, the speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Dagestani President Magomedsalam Magomedov (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210769.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, the first vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that "the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language Countries will become the basis for the still greater strengthening of the political, economic, and cultural ties among the member countries of this organization" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210762.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the military path of the resolution of the Karabakh problem is on the order of the day" given Armenian intransigence (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210584.html>).

Ban Ki-moon, UN secretary general, says that the United Nations does not recognize as legitimate the voting held in Nagorno-Karabakh on May

23 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210898.html>).

The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issue a statement saying that “the carrying out of so-called ‘parliamentary elections’ in Nagorno-Karabakh must not mean a premature designation of the final status of Nagorno-Karabakh in the context of the peaceful resolution of the conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210843.html>).

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit says that “good coordination of actions exists between Baku and Cairo” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210699.html>).

Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski says that “Poland sees in the countries taking part in the Eastern Partnership future neighbors of the European Union” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210794.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that “Moscow supports the principle of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state.” Consequently, it rejects as illegitimate the May 23 voting there (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210723.html>).

23 May

Ali Huseynov and Elman Zeynalov, two Milli Majlis deputies, attend an international conference in Sofia on “The Eastern Policy of the European Union—New Possibilities, New Obligations” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210652.html>).

22 May

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to Moscow, says that President Ilham Aliyev “has declared many times that Azerbaijan wants to resolve [the Karabakh conflict] by peaceful means. But every nation, every people, every state is obliged to defend its citizens, to defend and preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Therefore, we consider that if the peace negotiations do not yield results, then Azerbaijan will be free in its choice as to how to resolve this long-standing conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210595.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, while taking part in the World Summit of Women, meets on the sidelines of that Beijing conference with the first lady of Tanzania, the vice president of Vietnam, the foreign affairs minister of Lichtenstein, the foreign trade minister of Jamaica, the labor

minister of Kazakhstan, the labor minister of Albania, the higher education minister of Oman, the family affairs minister of Malawi, the state secretary for education and sport of Slovenia, the deputy regional development minister of Bulgaria, and the deputy minister of women's education of Saudi Arabia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210568.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "it is not excluded that the formula for the end to the occupation of Azerbaijani territories according to the 2+3+2 formula really lies on the negotiating table" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210159.html>).

21 May

The Foreign Ministry distributes a statement saying that Azerbaijan welcomes the adoption by the European Parliament on May 20 of a resolution calling for a more active European role in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210450.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis department of the Presidential Administration, says that "Baku is ready for dialogue despite the complicated situation in the South Caucasus" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210310.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the political department of the presidential Administration, says that relations between Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation are developing "intensively" in the transportation sector (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210468.html>).

The Azerbaijan defense ministry announces that Baku is conducting negotiations with 27 countries on military-technical cooperation and security (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210460.html>).

The Azerbaijan defense ministry says that "if a second Karabakh war begins, then it will conclude with the defeat of the opponent Armenia, and we declare this confident in our arms and the preparation of our soldiers" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210446.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, says that the EU "does not recognize the constitutional and legal frameworks in which 'the parliamentary elections' in Nagorno-Karabakh are to take place in Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210477.html>).

The Azerbaijani community of Crimea protests the adoption of a

resolution by the Uzhgorod city council on “the Armenian genocide” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210409.html>).

20 May

Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to the UN General Assembly and the Security Council that says the vote planned for May 23 violates UN resolutions and international law (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210179.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “unlike other countries who are members of the OSCE Minsk Group, Turkey always observes its obligations” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210226.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, tells the World Forum of Women in Beijing that “among the million IDPs as a result of Armenian aggression, there are thousands of women” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210209.html>).

The foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Countries recognize the Khojaly tragedy as a crime against humanity (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210215.html>).

The Turkish Foreign Ministry condemns plans to hold “parliamentary elections” in Nagorno-Karabakh as a violation of Azerbaijani sovereignty and international law (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210182.html>).

Pierre Lellouche, French Minister of State for European Affairs, says that “France as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group supports the efforts of Azerbaijan and Armenia toward the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210220.html>).

Dennis Sammut, the head of LINKS, says that “the coalition government of Great Britain will not change [London’s] policy toward Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210186.html>).

19 May

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, during the OIC ministerial in Dushanbe, meets with Tajikistan President Imomali Rahmon as well as with the foreign ministers of other OIC countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210000.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that anyone who participates as an observer in the “so-called” elections in separatist Nagorno-Karabakh will be

considered a persona non grata by Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210030.html>).

The ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party sends a letter to the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group calling on them to denounce plans to hold elections in the Armenian-occupied portion of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210093.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu calls for the intensification of talks on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210036.html>).

The foreign ministers of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference adopt during their 37th session three resolutions which identify Armenia as the aggressor in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/210035.html>).

Burkhan Kuzu, chairman of the constitutional commission of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "if Russia refuses to help official Yerevan, a catastrophe awaits Armenia" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209539.html>).

Vacheslav Baburin, a professor at Moscow State University, says that "it would be useful for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict if Turkey were to become a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209823.html>).

18 May

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, while attending the 37th session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of OIC countries, calls on Muslim governments to support holding a summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Baku in 2013 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209889.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that he "hopes" that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs "will be able to convince Armenia to accept the renewed Madrid Principles" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209697.html>).

Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, meets with Joshua Sears, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209902.html>).

Labor and Social Security Minister Fuzuli Alakbarov signs a new cooperation protocol with his Turkish counterpart Omer Dinjer (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/209698.html>).

Shahin Aliyev, head of the department of legal affairs of the Presidential Administration, says that “elections in Nagorno-Karabakh cannot be carried out without the permission of the government of Azerbaijan and the Central Electoral Commission of the country” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209757.html>).

OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu says that “the Organization of the Islamic Conference supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209765.html>).

The Organization of the Islamic Conference announces plans to open in Baku the Eurasian Regional Center of the foreign ministerial forum (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209788.html>).

Bilge Cankorel, the head of the Baku office of the OSCE, says that “the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe supports the efforts of Azerbaijan directed at improving the electoral milieu” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209767.html>).

17 May

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan that “always, at decisive moments in the negotiations, the Armenian side takes steps which break them up” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209570.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Emine Erdogan, the wife of the prime minister of Turkey (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209599.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his Chinese counterpart Yáng Jiéchí (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209628.html>).

Bahar Muradova, Milli Majlis vice speaker, says that “Ankara must act in a coordinated fashion with Baku” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209620.html>).

Nazim Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “everyone knows under the dictate of which state Armenia acts” and that according to the existing schema, Turkey will open its borders with Armenia after the de-occupation of two districts” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209473.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “official Yerevan has always occupied itself only with the imitation of negotiations” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209196.html>).

Anar Mammadkhanov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “for the Armenian diaspora, achieving recognition for the mythical ‘Armenian genocide’ is much more important than dealing with the problems of Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209285.html>).

Jon Ramberg, Norway’s ambassador to Baku, says that “the entrance of Azerbaijan into the World Trade Organization can attract additional investment in the development of the non-petroleum sector of the economy” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/209586.html>).

Representative Solomon Ortiz, the co-chairman of the Azerbaijan Working Group in the US House of Representatives, sends his greetings to Baku on the occasion of Republic Day (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209605.html>).

16 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jordanian King Abdullah II during the latter’s official visit to Azerbaijan and tells him that “we conduct negotiations in a constructive manner and from this point of view expect an analogous approach from the Armenian side” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209378.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Jordanian counterpart Nasser Judeh sign two bilateral cooperation accords (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209427.html>).

15 May

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the elections conducted by the separatist regime [in Karabakh] cannot have any official status” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209336.html>).

Adel Mohammad Adaileh, Jordanian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that relations between Amman and Baku are “in the full sense of the word a model” of their kind (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209270.html>).

14 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Jan Kohout (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209215.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Steven Allen, the UNICEF regional director for the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS (<http://www.day.az/news/society/209234.html>).

The Foreign Ministry releases a statement denouncing Armenian-organized elections in the occupied territories due May 23 as lacking any legitimacy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209245.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov receives Abdullah Jasbi, the rector of the Free Islamic University of Iran, to discuss cooperation (<http://www.day.az/news/society/209115.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, head of the State Customs Committee, says “Armenia is using the occupied territories of Azerbaijan for the transit of narcotics” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209165.html>).

Arif Mammadov, the permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, says that “Europeans were disappointed by the tone of the speech of [Armenian Foreign Minister] Edvard Nalbandyan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209000.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “despite their political weight,” the Minsk Group co-chair countries defer to Armenia’s desires (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209156.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu calls on the OSCE Minsk Group to take a more active approach to the Karabakh issue (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209071.html>).

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill says that “the Orthodox Community of Azerbaijan is growing and strengthening with each passing day” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/209228.html>).

13 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Serbian President Boris Tadic and tells him that “Azerbaijan and Serbia support one another at the international level” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208899.html>).

The fourth volume of the collected speeches and writings of President Ilham Aliyev—“Our Goal is Development”—is released, (<http://www>.

day.az/news/society/208820.html).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives her Georgian counterpart Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs (<http://www.day.az/news/society/208912.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov says that the number of co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group could be increased to four (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209035.html>).

Agricultural Minister Ismat Abbasov answers questions from Armenian journalists (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208888.html>).

The Azerbaijan consulate general opens in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208738.html>).

The embassy of the Czech Republic opens in Baku. Attending the opening is Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Jan Kohout (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/209040.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Moscow and Baku will sign a treaty on the state border before the end of 2010 but that it is premature to set an exact date (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208926.html>).

Halug Ipek, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "Russia is beginning to show a realistic approach toward the Karabakh conflict" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208867.html>).

Aynur Jamalgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the recent Turkish-Russian conversations are unlikely to have an impact on the Karabakh talks (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208861.html>).

Azerbaijan and Jordan reach agreement on the organization of joint military production (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/208934.html>).

UNICEF says that "Azerbaijan has achieved progress in lowering the level of infant mortality" (<http://www.day.az/news/society/208889.html>).

12 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tina Kaidanow, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208752.html>).

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan release a joint statement on the Karabakh conflict, reaffirming their commitment to its resolution (<http://www.day.az/>

[news/politics/208718.html](http://www.day.az/news/politics/208718.html)).

Roland Kobia, the representative of the European Union to Azerbaijan, says that “negotiations between Azerbaijan and the European Union about association will begin soon” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208804.html>).

Turkish Defense Minister Veçdi Konul says that military-to-military ties between Turkey and Azerbaijan are expanding (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208743.html>).

Azerbaijan, Georgia and Romania sign an agreement on the creation of a gas transportation consortium to supply Europe (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/208721.html>).

11 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdukov (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208540.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy D. Baca (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208541.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Christine Egerszegi-Obrist, head of the Switzerland-Azerbaijan Friendship Group of the Swiss Parliament (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208570.html>).

Defense Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev says that “the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group toward resolving the conflict have not produced results” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208462.html>).

Oktay Asadov, the speaker of the Milli Majlis, tells a delegation of Swiss parliamentarians that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a serious threat to the security both of the region and of Europe as a whole” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208589.html>).

The Milli Majlis adopts a new law on Azerbaijani participation in peacekeeping operations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208576.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijan and Turkey should sign an agreement on the Nagorno-Karabakh question” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208536.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that he sees “positive forward movement” on the question of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208619.html>).

Afghanistan's Deputy Defense Minister, Gen. Zakir Azimi, says that Kabul is interested in an expansion of the Azerbaijani mission in his country (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208574.html>).

10 May

The Azerbaijan-American Council distributes a statement on the 18th anniversary of the occupation of Shusha by Armenia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208356.html>).

9 May

President Ilham Aliyev takes part in the Victory Day commemoration in Moscow (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208218.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Croatian President Ivo Josipović while the two are in Moscow (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208280.html>).

8 May

The Foreign Ministry says that despite news reports to the contrary, Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov will not be travelling to Strasbourg or Brussels in the next week to meet with the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208179.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to Moscow, says that Baku "must be prepared for war over Karabakh" given Armenian delays in reaching an agreement (<http://www.day.az/news/society/208203.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, discusses cooperation with the Oman Diplomatic Academy's director general, Ahmed bin Salim Baomar (<http://www.day.az/news/society/208198.html>).

7 May

A spokesman for President Ilham Aliyev says that the Azerbaijani leader will not take part in the informal CIS summit at the time of the Victory Day commemorations in Moscow because Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan will be there (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208068.html>).

Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, speaks to a plenary session of that organization at a

commemoration of the 65th anniversary of Victory Day (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207925.html>).

Garib Mammadov, the head of the State Committee on Land and Cartography, says that Azerbaijan and Russia have “completely” agreed on the delimitation of their common border (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207999.html>).

Kamil Khasiyev, Azerbaijan’s representative at NATO, meets with the Alliance’s secretary general Anders Fogh Rasmussen to discuss the future of cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207976.html>).

Jan Kohout, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Czech Republic, says that “Azerbaijan is a very important partner of [his country] in the South Caucasus and a priority state in foreign affairs” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208062.html>). In other comments, he says that Prague views compromise as the key to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/208059.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan “must change not the mediators on the Karabakh conflict but their positions.” Changing the countries involved by itself “will give us nothing,” he adds (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207762.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “it is necessary to conduct negotiations not with Yerevan but with those who stand behind [Armenia]” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207776.html>).

6 May

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov meets with his Israeli counterpart Dani Ayalon in Jerusalem (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207865.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the visa regime between Turkey and Azerbaijan will be ended in the near future (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207787.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, the head of the State Committee on Work with the Diaspora of Azerbaijan, meets with Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207941.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that “Ankara, Baku

and Yerevan for several months will conduct ‘quiet’ diplomacy” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207801.html>).

Igor Popov formally assumes the position of Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group at a meeting of that body in Vienna (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207745.html>).

5 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Andrey Kobakov, the deputy prime minister of Belarus and co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Belarus inter-governmental commission on trade (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207681.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Agasalim Shukurov Azerbaijani ambassador to Libya (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207706.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “time has run out” for a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207608.html>).

Kamaladdin Heydarov, emergency situations minister, meets with senior Saudi officials in Riyadh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207583.html>).

