



NATO AND AZERBAIJAN

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION



President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Aliyev Heydar Alirza Oglu

Aliyev Heydar Alirza Oglu was born on May 10 1923 in the town of Nakhchivan. In 1939 after graduating from the pedagogical technical secondary school he entered the faculty of architecture at the Azerbaijan Industrial Institute. In 1941 due to the started war he was called to military service. He finished his military career in the rank of Major-General.



In 1967-69 he was Head of the KGB of Azerbaijan. Has higher military education, graduated from Historical faculty of the Azerbaijan State University.

From July of 1969 to December of 1982 he was the First Secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan.

In December of 1982 he was elected as Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and was appointed First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. He was elected a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of many convocations.

in 1990 he was elected a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan.

In 1991-1993 he was Chairman of the Supreme Majlis (National Assembly) of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

On 15 June 1993 he was elected Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On 3 October 1993 by a nation-wide vote he was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On 11 October 1998 by a nation-wide vote he was re-elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the next five years.

He is two times Hero of Socialist Labour, many times state-prize winner, was awarded highest decorations of the USSR and other countries, is an honourable doctor of a number of universities, author of a series of works in political science.

Married with two children and six grandchildren. Spouse of the president - Zarifa Azizovna - renowned scientist-ophthalmologist. Full Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan, died in 1985.



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The parties were satisfied with the results of the talks. President of Azerbaijan emphasized his special content with the meeting.

Then the parties proceeded to the signing ceremony at the NATO HQ of the document within the Partnership for Peace Program. Deputy Secretary-General of NATO Mr. Sergio Ballanzino made a short speech before the signing ceremony started.

Address by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev at the Meeting of the NATO Council in Brussels

Dear Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,
Distinguished Members
of the NATO Council,
Distinguished ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen!

I thank you for the warm reception accorded to me and the delegation of Azerbaijan. I am pleased to have the opportunity to be among you and consider this as an important event for the Republic of Azerbaijan. I thank you very much for warm welcoming remarks and good wishes, which you addressed to the Republic of Azerbaijan. The people of Azerbaijan having covered a long historical path of its development through many difficulties and obstacles, achieved its national independence in 1991. Independent Azerbaijani state emerged which is nowadays a member of the United Nations, CSCE and many other international organizations. And I feel proud with the fact that today the delegation of Azerbaijan is in the headquarters of the North-Atlantic Alliance.





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The Republic of Azerbaijan is advancing on its way towards strengthening its independence. In its internal policy it goes along the path of building democratic law-governed state, creates conditions for the freedom of person and protection of human rights, multiparty system, political pluralism, making use of democratic values nourished by the human mankind. In the economic field the Republic has embarked on the road of implementation of economic reform and establishment of market economy, free entrepreneurship and freedom of initiative. We believe that all this is a good prerequisite for close integration of Azerbaijan into the world community.

In its foreign policy the Republic of Azerbaijan proceeds from the interdependence of the world, wages peaceloving policy and aspires to maintain good relations with all countries on the basis of principles of respect for sovereignty, non-interference into internal affairs of each other, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is living nowadays through the difficult economic crisis. On the one hand, it has been provoked by the dissolution of the Soviet Union, which Azerbaijan has been for seventy years a part of, disruption of close integration links with all the other republics of the Soviet Union, transition from one economic system to another. On the other hand, this economic crisis is aggravated and worsened because of the continuing state of war with neighbouring Republic of Armenia, Azerbaijan is exposed to military aggression. But we think that all these difficulties could be overcome, taking into account that Azerbaijan has firmly embarked upon the route of independent development. Independence of Azerbaijani state - is irreversible factor and we are sure that the way which we took in building a state, carrying our economic and democratic reforms will allow us to surmount these difficulties and join Azerbaijan possessing rich intellectual and economic potential to world economy and world community.

As I already mentioned the difficult situation of Azerbaijan may be to a great extent explained by the fact that the Republic has been subjected to the military aggression on the part of the neighbouring Armenia for already six years. This aggression launched by the nationalistic circles of Armenia caused innumerable hardships both to Azerbaijani and Armenian people and today is a very difficult problem for us.



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You are very well aware that as a result of the armed aggression on the part of Armenia aimed at annexation of the part of the territory of Azerbaijan attaching Nagorno Karabakh to Armenia a considerable part of the territory of Azerbaijan has been occupied. A six year war resulted in the death of more than twenty thousand people in that about four thousand people have been taken prisoner or hostage, thousands and thousands of houses, hospitals and schools, public facilities, industrial and agricultural ventures have been destroyed on the territory of Azerbaijan.

But most terrible is that almost twenty percent of the territory of Azerbaijan has been occupied by the Armenian armed forces and people of these areas - this is more than one million people - lost their homes and are in a very hard socio-economic situation having become refugees in their own country. All persons of Azerbaijanian origin have been forcibly expelled from the territory of Nagorno Karabakh. Nagorno Karabakh and surrounding seven districts of Azerbaijan are, as I have said, under occupation of the Armenian armed forces.

We have been always committed and continue to be committed to the peaceful settlement of the conflict. We are striving to make an active use of the capabilities of the international organizations such as United Nations, OSCE and its Minsk Group. In the course of 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions that categorically demand the withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the territory of Azerbaijan. But no one of the resolutions has been ever implemented by Armenia by now.

The efforts by the OSCE Minsk Group have not brought about positive results either. Military activities continue and today armed forces of Armenia having occupied, as I already said a considerable part of the territory of Azerbaijan, are launching an offensive on the defensive positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan. Every day blood is shed, people are killed.

One could hardly bear that further. That is why today availing myself of my presence here at the NATO Headquarters, I state once again the position of Azerbaijan. We are for the peaceful resolution of this problem, for immediate cease-fire and all combat activities, for negotiations which must condition an immediate withdrawal of the occu-



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pying forces from the territory of Azerbaijan and ensure its territorial integrity and inviolability of its borders.

It is on these conditions that we are ready to consider an issue of autonomous status for Nagorno Karabakh.

Making an address on April 12 on the Azerbaijani TV and radio I appealed to the Armenian people to the leadership of Armenia, to the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh of Armenian origin who are citizens of Azerbaijan with a call to stop this bloodshed. The Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples have been destined to live together and they have done so for centuries. We believe that the resolution of the problem by military means has no prospects, as does this war, and it is necessary to put an end to the bloodshed and to establish peace in our region as soon as possible.

Today we again expressed our confidence that international organisations first of all CSCE and its Minsk Group would undertake additional measures to implement our peaceful initiatives. Today I being in the NATO Headquarters would like to express my deep respect to the North Atlantic Alliance which in the course of its existence made enormous contribution to the establishment of stability in Europe and in the whole world as well as to strengthening peace and co-operation. We have deep respect towards NATO and attach big importance to its activities nowadays. The creation of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council has become an important stage in NATO's activities which enables other states to come into the NATO orbit.

We welcomed the decision of NATO to announce on January 10, 1994 the adoption of the Partnership for Peace Document and consider it as an important step in NATO activities toward further development of co-operation between our countries. We attach big importance to the fact that in its decision of January 10, 1994 NATO expressed its special concern with the situation that had been created in our region in the Southern Caucasus and expressed its conviction in the necessity of stopping the conflict in our region, in particular in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.



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All this attracts us and is very interesting. Proceeding from all this we accepted with big satisfaction NATO's invitation to the countries of Eastern Europe and newly independent that in the past were a part of the Soviet Union to join the Partnership for Peace. We decided to sign it and pin big hopes to co-operation with NATO. This is important to us from the point of view of integrating Azerbaijan into Western democracy as well as searching, through co-operation with NATO, additional ways to stabilisation of the situation in the region, stopping the war, establishing peace and good neighbourliness between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

With these thoughts and hopes we came here and ready today to sign Partnership for Peace. I would like to once again express my hope that this step of the Republic of Azerbaijan will be assessed by its merit by NATO, will be of mutual benefit and what is most important will promote the stabilisation of the situation in our region. I wish your organisation further success. I thank you for your attention and I am ready to sign Framework Document of the Partnership for Peace.