Natik Aliyev, industry and energy minister, says that “negotiations on gas between Azerbaijan and Turkey have been completed” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/207732.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, head of the State Committee of Azerbaijan for work with the Diaspora, meets with Israeli tourism minister Stas Misezhnikov (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/207699.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “good sense will triumph in Yerevan already in the future years” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207435.html>).

4 May

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Aykhan Suleymanov Azerbaijan’s consul general in Kars (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207517.html>).

Defense Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev receives Mustafa Muhammad Najar, the Iranian minister of internal affairs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207504.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmudov receives Mustafa Muhammad Najar, the Iranian minister of internal affairs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207504.html>).

az/news/politics/207502.html).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that it is necessary to include Turkey as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207421.html>).

Nikolae Ureche, Romanian ambassador to Baku, says that “Romania is seeking to bring Azerbaijan and NATO closer together” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207388.html>).

Jon Ramberg, Norwegian ambassador to Baku, says that “the question of Azerbaijani membership in NATO depends on the will of the country itself” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207378.html>).

Robert Ilatov, the head of the inter-parliamentary Israel-Azerbaijan association, says that Knesset deputies are only seeking to promote their image by discussing “the genocide of the Armenians” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207369.html>).

The Azerbaijani consulate general in Los Angeles presents California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with an Azerbaijani rub bearing his likeness (<http://www.day.az/news/society/207377.html>).

3 May

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Hasan Zeynalov as Azerbaijan’s consul general in Istanbul (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207314.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iranian Interior Minister Mustafa Muhammad Najjar (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207279.html>). Najjar says that “no forces will be able to destroy the good relations between Baku and Teheran” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207171.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov signs a cooperation agreement with his Iranian counterpart, Mustafa Muhammad Najjar (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207306.html>).

Lt. Gen. Zakir Hasanov, commander of internal forces of Azerbaijan, makes an official visit to Turkey (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207281.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, the consul general of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, says that Baku is dissatisfied with the policy of the United States in the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207175.html>).

Various Baku government and private institutions begin the commemoration of the 87th birthday of former Azerbaijani President

Heydar Aliyev (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207174.html>).

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri tells Mahir Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Beirut and Damascus, that the Lebanese government devotes a great deal of importance to the development of bilateral ties (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207254.html>).

2 May

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-islam, says that "during the time of his visit to Baku, the Armenian catholicos [Garegin II] visited the Alley of Shahids" (<http://www.day.az/news/society/207051.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmed Davutoglu says that "without the resolution of the problems between Baku and Yerevan there will not be stability in the region" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207070.html>).

1 May

President Ilham Aliyev says that "Azerbaijan is a country which in the course of the last five or six years has developed at the highest rates in the world" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206631.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that "the participation of the Turkish Republic in a process which would harm Azerbaijan is impossible" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/207014.html>). In other comments, he says that "until the problem between Azerbaijan and Armenia has been resolved, the process of Armenian-Turkish normalization will experience difficulties" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206934.html>).

The Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences hosts an international conference on "Azerbaijan-Dagestan: The History of Fraternal Relations, The Contemporary Situation, and Perspectives for the Future" (<http://www.day.az/news/society/207019.html>).

APRIL

30 April

The Russian foreign ministry says that it has nothing against Tehran's proposal to organize trilateral talks with Azerbaijan and Armenia regarding the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206844.html>).

Nazim Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "it is only possible to recover the Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia by force" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206833.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the US has already for a long time been conducting a policy in support of terrorist Armenia," although he adds that "not all of the leadership" of the US agrees with that (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206733.html>).

29 April

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells his Italian counterpart Franco Frattini in Rome that "Azerbaijan has accepted the renewed Madrid Principles and considers them a suitable basis for resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206693.html>).

The Foreign Ministry, reacting to a statement by the newly appointed Russian co-chair of the Minsk Group Igor Popov, says that "Azerbaijan has frequently declared that both communities of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian and Azerbaijani, undoubtedly will participate at a definite stage in the negotiation process ... for the definition of the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh in the framework of the territorial integrity of

Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206696.html>).

Fuad Aliyev, the chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, says that “after the declaration of [Armenian President] Serzh Sargsyan the chances for the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict are exhausted” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206508.html>).

Štefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, says that “a common striving to begin dialogue on broadening cooperation between Azerbaijan and the European Union in the energy sector exists” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/206514.html>).

The US Embassy in Azerbaijan says that Baku’s cooperation with NATO “shows the entire world” the independence and sovereignty of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206746.html>).

The Working Group on Azerbaijan of the US House of Representatives has called for the annulment of Article 907 regarding assistance to Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206728.html>).

Burak Ozugergin, a representative of the Turkish foreign ministry, says that “it is very strange to expect that Ankara would stop paying attention to the question of Karabakh” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206715.html>).

28 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Buabdulla Gulamulla, the Algerian minister for religion and waqfs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206515.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sang Dik, a member of the Korean National Assembly (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206502.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to the United States, addresses the American Jewish Community (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206630.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that he has met with his Armenian counterpart (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206584.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, says that “good relations with Turkey are more important for the White House than

hurt feelings of the Armenian diaspora” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206344.html>).

Thorbjørn Jagland, the secretary general of the Council of Europe, says that “we must increase our efforts directed at the fulfillment of resolutions adopted by the Council” concerning Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206389.html>).

Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for human rights, expresses the hope that the return of Azerbaijani refugees can be arranged (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206535.html>).

Gianni Buquicchio, chairman of the Venice Commission, says that the Azerbaijani election law allows for honest voting (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206533.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia risks encountering unexpected responses” because of its unwillingness to negotiate seriously (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206353.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the military infrastructure of Armenia in the occupied territories must be destroyed” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206433.html>).

Bahar Muradova, deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “Armenia has more than once demonstrated an unconstructive position” in negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206459.html>).

Gular Ahmadova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia has delayed giving its position on the renewed Madrid Principles because it is “not capable of taking decisions fully independently” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206354.html>).

27 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Valery Gayevsky, governor of Russia’s Stavropol *kray* (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206324.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs an agreement awarding Adel Abdallah al-Falaha of Kuwait with the Friendship Order for his work in promoting ties between Kuwait and Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/society/206248.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev signs the law on Azerbaijan’s approval of the statutes of the Organizaiton of the Islamic Conference as signed in March

2008 in Dakar (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206348.html>).

Vasif Talybov, president of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan, meets in Ankara with Turkish State Minister Hayati Yazzyjy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206369.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Egypt's Deputy Foreign Minister Saamah M. Sutuhi (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206346.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives a telephone call from Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kanat Saubayev, OSCE chairman-in-office. Saubayev also telephoned Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206326.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Seyid Kazym Musavi, leader of the Iranian-Azerbaijani Interparliamentary Friendship Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206321.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the recent comments of Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan prompt it to point out that "the Armenian side must reflect that instead of its focus on public relations, it needs to soberly, critically and realistically approach the existing situation on the question of the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206227.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that "Turkey takes an active role in the future of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic" because of the continued relevance of the Kars Treaty (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206368.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov visits Latvia where he is received by his counterpart Janis Duklavs (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/206256.html>).

Iranian Ayatollah Mohammed Ali Tashiri says that "Karabakh must be liberated from occupation by means of negotiations in the nearest future" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206307.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, tells that body about the violation of the rights of Azerbaijani women as a result of Armenian aggression (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206290.html>).

Abdualaziz Orthman Altwajri, the secretary general of ISESCO, says that "an end must be put to the occupation of Azerbaijani territories and

that refugees must be given the chance to return to their native lands” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206259.html>).

US Congressman Jim Moran says that “the murders committed in Khojaly were a terrible event” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206211.html>).

Milli Majlis deputies say that the decision of the European Court for Human Rights in the case of Eynulla Fatullayev was “politicized” rather than just (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206237.html>).

The Baku World Summit of Religious Leaders adopts a declaration which calls on traditional religious communities to oppose the ideas of extremism and terrorism (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206228.html>).

Micheline Calmy-Rey, Swiss foreign minister and chairman of the Council of Europe’s Council of Ministers, says that “the Council of Europe very much hopes for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206173.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, prepares a document on illegal elections to be held in Armenian-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206175.html>).

Mike Hancock, a member of the British Parliament, says that “one must not make a concession to Armenia; this would be a tragic mistake” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204651.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam, says that “the summit of world religious leaders promotes the development of inter-confessional relations” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205990.html>).

Berl Lazar, the chief rabbi of Russia, says that “in Azerbaijan, Jews live in an atmosphere of peace and harmony” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/206187.html>).

Talgat Tajuddinov, the chairman of the Central Muslim Spiritual Directorate of Russia, says that “in Azerbaijan, along with tolerance, there is a high level of respect and love for people” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/206186.html>).

The first session of the UNESCO consultative group of religious leaders takes place in Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/society/206189.html>).

26 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Garegin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206147.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Adel Abdalla al-Falah, Kuwait's deputy minister of Islamic affairs and waqfs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206129.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Italian Deputy Economics Development Minister Adolpho Urso (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206092.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Roland Galarag, the chief of the French Foreign Ministry's department on continental Europe and the Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206115.html>).

Vamik Rahimov, head of the department of naval security of the State Naval Administration, takes part in a London conference on international naval administration (<http://www.day.az/news/society/205983.html>).

Vafaddin Ibayev, a justice of the Azerbaijani Supreme Court, says that "the European Court does not have the power to change or annul the decisions of national courts" as it has tried to do in the Eynulla Fattulayev case (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206070.html>). Ibayev's colleague, Ali Seyfaliyev, adds that "the decision of the European Court [in this case] contradicts precedent" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206047.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, expresses concern that Armenia has not ratified the protocols on the normalization of bilateral relations with Turkey (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206143.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that "official Ankara considers the Karabakh problem as its own" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206083.html>).

Iranian Interior Minister Mustafa Muhammed Najar tells Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iran Javanshir Akhundov that Tehran "wants to broaden cooperation with Azerbaijan in the area of security, the police, and border affairs" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206127.html>).

Seid Kazym Musevi, the co-chair of the Azerbaijani-Iranian inter-parliamentary working group, says that Iran is "a supporter of the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206087.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that he will personally lead the PACE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206062.html>).

Denis Baikal, the head of the Peoples Republican Party of Turkey says that “the first step in guaranteeing stability in the Caucasus must be the withdrawal of Armenians from occupied Azerbaijani territories” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206038.html>).

Anar Mammadkhanov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that to his “great regret” American policy in the South Caucasus reflects “an ignorance of historical realities [and] a superficial acquaintance with geopolitical aspects” of the situation there, shortcomings that can lead to “unpredictable consequences” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206032.html>).

Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Tashiri, head of the Committee of Interconfessional Rapprochement of the Iran, says that “we must coordinate our efforts in order to oppose the occupation in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206015.html>).

Irfan Gunduz, a deputy of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “along with Azerbaijan and Turkey, the West is interested in the liberation of the Lachin Corridor” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205950.html>).

The religious leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia sign a declaration following their joint meeting calling for “cooperation to overcome the alienation among our peoples” and for the peaceful resolution of all conflicts (<http://www.day.az/news/society/206004.html>).

Garegin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians, says that “in Baku we raise our praise to God for the fact that peace talks on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are continuing” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206002.html>).

Aleksandr, Russian Orthodox archbishop of Astana and Almaty, says that Azerbaijan “as a tolerant country can serve as an example for all countries” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/206139.html>).

25 April

Some 250 religious leaders assemble in the Azerbaijani capital for the Baku Summit of Religious Leaders of the World (<http://www.day.az/>

news/politics/205953.html).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh-ul-Islam, says that “the attention and concern of religious leaders of the CIS can help in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205935.html>).

Kirill, the Moscow Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, says that “in Azerbaijan exist the correct relations among people of different religions” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205930.html>).

The Baku meeting of religious leaders establishes a council of supervisors for the Inter-Religious Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States (<http://www.day.az/news/society/205937.html>).

The US state of Massachussetts formally recognizes the Khojaly massacre as genocide (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/206073.html>).

24 April

President Ilham Aliyev signs an order awarding Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill with the *Sharaf* Order for his contribution to the development of fraternal ties between Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation (<http://www.day.az/news/society/205884.html>).

Fuad Ismayilov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Slovakia and Austria, takes part in the commemoration in Bratislava of the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205897.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that alongside the three co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group there are other states, like Turkey, which deserve the chance to make a contribution to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205873.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, the speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “the goal of the Armenian lobby [in Western countries] is the satisfaction of its own selfish interests” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205847.html>).

Thirty Azerbaijanis take part in a demonstration in support of Turkey in front of the Turkish embassy in Washington (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205899.html>).

Azerbaijanfilm presents a documentary film, “Genocide: Baku,” about the killing of Azerbaijanis by Armenians in 1918 .

23 April

President Ilham Aliyev tells Azerbaijani military commanders that “the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan never has been and never will be subject to discussion” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205769.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, the head of the department for work with law enforcement organs of the Presidential Administration, says that in the case of Fatullayev, “the European Court did not conduct an internal investigation” as it should have.

The Russian Foreign Ministry says that Moscow “hopes that Turkey and Armenia will be able to overcome the current complex situation and create the conditions for the full normalization of relations in which all the countries of the region are interested” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205739.html>).

Azerbaijan’s opposition parties adopt a joint declaration condemning plans for “parliamentary elections” in occupied Karabakh and appeal to the governments of the world to reject them as illegitimate (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205712.html>).

Ilham Mammadov, a deputy of the Milli Majlis, says that it is entirely appropriate that Turkey become a new member of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205382.html>). Another deputy, Zhalya Aliyeva, says that there are “political and legal bases” for taking this step (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205564.html>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry says that Moscow would have to consult with all OSCE countries to determine whether it would be possible to include Turkey or any other country as a new co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205611.html>).

Philip Crowley, US assistant secretary of state, says that the decision to postpone the American-Azerbaijani military exercises was entirely Baku’s and that the US will continue to cooperate with Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205616.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that “Ankara is grateful to Azerbaijan for the support it has shown to Turkey” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205694.html>).

Steph Goris, honorary president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the West European Union, says that “the position of the European Union on the Karabakh conflict is insufficiently strong” (<http://www.day.az/news/>

politics/205195.html).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a deputy of the Milli Majlis, says that “the consideration by the US Congress of the question about ‘the Armenian genocide’ in the Ottoman Empire is the fruit of the policy of double standards regarding Turkey” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205221.html>).