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Partnership for Peace: Framework Document

1. Further to the invitation extended by the NATO Heads of State and Government at their meeting on 10th-11th January, 1994, the member states of the North Atlantic Alliance and the other states subscribing to this document, resolved to deepen their political and military ties and to contribute further to the strengthening of security within the Euro-Atlantic area, hereby establish, within the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, this Partnership for Peace.
2. This Partnership is established as an expression of a joint conviction that stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area can be achieved only through cooperation and common action. Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, and safeguarding of freedom, justice, and peace through democracy are shared values fundamental to the Partnership. In joining the Partnership, the member States of the North Atlantic Alliance and the other States subscribing to this Document recall that they are committed to the preservation of democratic societies, their freedom from coercion and intimidation, and the maintenance of the principles of international law. They reaffirm their commitment to fulfil in good faith the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights; specifically, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to respect existing borders and to settle disputes by peaceful means. They also reaffirm their commitment to the Helsinki Final Act and all subsequent CSCE documents and to the fulfilment of the commitments and obligations they have undertaken in the field of disarmament and arms control.
3. The other states subscribing to this document will cooperate with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in pursuing the following objectives:
 - (a) facilitation of transparency in national defence planning and budgeting processes;
 - (b) ensuring democratic control of defence forces;
 - (c) maintenance of the capability and readiness to contribute, subject to constitutional considerations, to operations under the authority of the UN and/or the responsibility of the CSCE;
 - (d) the development of cooperative military relations with NATO for the purpose of joint planning, training, and exercises in order to strengthen their ability to under-



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- take missions in the fields of peacekeeping, search and rescue, humanitarian operations, and others as may subsequently be agreed;
- (e) the development, over the longer term, of forces that are better able to operate with those of the members of the North Atlantic Alliance.
4. The other subscribing states will provide to the NATO Authorities Presentation Documents identifying the steps they will take to achieve the political goals of the Partnership and the military and other assets that might be used for Partnership activities. NATO will propose a programme of partnership exercises and other activities consistent with the Partnership's objectives. Based on this programme and its Presentation Document, each subscribing state will develop with NATO an individual Partnership Programme.
5. In preparing and implementing their individual Partnership Programmes, other subscribing states may, at their own expense and in agreement with the Alliance and, as necessary, relevant Belgian authorities, establish their own liaison office with NATO Headquarters in Brussels. This will facilitate their participation in NACC/Partnership meetings and activities, as well as certain others by invitation. They will also make available personnel, assets, facilities and capabilities necessary and appropriate for carrying out the agreed Partnership Programme. NATO will assist them, as appropriate, in formulating and executing their individual Partnership Programmes.
6. The other subscribing states accept the following understandings:
- those who envisage participation in missions referred to in paragraph 3(d) will, where appropriate, take part in related NATO exercises;
 - they will fund their own participation in Partnership activities, and will endeavour otherwise to share the burdens of mounting exercises in which they take part;
 - they may send, after appropriate agreement, permanent liaison officers to a separate Partnership Coordination Cell at Mons (Belgium) that would, under the authority of the North Atlantic Council, carry out the military planning necessary to implement the Partnership programmes;
 - those participating in planning and military exercises will have access to certain NATO technical data relevant to interoperability;
 - building upon the CSCE measures on defence planning, the other subscribing states and NATO countries will exchange information on the steps that have been



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- taken or are being taken to promote transparency in defence planning and budgeting and to ensure the democratic control of armed forces;
- they may participate in a reciprocal exchange of information on defence planning and budgeting which will be developed within the framework of the NACC/Partnership for Peace.
7. In keeping with their commitment to the objectives of this Partnership for Peace, the members of the North Atlantic Alliance will:
- develop with the other subscribing states a planning and review process to provide a basis for identifying and evaluating forces and capabilities that might be made available by them for multinational training, exercises, and operations in conjunction with Alliance forces;
 - promote military and political coordination at NATO Headquarters in order to provide direction and guidance relevant to Partnership activities with the other subscribing states, including planning, training, exercises and the development of doctrine.
8. NATO will consult with any active participant in the Partnership if that Partner perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence, or security.





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In response to the Partnership for Peace Invitation
issued and signed
by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of
the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council held at
NATO Headquarters, Brussels, on 10th and 11th January, 1994,
I, the undersigned,
Head of State of Azerbaijan,
hereby accept the invitation to
the Partnership for Peace
and subscribe to the Partnership for Peace Framework Document.

Signed in Brussels,
this 4th day of May 1994,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Aliyev", written in a cursive style.

Geidar Aliyev



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**Statement by His Excellency President of the Republic
of Azerbaijan Mr. Heydar Aliyev During the Signature of the Framework
Document of the Partnership for Peace**

The Republic of Azerbaijan with its rich, ancient history having covered the long way of development three years ago restored its national independence as the result of the collapse of the Soviet totalitarian regime and today is facing NATO as a full-fledged member of the international community represented in the United Nations, CSCE and other international organisations.



At present stage conforming to the laws of nature and world development Azerbaijan aspiring to take its worthy place in the world community is determined to create a democratic society

committed to those fundamental principles and values that were worked out by the human civilisation in the course of all stages of its development.

At the core of Azerbaijan's state policy there lies pacifism, political pluralism, recognition and ensurance of fundamental human rights. We adopted and carry out normative documents on political parties, freedom of religion, protection of the rights of national minorities, etc.

Azerbaijan is building its foreign policy on the basis of deep cognizance of interdependence and interlocking nature of world, proceeding from the common global aims facing all of us. We are deeply convinced that mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of states lie in the core of security in modern stage of challenges and threats.



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Azerbaijan embarked on the road of implementation of the economic reforms in order to create market economy which is open to the outer world and which will enable us to fully realise the enormous potential of the country. With this aim in view we undertake measures to attract foreign investment to the economy and establish co-operation with largest companies in the world. The process of legislative back-up of the reforms is underway.

Today Azerbaijan is living through a deep crisis that has embraced the whole territory of the former USSR and which is the result of the collapse of the Soviet system. Nevertheless, we are determined to overcome the difficulties of present stage and to reach the creation a prosperous sovereign state by means of smooth implementation of reforms.

In September of 1993, Azerbaijan joined the Commonwealth of Independent States considering this step as a necessary of political and economic co-operation with countries that emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union and signed the Treaty on Collective Security.

The situation of my country is aggravated by the aggression on the part of the neighbouring Republic of Armenia which has territorial claims to Azerbaijan. Armenia as an aggressor state is using ethnic Armenians inhabiting the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan as a tool of separatism to annex my territory. Armenia makes use of its territory and its armed forces to wage war in the territory of Azerbaijan and it's already unable to conceal these facts.

In the course of aggression carried out against the Republic of Azerbaijan the Republic of Armenia has occupied more than twenty percent of Azerbaijani territories. As a result of the ethnic cleansing policy conducted by the Armenian armed forces more that twenty thousand people were killed, about sixty thousand wounded or maimed, four thousand were captured prisoner or hostage, about one million of Azerbaijanis became refugees in their own country.



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Under the threat of extermination all the Azerbaijanis were driven out from the occupied territories. Occupants resort to the scorched-earth policy. About ninety thousand dwelling houses, more than one thousand economic facilities, two hundred fifty schools and training facilities, two hundred medical facilities, were burned down, plundered and destroyed. The damage inflicted on Azerbaijan is worth billions of US dollars.

The Armenian nationalism ignited a torch of war and confronted two peoples which are destined to live in peace and good-neighbourliness. I am deeply convinced that the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia cannot be solved militarily. Continuation of hostilities brings about innumerable hardships to both peoples. It prevents them from standing firm on their feet, from consolidating their independence, from implementing economic reforms in full scale, from creating democratic states.

Azerbaijan has always had a constructive position in the issues of the settlement of the conflict. The territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of our state are the basic principles for us. We will strive to liberate all our occupied territories, return all refugees to their lands, including fifty thousand of Karabakhi Azerbaijanis. In the meantime, we pledge to ensure security and all civic rights of the Karabakhi Armenians and to grant them a relevant status of autonomy in the framework of Azerbaijani state.

On April 12 1994 I appealed to the citizens of Armenia and inhabitants of Nagorno Karabakh of Armenian nationality to stop and halt combat activities. The Azerbaijani state has guaranteed personal safety to all inhabitants of the zone of conflict that are involved in combat activities, an opportunity to live peacefully and freely in their native land. Today we reiterate our principle position on that issue.

During the armed aggression against Azerbaijan that has been already going on for about six years many steps aimed at the peaceful settlement of the conflict which, regrettably, have not achieved any desired results due to the hard aggressive position of Armenia, have been undertaken.

The fact of occupation of the Azerbaijani territories and the demand for an immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying Armenian armed forces from those



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territories, have been properly reflected in the four resolutions of the United Nations Security Council - 822, 853, 874 and 884. However, under the various pretexts Armenia refuses to implement these resolutions.

Armenia openly challenges the world community with its behaviour undermining all attempts of the peaceful political settlement of the conflict and not recognizing the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and refusing to evacuate occupied Azerbaijani territories.

The Republic of Azerbaijan reaffirms its readiness to solve all the problems through peaceful negotiations in the framework of the CSCE Minsk Group, on the basis of the UN Charter and the CSCE principles.

The Republic of Azerbaijan does its best to support activities of the Minsk Group and creates all the necessary conditions for the latter. However, I would like to emphasize that each time when the Minsk Group gathers the world witnesses further escalation of hostilities on the part of Armenia and new seizures of Azerbaijani territories as it took place during the visit to the region of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office in October 1993 or in April of this year when the meeting of the Minsk Group was taking place in Prague, etc.

From April 26 to May 2, 1994 the delegation of the Minsk Group which we rendered all the necessary assistance was in the region. If all the countries represented in the Minsk Group demonstrate their solid determination and will to put an end as soon as possible to the bloody war and commence restoring peace and stability in our bleeding region.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has a deep respect to the North Atlantic Alliance and highly appreciates its activities that have ensured over the recent decade peace, stability and sustainable development in Europe. At present, NATO as an acting structure of collective security in the world that ensures protection of democratic values and their extension to the newly independent states emerged in the Eastern Europe as well as in the territory of the former USSR.



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We deem NATO to be an organization which can assist fledgling Azerbaijani state to establish close multilateral relations with the western world and get an access to its richest experience. Strengthening of independence of Azerbaijan as well as other independent countries will serve as a real confirmation of the everlasting values of the principles which the activities of NATO are built upon.

We appreciate NATO's expressed concern with the situation in the Transcaucasus and reaffirmation of the respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the states of this region, and, in particular, Azerbaijan that has been reflected in the Declaration of the NATO Council adopted in January 1994.

The principles of NATO on the basis of which its members regulate their relations resolve all emerging disputes among them by peaceful means, develop individual and collective capabilities on rebuffing aggression against one of several members of this organisation, prove their relevance during many years and could become the ground for building a new system of European security in the post-confrontation period.

Young Republic of Azerbaijan which has chosen the road of building independent democratic state with market economy looks with a big hope at those states that has achieved great success on this way and awaits from them assistance and help. That is why we, as many other countries, received with big enthusiasm the NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative. North Atlantic Alliance is a guide for us thanks to the security that it guarantees to its members as was mentioned by the NATO Secretary general Manfred Wornat on January 10th, 1994 during the meeting of the NATO Heads of State and Government because it's the most effective organisation in the field of collective security.

We as a state which is in the state of war subjected to aggression on the part of neighbouring Armenia hope that our participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme will allow us to achieve in the future the just peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, liberate occupied Azerbaijani territories and liquidate all the consequences of war. The high authority of NATO may become an important factor in seizing this bloody war.



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We hope that joining by Azerbaijan to the Partnership for Peace Programme will give us an opportunity to invigorate our participation in the creation of the reliable system of the collective security in Europe.

I think that democratic principles lying in foundation of the North Atlantic Alliance will promote our successful co-operation, practical elimination of those obstacles that are on the way of the peace and stability in Transcaucasian and other regions as well as will promote progress and prosperity of all peoples.

**Press-Conference by the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev at the
International Press-Center in Brussels on May 4, 1994**

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

This morning I met with the Prime-Minister of Belgium with whom de discussed issues linked to the further development of co-operation between Azerbaijan and Belgium. Some time ago we presented drafts of a number of agreements to the Government of Belgium. They are presently studied by the Belgian side and the prime-Minister of Belgium stated that after these agreements are agreed upon with the relevant regions of this country the Government will be ready to sign a Memorandum on co-operation between our countries, agreement on trade and economic co-operation, on co-operation in the sphere of tourism and some others.

The main part of my programme today had to do with the visit to the NATO Headquarters. As you are aware back in 1992 NATO adopted a decision on establishing the North Atlantic Cooperation Council which was joined among others by the Republics of the former Soviet Union including Azerbaijan.

In January of that year Heads of State -members of NATO adopted a decision on the Partnership for Peace Programme and announced this Programme having invited the east European countries and newly independent states that emerged on the territory of the former Soviet Union to join it. We in Azerbaijan have studied carefully this doc-



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ument and found a lot of interesting and attracting elements in it for the Republic of Azerbaijan. And proceeding from our principle attitude toward NATO as one of the biggest international organisations and proceeding from our respect to NATO which throughout its existence was able to accomplish quite a lot in order to stabilise the situation in Europe and in the whole world, we deemed it possible and necessary to join the Partnership for Peace Programme.

Today I met with the NATO Deputy Secretary General, because Secretary General Manfred Wornier is absent. We had a very interesting conversation. Then I took part in the NATO Council meeting and signed the Framework Document of the Partnership for Peace Programme. Signing this document we proceed from the fact that young independent Azerbaijani state following the way of strengthening its independence, democracy, market economy and further integration with world community, in particular with Europe and the West, through co-operation with NATO on the basis of the Partnership for Peace Programme will have wider opportunities to implement tasks it faces.

As you are aware, Azerbaijan has been in the state of war with Armenia, already for 6 years it has been subjected to the military aggression on the part of Armenia. This war has inflicted heavy damage to the economy of Azerbaijan and its territorial integrity, claimed many lives. More than twenty thousand people perished, twenty per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan are currently under occupation of the Armenian armed forces. Despite our peaceloving initiatives participation in the settlement of this conflict of international organizations including the UN Security Council, CSCE and its Minsk Group, the war has not stopped. That is why we, while entering co-operation with NATO and signing the document of Partnership for Peace Programme proceed from the fact that we will have new opportunities to achieve our goals and our goals are - peaceful settlement of the conflict, including cease-fire and halt of military activities, withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the occupied Azerbaijani territories, promotion of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and inviolability of its borders. In this process guarantees of security and protection for the Armenian minority in Nagorno Karabakh as well as the possibility of considering the autonomous status for Nagorno Karabakh are, of course, provided for.



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Proceeding from all these considerations we have taken a decision and today, on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan I signed the document Partnership for Peace. I am satisfied with the meetings and negotiations I had in the NATO Headquarters in an amicable atmosphere which surrounded us, with mutual understanding which we noted during our meetings and conversations.

I am satisfied that this document has been signed by Azerbaijan. As Deputy Secretary-General pointed out, Azerbaijan became the fifteenth country which acceded to this Programme and among the republics of the former Soviet Union Azerbaijan is the fourth country that signed the document. We pin big hopes on the co-operation with NATO and I am sure that they will come true. I am ready to take your questions.

Question: I have two questions to you, Mr. President. The first one is that I could hardly imagine and did not fully understand what special initiatives may be expected from NATO to solve the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh. In this regard I would like to ask you if some diplomatic or any other efforts have been discussed during your meetings at NATO which NATO could undertake to settle this problem?

And my second question is as follows. Some months ago there were reports in the press that the Russian Federation extended unofficial support and assistance to the Republic of Armenia in its conflict with your country to exert pressure on you so that your country would re-establish union with the Russian Federation on some issues, in particular, those pertaining to oil. How real this information could be?

Answer: First, in order to imagine what opportunities our co-operation with NATO will open in the settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan I would request you to get acquainted with the document itself adopted on January 10, 1994 by the Heads of NATO Member-States. There are very definite provisions which allow us to hope that our participation in the Partnership for Peace Programme will create conditions for NATO's involvement in considering issues related to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. I would not like to elaborate on this topic. I would simply request you to take and read all that is very definitely laid down in that document.



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By the way, a half an hour ago when the Deputy Secretary-General of NATO answered the journalists' questions in the NATO Headquarters the NATO Deputy Secretary-General gave a clear answer to this question by saying that NATO already at this time may engage in consultations with Azerbaijan in connection with Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

As far as the second question is concerned, about Russia's rendering assistance to Armenia in its conflict with Azerbaijan, and desire to put pressure on Azerbaijan including because of the problems related to oil, I can tell you only one thing: there are Russian forces and Russia's military bases in the territory of Armenia. There are Russian forces in the territory of Azerbaijan. The war is going on a daily basis. But the territory of Armenia, by the way, is not so large, three times smaller than the territory of Azerbaijan. And you may come to the conclusions yourself.

Question: Mr. President, in your statement you underlined that the war had inflicted huge damage to your country, including in terms of economy. In this regard, ma



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wonder in what way and to what extent this war influenced the export of your oil production? In particular, I would appreciate if you could bring any figures that reflect the state of affairs in this regard. And to what extent does the war influence the signature of any contracts with the western companies?

Answer: The war has really inflicted and continues to inflict a big damage on the economy of Azerbaijan. You may imagine what kind of damage that would be if twenty percent of the country - and these are fertile lands - are under occupation. There have been big industrial and agricultural ventures in these territories, a million of refugees from those districts that were settled in other regions of the Republic are in extremely difficult social and economic situation. You may imagine the scale of the damage - these are billions of dollars. As to your question regarding the damage the war has inflicted to the oil industry, the ventures of our oil industry are not located in the zone of combat activities but, nevertheless, if a country is in a state of war this certainly influences all the branches of economy as it is the case in Azerbaijan as well.



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As to the contracts that we are going to sign with the western companies there are a lot of talk and considerations. Naturally, these oil resources of Azerbaijan attract an interest of many countries of the world as well as big companies in the west. Azerbaijan thanks to its geopolitical and geographic situation attracts a big economic interest of many western countries. The negotiations about signing contracts with the oil companies are underway. A new phase of negotiations started on May 2, 1994 in Istanbul. The representatives of their companies and the State Oil company of Azerbaijan are currently conducting negotiations there. I think that we are gradually approaching the end of the road and it seems to me, the day when we will be able to sign oil contracts is not that far away from now.

Question: Mr. President, you have a huge experience of work in the state structures both of Azerbaijan and those of the USSR. You were the leader of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and before that headed the Committee on State security of Azerbaijan, and later you became a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU in the former USSR. How could you describe the present level of statehood in Azerbaijan? And the second question. There has recently been information in the press about the fact that according to the President of the Russian Federation Russia intends to deploy about thirty military bases beyond its territory in the territory of countries that are members of the CIS, and in this regard I would like to learn your opinion whether similar development of events with regard to Azerbaijan is acceptable to you?