22 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Pakistani Defense Secretary Syed Athar Ali (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205555.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Emilia Muller, Bavarian minister for federal and European affairs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205581.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Pramono Anung Wibowo, the vice speaker of the House of Representatives of the Indonesian Parliament (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205530.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, says that “Armenia is ignoring the resolutions of international bodies on Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205452.html>).

The Milli Majlis discusses a draft law “on the participation of Azerbaijan in peacekeeping operations,” one that would supplement the October 1997 law on military service (<http://www.day.az/news/society/205588.html>).

Chingiz Askarov, the plenipotentiary representative of Azerbaijan to the European Court on Human Rights, says that the court’s ruling in the Fatullayev case is deeply flawed and incorrect (<http://www.day.az/news/society/205496.html>).

Irfan Davudov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador in Ukraine, lodges a protest with Kyiv over plans to construct a public park in memory of “Armenian victims of the 20th century” there (<http://www.day.az/news/society/205479.html>).

Azerbaijan and Kuwait issue a joint call for the establishment of a forum of Muslim women-parliamentarians within the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Islamic Union, following a visit by Kuwaiti deputies to Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205495.html>).

Rovshan Huseynov, the head of the Peoples Socialist Party of Azerbaijan, says that “the Azerbaijani army must be ready to recover the

territories occupied by Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205379.html>).

The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs at a meeting in Moscow say that meetings at a high level in Washington, Baku and Moscow are giving “a new impulse” toward the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205580.html>).

Boris Klimchuk, Ukrainian ambassador in Baku, says that “GUAM is in the highest degree a useful organization” but that it is “another question” how to bring it “into line with new realities, by considering the developments among our neighbors” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/205540.html>).

Seid Kazym Musavi, an Iranian parliamentarian, says that “truth in the Nagorno-Karabakh question is on the Azerbaijan side, and we will defend Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205531.html>).

21 April

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the US risks the loss of its most important and reliable partner in the region of the South Caucasus” by its recent statements and actions (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205375.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the Russian and American co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Igor Popov and Robert Bradtke (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205314.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Turkey should be included among the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205301.html>). In other comments, he says that “Azerbaijan always was and will be alongside Turkey” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205298.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the reaction of the US State Department to dissatisfaction in Azerbaijan is normal,” adding that “we do not desire a worsening of relations with the United States and do not want to harm our partnership ties. However, at times, the situation forces things in that direction” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205280.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov is elected vice president of the UN

Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Jurisprudence (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205299.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, the consul general of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, says that the Minsk Group co-chair countries must “activate their efforts” to achieve the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205258.html>).

20 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Robert Bradtke, the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205169.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Boris Klimchuk, outgoing Ukrainian ambassador to Baku, in connection with the completion of his mission in Azerbaijan.

President Ilham Aliyev receives Yuri Merzlyakov, outgoing Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, in connection with the completion of his assignment in that post (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205107.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that “the current position of the US as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, which has taken upon itself the mission of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, does not correspond to the character of relations between that country and Azerbaijan.” He adds that the US has taken positions which harm the interests of Azerbaijan and provide material support to Armenia. “Azerbaijani society and, in particular, political parties, must express an open protest against this policy of the US” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/205075.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “negotiations with Armenia on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict have absolutely no chances of succeeding and cannot lead to the peaceful liberation of Azerbaijan territories” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204991.html>).

19 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204980.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu who says that “the liberation of Azerbaijani lands is one of our main missions” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204983.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki proposes holding a joint meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Iran (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204865.html>). The Azerbaijan foreign ministry welcomes the idea (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204907.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijani ambassador to France who is jointly accredited to the Vatican, visits Vatican City and meets with senior officials there (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204993.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives a delegation of Kuwaiti female parliamentarians (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204979.html>).

The Defense Ministry announces that an international NATO seminar which had been scheduled to take place in Baku April 20-21 has been postponed indefinitely (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204946.html>).

18 April

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade attends the funeral of Polish President Lech Kaczynski (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204721.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Defense Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev receive Michèle Flournoy, US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, who says that “Azerbaijan has demonstrated leadership by the obligations it has assumed before the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204747.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Ankara will not open the Turkish border with Armenia as long as Armenia continues to occupy Azerbaijani territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204773.html>).

17 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Michèle Flournoy, US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204691.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “Azerbaijan may revise its policy in relation to the United States” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204666.html>).

Bahar Muradova, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, receives her Italian counterpart Riccardo Migliori.

16 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that “the Armenians have committed crimes of war against Azerbaijanis” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204599.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev approves the credit accord between Baku and the Saudi Development Fund (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/204460.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov receives Mario Baldi, the Italian ambassador to Azerbaijan, to discuss educational cooperation between the two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/society/204458.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “Azerbaijan is seeking alternative paths of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204464.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, says that “the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have been in vain” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204436.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov announces that Azerbaijan and Russia have reached agreement on several disputed territories in the course of delimiting the Azerbaijani-Russian border (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204559.html>).

US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Crowley says that “the US supports the Minsk process on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204647.html>).

Robert Simmons, NATO Special Representative for the South Caucasus and Central Asia, says that “it is still early to apply the mechanism of intensive dialogue in relations between NATO and Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204532.html>).

Ali Alakparov, the head of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan, says, “we must prepare for war to secure the return of Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204402.html>).

15 April

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov takes part in negotiations

with Russian officials concerning the delimitation and demarcation of the Azerbaijani-Russian border (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204341.html>).

Mikhail Savin, deputy industry minister of the Moscow *oblast*, says that a program for economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation for 2010 to 2012 between Moscow and Azerbaijan is ready for signing (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/204300.html>).

Haluk Ipek, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly from the ruling Party of Justice and Development, says that "the just resolution of the Karabakh conflict is a national question of the Turkish government" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204209.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Washington will continue to put pressure on Turkey" regarding its protocols with Armenia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204019.html>).

14 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Movlud Chavusoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204210.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov reiterates that "the Karabakh conflict can be resolved only in the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204215.html>).

Movlud Chavusoglu, president of PACE, says that Azerbaijan has fulfilled the majority of the obligations it has taken with the Council of Europe. In other remarks, he says that he is working to prevent any effort to apply "double standards" to the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204086.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the election of Movlud Chavushoglu as president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is the beginning of a new stage in relations between Azerbaijan and the Council of Europe" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204098.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the Council of Europe must express its position relative to the problems of Azerbaijani forced resettlers" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204128.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia missed a historic chance" by not acting in ways that would have allowed for the

ratification of the Ankara-Yerevan protocols (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204089.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian government has sabotaged chances for progress on resolving the Karabakh question by its unwillingness to accept the renewed Madrid Principles” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204026.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that “the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict can create the foundation for the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204100.html>).

13 April

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, deputy head of the Bundestag German-Azerbaijan Friendship Group, that “the occupation forces of Armenia must leave the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204027.html>).

Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Safar Abiyev attends the CIS Council of Defense Ministers in Moscow (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203859.html>).

Azerbaijan, Georgia and Romania sign a memorandum of cooperation on gas supplies (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/203885.html>). Romanian economics, commerce, and business minister Adrieau Videanu says that the accord will “play a large role in the energy security of Europe” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/204023.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan is satisfied with the position of Turkey regarding the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204016.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Mexico, says that parliamentaries in the country to which he is accredited have established a group to promote friendship between Mexico and Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203940.html>).

Aynur Jamalgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Baku “will not allow the establishment of a second Armenian state on [Azerbaijani] lands” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203889.html>).

Movlud Chavusoglu, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “PACE supports the work of the OSCE

Minsk Group on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/204021.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that “the occupation by Armenia of Azerbaijani lands creates obstacles to cooperation in the Caucasus” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203914.html>).

Sergey Kuznetsov, head of the elections and referenda section of the Venetian Commission, visits Baku for consultations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203920.html>).

12 April

President Ilham Aliyev visits the Polish embassy in Baku to express his condolences on the deaths of Polish President Lech Kaczynski and other Polish officials in the plane crash near Smolensk (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203784.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Gambian Foreign Minister Ousman Jammeh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203768.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and his Gambian counterpart Ousman Jammeh sign a protocol on cooperation between their two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203780.html>).

Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Safar Abiyev says that “Azerbaijan does not intend to agree with the occupation of its own lands” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203816.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Baku “must present materials which unmask the inventive accusations of Armenians to the research centers of the world” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203772.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan should not draw out talks on Karabakh because that is “playing with fire” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203641.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “if the negotiations with Armenia reach a dead end, then we will make use of our army” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203640.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy and member of the political council of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that “the result of the Obama-Erdogan meeting will influence the future activity of the OSCE Minsk Group” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203801.html>).

Rainer Stinner, the chairman of the partnership sub-committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, says in Baku that “Azerbaijan has been transformed into a strong partner of NATO.” In other comments, he says that the western alliance hopes for a rapid resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203804.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that the meeting in Washington among the presidents of the US, Turkey, and Armenia was “profitable” for Azerbaijan as well (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203710.html>).

Taliyat Aliyev, the deputy chairman of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, says that the US has put “serious pressure” on Armenia regarding the settlement of the Karabakh conflict and the opening of relations with Turkey (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203381.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that “ordinary Armenians prefer to live within Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203699.html>).

11 April

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Turkey wants to see “greater activity” on the part of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203632.html>).

9 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Firuddin Siniroglu, the special representative of the Turkish prime minister (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203527.html>). In a separate meeting with Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, Siniroglu confirms that “Turkey has not changed its position” on Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203461.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ștefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203425.html>). The European official says that “relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union must not be limited to the energy sphere alone” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203463.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov signs a cooperation agreement with his Mauritanian counterpart Naha Mint Hamdi Ould Mouknass (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203392.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan “welcomes those efforts of Iran which have been directed to the achievement of peace and stability in [the] region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203364.html>).

The Foreign Ministry expresses “regret” on the human losses in Kyrgyzstan’s political unrest (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203369.html>).

Fuad Alaskarov, the head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration says that “Azerbaijani law is being brought into correspondence with the European Convention” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/203410.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the Azerbaijan State Committee on Struggle with Narcotics, says that Baku is “seeking to include a discussion on the transit route of drugs from Afghanistan through Iran to Nagorno-Karabakh on the agenda of the United Nations” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203391.html>).

Nikolae Ureche, Romanian ambassador to Azerbaijan and NATO’s representative to Baku, says that “Romania is providing support and assistance to Azerbaijan in the process of integration into the European Union.” He adds that “NATO supports the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203331.html>).

Radek Matula, the ambassador of the Czech Republic to Azerbaijan, says that Prague considers Baku “its strategic partner” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203288.html>).

8 April

President Ilham Aliyev says during a visit to Estonia where he meets with Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves that “the unconstructive position of Armenia and its policy of dragging out the peace process are creating major obstacles for the resolution of the conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202841.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Vietnamese Vice Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203263.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mauritanian foreign minister Naha Mint Hamdi Ould Mouknass (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203261.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that a committee of that body has discussed the question of the destruction of forests in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203228.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the idea of a West Azerbaijan émigré government is very serious” and that she is “a supporter of the realization of this initiative” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203210.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he “does not think that Iran is a country which will exert pressure on Yerevan with the goal of ending the occupation of Azerbaijani lands” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203052.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the events in Kyrgyzstan show that a government which “does not operate on the will of the people” will not long survive (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203130.html>).

A delegation of Milli Majlis deputies takes part in the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203084.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that the upcoming visit of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s special representative is intended to promote progress toward the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203166.html>).

Stefan Füle, EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, says that the EU “will consider the possibility of direct participation in Nagorno-Karabakh resolution” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203141.html>).

The European Parliament says that the European Union must concentrate on promoting stability, flourishing and regulation of conflicts in the South Caucasus region (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203335.html>).

Representatives of the OSCE offer recommendations on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan to members of 16 political parties (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203135.html>).

7 April

The Foreign Ministry says that “we can resolve the Karabakh conflict in

a very short time” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202572.html>).

The Azerbaijan embassy in Moscow hosts a reception for Oleg Tsyganov, who has published a book in English and Russian on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev (<http://www.day.az/news/society/203008.html>).

The Azerbaijan embassy in Moscow sends a letter to the Crimean Azerbaijan Community thanking it for opposing the adoption by a city council there of a resolution on the so-called “Armenian genocide” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/203017.html>).

Nuraddin Ismayil, the deputy head of the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, says that it is “in the interests of the United States to put pressure on Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202856.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “if Azerbaijan is able to deprive Armenia of its protectors, then we will immediately begin a war” to recover the occupied territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202802.html>).

Dunyamin Khalilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the world powers will force Armenia to accept these principles,” a reference to the renewed Madrid Principles (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202680.html>).

Roland Kobia, the ambassador of the European Union to Azerbaijan, says that “Nabucco is a mutually profitable project” and that “the absence of agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey on the price for gas is not a serious problem” in that project’s realization (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/202824.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki says that “Iran has offered proposals for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202958.html>).

Anne-Marie Lizin, the former speaker of the Belgian senate, says that “regarding the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict, the European Union must play a role” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/202933.html>).

6 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Herman Scheer, a member of the German Bundestag and co-chair of the World Council on Renewable Energy, who is in Baku to take part in a meeting on that subject (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202813.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that “Armenia does not want a peaceful

resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202577.html>).

The Foreign Ministry reminds all international organizations and firms operating on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan without the advance explicit approval of Baku are violating national and international law (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202575.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan believes that the resolution of the Karabakh conflict will be “a priority theme” for Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his visit to Washington (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202746.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “Azerbaijan fulfills all the measures planned with NATO in a cooperative way” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202844.html>).

Arzukhan Alizade, a member of the political council of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan, says that “the actions of the Armenian diaspora and Yerevan are a game clearly planned out by them” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202642.html>).

Roland Kobia, the European Union’s ambassador in Baku, says that the upcoming visit of the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy is “an important signal” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202810.html>).

5 April

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku is waiting for Armenia’s response to the renewed Madrid Principles of the OSCE (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202486.html>).