Answer: I thank you for that you remember, have not forgotten me from my previous work. I have really been the leader of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and one of the leaders of the Soviet Union as a member of Politburo and first Vice-Prime Minister of the former Soviet Union.

But your question is related to the state system of Azerbaijan of today. Azerbaijan has embarked on the way of independent state development and as a president of the country I state that independence of Azerbaijan is irreversible and the Republic will go further in strengthening its state independence. As an independent state Azerbaijan follows and must follow the way of building a law-governed, democratic society which means freedom of human being, freedom of conscience, protection of human rights, multi-party system, political pluralism, market economy, freedom of entrepreneurship



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and integration to the common human values. I am confident that Azerbaijan will follow this path, anyway as the President of Azerbaijan I will try to achieve this. I am sure that the whole Azerbaijani people is of the same opinion.

As to the information indicating that Russia is planning to deploy thirty military bases on the territory on the Republics of the former Soviet Union which today are independent states I would like to note that these bases have already been deployed in many Republics of the former Soviet Union. If we speak about our Transcaucasian region or as you call it South Caucasus which include Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, I will tell that Russian military bases are present both in Georgia and Armenia. Borders between Georgia and Turkey, between Armenia, Turkey and Iran are guarded by Russian border troops. There are no Russian troops in Azerbaijan. I do not know what are the plans of Russia. Of course, can have its plans. But Azerbaijan is also an independent states and has its own plans.

Question: Mr. President, can you tell me whether Azerbaijan is going to apply for an observer status in the OPEC? And do you think it would be possible for you to get the status of full member in this international organisation?

Answer: We study this question. As I have already said we are holding negotiations in order to conclude a big contract with the consortium of Western oil companies. Results of our negotiations on conclusion of these contracts will undoubtedly define the future of the development of oil industry in Azerbaijan. Depending on the results we will define our further steps.

Question: Mr. President, do not you think that the forthcoming membership of Armenia in the Partnership for Peace Programme will lead to the very same situation of helplessness in which the CSCE, its Minsk Group, Collective Security Treaty and mediatory efforts on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict have ended? Second question: the Partnership for Peace Programme besides consultations including political ones envisages also some other elements that is joint exercise, military planning and military building. Will Azerbaijan make use of this elements? And another question what would be the action by the President of Azerbaijan if a situation occurs when



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the interests of countries-Parties to the CIS Collective Security Treaty and the states that joined the Partnership for Peace Programme do not coincide?

Answer: We don't have any information that Armenia is going to accede to the Partnership for Peace Programme and even if it accedes to it I think that our co-operation with NATO will not suffer from that. Moreover, in my opinion, one should not make a parallel between NATO and CIS. This is first point, and the second, I do not consider that the capabilities of the CIS are exhausted to solve the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the framework of the Collective Security Treaty. As for the co-operation between NATO and Azerbaijan, its principles and fields will be defined in the document which we are going to sign after we signed the Partnership for Peace Programme. Everything will be envisioned there. In particular, I am not concerned with the possibility of some kind of negative results of our co-operation with NATO. On the contrary, I am sure it will be very positive.

Question: The Partnership for Peace Programme envisages a provision which gives to a country that has acceded to it, in case of threat to its territorial integrity, the right to request political consultations in the framework of NATO. Do you intend to make use of this right in the near future? And the second question, if you permit. What will the future of the Russian- Azerbaijani relations in the economic be?

Answer: Responding to the first question, I will say that having signed the framework document of the Partnership for Peace Programme we are not going to stop half way. Moreover, we are full of desire to use to the maximum extent possible this co-operation. I am speaking also, naturally, about consultations.

As far as the relations between Russia and Azerbaijan are concerned I must say that very active steps have been recently undertaken to improve our good-neighbourly relations and they are really considerably improving, compared to those that existed in the recent past. Our meetings with the leaders of Russia - President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, minister of foreign affairs, minister of defence and other officials clearly testify to the fact that we are following the way of further development of our economic, cultural, technical and other ties with Russia. Moreover, as



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you are aware, last September we joined the CIS and cooperate with Russia within the framework of the Commonwealth. Prospects of our co-operation are very favourable.

Question: As it is known, Azerbaijan plays a role of leader with regard to the Central Asian republics. Are your visit and signing documents in the NATO Headquarters a preparation for joining the republics of that region to the said documents? And have you had consultations with the leadership of the Central Asian republics?

Answer: I have never claimed to be the leader in any region and I am not doing so now. We have very good friendly relations with the republic of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. However, when we were taking a decision on signing the document of the Partnership for Peace Programme we did not consult with anybody, including those countries. We have taken this decision absolutely independently and did not consider it to be necessary to consult anybody. The position of those countries in relation to the Partnership for Peace Programme is unknown to me.

Question: It happened so that Azerbaijan has three big neighbours: Russia, Turkey and Iran. Along with Russia Azerbaijan is a member of the Collective Security Treaty, with Turkey from today after the signature of the framework document of the Partnership for Peace Programme we are somehow in the same alliance, and there is also Iran. We know that Iran assists Azerbaijan, extends help to Azerbaijani refugees. Is it envisaged to conclude a treaty on mutual security with Iran because Iran remains left aside in this regard?

Answer: Iran is a very big neighbouring country for Azerbaijan. We have very good, friendly relations. In October of last year the President of Iran Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was in Azerbaijan on an official visit. We signed then a number of documents which would open prospects for the development of interstate relations. There are big prospects for co-operation between Azerbaijan and Iran in the field of economy as well as in other spheres. If signing of any new documents is needed then, I think, this issue will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Iran is really rendering big humanitarian assistance to the refugees in Azerbaijan. We are thankful to the Iranian Government



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for this help and believe in favourable prospects for the development of friendship and co-operation between Azerbaijan and Iran.

Question: Speaking about your forthcoming visit to Ankara I wonder if it is related to any new directions of co-operation between Azerbaijan and Turkey? And as a follow-up to that my second question: who are going to meet with in Turkey?

Answer: Tomorrow, early in the morning I will leave Brussels. On the way from Brussels to Baky our plane has to land due to technical reasons in Ankara. I intend to use this opportunity and if the leaders of Turkey so desire I will meet them and exchange opinions. As this meeting has not been planned in advance, it is very hard to say something about it now. as it is known, very close and friendly relations link Turkey and Azerbaijan and every meeting of the leaders of our countries, including the one which may take place tomorrow, will undoubtedly serve to their strengthening. We will get to know tomorrow what will happen tomorrow. I am not going to speak about that now. Thank you for your attention.



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MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN HEYDAR ALIYEV WITH THE NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER SOLANA

On April 23, 1996 the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev who was on a business visit in Belgium met the Secretary-General of NATO Javier Solana at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Mr. Solana having sincerely welcomed the President of Azerbaijan said that he was happy to meet him at the NATO HQ. The Secretary-General stated that the agreement signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European Union on partnership and co-operation is a very important document in terms of integration of Azerbaijan in Europe and on that occasion congratulated the head of our state. The NATO Secretary-General informed that he was closely following the events taking place in the Transcaucasus and highly appreciated courageous and brave policy aimed at preserving and maintaining state independence and sovereignty of Azerbaijan run by President Heydar Aliyev, especially emphasizing his great interest and deep respect to the personality of Heydar Aliyev in NATO. Mr. Solana outlining the essence of the Partnership for Peace program underlined that its main purpose, along with preserving and maintaining peace and stability in the world, was to render assistance and to strengthen independence and sovereignty of states. Cooperation in the framework of this program serves only peace. The Secretary-General stressed that preservation and maintenance of the independence of Azerbaijan located in a very important geopolitical space had a great significance to NATO and emphasized importance of co-operation in restoring peace, security and stability in the region for the sake of wealth of the peoples and states of the region. The Secretary-General further on spoke about specific ways of co-operation between Azerbaijan and NATO in the framework of the said program.

President Heydar Aliyev expressed gratitude for kind words as well as his satisfaction with visiting NATO HQ once again. He qualified the signing of the Agreement on partnership and co-operation between the European Union and Azerbaijan as a huge historic event in the life of our state that opted for close co-operation with international organizations after restoration of its independence.



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President of Azerbaijan said that the Republic among the first responded to the appeal by NATO in January 1994 to join the Partnership for peace (PFP) program by acceding to it in May of 1994. He stated that he was a supporter of further development of that co-operation for the sake of peace and security. It was noted that Azerbaijan regarding its state independence to be one of the biggest historic achievements attached specific importance to co-operation with NATO.

In the course of the meeting a detailed exchange of views occurred on the issues of development of relations between Azerbaijan and NATO, elimination of the armed aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan, restoration of peace and stability in the Caucasus.

President Heydar Aliyev provided a detailed information to the Secretary General on the violation of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan as result of continuing for more than eight years aggression by Armenia, occupation of 20 percent of our lands, existence of more than 1 million refugees, and stated that Azerbaijan proceeds from a constructive position in the peaceful settlement of the conflict and is ready to make certain concessions.

The head of our state emphasized that non-recognition of Armenia of the territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of Azerbaijan, ignoring of demands on evacuation of the occupied territories, as well as non-constructive stands at the peaceful negotiations favouring the position of force and military superiority are the main obstacles on the way achieve peace.

President Heydar Aliyev briefed Mr. Solana on the difficulties Azerbaijan has been phasing while defending its state independence. He shared the view of the Secretary General that the restoration of peace stability and security in the Caucasus will lead to regional co-operation and promote the welfare of the peoples inhabiting this region.

The exchange of opinions also dwelt on the steps taken by Azerbaijan to build a democratic, law-governed and secular state, to restore political pluralism multi-party system, freedom of expressions press and conscience.



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The Head of State Heydar Aliyev handed over to the Secretary general of NATO the Presentation Document of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the framework of the Partnership for Peace Programme.

At the end the President of Azerbaijan invited Mr. Solana to visit Azerbaijan. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and Secretary General of NATO Javier Solana appeared before the mass media representatives at the NATO after the conclusion of their talks.

Statement by NATO Secretary General Javier Solana

Thank you very much. For me it has been a great pleasure to greet the President of Azerbaijan who is not for the first time visiting us. As you may imagine we have talked about many things but in particular about the situation in the region. I am very pleased with the fact that yesterday countries in the region signed together with the European Union an agreement on cooperation. And I am also very pleased to see that yester-



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day the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia came together and signed a document to continue the cease-fire and they are going to work for lasting peace. But the most important thing I would like to tell you at this moment is how much I respect the President and how much I value his courage to defend the sovereignty of his country. Mr. President, you are welcome here.

**Statement by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev**

Dear Mr. Secretary General!

I would like to express my satisfaction with the visit to the NATO headquarters and my talks with you. You have pointed out that it is not my first time here. In May of 1994 I visited NATO and signed the "Partnership for Peace Programme". In January 1994 we supported your appeal to join this Programme. Indeed, It provides for solid foundation to establish peace and calmness on earth. Therefore, Azerbaijan two years ago decided to join this Programme and I signed it.



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Mr. Secretary general, in this connection today I handed over to you the Presentation Document of Azerbaijan. I am satisfied with the talks and exchange of opinion held with you. They are very important for the development of our overall relations including for the establishment of peace and prosperity in the Caucasus and the Transcaucasus. During our talk we also touched upon the issue of the peaceful settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict.

I would like to express the hope that NATO will do its utmost to resolve this issue by peaceful means. As the result of talks that I held with President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrossian in Luxembourg we made a joint statement on the resolution of this issue by peaceful means and I provided you with detailed information on that.

The cease-fire regime has been holding for already two years and we together with President Ter-Petrossian expressed our commitment to respect it further. Incidentally, we continue peaceful negotiations and want to fully resolve the conflict by peaceful means. Today I made myself clear to you that in order to achieve that the Armenian armed forces must leave the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, more than one million of Azerbaijani citizens who became refugees from the occupied territories must return to their homes, and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be fully restored. Only in that case Nagorno-Karabakh could be granted a high status of autonomy within Azerbaijani state.

I would like to reiterate my hope that NATO will exert its efforts to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict on these conditions by peaceful means. We consider the activities of NATO to be of peacemaking nature. I wish NATO and its member-states in this regard.

Mr. Secretary General, I invited you to come to Azerbaijan on an official visit. You accepted this invitation and I would like to express my hope that you will carry out your visit in the near future.

You have entered this high post relatively recently and I wish you success at this job.



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Azerbaijan will defend and preserve its state independence. I express to your my gratitude for your high evaluation of the policy pursued by me, as well as the practical steps in this field. I thank you for our today's talk and your attention to me. I wish you once again a new success.

Answering the question of the reporters on whether the Presentation Document could be considered as a step taken by Azerbaijan on its way towards full-fledged co-operation with NATO in the future Mr. Solana responded that this document is a document within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace Programme".



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SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NATO JAVIER SOLANA ARRIVED IN BAKY

On February 13, 1997 the Secretary-General of NATO Javier Solana arrived in Baky on a two-day visit. The head of the North Atlantic Alliance informed the mass-media representatives at the Bina Airport that the purpose of his visit to Baky is to discuss a wide range of issues pertaining to the relationship between NATO and Azerbaijan, as well as problems of regional security.

Responding to a question on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict the NATO Secretary-General said that its settlement would be possible in the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group on the basis of the principles adopted in December 1996 at the Lisbon Summit. The same day the meeting between Javier Solana and the Minister of Defence of Azerbaijan Safar Abiyev took place.

Meeting and Negotiations Between the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana

On February 13, 1997 a tete-a-tete meeting between the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana took place in the Presidential Palace.

Immediately after the tete-a-tete meeting between the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana the negotiations in a wider format were started.

The head of state warmly welcoming Mr.Solana and members of his team expressed confidence that the visit by a distinguished guest and the negotiations that take place would create a wider understanding about Azerbaijan with the Secretary-General.

President Heydar Aliyev recalling that Azerbaijan in 1994 subscribed to the NATO Partnership for Peace Program and further in April 1996 in Brussels handed over its Presentation Document stresses as follows: "Thus we accepted NATO Program Partnership for Peace and started our co-operation with NATO".



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The head of the Republic evaluating the Partnership for Peace program as a very important document emphasized that it is because of that reason that Azerbaijan joined the Program and he considers the co-operation of our country in that field to be very substantial.

President Heydar Aliyev recollecting his talks with Mr.Solana on this topic at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels in April 1996 as well as the invitation to visit our country, expressed his satisfaction with the visit by the Secretary-General to Azerbaijan and the Transcaucasus.

The Head of State speaking about the objectives assigned to Azerbaijan in accordance with the Presentation Document, expressed confidence that the Secretary-General will find an opportunity to familiarize himself with the status of their implementation. The Head of Azerbaijan underlined that there would be a lot of work in that field and said as follows: "Dear Secretary-General, I think that the negotiations we have had with you will provide for the acceleration of that work".

Then President Heydar Aliyev stressed the peculiarities of our region and emphasized as follows: "Azerbaijan for five years have been a member of the international community as an independent state. The main task that my country faces is to strengthen and develop its state independence. We are building a democratic, law-governed, secular state in Azerbaijan. In November 1995 the first Constitution of our independent Republic was adopted. At the same time, for the first time the Parliament was elected on democratic principles. Political and economic reforms are implemented in Azerbaijan. We think that democratic principles are solidified and developed in Azerbaijan. Political pluralism and protection of human rights have been assured in Azerbaijan, many political parties are freely acting, and their majority are in the opposition. Freedom of press is ensured in the country.

President Heydar Aliyev touching upon serious steps made by Azerbaijan in the field of democratic development dwelt in detail upon the work carried out in implementation of economic reforms and positive results achieved in this field. The Head of the State speaking on realization of the privatisation programme and the adoption of the law "On



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land reform" said that the question of giving the land into private property had been resolved and that in the course next two or three years conditions will be created for the development of free economy.

Speaking on big opportunities created for foreign investors in order to ensure close co-operation between the economy of Azerbaijan and the world economy, as well as the results achieved in this sphere President Heydar Aliyev spoke in detail on the contracts on joint exploitation of oil and gas fields of Azerbaijan signed with a number of the biggest oil companies in the world.



The Head of state noted that Azerbaijan like all the other Republics of the former Soviet Union lives through a transitional period and is facing difficulties and big problems peculiar to this period. He expressed his hope that economic and political reforms underway in the country will remove this difficulties and that Azerbaijan following the path of free market economy will achieve positive results.

Emphasizing that the military aggression of Armenia and occupation of 20 percent of the territories of Azerbaijan as the result of this aggression hinder the successful achievement of these goals, President Heydar Aliyev emphasized that more than 1 million of our citizens were forcibly ousted from their homes and that the majority of them live in difficult conditions in tents.



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The Head of Republic touching upon the Agreement on the cessation of military operations reached in May 1994 between Armenia and Azerbaijan and emphasizing that this agreement on the cease-fire regime holds for 2 years and 9 months evaluated this fact as a positive phenomenon and stated during this period we tried to settle the issue by peaceful means.

Speaking about the special document adopted last December at the Lisbon summit by the Heads of State and Government of the OSCE member states, pertaining to the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict and containing basic principles for resolution of this issue President Heydar Aliyev said as follows: "Dear Mr. Secretary general, these principles are well-known to you. They are about ensuring territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan, conferring upon Nagorno-Karabakh a high status of the self-rule within the Republic of Azerbaijan and ensuring the security of the whole population of Nagorno-Karabakh."

The Head of the Republic speaking on the negotiations held on the basis of these principles and reminding that OSCE Minsk Group is entrusted with the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict also touched upon the changes that took place in the Chairmanship of this Group. Underlining that the final decision on this issue will be adopted in the near future President Heydar Aliyev said that Russia, France and the United States will become the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group. He said he is confident that this issue will be settled soon and the Minsk Group will continue its work expeditiously.