Ali Aliyev, the director of the center for geo-ecological monitoring of the Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry, says that “the construction of a second atomic energy station in Armenia will increase dangers for the region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202625.html>).

A symposium at the Turkish parliament discusses the ways in which Ankara can advance the provisions of the Nakhchivan Accord on the establishment of a Council of Cooperation of Turkic Language States (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202649.html>).

Riad al-Malki, the Palestinian foreign minister, says that the Palestinian

embassy in Azerbaijan will have a regional mandate (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202618.html>).

3 April

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “official Baku supports the position of Turkey on the Karabakh conflict and the Ankara-Yerevan protocols” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202363.html>).

Gudrat Hasanguliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, criticizes the OSCE Minsk Group for not working harder to reach an agreement on Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201988.html>).

The US Department of State issues a correction to its annual report on narcotics concerning Azerbaijan after Baku officials point out that the notion that 100,000 of the 140,000 Azerbaijani university students are users is “simply absurd” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/202344.html>).

Baku’s International Diaspora Center declares April a month for boycotting the idea of the so-called “Armenian genocide” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202392.html>).

The coordinating center of Azerbaijanis in Germany discusses the future of cooperation among diaspora societies (<http://www.day.az/news/society/202277.html>).

2 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that “today, Azerbaijan using its own internal opportunities has built a strong state” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201968.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to discuss the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202086.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that he is “certain that in this year [Azerbaijanis] will mark for the last time the anniversary of the occupation of Kalbajar” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202159.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, the head of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan “has the right by any means to liberate [its] lands from occupation” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202256.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, the head of the Presidential Administration, says that

“Azerbaijan always will be alongside fraternal Turkey in the struggle against double standards” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202081.html>).

Arif Mammadov, the permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, says that “those who politicize historical questions show their insincerity” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202232.html>).

Avez Temirkhan, head of the Liberal Party of Azerbaijan, says that under existing conditions, “the Turkish parliament will never ratify the Ankara-Yerevan protocols” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202073.html>).

Gudrat Hasanguliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that if Armenia refuses to negotiate in good faith, then military actions between Azerbaijan and Armenia might resume (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201989.html>).

1 April

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov calls for a step-by-step resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/202066.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev receives French National Assembly deputies Roland Blum and Christian Bataille (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/202057.html>).

A delegation of members of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan visits Turkey (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201875.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “if the game about the so-called ‘genocide of the Armenians’ continues, Turkey will react very harshly” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201858.html>).

Nikolae Ureche, Romanian ambassador to Azerbaijan and NATO’s representative to Baku, says that attracting the support of the civil society of Azerbaijan to NATO initiatives is “a priority of this year” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201942.html>).

Gabriel Keller, French ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that approximately 75,000 Azerbaijanis are studying French at the present time (<http://www.day.az/news/society/202072.html>).

MARCH

31 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, the apostolic nuncio to Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201853.html>).

Gafar Aliyev, an official of the social political department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the main work of the diaspora is to bring to the attention of the world information about the cruel actions of the Armenians in 1918” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201813.html>).

Lord Ken Maginnis, a member of the British House of Lords calls for an international investigation into crimes committed by the Armenian forces in Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201840.html>).

30 March

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Vilayat Guliyev as Azerbaijani ambassador to Hungary and Hasan Hasanov as ambassador to Poland (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201692.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his deputy foreign minister of Belorussia Igor Petrishenko who is in Baku with a delegation for three days of diplomatic consultations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201659.html> and <http://www.day.az/news/politics/201672.html>).

The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs present a report on their consultations with Azerbaijani and Armenian officials and their visit to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201564.html>).

Donald Lu, charge d'affairs at the US Embassy in Baku, says that “the

United States does not see any alternatives to the negotiation process in resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201643.html>). In other comments, he says that the absence of a US ambassador in Baku “does not reflect the current level of bilateral relations” between the two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201642.html>).

A group of US Congressmen send a letter to President Barak Obama stressing that Azerbaijan is “an important strategic partner” of the United States, that Paragraph 907 should be repealed, and that Washington should become more active as an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair in promoting a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201614.html>).

Students of Azerbaijan and the United States take part in an online dialogue (<http://www.day.az/news/society/201662.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Administratoin of Muslims of the Caucasus, appeals to world public opinion on the occasion of the Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis (<http://www.day.az/news/society/201647.html>).

Representatives of the Azerbaijan culture and tourism ministry take part in a conference in North Cyprus on the preservation of underwater cultural and historical monuments (<http://www.day.az/news/society/201603.html>).

29 March

Ambassador Agshin Mehtiyev, Azerbaijan’s permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, sends a letter to the UN Secretary General denouncing his Armenian colleague as lying about Armenian actions in Khojaly (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201481.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijan has the right to take measures to suppress separatism” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201204.html>).

Milli Majlis deputies say that they intend to seek international recognition of the mass murders of Azerbaijanis by Armenians as an act of genocide (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201464.html>).

Altay Efendiyev, Azerbaijan’s incoming ambassador in Spain, presents his credentials to King Juan Carlos I (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201498.html>).

James Steinberg, US Deputy Secretary of State, says that “Azerbaijan is a very important partner of the United States and a powerful force for the support of peace and stability in the Caucasus” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201531.html>).

Catherine Baker, disarmament program manager at the US Department of State, visits Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201437.html>).

Erselan Fatkhipur, an Iranian parliamentarian, proposes constructing a highway connecting Tabriz and Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/201474.html>).

Miroslav Blashuk, head of the economics section of the Ukrainian embassy in Baku, says that Kyiv is “satisfied” with the level of its economic cooperation with Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/201442.html>).

28 March

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201517.html>).

27 March

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov, who also serves as the personal representative of the president for the resolution of the Karabakh problem, says that Armenia’s leaders should be more careful in their declarations about Karabakh lest they create problems for themselves (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201171.html>).

26 March

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov attends the meeting in Moscow of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201138.html>). Among bilateral talks he conducts are ones with his Ukrainian counterpart Konstantin Grishchenko (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201118.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that “talking about hypothetical new proposals on Karabakh does not have any sense” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201107.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov tells his Azerbaijani and

Armenian counterparts, Elmar Mammadyarov and Edvard Nalbandyan, that the Russian leadership is committed to an active role in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201135.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, proposes a summit meeting between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Astana (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201098.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Syria's proposal to serve as a mediator in the Armenian-Turkish talks is deserving of attention (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201066.html>).

The European Union is providing assistance to the governments of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia to improve their management of their borders (<http://www.day.az/news/society/201125.html>).

25 March

Fuad Ismayilov, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Vienna, says that Austria will open an embassy in Baku this year (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201018.html>).

Talat Aliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Kyiv, is rated as one of the top ten most effective ambassadors in the Ukrainian capital by the Kyiv Institute of World Politics (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201021.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that there have been significant advances in the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200943.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Glushko meets with Council of Europe and European Commission officials to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/201132.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that Azerbaijan is actively supporting Russian language instruction in its schools (<http://www.day.az/news/society/201002.html>).

Abraham Foxman, head of the US Anti-Defamation League, says that "Azerbaijan is a reliable friend and partner of the US and Israel" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200961.html>).

23 March

The co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe welcome President Ilham Aliyev's decision to pardon 77 inmates (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200699.html>).

22 March

Dunyamin Khalilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "on the whole, the renewed Madrid Principles correspond to the interests of Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200290.html>).

20 March

Garbi Mammadov, the head of the State Committee on Land and Cartography, says that Azerbaijan is discussing the limitation of its borders with Russia and Georgia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200455.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's proposal for the signing of a non-use of force agreement is welcome but "only after the removal of the causes which create that kind of threat, namely, the end of the occupation of the territories of the Azerbaijani Republic by Armenian forces" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200449.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that another meeting between parliamentarians of Azerbaijan and Armenia is possible (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200447.html>).

Lt. Gen. Vahid Aliyev, military aide to the Azerbaijani president, says that "the Azerbaijani army is capable of fulfilling all the tasks it faces" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200438.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, ombudsman of Azerbaijan, receives Vladled Stefanov, the commissar for the South Caucasus of the UN Supreme Commissariat of Human Rights (<http://www.day.az/news/society/200410.html>).

19 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200335.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mustafa Isen, the secretary general of the Presidential Administration of the Turkish Republic (<http://www>).

[day.az/news/politics/200382.html](http://www.day.az/news/politics/200382.html)).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Azerbaijan would like the most rapid assignment of a permanent ambassador of the US” to Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200307.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov positively assesses the fact that Yerevan has accepted the renewed variant of the Madrid Principles as that opens the way for further talks (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200304.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov speaks by telephone with his Georgian counterpart Grigol Vashadze (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200366.html>).

National Security Minister Lt. Gen. Eldar Mahmudov says that “Armenia remains a serious source of threat to peace and security in the South Caucasus” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200322.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Canada organizes a roundtable at the University of Toronto on the internal and foreign policy of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200479.html>).

Azerbaijan and Fiji establish diplomatic relations through their respective missions to the United Nations in New York (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200229.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that “if Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia can restore relations after a major war, then this means that there is a chance for establishing peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200245.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton discuss Karabakh peacemaking (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200344.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sends a message of greetings to the Azerbaijani people on the Novruz holiday (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200220.html>).

Ephraim Sneh, former Israeli deputy defense minister, sends a letter to the Washington Post complaining that that paper and others have adopted a policy of double standards in their reporting about Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200271.html>).

18 March

President Ilham Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan today is a country which in all directions is developing in the most rapid tempos and with enormous success” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200226.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi, who tells him that Bucharest backs stability and security in the Black Sea and Caspian basins (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200169.html> and <http://www.day.az/news/politics/200108.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva take part in the presentation of a new book on Azerbaijan that has been prepared under the auspices of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation (<http://www.day.az/news/society/200173.html>).

The agriculture ministry and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) sign agreements on expanding cooperation and carrying out two joint projects in Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/200160.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the chief obstacles in the talks on Nagorno-Karabakh are Armenia’s refusal to remove its forces from the occupied territories and its opening the way for the return of those who were forced to resettle (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200101.html>).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin and US Deputy Secretary of State Philip Gordon discuss the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200135.html>).

Paulo Antonio Pereira Pinto, Brazil’s ambassador to Baku, says that his mission is to expand inter-cultural dialogue between the two countries because “Brazil and Azerbaijan are countries which see a world in which the defining force will become cultural multiplicity” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/200106.html>).

Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church says that his denomination “will continue its efforts on the resolution of the problems of Nagorno-Karabakh” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200146.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that if Yerevan does not agree to the revised Madrid Principles then “all responsibility for the breakdown in talks will lie on Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199952.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “sometimes the declarations of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group repeat the positions of Yerevan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/200039.html>).

17 March

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia has “created such a situation that Azerbaijan does not and will not participate in those regional projects in which that country takes part” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199997.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the OSCE Minsk Group provided Baku and Yerevan with the same text of the updated Madrid Principles rather than giving each side a different document as Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan has said (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199988.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President’s Office, says that Ankara’s statements that it may have to expel 100,000 Armenians are “in correspondence with the interests of that country” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199979.html>).

Fuad Ismayilov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Vienna, says that “Austria understands that Azerbaijan today is the leader in the region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199825.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the CIS, says that “all members of the Commonwealth [of Independent States] are interested in the most rapid resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199830.html>).

Nathalie Goulet, a member of the French Senate, says that “cooperation with Europe can be useful for Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199870.html>).

Steph Goris, honorary president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the West European Union, says that “The European Union always has been too soft and diplomatic when it comes to the Karabakh problem” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199589.html>).

Stratfor, an influential private US analytic center, says that “the United States is ready to sacrifice even its relations with Armenia” in order to convince Azerbaijan to provide “all around support to Turkey” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199942.html>).

Suat Kynklyoglu, deputy head for foreign relations of the ruling Turkish Party of Justice and Development, says that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be resolved before the Armenian-Turkish protocols on normalization of relations can be ratified (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199926.html>).

Georgy Vanyan, the president of the Caucasus Center for Peacekeeping Initiatives, says that “with a feeling of shame and hopelessness, I bow my head before the victims of Khojaly” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198289.html>).

16 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Thomas Mirow, president of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/199717.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the November 2009 agreement with the World Trade Organization calling for the establishment of a WTO regional office in Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/199609.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms a December 2009 accord between the Azerbaijani and Chinese defense ministries concerning the provision of assistance by the latter to Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199611.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the October 2009 agreement on economic, scientific and cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199610.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that discussion of the PACE monitoring committee report on Azerbaijan has been postponed until April (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199741.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko receives Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Kyiv, Talat Aliyev (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199636.html>).

The French Embassy in Baku says that media reports about the statements in Yerevan of Bernard Fassier, the co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, contain distortions and do not reflect his views or the position of the French government (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199748.html>).

The US Embassy in Baku says that Washington “intends to continue to

intensify work on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199725.html>).

The US Embassy in Baku says that the absence of an American ambassador is not “the result of problems in relations between the two governments” as “many in Azerbaijan think” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199737.html>).

Mehmet Ceylan, the deputy chairman of the foreign affairs commission of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “Ankara will refuse to establish relations with Armenia” unless and until there is a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199388.html>).

Heddie Frey, a member of the Canadian House of Commons, calls on Canadians and citizens of all countries of the world to mark the anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199663.html>).

The Union of Azerbaijanis of the World begins a campaign against calls for governments to accept the Armenian position on “the so-called genocide of Armenians” in 1915 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199769.html>).

15 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Joao Soares, president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199582.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Slovakian Foreign Minister Miroslav Laicek (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199547.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Azerbaijan supports the step-by-step process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since it knows that in the space of one day, it is impossible to resolve all problems” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199484.html>).

French Minsk Group co-chair Bernard Fassier telephones Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov to explain his remarks concerning Armenia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199556.html>).

Fazail Agamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the United States, although a co-chair of the Minsk Group, has adopted “a pro-Armenian position” and is seeking to make the resolution of the Karabakh conflict secondary to other goals (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199228.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, special representative of the OSCE PA for Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia, says that “the Armenian community

of Nagorno-Karabakh cannot be included in the negotiating process on the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199452.html>).

14 March

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that “NATO must take a position toward the aggressive policy of Armenia” and that Azerbaijan will insist on this at the spring session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Alliance meeting in Riga in May (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199348.html>).