The Head of State Heydar Aliyev talking about peace initiatives of our country said as follows: "Today I once again declare that Azerbaijan supports the resolution of this military conflict by peaceful means. We will try to conduct negotiations on the basis of the principles adopted at the Lisbon Summit in order to reach the resolution of the problem. We wish that Armenia would also arrive at a constructive position in dealing with this issue and in such a way we will be able to put an end to the conflict."

President Heydar Aliyev went on to continue: "Mr. Secretary General, the organisation headed by you is dealing with the issues related to the European security. Azerbaijan



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is a part of Europe being a country situated at the south-eastern boundary of the continent. I hope that you also will display your efforts to ensure the security of our Republic, settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict and establishment of the stability in the region. I hope our meetings and talks and your personal acquaintance with Azerbaijan and Transcaucasus will attract you even more to the resolution of this issue".

The Head of State Heydar Aliyev assured Mr. Solana that his talks in our Republic will take place in an atmosphere of hospitality and that he will leave Azerbaijan with good impression.

Mr. Solana expressing his gratitude to President Heydar Aliyev for the rendered hospitality and noting that he has had excellent impressions on our Republic emphasized that he is very pleased to have had the opportunity of getting close acquaintance with Azerbaijan.



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The Secretary General underlining that he very well remembered the visit of President Heydar Aliyev in Brussels last April as well as friendly meetings held during that visit characterized today's negotiations as a follow-up to those meetings.

Mr. Solana assessing all his meetings in Baky as very useful and substantial said he was pleased to have a new meeting with President Heydar Aliyev. Secretary general noting that during this visit he collected broad information on our region which will be extremely for his future work said as follows: "Mr. President positive changes underway in Azerbaijan are worth of high appraisal and are very important for the future of your country".

The Secretary General noting that the theme of today's security related negotiation is very important both for NATO and Azerbaijan said that 1997 will be a very important year from this standpoint. Mr. Solana said that the security in Europe and in the whole world is extremely significant and that no efforts will be spared to achieve it.

Secretary General positively evaluating the partnership between NATO and Azerbaijan noted with pleasure the positive results of this co-operation. Mr. Solana underlining the co-operation is moving in right direction expressed satisfaction with his visit to Baky and promised that he will once again come to Azerbaijan. Mr. Solana noted that he would be very pleased to see President Heydar Aliyev in Brussels.

Secretary General once again expressed his thankfulness to the Head of State for the hospitality accorded to him in Azerbaijan.

**Statements for the Press by President of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana**

After conclusion of negotiations between President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana in the Presidential palace they made statements for the press.



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to all the Transcaucasian countries - Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. I hope that our distinguished guest after having personally acquainted himself with the situation in the region during his visit, will assist in putting even more efforts for achieving security, tranquillity and peace in the region.

We have had a very detailed exchange of views on implementation of the Partnership for Peace Program and have come to the conclusion that Azerbaijan has fulfilled the tasks attributed to him so far. In the meantime, it is necessary to solve also a number of other issues. We deem this co-operation important, we will continue it and provide implementation of necessary measures to carry forward this co-operation in the framework of the program agreed upon after this meeting and negotiations.

We consider significant the work done by NATO in order to ensure security in Europe. We think that even more attention should be paid to the provision of security in the Caucasus, in the Transcaucasus, including Azerbaijan and around it, which are a part of Europe. After this meeting and conducted negotiations the ties between Azerbaijan and NATO are even more expanding. All this has one particular goal - to provide security in the region.

Dear Secretary-General,

I express my appreciation to you for your visit to Azerbaijan. I hope that tomorrow you will be able to get acquainted with the capital of Azerbaijan - Baky, the Caspian Sea, as well as to see historical monuments in Azerbaijan, meet with the citizens of Azerbaijan. I wish to underline again that everywhere in this country you will feel warm attitude and hospitality. I wish you all the best in you work and all the success. Thank you.

**NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana Addressed
the Session of Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.**

The session was opened by Chairman of Milli Mejlis Murtuz Aleskerov who gave the floor to the distinguished guest.



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The Statement by the NATO Secretary-General Follows:

Mr. President, Members of the Parliament,

It is a great pleasure to be here today and address this distinguished audience. As you know, it is my first visit to your country and I think that it is also the first time that the NATO Secretary-General visits your country. I think it is a historic event that shows how much the world has changed in the last years. Probably, a few years ago this image would have been impossible. Let me first of all say that I am very much impressed with the hospitality of your country and I am very much impressed with the evolution of your country politically and economically. I had the opportunity in this short time to have a very long, interesting and productive conversations with your President and also with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defense on issues of common interest. Your country has been participating in the Program «Partnership for Peace» of NATO and I am sure that after this trip you will be contributing to the Partnership for Peace in a more profound manner. I would like to share with you that we have with the President and two Ministers set up a program of work together on PfP that would strengthen our bilateral relationship. As you probably know in the coming months and in the coming years we are going to take important decisions related to the





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security in Europe. Your country has shown interest in getting closer relations with the European institutions and also with the Euro-Atlantic institutions and without any doubt this visit and these meetings are going to contribute to fostering these relations.

Mr.President, Members of the Parliament,

I do not want to take your time much longer. I want to insist once again that this visit has been very fruitful. I have been able to see fantastic and splendid features of this country and without any doubt we have created more profound links between NATO and your country. Once again let me thank you very very much as representatives of your country for your hospitality and your warm welcome. This is the first visit of the Secretary-General of NATO to your country but he can guarantee you that this will not be the last.

Mr.President, Members of Parliament, thank you very much.





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The Speaker of the Parliament expressed his conviction that the visit by the NATO Secretary-General to Azerbaijan and the Transcaucasus would play a big role in creating lasting peace in our region, and on behalf of the Members of Parliament as well as on his own behalf expressed thankfulness to Mr. Javier Solana for his substantive and interesting statement at the present session of Milli Mejlis. Speaker of the Parliament Murtuz Aleskerov presented Mr. Solana with an information handbook about the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana left Baky

On February 14, 1997 the NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana made a sightseeing tour of the city, including the fortress - Ichery Sheher (Inner Town) - historical site of the capital of Azerbaijan - Baky. Distinguished guest visited the carpet workshop, got acquainted with the works of the People's Artist of Azerbaijan Kamil Aliyev. In memory of his visit to our Republic Javier Solana was presented with a hand-made carpet by Azerbaijani craftswomen.





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**MEETING OF HEYDAR ALIYEV,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN,
WITH JAVIER SOLANA, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO**

On July 27, 1997 Heydar Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan met with Javier Solana, the Secretary General of NATO. The leader of our country was pleased to meet the Secretary General of NATO.

Mr. Solana praised every meeting with the outstanding politician Heydar Aliyev. He noted that he had arrived to New York from Washington today. As soon as he was informed that our leader was there, he decided to meet with him.

Mr. Solana, talking about his meeting with the President Clinton in Washington, noted that people were anxious to see President Aliyev there.

Mr. Solana praised the first official visit of the President Heydar Aliyev to America as a historical event. He emphasized that the visit would be important in the development and strengthening of the relations between Azerbaijan and the United States.

The Secretary General talked highly about the close cooperation between NATO and Azerbaijan, which joined the Partnership for Peace program of NATO and became a member of the European-Atlantic Council. He expressed his assurance that these relations would be further developed and strengthened, thanks to farsighted policies of President Aliyev.

Mr. Solana positively praised the protection of independence in Azerbaijan, its successful implementation of democratic processes, and economic reforms under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev. He expressed the support of all international organizations, including NATO, in all these processes.

The leader of our Republic praised the Secretary General for his sincere words, and he praised the visit of Mr. Solana to Azerbaijan as an important event for our country. President Aliyev expressed his pleasure on relations between NATO and Azerbaijan



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The leader of Azerbaijan expressed his pleasure on the agreement signed by Co-chairmen of the Minsk Group from three big powers, Presidents Bill Clinton (U.S.), Boris Yeltsin (Russia) and Jacque Chirac (France). Based on this agreement, the conflict should be solved peacefully. President Aliyev expressed great hope that the military aggression would be stopped in 1997. He also expressed his intention to discuss this issue with President Clinton in the White House.

Mr. Solana expressed his deep respect for the President Heydar Aliyev one more time. He noted he had good memories of his trip to Azerbaijan. He expressed his assurance that the first official visit of our leader to the U.S. would be successful and, thanks to the farsighted strategy of Heydar Aliyev, the problems facing Azerbaijan would be solved in the near future.

The leader of Azerbaijan invited the Secretary General of NATO to Azerbaijan. Mr. Solana thanked for the invitation.



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**EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 692 OF 14 NOVEMBER 1997
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**On measures to further strengthen the cooperation
between the Republic of Azerbaijan and NATO**

The Republic of Azerbaijan is actively participating in the process of pan-European security and cooperation founded on the respect for the principles of common and indivisible security, the rule of law, sovereignty of states and their territorial integrity.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is actively contributing to the development of international cooperation assuming as the basis its sovereign right of independently choosing the ways and methods of guaranteeing its national interests and security and aims at the integration to Europe as well as Trans-Atlantic security and cooperation structures.