13 March

The Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry says that “the renewed Madrid Document [presented by the OSCE Minsk Group] is the basis for further negotiations on Karabakh” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199282.html>).

Armenian military units conduct exercises in the occupied territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199330.html>).

Joao Soares, president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says during a visit to Baku that “the golden time has come for establishing peace and security in the South Caucasus” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199329.html>).

12 March

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov received Joachim Hörster, a deputy of the German Bundestag and head of the German Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the West European Union (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199245.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that “the Caspian states are prepared for cooperation in the area of security.” His remarks come at the conclusion of the 23rd session of the deputy foreign ministers of the Caspian littoral states that took place in Baku, March 11-12 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199184.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that statements by Bernard Fassier, the French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, in Yerevan not only vary from

those he has made in Baku but could become the basis for Yerevan to adopt a more aggressive policy in the occupied territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199225.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, chairman of the Milli Majlis Human Rights Committee, says that the US State Department's 2009 Human Rights Report, which is sharply critical of the situation in Azerbaijan, does not reflect the reality but rather the efforts of "people who hate Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199221.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, says that "the drawing out of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will create a dangerous situation" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199135.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, is decorated by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev for his work in promoting cooperation between Azerbaijani and Russian societies (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199137.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that reports about the disintegration of that grouping of states are inaccurate and that GUAM, of which Azerbaijan is a member, has a future (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199180.html>).

Nurlan Yermekbayev, deputy foreign minister of Kazakhstan, says that "Azerbaijan has made an enormous contribution to the establishment of the Commission on Mutual Cooperation and Confidence Measures in Asia" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199105.html>).

11 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mehdi Safari, Iran's deputy foreign minister and Tehran's special representative for Caspian affairs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198953.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Korean Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs Chung Jong-hwan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198980.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that the elimination of the visa regime between Azerbaijan and Turkey remains under discussion and that an agreement on all points may be signed this year (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198974.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “the international community intends to support the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the near future” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198914.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku has prepared a draft agreement on the definition of the legal status of the Caspian which takes into consideration the views of all parties (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198907.html>).

Azerbaijan and Saint Lucia establish diplomatic relations with the signing of a communique by their respective representatives to the United Nations in New York, Akshin Mehdiyev and Donatus St. Aimee (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199059.html>).

Peer Stanchina, German ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Baku “considers Germany as a platform for integration into the European community” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198930.html>).

Kestutis Kudzmanas, Lithuanian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that “Azerbaijan is a strategically important country for ensuring the energy security of Europe” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/198855.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia is seeking recognition for ‘the Armenian genocide’ in order to present Turkey with territorial demands” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198667.html>).

10 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198800.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, Milli Majlis deputy and executive secretary of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, says that “having trusted in the mediation of France, Russia and the United States, Azerbaijan agreed that they should become the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group.” He adds that “we believe that the co-chairs will carry out their mission in correspondence with the norms of international law” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198806.html>).

Goran Lenmarker, special representative of the OSCE PA for Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia, says that he is “optimistic” that the Karabakh conflict can be solved “in this year” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198675.html>).

The Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe confirms an

assistance program for the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/199050.html>).

9 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iraqi Ambassador Arshad Omar Esmayeel on the occasion of the completion of his appointment to Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198564.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Karl Lamers, deputy chairman of the German Bundestag Defense Committee and chairman of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Political Committee (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198661.html>).

The Milli Majlis says that the bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will consider the formation of a subcommittee on the Karabakh problem at its upcoming session (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198642.html>).

7 March

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov takes part in the second meeting of the Azerbaijan-Libya inter-governmental commission in Tripoli (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/198291.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijani ambassador to the Russian Federation, says that “Moscow knows that Azerbaijan has the just position on the Karabakh question” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198349.html>).

6 March

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov discusses in Paris the Karabakh conflict with Jean-David Levitte, foreign policy advisor to French President Nicolas Sarkozy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198284.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in Paris (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198282.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “if Congress adopts the resolution on ‘Armenian genocide,’ this can harm US-Azerbaijani relations” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198313.html>).

The US Embassy in Baku says “that we would not like that discussions in Congress would influence relations with Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198313.html>).

[az/news/politics/198290.html](http://www.day.az/news/politics/198290.html)).

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Denisov discusses, among other issues, the Karabakh conflict with Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Firudin Sinirlioglu (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198242.html>).

5 March

Milli Majlis ratifies two intergovernmental agreements with France, one eliminating visa requirements for persons with diplomatic passports and a second on the creation and operation of cultural centers in the two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198139.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that reports by Yerevan that two Azerbaijani military planes had overflown Armenian territory are completely without foundation (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198065.html>).

The Foreign Ministry expresses “regret” about the decision of the US Congress concerning the events of 1915 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198184.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the international relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that “we do not consider just the decision of the committee of the US Congress” on the events of 1915 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198193.html>).

Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Germany, makes a presentation on Azerbaijan for an expanded session of the German Christian Democratic Party (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198297.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu calls on the US and the West to answer whether they want an Armenian-Azerbaijani settlement or not (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/198066.html>).

4 March

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives a delegation of senior officials from the International Monetary Fund (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/197971.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197919.html>).

Minister of Education Misir Mardanov receives Amb. Bilge Cankorel,

the head of the OSCE office in Baku, who calls for improving the training of journalists in Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/society/197976.html>).

Joao Soares, the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that “a good resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is on the table” in the form of the renewed Madrid Principles (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197858.html>).

Jean Perrin, first French ambassador to Baku and currently chairman of the Friends of Azerbaijan Society, says that “not a single country of the post-Soviet space has observed such grandiose successes as those in Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197838.html>).

3 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Russian Vice-Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197787.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Dutch Deputy Foreign Minister Ed Kronenberg (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Danish, Libyan, Irish, and Philippine Ambassadors (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197789.html>, <http://www.day.az/news/politics/197774.html>, <http://www.day.az/news/politics/197762.html>, <http://www.day.az/news/politics/197761.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, receives Mark Herward, the UNESCO representative in Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/society/197802.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade tells visiting Russian Vice-Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov, who serves as Moscow’s coordinator for CIS affairs, that Azerbaijan believes measures must be adopted to reform that organization in order to make it more effective (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197686.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov, who also heads the State Committee on Refugees and IDPs, says that international organizations should monitor the fulfillment of all resolutions they have adopted connected with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as part of a broader effort to resolve the conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197759.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku would “like to

find out the opinion of the Armenian side concerning the renewed Madrid Principles” and that he will be seeking to learn that from the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Paris on March 5 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197739.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Emanuelis Zingeris, chairman of the Lithuanian parliament’s foreign affairs committee (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197782.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that Iranian drilling in the Caspian does not conflict with the issues being discussed between Baku and Tehran (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197785.html>).

Gudsi Osmanov, Azerbaijani consul general in St. Petersburg, meets with Leningrad *Oblast* Governor Valery Serdukov to discuss expanding cooperation between Azerbaijan and that northern Russian region (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197788.html>).

Raimundas Shukis, the vice speaker of the Lithuanian parliament, says Vilnius is “ready to share its experience” with Azerbaijan on questions of European Union integration (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197640.html>).

2 March

President Ilham Aliyev receives Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, whose country is president-in-office of the European Union, to discuss cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197614.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe’s commissioner for human rights (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197550.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Wilfried Martens, the president of the European People’s Party (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197592.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov reiterates that “the withdrawal of occupation forces from the territory of Azerbaijan, the re-establishment of the territorial integrity of the country, and the return of Azerbaijanis who were forced to resettle to their native lands are the primary conditions for guaranteeing peace and stability in the region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197568.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov says that the law enforcement

agencies of Iran should “take measures” to protect the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran against the attacks of demonstrators (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197557.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives the ambassadors of Greece and South Korea (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197530.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the analysis and information department of the Presidential Administration, says that “the Armenians of Karabakh are hostages of the leadership of Armenia and of the field commanders” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197483.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that Armenia will not be able to secure the passage of any measure at that body’s upcoming session (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197496.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that the change of the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group will not affect the course of negotiations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197498.html>).

Oktay Vural, a deputy of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly, says that “under present conditions, the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border is impossible” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196679.html>).

1 March

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that there is no need to comment on the statement of Defense Minister Safar Abiyev to French Ambassador Gabrielle Keller that if the Karabakh conflict is not resolved peacefully, it could be resolved by other means. “Azerbaijan cannot wait another 15 years,” Abiyev said (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197281.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the burning of the Azerbaijani flag by some Iranian demonstrators shows that there are “forces” in Iran “which are not interested in the normalization of Azerbaijan-Iranian relations” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197271.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that the OSCE Minsk Group is the only international organization “capable of solving the Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197287.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Turkey is willing to assist and support Azerbaijan “in all spheres” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197297.html>).

FEBRUARY

28 February

Milli Majlis deputies participate as observers in the parliamentary elections in Tajikistan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196544.html>).

27 February

Representatives of the Azerbaijani State Committee for Work with the Diaspora take part in the creation in Isantbul of a new organization for work with Turkic language peoples (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196819.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that “Russia must adequately know and evaluate its close partner, Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197114.html>).

26 February

President Ilham Aliyev leads his nation in marking the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy by opening a monument and by delivering speech on the continuing importance of a correct assessment of that 1992 event for the life of Azerbaijanis now and in the future (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196929.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Bruno Pouezat, the UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197010.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis, calls on US President Barack Obama to recognize that the discussion of a Congressional resolution on “the so-called ‘Armenian genocide’” is harming

the image of the US in the world (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197035.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that “Ankara condemns the crimes of Armenians in Khojaly” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197022.html>).

Moscow announces that the current Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, Yury Merzlyakov, will leave that position to become Russian ambassador to Estonia later this year (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196980.html>).

25 February

President Ilham Aliyev is named *Person of the Year* by a Russian organization that annually recognizes those who have served their societies and governments over the previous year (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197021.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade arrives in Kyiv to attend the inauguration of Viktor Yanukovich as president of Ukraine (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196535.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Bruno Pouezet, the UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196855.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev tells French Ambassador Gabriel Keller that “if Armenia does not liberate the Azerbaijani lands it has occupied, then the beginning of a war in the South Caucasus is inevitable” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196757.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the tragedy of the Azerbaijani people is the result of the policy of Armenia over the course of more than 100 years” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196882.html>).

The co-chairmen of the US Congressional Working Group for Azerbaijan call on the international community to recognize Khojaly events as a crime against humanity (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/197072.html>).

Alaaddin Buyukkaya, head of the Turkish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, says that “the question of changes in the Minsk Group must be resolved in the OSCE Committee of Ministers” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196742.html>).

24 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Peter Semneby, the EU special representative for the South Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196598.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia's creation of a website providing false information about Khojaly shows that Yerevan is not willing to face up to its responsibilities and is seeking to deceive the international community (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196647.html>).

A Milli Majlis delegation takes part in a meeting of the Vyshegrad Group in Hungary (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196541.html>).

Vahdat Sultan-zade, Azerbaijan's new ambassador to Turkmenistan, presents his letters of credence to Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196532.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, tells visiting Jake Johns, the director for Azerbaijan of the US International Republican Institute, that Baku is "satisfied" with the cooperation it has with that organization (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196614.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that "cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia in the military sphere is mutually profitable" to both countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196523.html>).

"Azerbaijan could play a certain role in the resolution of the Palestinian problem," according to the Palestinian ambassador Asad al-Asad, who is resident in Tashkent but jointly accredited to Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196488.html>).

23 February

Ogtay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, says on his return from a visit to Iran that "Azerbaijani-Iranian relations must constantly be developed" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196346.html>).

Akshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the United States, sends a letter to the UN Secretary General in connection with the anniversary of the Khojaly genocide (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196427.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Administratoin of Muslims of the Caucasus, calls on the international

community to give a legal assessment of the Khojaly massacre and “other crimes of the Armenians in the course of the occupation of Azerbaijani lands” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196345.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party and a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on the parliament to send a protest to the US Congress in connection with the latter body’s taking up of a resolution on the events of 1915 regarding the fate of the Armenian population (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196363.html>). His call is seconded by Milli Majlis deputy Ganira Pashayeva (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196397.html>).

The Milli Majlis ratifies a bilateral accord with Slovenia which will allow Azerbaijanis with diplomatic passports to travel to that country without visas (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196369.html>).

Sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry say that Igor Popov, the Russian ambassador to Mozambique, will become the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group later this year (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196353.html>).

Brent Scowcroft, who earlier served as national security advisor to President George H.W. Bush, says that the US is actively involved in the resolution of “frozen conflicts” in the Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196293.html>).

22 February

Ogtay Asadov, the speaker of the Milli Majlis, visits Iran (20-22 February), including the Iranian province of Eastern Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195949.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says it is checking on Armenian reports that the separatist regime in Nagorno-Karabakh has been represented at an international exhibition in Milan. If true, the ministry says, Baku will take due measures (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196184.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan says that Turkey calls on the OSCE Minsk Group to “accelerate the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196162.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, the ombudsman of Azerbaijan, says that “the Khojaly tragedy is an example of ethnic cleansing and genocide carried out by Armenian nationalists” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/>

196148.html).

Fifty demonstrators picket the Iranian embassy in Baku calling on Tehran to end relations with Armenia and support the rights of Azerbaijanis living in Iran (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196121.html>).

Hassan Yosif al-Zawawi, Kuwaiti ambassador to Baku, says that “the building of strong economic ties is one of the priority directions of Azerbaijan and Kuwait” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/196042.html>).

21 February

Mohammed Reza Bahonar, the vice speaker of the Iranian parliament, says that “Tehran does not see differences between its own interests and the interests of Azerbaijan” and that it “supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195991.html>).

Faruq Logoglu, the former Turkish ambassador to the United States, says that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must have been included in the protocols” concluded between Armenia and Turkey (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195987.html>).

20 February

Eduard Lintner, the state secretary of the German Parliament, distributes to members of that body an appeal on the Khojaly tragedy and the fate of more than a million refugees in the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijani war of 1992-93 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195948.html>).

The Environmental Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe receives a report prepared by Milli Majlis deputy, Rafael Huseynov, on threats to the environment from sound and light sources (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195873.html>).