In this connection the Republic of Azerbaijan highly values the role of NATO in the development of the pan-European process and guaranteeing peace, security and stability in Europe. Azerbaijan fully shares the conviction of the North Atlantic Alliance countries that cooperation and joint decisions, common values and principles are the only way of guaranteeing security and stability in the region. Therefore, as its first step, Azerbaijan joined the activities of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and NATO Partnership for Peace Program. On the basis of the already achieved results the Republic of Azerbaijan intends to elevate political and military cooperation with NATO to a qualitatively new level and to actively use the mechanisms and possibilities that are newly created for cooperation in the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the enhanced NATO Partnership for Peace Program.

The Republic of Azerbaijan positively views the decision adopted at the Summit of Heads of State of NATO Member-States and Partnership for Peace Member States on giving the Partner Countries a right of opening their diplomatic missions in Brussels at the NATO Headquarters.



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Therefore, in the near future the Republic of Azerbaijan is going to use the opportunity of strengthening its political and military representation in NATO and will open its diplomatic mission at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

Proceeding from the abovesaid and taking into account the special importance of the participation by Azerbaijan in the work of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the NATO Partnership for Peace Program as well as taking into consideration the Presentation Document submitted by Azerbaijan to NATO and Executive order No302 by the President of Azerbaijan dated 19 April 1996 "On Presentation Document of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the framework of the PfP Program" and taking note of the results of the Summit of Heads of State of NATO Member-States and Partnership for Peace Member States held in Madrid on 8-9 July 1998, I hereby decide:

1. To establish a Commission near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the following composition:

Chairman of the Commission

Artur Rasizade Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Members of the Commission

Hassan Hassanov	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Namig Abbasov	Minister of National Security of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Safar Abiyev	Minister of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Najmaddin Sadykhov	First Deputy Minister of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of the General Staff
Nadir Akhmedov	Minister of Communications of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Vafa Guluzade	State Advisor on Foreign Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Faramaz Magsudov	President of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Natig Aliyev	President of the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Jahangir Askerov	Director General of the Azerbaijan Airlines Company



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2. To instruct the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- to assist Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish relations with the North Atlantic Assembly;
- to elaborate within 15 days the Regulations of the Commission mentioned in paragraph 1 of present executive order and to present it to the President;
- to undertake necessary measures in order to prepare for signature by Azerbaijan, as appropriate, of the Brussels Agreement on the status of forces of NATO Member States and Partnership for Peace States of 19 July 1995 as well as the Additional Protocol to this Agreement;
- to hold a meeting of the Atlantic Policy Advisory Group in Baky in the course of 1999, in accordance with the agreement reached as a the result of the visit to Baky on 13-14 February 1996 of the NATO Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant ministries and governmental institutions;

3. To instruct the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan to undertake within 30 days necessary measures in order to ensure the exchange of the classified information with NATO and to purchase and to install necessary equipment required for secure communications between the Republic of Azerbaijan and NATO;

4. To instruct the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan :

- to undertake necessary measures to ensure the participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Planning and Review Process of the NATO Partnership for Peace Program
- to undertake necessary measures in order to establish and to equip a special unit-company to participate in the international military exercises in the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace Program and the peacekeeping activities;
- to provide necessary conditions at the military training institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan to educate military personnel in compliance with the international standards and relevant NATO requirements;
- to complete within 15 days the establishment of a "NATO/Partnership for Peace" Department at the Baky High Joint Command Military School;
- to provide for, in cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions, the holding of preparatory workshop for "Cooperative Demand" exercise, which is in the framework



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of the Partnership for Peace Program as well as to ensure the participation, as appropriate, of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the "Cooperative Demand" exercise to be held in the Turkish Republic in December of 1997;

- to undertake in the immediate future necessary measures to ensure the participation of Azerbaijan in the work being done in the Partnership Coordination cell in Mons (Belgium);
- to send within 7 days and upon agreeing with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs an official from the Ministry of Defense to the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Vienna (Austria) to provide military expertise at the negotiations held within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Joint Consultative Group (JCG) of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty;

5. To instruct the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- In cooperation with the relevant ministries and institutions to set up within 15 days an inter-agency working group for joint activities with the NATO experts on pipeline security issues;
- In the dates to be agreed upon in the course of 1999 in Baky to hold first working session with the NATO experts on pipeline security issues;

6. To instruct the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the "Azerbaijan Airlines" State Company and the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan to submit proposals on cooperation with the NATO Committee on European Airspace Coordination, the NATO Science Committee and the NATO Civil Emergency Planning Committee.

Heydar Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
The City of Baky 14 November 1997



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SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NATO JAVIER SOLANA ARRIVED IN BAKY

On September 30, 1998 a tete-a-tete meeting of the President of Azerbaijan Mr. Heydar Aliyev with NATO Secretary-General Mr. Javier Solana, who was on a visit to Azerbaijan, took place in Presidential Palace.

Having warmly welcomed the distinguished guest the Head of State expressed his satisfaction on the new visit by NATO Secretary-General to Baky.

Mr.Solana said that he is pleased to come to Azerbaijan once again and delighted with the opportunity to meet and have an exchange of views with the Head of our State - prominent politician Heydar Aliyev. The two sides recalled with satisfaction their previous meetings that took place in Lisbon, Madrid and Baky, as well as in the United States during the official visit by President Heydar Aliyev to the United States. They stressed big importance of these meetings in the establishment and development of co-operation between the independent Azerbaijani state and the North Atlantic Alliance.

Recalling his visits in May 1994 and in 1996 to Brussels, President Heydar Aliyev said as follows: "During my first visit to the NATO Headquarters I subscribed to the Partnership for Peace Program that was followed by Presentation Document of Azerbaijan that I handed over to you. Since that time our ties have been expanding on a permanent basis. Azerbaijan takes active part in the Partnership for Peace Program". In the opinion of the Head of State who underlined that Azerbaijan highly valued that co-operation and intended to develop it further the present visit by Mr.Solana will contribute to discussing some of the issues in that field.

Sharing the ideas expressed by the Head of State of Azerbaijan Javier Solana assessed negotiations taken place in the course of the present visit to the capital of our country as a continuation and follow-up of the previous meetings. Dwelling on the events that occurred in the world at the end of this century he said that "nowadays these events are intensively developing becoming those of a global nature, in particular, security issues are on the agenda. From this point of view one could learn a lot



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during an exchange of views with such an experienced politician as President Heydar Aliyev is.

Speaking about the situation that evolved in the Republic, including about large-scale reforms that are presently underway, Head of State said that "all this is aimed at building a law-governed, democratic and secular state which is in transition to market economy, as well as broadly integrating itself into world economy".

President Heydar Aliyev stressed that it is very important for all at the end of the century to achieve security and tranquillity in the world. "This has special relevance and importance to Azerbaijan. The Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict, which is the most acute problem of our people, has not been put an end to. This not only creates obstacles to the security of our independent state but also impedes more intensive development of creative processes in our country. Though this conflict inflicted heavy losses and damage on Azerbaijan and more than a million of our citizens have been expelled from their native places and became refugees, we are trying to settle this problem by peaceful means. More than four years ago we achieved the cease-fire regime which has been holding by now".

During the conversation the necessity to solve the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of three principles adopted at the Lisbon Summit of the OSCE has been stressed. President Heydar Aliyev spoke about the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group in this regard as well as about the proposals put forward in order to solve the conflict by the Co-Chairmen - Russia, the United States and France. The Head of State expressed the hope that this problem may be solved through negotiations by peaceful means.

At the meeting an exchange of views related to an event which has been recently in the center of attention of the whole world - successfully conducted international conference on the restoration of the Historic Silk Route held in Baky - took place. In the opinion of Mr.Solana who underlined that he had followed with great attention this event, the conference implemented a new valuable initiative which is not only of regional, but also of international significance. The guest highly valued the achieve-



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ment by President Heydar Aliyev who was initiator of convening this conference and who provided all the necessary opportunities for its successful work. Further on Mr.Solana said that this conference being "a worthy event in which the high-ranking representatives of more than thirty countries and international organizations participated, testifies to the fact that these countries finding themselves in close economic co-operation are full of willingness and desire to move into the future together. This is not only purely economic issue but also a desire to achieve stability and security". The Secretary-General made a special emphasis on the fact that as a result of a wise, far-sighted policy of President Heydar Aliyev the ties between Asia and Europe are being established, the bridge of co-operation is being set up. Implementation of this project will open huge opportunities, in particular for Azerbaijan which will become the most important and major hub along the Silk Route, even more deepen merger of its economy with the world economy, enhance its authority and image at the international level.

Expressing thankfulness to Mr.Solana for his kind words, as well as for his high evaluation of the international conference in Baky, President Heydar Aliyev said as follows: "through restoring ancient Silk Route we are really opening a new page in history on the eve of the third millennium. For the first time representatives of thirty-two countries, including nine heads of state, representatives of thirteen international organizations gathered in Baky. All of them took a similar stand on this issue". The Head of our State reminded that a detailed exchange of views on very important economic issues took place, important documents on assistance for the sake of providing peace and security on a vast territory which a restored historic Silk Route will go along were adopted.