19 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195852.html>). The American official says that “US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are personally interested in the successes of the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group, considering them to be part of a guarantee of regional security” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195823.html>).

French President Nicolas Sarkozy sends a congratulatory letter to Azerbaijani First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva on the occasion of her being decorated as an Officer of the French Order of the Legion of Honour (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195821.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells visiting Polish Bureau of National Security Chief Alexander Szczyglo that “Azerbaijan and Poland have broad opportunities for deepening relations within the framework of the European Union Eastern Partnership program” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195702.html>).

The Defense Ministry says that “the military leadership of Armenia is trying to conceal from society its failures at the front” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195830.html>).

Mohammed Husein Ferengi, a member of the Iranian parliament, says that “Iran is always on the side of Azerbaijan on the Karabakh problem” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195858.html>).

Jean-Paul Costa, the president of the European Court of Human Rights, says that “Azerbaijan has made great strides in recent times” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195854.html>).

A group of Milli Majlis deputies meet with Joao Soares, the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and with Goran Lennmarker, special representative of the OSCE PA for Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195807.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls for the application of international sanctions to Armenia for systematically violating the ceasefire regime (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195788.html>). Meanwhile, Zahid Oruj, another Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan should give “a harsh reaction” to Armenian violations of the ceasefire (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195671.html>).

Dunyamin Khalilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Armenian-Turkish borders were closed in 1993 as a result of the occupation of the Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan” and that Yerevan must recognize that the re-opening of those borders depends on the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195638.html>).

Former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas says that “Europe could speak with a single voice on the Nagorno-Karabakh question.”

18 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Alexander Szczyglo, the head of the Polish Bureau of National Security, who conveys to the Azerbaijani leader greetings from Polish President Lech Kaczynski (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195608.html>).

Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev, OSCE chairperson-in-office, says that Astana is working to prepare “a road map” for the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195628.html>). He adds that his country is committed to devoting whatever resources it has to that end (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195614.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the executive secretary of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, sends a congratulatory message to Viktor Yanukovich on the latter’s election as president of Ukraine (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195572.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Tehran, says that “relations with Iran occupy a special place in the foreign policy of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195483.html>).

Azhdar Tagizade, a member of the council of the Congress of Azerbaijanis of the World, says that “no one in Iran intends to do anything for the defense of the rights of Azerbaijanis” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195547.html>).

Roland Kobia, the head of the European Union’s delegation to Azerbaijan, says that “the Eastern Partnership is an ambitious initiative both for the European Union and for Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195540.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “if the position of Armenia does not change, then it is senseless to speak about the Madrid or any other principles” and that “the negotiations on the Karabakh conflict will have to begin from square one” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195316.html>).

Gudrat Hasanguliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the renewal of military operations will become the only correct decision of Baku” if Armenia does not accept the “step by step” resolution of the conflict as laid out in the Madrid Principles (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195282.html>).

Bahar Muradova, deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis, and Rabiyyat Aslanova, the chairman of the Milli Majlis Human Rights Committee, meet with Czech parliamentarians in Prague (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195479.html>).

Adil Aliyev and Fazail Agamaly, deputies of the Milli Majlis, take part in the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States in St. Petersburg (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195459.html>).

17 February

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives GUAM Secretary General Valery Chechelashvili (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195329.html>).

The Foreign Ministry replies to the statement by Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan that parts of Azerbaijan are under Azerbaijani occupation. "If the head of the Foreign Ministry of Armenia could produce even a single international legal act in which there is reference to a country occupying its own territory, this would be surprising," the Azerbaijani ministry says (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195327.html>).

The French Embassy in Baku says that the February 10 military accord Paris signed with Yerevan is designed to expand cooperation in the South Caucasus and that the French government is prepared to sign a similar agreement with Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195336.html>).

The Italian Senate adopts a resolution *On the situation in the South Caucasus* saying that the conflicts in the region must be resolved on the basis of the principle of territorial integrity (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195339.html>).

Lebanese Foreign Minister Ali Husein al-Shami says that "Beirut is allied with Azerbaijan and supports its sovereignty and territorial integrity" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195285.html>).

US Senator Mark Udall of Colorado says that he intends to defend the interests of Azerbaijan in the US Congress (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195296.html>).

Joseph Shagal, the president of the International Israel-Azerbaijan Association, says that "in Israel, there is not a single high-ranking political figure who has expressed a desire to meet with the prime minister of

Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195002.html>).

16 February

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has prepared a package of measures on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and the OSCE chairperson-in-office, to present to President Ilham Aliyev (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195107.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, consul general of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, speaks at a variety of venues in Northern California (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195168.html>).

Said Kazim Musavi, the leader of the inter-parliamentary group of Iranian-Azerbaijani friendship, says he welcomes the upcoming visit to Iran of Milli Majlis speaker Ogtay Asadov because this will give a new impulse to the development of bilateral relations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195221.html>).

Afshar Suleymani, former ambassador of Iran to Baku, says that “the construction of relations between Azerbaijan and Israel cannot be directed against Tehran” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195192.html>).

Nikolae Ureche, Romanian ambassador to Baku, says that “Azerbaijan is a reliable and true partner of NATO.” The Romanian embassy in the Azerbaijani capital serves as the NATO coordinator for work with the Azerbaijani authorities (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195145.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that his organization is committed to the resolution of prolonged conflicts on the territory of its member states (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195105.html>).

15 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kanat Saudabayev, foreign minister of Kazakhstan and chairperson-in-office of the OSCE (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195036.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195039.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from the incoming ambassadors of Slovakia, Spain, and Kyrgyzstan

(<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195042.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, the president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, and good will ambassador for UNESCO and ISESCO, is decorated by the president of France as an officer of the Legion of Honor (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195032.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Azerbaijan is interested in the adoption of the updated variant of the Madrid Principles” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194910.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives a delegation of US Congressional staff members (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/195041.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to China, is awarded the honorary rank of “Ambassador of International Friendship” by the Chinese government (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194851.html>).

14 February

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office arrives in Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194821.html>).

13 February

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Kazakhstan as chair of the OSCE should undertake steps for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194788.html>).

12 February

President Ilham Aliyev congratulates Viktor Yanukovich on his election as president of Ukraine (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194554.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev authorizes Azerbaijani ministries to sign memoranda on cooperation with UNICEF (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194469.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms a December 2009 agreement between Azerbaijan and France on financial cooperation arrangements (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194470.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the December 2009 agreement between the border services of Azerbaijan and Estonia

(<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194465.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the June 2009 agreement on cooperation between the Azerbaijani and German justice ministries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194464.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the November 2009 sports cooperation agreement between Azerbaijan and Cuba (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194463.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the November 2009 accords between Azerbaijan and Slovenia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194462.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the November 2009 accords between Azerbaijan and Belarus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194461.html>).

Azerigaz announces its intention to build a new pipeline for the export of gas to Iran (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/194545.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, calls on the three co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group to put pressure on Armenia in order to achieve a settlement of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194574.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls on the Azerbaijani parliament to appeal to the US Congress not to take up the question of “the Armenian genocide” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194601.html>).

Gabriel Keller, French ambassador to Baku, says that Paris “strives for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194562.html>).

11 February

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Ankara will take “serious steps” for assuring “stability and peace in the Caucasus” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194357.html>).

10 February

President Ilham Aliyev receives Andres Herkel and Debon Grekh, PACE Monitoring Committee Co-Rapporteurs on Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194232.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Vahdat Sultan-zade Azerbaijani ambassador to Turkmenistan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194235.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from the incoming ambassadors of Canada, Serbia, and Mali (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194237.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and says that he hopes the latter's visit to Baku will give "a boost to the further development of relations" between Azerbaijan and Israel (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194199.html>).

Members of the Azerbaijani diaspora in London demonstrate against the visit to the United Kingdom of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194448.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the policies of Robert Kocharyan and Serzh Sargsyan have led Armenia into "a deep economic crisis" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193844.html>).

9 February

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Altay Efendiyev Azerbaijani ambassador to Spain (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194025.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193882.html>).

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman says in Baku that he and his Azerbaijani counterpart have agreed on expediting the process of eliminating visas for the diplomatic staff of the two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194029.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, ombudsman of Azerbaijan, says that "the admission of representatives of separatist Nagorno-Karabakh into the European Institute of Ombudsmen contradicts the statute of that organization" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/194022.html>).

8 February

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Norwegian Minister of Justice and the Police Knut Storberget (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193827.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a member of the political council of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party and a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Baku was successful in presenting its positions on all key issues at the Munich Security Conference (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193822.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Washington sends a letter of protest to the *Prescient Worldwide* telephone company for showing Karabakh as part of Armenia on its official website (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193811.html>).

7 February

President Ilham Aliyev says that “today a balance of forces between Armenia and Azerbaijan does not exist” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193807.html>).

6 February

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Munich Security Conference that “Azerbaijan and its partners are ready to invest billions of dollars to develop natural gas supplies” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193262.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in Munich (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193564.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, says that “the last meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia in Sochi gave new breath to the negotiation process on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193511.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia should understand” that the negotiation process cannot continue “eternally” and that it is putting itself at risk by failing to negotiate seriously (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193339.html>).

5 February

President Ilham Aliyev meets in Munich with US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193453.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets in Munich with members of the German-Azerbaijan forum (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193411.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets in Munich with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193414.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the “elections” that the separatist regime in Nagorno-Karabakh plans to conduct on the occupied territories of

Azerbaijan “will not be recognized by the international community” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193377.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the resolution of the Karabakh conflict by military means is completely possible.” His comments come following the statement of US Intelligence Director Dennis Blair that military acitons might resume between Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193146.html>).

Sergey Naryshkin, head of the Presidential Administration of Russia, says that “Russia and Azerbaijan need one another” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193439.html>).

Havva Mammadova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Armenia’s new ambassador to Russia, Oleg Yesayan, was one of the organizers of the Khojaly genocide” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193403.html>).

James Jeffrey, US ambassador to Turkey, says that “several conflicts must be resolved in the Caucasus” and that “the decision of the Constitutional Court of Armenia has given ‘the green light’ to the ratification of the [Turkish-Armenian] protocols” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193396.html>).

Temur Yakobashvili, Georgian re-integration minister, says that Tbilisi “hopes that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia will lead to the resolution of the Karabakh problem” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193276.html>).

Iranian Health Minister Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi says that “at present, there are no obstacles to cooperation between Baku and Tehran in the area of health care, and both countries are interested in broadening ties in that sphere” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/193382.html>).

The health ministers of the OECD adopt the Baku Declaration on expanding cooperation among their countries (<http://www.day.az/news/society/193331.html>).

4 February

President Ilham Aliyev meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193205.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev says that the OECD should carry out “serious reforms” during this year when Azerbaijan assumes a leadership role in it (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/>

193145.html).

Indonesia announces that it will open an embassy in Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193127.html>).

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Qashqavi says that Tehran and Baku are “renewing discussions on consular affairs” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193075.html>).

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon says that his organization is not directly involved in the process of talks about the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193071.html>).

Gudrat Hasanguliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says if the US Congress votes to declare the events of 1915 an Armenian “genocide,” that will work to Turkey’s benefit because then Ankara will be able to act independently of the United States (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192936.html>).

3 February

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade receives Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Omani foreign minister (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/193025.html>).

National Security Minister Lt. Gen. Eldar Makhmudov receives Gerard Bauman, the director general of the Dutch Service of General Intelligence and Security (<http://www.day.az/news/society/193014.html>).

Sports Minister Azad Rahimov receives Kyrgyzstan deputy labor and migration minister Nuriyla Joldosheva to discuss a memorandum of cooperation in youth policy (<http://www.day.az/news/society/192931.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “trade relations with poor Armenia will not give Ankara anything” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192749.html>).

A committee of representatives of the Council of Europe discuss the report of the Ago monitoring group which visited the South Caucasus in November 2009 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/193060.html>).

Hasan Hami, Moroccan ambassador to Baku, says that “stability in Azerbaijan is very important for the stability of the region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192883.html>).

Taner Yildiz, Turkish energy and natural resources minister, says that the Nabucco project is proceeding according to plan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192883.html>).

[az/news/economy/192905.html](http://www.day.az/news/economy/192905.html)).

Iranian Vice-President Hamid Baghaei says that Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran are discussing the opening of ferry traffic among them on the Caspian Sea (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/192899.html>).

2 February

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov thanks Iran for ending the visa requirement on Azerbaijani citizens visiting or transiting that country (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192864.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Iranian deputy foreign minister Hassan Qashqavi (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192862.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev says that “Azerbaijan is acquiring every greater importance in terms of guaranteeing the energy security of Europe.” He makes that comment after meeting with Romanian economics and trade deputy minister Tudor Sheban (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/192718.html>).

Omani Foreign Minister Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah says, after a meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart, that “Nagorno-Karabakh is Azerbaijani territory, and we hope that this problem will be resolved in a peaceful way” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192708.html>).

Iran simplifies the rules governing trade with Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/192736.html>).

1 February

The Milli Majlis approves a bill establishing a visa-free regime with Kazakhstan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192618.html>).

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Qashqavi says that the Karabakh conflict “can be resolved by the actions of the states of the region” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192622.html>).

The Azerbaijani-American Council begins a letter-writing campaign to the US Congress and President Barak Obama in connection with the 18th anniversary of Khojaly (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192565.html>).

Ali Masimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the UN Security Council resolutions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict have not been fulfilled

and that Azerbaijan's parliament should make an appeal to the UN about that (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192579.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, calls for Baku to seek a decision of international courts on Khojaly as genocide (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192576.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy who is also deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, calls for the adoption of a law on the occupied territories (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192561.html>).

A defense ministry delegation met with the European Command of the United States in Stuttgart to discuss cooperation (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192548.html>).

Azerbaijan and the Comoro Islands establish diplomatic relations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192680.html>).

Zokir Vozirov, Tajikistan's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that in his country, "all the conditions for the participation of Azerbaijani [business] partners" have been created (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192479.html>).

Turkish Deputy Hakki Sukha Okay says that "the Ankara-Yerevan protocols have suffered a complete fiasco" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192454.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Islamic Conference declares the Khojaly tragedy to be "a crime against humanity" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192480.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the sides are at the completion stage of the negotiation process" on Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192379.html>).

Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mammadbaqir Bahrami says that "the Caspian littoral states have achieved 70 percent agreement on the delimitation of the Caspian" and that "Iran hopes for rapid achievement of a consensus" on that issue (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192477.html>).

Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mammadbaqir Bahrami says that Iran hopes to increase its purchase of Azerbaijani gas from the current 1.2 million cubic meters a day to 14 million cubic meters (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/192471.html>).

JANUARY

31 January

A Polish foreign ministry spokesman says that the European Union intends to begin negotiations with Baku on the simplification of its visa regime with Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192425.html>).

30 January

Azerbaijanis and American citizens of Azerbaijani origin sent a letter to US President Barack Obama and other senior American officials concerning the 18th anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192316.html>).

29 January

Vasif Talybov, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic receives Ambassador Bilge Cankorel of the Baku Office of the OSCE (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192407.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that President Ilham Aliyev and his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan discussed the latest proposals of the OSCE Minsk Group but that “it is impossible to speak about results” from their latest session (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192235.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that Azerbaijan has no plans at present to lift the visa requirement for Iranians visiting Azerbaijan even though Tehran has done so for Azerbaijanis. Visa issues are “not a bilateral issue,” he says, noting that the imposition or lifting of a visa requirement is “the internal affair of each country” (<http://www>).

day.az/news/politics/192297.html).

Farhad Abdullayev, the head of the Constitutional Court, and Ramiz Rzayev, the head of the Supreme Court, meet with Jean-Paul Costa, the head of the European Court of Human Rights (<http://www.day.az/news/society/192128.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu meets with his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan and says that the Armenians “know well the goals and intentions of Ankara” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192277.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he does not believe that the preamble to any agreement between Baku and Yerevan over the Karabakh conflict is that important in and of itself but thinks that “if today Azerbaijan can dictate its position” on that, then it will be able to advance its position better on substantive points (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191968.html>).

Gultakin Hajibayli, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls on PACE “not to remain indifferent to the fate of Azerbaijani refugees and forced resettlers” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192121.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US special representative on energy issues in Eurasia, calls “disappointing” the absence of an agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey on the shipping of gas from the Shah-Deniz field (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/192134.html>).

The National Academy of Sciences issues the first of a planned four-volume set on “The History of Azerbaijani Diplomacy and International Relations.” This volume covers the period from 1639 to 1828, and the documents reproduced in it are given in both Azerbaijani and Russian (<http://www.day.az/news/society/192265.html>).

US Congressman Dean Heller, Republican of Nevada, in a response to a letter from the Azerbaijani diaspora about Black January, says that “the actions of the Soviet Union in January 1990 were an attempt to block the strivings of the Azerbaijani people to acquire independence from the USSR” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/192126.html>).

Turkmenistan has approached Azerbaijan for assistance in preparing cadres for its national fleet in the Caspian, *ABC.az* reports citing “informed sources” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/192250.html>).

28 January

President Ilham Aliyev meets King Abdullah II of Jordan at Davos (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192111.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets Polish President Lech Kaczynski at Davos (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192107.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets Latvian President Valdis Zatlers at Davos (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192018.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Doris Leuthard, President of Switzerland, at Davos (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192106.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev meets Prince Andrew of Great Britain at Davos (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192110.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev takes part in the Global Energy Panorama forum at Davos (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192013.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in London on the sidelines of the Afghanistan assistance conference (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192112.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, denounces the destruction of Albanian-period graves and monuments in Armenian-occupied parts of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192070.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Azerbaijan will never conduct negotiations with separatists,” noting that “soon will we come to the finish line in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191835.html>).

A delegation of Milli Majlis deputies visiting Washington raises the issue of US assistance to the separatist regime in Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192045.html>). The deputies also take part in a US television program devoted to Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191905.html>).

The US Department of State responds to Azerbaijan’s protest note saying that the US does not recognize any structure by the name of Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191986.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discusses the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192064.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijan and Turkey have agreed on a document about the elimination of visa requirements (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191999.html>). In other comments, he says that if progress is made in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, then "the confirmation of the protocols signed with Armenia will become possible" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191987.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the new president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, receives Azerbaijan's delegation to that body (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192052.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe elects Swiss parliamentarian Dick Marty as the new head of the PACE committee monitoring the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/192044.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu discusses the Ankara-Yerevan protocols with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191963.html>).

The Georgian embassy in Baku releases a statement announcing the retirement of Tbilisi's ambassador in Baku, Ivane Noniashvili (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191919.html>).

27 January

President Ilham Aliyev meets Slovenian President Danilo Turk at Davos (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191899.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijan delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, tells that body that "in Azerbaijan, measures for the improvement of the situation in the media sector are being taken" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191909.html>).

A delegation of Milli Majlis deputies meet with Italian parliamentarians in Rome (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191884.html>).

Youth and Sports Ministry representative Farhad Gadzhiyev signs a cooperation agreement with Iran's National Youth Organization (<http://www.day.az/news/society/191834.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev says that possible visits by the missions of UNESCO and the Council of Europe to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remain under discussion (<http://www.day.az/>

news/politics/191745.html).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia's hopes to use the protocols Yerevan signed with Ankara as a means of avoiding a resolution of the Karabakh conflict "have not proved out" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191560.html>).

Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan foreign minister and chairman-in-office of the OSCE, says that "the Nagorno-Karabakh problem can be resolved only through the combined efforts of all interested sides" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191874.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the lack of a resolution of the Karabakh conflict "is an obstacle for stability in the region" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191701.html>).

Khalil Unlutepe, an opposition deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that the Turkish parliament "will not ratify the protocols which were signed with an occupier state" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191797.html>).

Azerbaijanis living in Latin America launch their own website (<http://www.day.az/news/society/191783.html>).

26 January

President Ilham Aliyev names Rashad Mammadov Azerbaijani consul general in Aktau, Kazakhstan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191907.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that media reports suggesting the Armenian community of Karabakh will be invited to take part in negotiations over the Karabakh conflict are baseless (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191679.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and vice president of that body, says that PACE's decision not to recognize the authority of the Armenian delegation "testified to the situation in this country" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191681.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that the Sochi meeting between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia contributed to progress in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/>

politics/191674.html).

The US Department of State says that Washington supports the rapid ratification of the protocols between Armenia and Turkey directed toward the normalization of the bilateral relations of those countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191503.html>).

US Representative John Shadegg, Republican of Arizona, appeals to other members of Congress “not to forget about Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191712.html>).

Nasib Nasibli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the Madrid Principles are against the interests of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191141.html>).

Debnath Shaw, India’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that India “supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191512.html>).

25 January

President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan in Sochi at a meeting hosted by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to discuss the resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191335.html>).

Movlud Chavushoglu, the newly elected president of PACE, says his group “will do everything that depends on us for the resolution of the [Karabakh] conflict by peaceful means. War is not a path for the resolution of problems on our continent” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191428.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan’s ombudsman, says that Armenia reports that the European Institute of Ombudsman received representatives of the Karabakh occupation regime are untrue (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191405.html>).

Sergey Kuznetsov, an official of the Venetian Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “in a short time, an action program” will be ready for Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191484.html>).

Lluís Maria de Puig, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Council will continue to work with Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191422.html>). In other

comments, he says that the work of PACE's subcommittee on Karabakh must become more active to promote the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191403.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that the "main result" of the latest round of talks between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia was that the two sides agreed to propose specific formulations for those parts of the draft accord with which one or the other disagrees (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191420.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, special representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE for Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia, says that "an agreement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict could be achieved in the spring of this year" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191410.html>).

Amr Moussa, the secretary general of the Arab League, says that his agency "has prepared research on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191314.html>).

23 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergey Naryshkin, chief of the Presidential Administration of Russia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191217.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Russian media representatives in her capacity as president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191150.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that a map on the site of the Armenian president showing Karabakh as independent reflects "the unconstructive approach of Armenia" to talks about resolving the conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191200.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, chief of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, says that "the Azerbaijani-Russian forum demonstrated how important it is to discuss important and immediate problems" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191228.html>).

Sergey Naryshkin, chief of the Presidential Administration of Russia, says that "the CIS needs reform" in order to make its activities more "concrete" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191239.html>). He adds that "in Russia, the strategic and mutually profitable relations with Azerbaijan are highly valued" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191223.html>).

Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos says that “all possible mechanisms” should be used to promote the resolution of the Karabakh conflicts and other conflicts in the Caucasus (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191202.html>).

Amr Moussa, the secretary general of the Arab League, says that “cooperation from all sides is needed for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191214.html>).

Aynur Jamalgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan’s proposed modifications to the Turkish-Armenian protocols are “absurd” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190918.html>).

22 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives the participants of the first Azerbaijani-Russian forum on humanitarian cooperation (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191148.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev decorates Russian journalist Mikhail Gusman with the Order of Friendship (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191137.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, says that “the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can be resolved only within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191014.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, says that “the Azerbaijani-Russian forum will make a major contribution to the development and strengthening of friendship between the peoples” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/191000.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, the head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the decision of the Armenian Constitutional Court concerning the Ankara-Yerevan protocols confirms the correctness of President Ilham Aliyev’s assessment of those protocols (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191082.html>). In other comments, he expresses the hope that the upcoming meeting of the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents will lead to progress (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191047.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard

Nalbandyan's statement that he does not think there will be major progress in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict in 2010 "lacks logic and sense" given the upcoming meetings between the presidents of the two countries "under the patronage of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191101.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku is sending 500,000 US dollars in assistance to earthquake-ravaged Haiti (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191016.html>).

Yuri Merzlyakov, Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that the visit of the president of the OSCE to the South Caucasus will promote "agreement on the principles of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191011.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that proposals concerning the joint Russian-American use of the Gabala radar site remain on the table but will not be addressed until "after a joint definition of rocket threats" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191028.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that "Turkey is following the spirit of the protocols on the normalization of relations with Armenia" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191066.html>).

Onur Oymen, the deputy head of Turkey's *Republican Peoples Party*, says that "the Ankara-Yerevan protocols have lost all sense and should be annulled" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191123.html>).

Asad al-Asad, ambassador of the Palestinian Autonomy to Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, says that Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Autonomy, "with pleasure and satisfaction has accepted an invitation to visit Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191115.html>).

Gennady Burbulis, an advisor to the chairman of the Russian Federation Council, says that no one should pay any attention to Vladimir Zhirionovsky's declaration that Moscow should recognize Karabakh if it declares its independence (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191112.html>). In other comments, he says that the foundation has been laid to "move forward in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191100.html>).

Ali Hasanov, the head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that unless Russia, the US and France put pressure on Armenia, Yerevan will be unlikely to change its "unconstructive

position” on Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191043.html>).

Nikolae Ureche, Romania’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that “Azerbaijan is important for NATO” especially because it “plays a significant role in the struggle with terrorism and in providing for international energy security, and it has an important geopolitical position” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191019.html>).

Ismet Beyukataman, deputy head of the Nationalist Movement Party of Turkey and a member of that country’s Grand National Assembly, says that without a resolution of the Karabakh conflict, “the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border is impossible” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190686.html>).

Russian Culture Minister Aleksandr Avdeyev says that “our goal is the development of ties between the civil societies of Russia and Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190991.html>).

Russian Foreign Minister says that Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, like the presidents of all CIS countries, is being invited to the commemoration of the 65th anniversary of Victory Day in Moscow (<http://www.day.az/news/society/191059.html>).

Mikhail Shvydkoy, special representative of the president of Russia for cultural cooperation with foreign countries, says that “a deficit of contacts between the peoples of Russia and Azerbaijan is felt” at the present time (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190999.html>).

21 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/191027.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov says that Azerbaijan is devoting “all its efforts for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190892.html>).

Faig Baguirov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Egypt, says that he has delivered a note to the Egyptian foreign ministry protesting the posting on an Egyptian website of a map showing the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhchivan as part of Armenia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190912.html>).

Farid Shafiyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Canada, meets with the leaders of that country’s Jewish community (<http://www.day.az/news/>

politics/190737.html).

Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammadov tells incoming Azerbaijani Ambassador Elkhan Huseynov that relations between Ashgabat and Baku are at “a high level” and are developing rapidly (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190762.html>).

The US Embassy in Baku organizes at the Baku media center a broadcast of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s statement on Internet freedom in which she says that “countries which apply censorship to the Internet pursue political profit but at the same time lose in the economic sphere” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190929.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party and a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia wants to have the protocols approved so that the border with Turkey can be opened (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190909.html>).

Mustafa Elitash, deputy head of the parliamentary faction of the ruling Turkish Party of Justice and Development, says that “until the resolution of the Karabakh problem there cannot be any question of opening the borders and establishing relations with Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190679.html>).

20 January

President Ilham Aliyev leads the Azerbaijani people in commemorating the 20th anniversary of Black January with a visit to the Alley of Martyrs (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190590.html>) and at the opening of new memorial complex dedicated to the victims of the attack of Soviet forces on Azerbaijanis on January 20, 1990 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190622.html>).

Latif Seyfeddinogly, Azerbaijani ambassador to Kazakhstan, says that Astana’s proposals for overcoming and resolving protracted conflicts “deserve attention” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190712.html>).

Romanian President Traian Basescu says that he intends to establish “privileged” relations with Azerbaijan and Georgia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190841.html>).

19 January

President Ilham Aliyev tells *Euronews* about the state of negotiations on

the Karabakh conflict and about Azerbaijan's relations with Europe (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190540.html>).

Ali Hasanov, Vice Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, says that Mikhail Gorbachev should be brought to trial for his role in the events of January 20, 1990, and that his crimes should be assessed even if that happens after his death (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190443.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that "a legal assessment of the tragedy of January 20 [1990] must be given" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190434.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Russia, says that the Russian foreign ministry has not responded to the Azerbaijani note protesting Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's suggestion that Moscow should recognize Karabakh if Karabakh declared its independence (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190483.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Russia, tells students at Moscow State University that "Bloody January' left a deep impression on the consciousness of the Azerbaijani people" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190481.html>).

Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos says that "the frequent meetings of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia have created a positive dynamic in the process of the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which must not be violated" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190484.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that those who were the authors of "Bloody January" were punished by the collapse of the USSR. He says that the Soviet Union's problems began with the coming to power of Mikhail Gorbachev, and he pointed to several of the latter's policies, including the anti-alcohol campaign with its destruction of the wine industry in certain republics, "universal" glasnost, and the use of force against some republics, that Oruj says accelerated that country's demise (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190338.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the State Committee on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, says that Azerbaijani protests caused the European Court to refrain from taking up cases brought by Armenia concerning refugee issues (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190468.html>).

Rejai Kutan, former speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says

that “the protocols signed between Ankara and Yerevan have no future” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190431.html>).

The Turkish foreign ministry says that a decision by the Constitutional Court of Armenia concerning the Ankara-Yerevan protocols violates both the spirit and the letter of those agreements (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190424.html>).

Nasib Nasibli, Milli Majlis deputy, says that the paragraphs of the Madrid Principles having to do with a future referendum in Karabakh are a sticking point in the talks (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190155.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, ombudsman of Azerbaijan, says that “the former Soviet government conducted an unprecedented military aggression against Azerbaijan” on January 20, 1990 (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190551.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkey’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, expresses his country’s sympathy to the Azerbaijani people on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the events of January 20, 1990 (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190471.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhhin, Russia’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, is involved in a traffic accident but is not injured (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190406.html>).

18 January

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Cabinet of Ministers that the military potential of Azerbaijan is “growing,” that Azerbaijan’s standing in the world is rising, and that progress is being made toward a resolution of the Karabakh conflict now that Armenia has recognized that the conflict must be resolved on the basis of the territorial integrity of states (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190295.html>).

The Library of the President of Azerbaijan for the first time puts online information about the events of January 20, 1991, at <http://www.preslib.az>.

Elmira Suleymanova, ombudsman of Azerbaijan, calls on the international community to support “the just demands of the Azerbaijani people for an international legal assessment” of the actions of those responsible for the events of January 20, 1990 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190320.html>). Deputies of the Milli Majlis equal this call for the punishment of those responsible for those events

(<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190312.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, the Sheikh ul-Islam, says that Azerbaijan “has the right to bring to trial” Mikhail Gorbachev and others involved in the January 20, 1990 events (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190200.html>).

The General Procuracy of Azerbaijan says that Moscow has not returned “part of the materials concerning the criminal case” arising from the events of January 20, 1990 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190334.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iran’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, expresses the sympathy of Iran in connection with the anniversary of the tragedy of January 20, 1990, and says that “the Islamic Republic of Iran will always support the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190204.html>).

Tajikistan Foreign Minister Khamrokhon Zarifi says that Dushanbe’s relations with Baku advanced significantly during 2009 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190360.html>).

Marvan al-Hmud, a member of the Jordanian senate and head of the Society of Jordanian-Azerbaijani Friendship in Amman, says that Jordanians are interested in broadening relations with Azerbaijan in all spheres (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190340.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Baku expects the new leadership of the Council of Europe to be objective in its assessment of events in the Caucasus and not to apply double standards (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190289.html>).

Robert Bradtke, US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, meets with Karabakh separatist leader Bako Saakyan during the American diplomat’s visit to Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190170.html>).

17 January

Two Azerbaijani representatives to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and two in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States serve as election observers in Ukraine and report that they did not observe violations of the electoral law (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190146.html> and.

16 January

Azerbaijan's embassy in Moscow hands over a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry protesting Duma Deputy Speaker and LDPR Party head Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's declaration that "if Nagorno-Karabakh declares its independence, then Russia should recognize this" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190036.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Moscow is committed to a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict and does not see any role for the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty to intervene even if the conflict were to turn violent (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190084.html>).

The Turkish Society for the Struggle against the Baseless Declarations of the Armenians collected a total of 4,000 signatures on its petition against the opening of the Turkish border with Armenia (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/190079.html>).

Gintaras Steponavičius, Lithuanian education and science minister, visits the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Baku (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190100.html>).

The Azerbaijan Institution of Radiation Problems is preparing a cooperation agreement with its counterpart in South Korea (<http://www.day.az/news/society/190062.html>).

15 January

President Ilham Aliyev receives Richard Morningstar, US special representative for energy issues (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189952.html>).

Robert Ilatov, head of the Israel-Azerbaijan inter-parliamentary association, says in the Knesset that the upcoming visit to Baku by Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman will highlight that "there are many spheres in which Israel can help Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189895.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Turkey and Azerbaijan should sign "a road map" to guide their future relations (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189883.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that once the occupation of Karabakh is ended, "then will be resolved the Turkish-

Armenian question. If Armenia has good intentions, let it show this by beginning the liberation of the districts around Nagorno-Karabakh. If it leaves these regions, positive processes will begin” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189868.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Baku will give PACE a document on the desecration of graves at an Azerbaijani cemetery by Armenian forces (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189864.html>).

Hidayat Orujov, the head of the Azerbaijani State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church must display greater care in its discussion of churches in Armenian-occupied regions of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189865.html>).

14 January

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade says that “projects for the transit of energy source via the Southern Corridor must be made commercially attractive” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/189744.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev says that Azerbaijan is unlikely to become a member of the World Trade Organization in the near future despite intensive negotiations toward that end (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/189621.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev says that *Euronest*, the European Union’s Eastern Partnership, will be “useful” for Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189614.html>).

The Foreign Ministry releases a report on its activities in 2009, detailing Baku’s efforts to resolve the Karabakh dispute and to promote Azerbaijani interests around the world (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189695.html>).

Vahit Erdem, head of the Turkish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO, says that “until the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, we will not ratify the protocols and will not open the border with Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189367.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that the resolution of longstanding conflicts will remain a “priority” of the organization in 2010 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189544.html>).

Participants in the Batumi Energy Conference reaffirm their commitment to the territorial integrity of the participating countries, including Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189783.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Moscow releases a statement in reaction to the criticism by the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty concerning the statements of Ambassador Polad Bulbuloglu concerning the necessity of restoring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189793.html>).

Three Milli Majlis deputies visit their counterparts in Romania (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189787.html>).

Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev says that his country “has opportunities for resolving ‘frozen’ conflicts in the Caucasus” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189768.html>).

Sergey Markov, a Russian Duma deputy, says that “there already are positive aspects to the process of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189682.html>).

Yury Merzlyakov, the Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk group, says that the co-chairs are planning to visit the region in the near future (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189655.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “the opening of the Turkish-Armenian border and the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are interconnected” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189631.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iran’s ambassador to Azerbaijan, visits Nakhchivan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189646.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that “Turkey must convince Moscow of the need to put pressure on Armenia” to resolve the Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189556.html>).

13 January

Azerbaijan and Iran sign a contract for the sale of Azerbaijani gas to Iran (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/189465.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev says that Azerbaijan is seeking to receive membership in the World Trade Organization with the status of a developing country (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/189469.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives a delegation of the International Legal Foundation of Germany (<http://www.day.az/news/society/189543.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says it has no information that any of those who suffered in the Haitian earthquake were Azerbaijanis (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189551.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan asks his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to play “a big role” in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189589.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, the head of the political analysis and information supply department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Freedom House report which declared Azerbaijan to be “unfree” was not only inaccurate but part of a campaign by Freedom House to try to attract attention to itself and thus “survive the financial crisis” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189490.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan calls on Moscow to press for the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189491.html>).

Zahid Oruj, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that expanding cooperation between Russia and Turkey will allow for “the neutralization of the anti-Azerbaijani position of Armenia” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189355.html>).

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, says that his country is “interested in the development of joint energy projects with Azerbaijan” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189480.html>).

12 January

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that “Azerbaijan plans to expand its gas operations in Europe” (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/189253.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with the Emir of Qatar and other Qatar officials, during which he and his counterpart sign an accord on the elimination of the visa requirement for diplomats of the two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189225.html>).

Three scholars—an Azerbaijani, an Armenian and a Georgian—release

a volume of essays in Russian and English on the history of the Caucasus from ancient times until 1921. In addition to the 2,000 copies in the original print run, Azerbaijani historians say they will place the entire text on the Internet (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189291.html>).

11 January

Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev says that the decision of the US Congress to provide 8 million US dollars in assistance to Karabakh directly and bypassing Baku can “negatively affect relations between the US and Azerbaijan but [that] we hope this will not happen” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189068.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov says that Azerbaijan is “considering the question of the elimination of the visa regime with Iran and Turkey” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189108.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Vagif Sadykhov says that the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran is dealing with the case of Baku State University professor Rashid Aliyev who is under arrest there (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189070.html>).

The Foreign Ministry has named Abbasali Hasanov, who had been Baku’s ambassador in Tehran, to be ambassador for special assignments (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189142.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the book entitled “Path to Nowhere: In the Trap of Illusions” published by *Day.az* represents “a major contribution” to shedding the light of truth on the Karabakh conflict. It is to be distributed through Azerbaijani embassies abroad (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189130.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Russian politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy’s declaration that “if Nagorno-Karabakh proclaims its independence, then Russia should recognize it” is not serious and does not correspond to the Russian government’s position (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189179.html>).

Joseph Debono Grech, co-rapporteur for Azerbaijan of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that “the situation in the area of human rights in Azerbaijan is improving but that this is not enough for a member state of the Council of Europe” (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189087.html>).

Mahir Mahammadoglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Lebanon and Syria, says that Baku is interested in the development of relations in all spheres with these two countries (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/189157.html>).

8 January

Azerbaijan's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York has sent a report to the UN secretary general about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh pointing out that Armenia has not fulfilled its obligations concerning the resolution of that conflict (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188720.html>).

Annamammad Mammadov, Turkmenistan's ambassador in Baku, says that "the question of the delimitation of borders in the Caspian has not affected the goodneighborly relations between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188755.html>).

Mahir Hamzayev, the president of the Community of Azerbaijanis of Lithuania, says that his organization has broken "the monopoly of Armenian propaganda" in that country (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188785.html>).

7 January

Azerbaijan and Swaziland establish diplomatic relations. A communiqué to that effect is signed in New York by Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, and Swaziland Ambassador Joel Musa Nhleko (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188710.html>).

Azerbaijan's ambassador in Spain, Mammad Aliyev, is awarded *La Gran Cruz de la Orden del Merito Civil* by the Spanish government (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188562.html>).

6 January

President Ilham Aliyev names Murad Najafbayli ambassador to Switzerland and Elchin Amirbayov ambassador to France (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188545.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a member of the Milli Majlis, says that "the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be resolved in the near future" (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188313.html>).

5 January

Joseph Debono Grech and Christopher Strasser, co-rapporteurs on Azerbaijan for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, welcome the decision of President Ilham Aliyev to pardon 99 prisoners (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188365.html>).

The US Azerbaijani Network says that its members sent more than 100,000 email and fax messages to American officials during 2009 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188267.html>).

3 January

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says his agency is conducting negotiations about the export of 27 kinds of its products (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/188052.html>).

Iranian officials say they are seeking to conclude annual agreements on the importation of gas from Azerbaijan (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/188095.html>).

2 January

The Iranian embassy in Baku announces that Tehran will unilaterally introduce a visa-free regime with Azerbaijan as of February 1 (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/188047.html>).

1 January

Azerbaijan begins exporting gas to Russia (<http://www.day.az/news/economy/187982.html>).

Mammadbaqir Bahrami, Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan, says that Ganja has great potential in terms of developing bilateral relations with Iran's provinces (<http://www.day.az/news/politics/187990.html>).

Notes on Editors

Paul Goble is publications advisor at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, where he also co-edits ADA's biweekly online publication "Azerbaijan in the World." Earlier, he served as vice dean for the social sciences and humanities at Audentes University in Tallinn and a senior research associate at the EuroCollege of the University of Tartu in Estonia. While there, he launched the *Window on Eurasia* series, which he distributes both as a blog, at <http://www.windowoneurasia.blogspot.com> and via e-list. Prior to joining the faculty there in 2004, he served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the International Broadcasting Bureau, at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as well as other institutions. He writes frequently on ethnic and religious issues and has edited five volumes on ethnicity and religion in the former Soviet space. Trained at Miami University in Ohio and the University of Chicago, he has been decorated by the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for his work in promoting Baltic independence and the withdrawal of Russian forces from those formerly occupied lands.

Murad Ismayilov holds an MSt in International Relations (2009) from the University of Cambridge and an MA in International Relations from the Baku State University (2004). In 2005, he completed a four-month NATO Senior Executive Program at the NATO Studies Center in Bucharest (Romania). He is Program Manager for Research & Publications at Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA). He is also the Editor of ADA's biweekly online publication *Azerbaijan in the World*. His research interests include international relations/political theory (with a focus on constructivist and post-structuralist approaches), energy security, national identity and state-society relations (with a regional focus on Azerbaijan and post-Soviet Eurasia), Euro-Atlantic security, as well as sociology and security of the Middle East. He has authored a number of academic articles and book chapters, including placements in refereed journals and edited volumes.

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permanent mission to the Council of Europe, he worked in a number of international and government agencies, including the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. His publications include academic articles on human rights and migration issues in international journals, such as the *Journal of European Affairs*, *Essex Human Rights Review*, *Georgetown Public Policy Review*, John Hopkins University's *Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society*, and *World of Diplomacy Journal* of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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For Notes

This volume constitutes a hard copy of the biweekly electronic newsletter, *Azerbaijan in the World*, issued by the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy over the year 2010. Like the Academy itself, the publication is guided and inspired by a multi-purpose mission. It is intended to provide training for the next generation of Azerbaijani foreign policy specialists. It is also committed to procreating Azerbaijani scholars capable of producing high quality research and policy-relevant analysis on issues pertinent to Azerbaijan's foreign policy. The publication is meant to provide a powerful platform upon which foreign policy ideas get generated, debated, and communicated further onto a practical realm. It offers a forum for, and looks to encourage, communication not only within the Azerbaijani foreign policy and academic community, but more broadly as well.

A special section of the book, *Chronology*, covers key developments in Azerbaijan's interaction with the world, including official, working and state visits, as well as public statements and milestone events. Such chronologies become more valuable overtime, and this volume is the third in a long series that will help practitioners and scholars in Azerbaijan and elsewhere keep track of Azerbaijan's foreign policy development.