President Heydar Aliyev underlined that Azerbaijan undertakes important steps in this field. He believes that co-operation between countries must serve the aims of ensuring security for all peoples of the world, including the security of Azerbaijani people.

Emphasizing his solidarity with the ideas expressed by President of Azerbaijan Javier Solana expressed his satisfaction with the fruitful negotiations that were held during the day and expressed his wish to once again meet the President of Azerbaijan in the future.



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Once again thanking the distinguished guest the President Heydar Aliyev expressed his confidence that the next visit of the NATO Secretary General to Azerbaijan and the negotiations during that visit will be beneficial to both sides.

Talks Between the Delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and NATO

On September 30, 1998 talks between the delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and NATO headed by the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and the NATO Secretary General Javier Solana were held in the Presidential Palace.

Warmly greeting the distinguished guests President Heydar Aliyev welcomed the delegation and expressed his great pleasure to meet Secretary General once again. He said: "In May 1994 four years ago I made my first visit to NATO Headquarters in Brussels and subscribed to the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme. In April 1996 I paid my second visit to Brussels and I met you, Mr. Secretary General and I submitted to you the Presentation Document on Azerbaijan's joining the NATO for Peace Programme. We have joined this Programme and cooperate with you."

Recalling the first visit to Baky by Secretary General Javier Solana in February of 1997 as well as the meeting and interesting substantial conversations in Madrid and New York the Head of State said: "Now You are again in Azerbaijan. I can say that in the course of the last four years the links between Azerbaijan and NATO, as well as Azerbaijan's participation in this "Partnership for Peace" Programme have well developed. We appreciate this and we would like to continue our co-operation. We hope that during your visit to Baky we will be able to discuss many pertinent issues in detail."

Thanking President Heydar Aliyev said that it's always a great pleasure for him to speak to the Head of Azerbaijani state whom he met three times in the course of last year. "The main thing is that we have gathered to review not only our common work in accordance with the "Partnership for Peace" Program but to discuss other issues related to the security in the world", the Head of NATO emphasized, considering that speaking to Heydar Aliyev on the widest range of issues one always can learn a lot. "On the eve of the twenty-first century the number of security issues is growing as the



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world changes rapidly. Everything in it becomes global, the initiatives at regional level are permanently launched", Javier Solana thinks. According to the head of the North Atlantic Alliance a vivid example to that is the international conference on restoration of the historical Silk Route which has recently taken place in Baky on the initiative by Azerbaijan. Javier Solana stressed: "This conference testifies on the one hand, to the globalization and on the other hand, to the regional co-operation, as well as to that more than thirty countries gathered at that conference wish to move forward together. It was noted that this is an excellent example of interaction for the sake of stability and security carried out through economic co-operation, trade, joint initiatives.

The NATO Secretary general believes that on the eve of the next century the issue of stabilisation and security should be addressed in a broader context. "Sure, there is a practical meaning of the world stability but there are also other aspects of that word which are dealing with the economic development, trade and every thing which will make our world safer and more stable in the next century" , he said.



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Javier Solana congratulated President Heydar Aliyev with the proposed initiatives. Regarding the NATO-Azerbaijan bilateral relations he said that they are developing very well and that he is very pleased with that: " We would like NATO and Azerbaijan to deepen their bilateral interaction". The Head of NATO thanked President Heydar Aliyev for the warm hospitality emphasizing that he is very pleased to be in Baky.

Expressing gratitude to the NATO Secretary general and underlining his full agreement with his statement President Heydar Aliyev said: "Indeed, the world at the end of this century is rapidly changing and we moving the 21st century must achieve greater security in the world. Stability and security are needed by every country, the whole world. But for us, Azerbaijan this has special significance." Speaking about the very advantageous geostrategic location of Azerbaijan as well as the desire that it be used not only by our Republic but also by all countries with which we cooperate the Head of State dwelt upon the problems of Azerbaijan. He said: "You are very well aware that the armenian-azerbaijan conflict has not yet been eliminated. As the result of this conflict Armenian armed forces occupied twenty percent of Azerbaijan's territory more than one million Azerbaijanis have been forcibly expelled from the occupied territories. Now they live in tenets in difficult conditions. Four Years ago we stopped the fire. An agreement on cease-fire was signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan. But the question is not solved. We want to solve by peaceful means. The OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-chairmen - Russia, United states and France - are dealing with this issue. We hope that we will achieve the solution by peaceful means. But in such a situation we are confronted with factors that are of concern to us.

For instance, Despite the existing regime of the cease-fire between Armenia and Azerbaijan one billion US dollars worth heavy weaponry, arms and ammunition have been secretly and illegally transferred during the past three years from Russia to Armenia. We protested against that. But no positive result has been achieved. Or else, location of the Armenian military base in Armenia and the presence of its troops on the territory of Georgia all this worries us. We aspire to establish peace in the Caucasus. Countries situated in the Caucasus are independent states. There is no ground or a need to keep army units or a military base of another country on the territory of Armenia and Georgia. No doubt that these are factors hindering the ensurance of security in our region - in the Caucasus.



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Expressing gratitude to the Secretary General of NATO for his high appraisal of the International Conference devoted to the restoration of Great Silk route that was held in Baky on 7-8 September, 1998, President Heydar Aliyev said: "Indeed, moving towards 21st century we tun over a big page in history. The participation of the representatives of 32 states, including 9 Presidents and representatives of 13 international organisations in such international conference speaks for the fact that all of them have one thing in mind. This conference discussed large economic issues. at the same time the adopted decisions, statements are aimed at ensuring peace tranquillity and security in the region and in the whole along the Silk Route. " .



Informing the distinguished guest that this morning another international conference - the 10th Congress of the Moslems of Caucasus started its work in Baky Head of state Heydar Aliyev said: "Representatives from the Caucasian states, Islamic states and religious figures participate in the Conference. The main gist is the ensurance of peace, tranquillity and security. I am saying this to show that we are taking a lot of positive steps in this direction. At the same time a lot of obstacles emerge on the road of ensuring peace and security. Our dream and desire are to direct all our co-operation toward ensuring security everywhere including in our region. I believe that your visit to our region and our today 's talks also serve that goal. I thank your for that."



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Thanking President Heydar Aliyev Mr. Javier Solana said that his visit to Baky will be fruitful, effective and successful.

Information of the Press-Service of the Ministry of Defence

On September 30, 1998 the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel-General Safar Abiyev received the Secretary-General of NATO Mr. Javier Solana in Baky High Joint Command Military School named after the two times Hero of the Soviet Union General Azi Aslanov. After the Minister of Defence welcomed the guest and had a short meeting with him Javier Solana met with the personnel of the peace-keeping unit of the armed forces of Azerbaijan and congratulated them on their skillfulness demonstrated during "Central Asian Batallion-98" exercise to finish these days.

Further on, the guest visited the NATO Partnership for Peace Department in the Military School, met with its instructors and made a cordial inscription in the visitors' book. The exchange of views between the Minister of Defence Colonel-General Safar Abiyev and the guest concerning close co-operation between NATO and Azerbaijan as well as military-political situation in the Caucasus region took place.

Joint Press-Conference of President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and the NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana

After the conclusion of negotiations between the delegations of Azerbaijan and NATO in the Presidential Palace the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and the Secretary-General of NATO Javier Solana held a joint press-conference for the representatives of the local and foreign mass media.

President Heydar Aliyev and the NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana held a joint press-conference for the representatives of local and foreign mass media.

President Heydar Aliyev and the NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana made short statements for the journalists. Then they answered to the questions of journalists.



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Statement by the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev

Dear Mass Media representatives,

You have been present at our negotiations and perhaps there was no need to hold an additional meeting. But due to the fact that this has been a part of our plan we thought that it was necessary to come to see you.

Further to what you have heard I can say that our negotiations with the Secretary-General of NATO Mr.Javier Solana were held in the atmosphere of very good understanding and warmth, and we very positively assessed our co-operation between Azerbaijan and NATO in the framework of the Partnership for Peace Program. We also noted our readiness to continue in the future this co-operation.

Our today's meeting has been very significant. On the eve of that meeting our guest Mr.Javier Solana met with the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, Minister of Defence and they held very fruitful negotiations. I think that we will intensify our ties and co-operation.

The Government of Azerbaijan values this co-operation and deems it important. Today's meetings and negotiations created a very good basis for the rapid development of this co-operation. And now I give the floor to Mr.Secretary-General.

Statement by the Secretary-General of NATO Mr.Javier Solana

I don't have very much to add to what Mr.President said. Let me tell you that I am very, very pleased to be in this country once again and to have the opportunity to meet with the President, Prime-Minister, Minister of Defense and to assess how much we have done together working through the Partnership for Peace and through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) since last time I visited this country about a year and eight months ago.

There are many things we have done during this period of time but I would like to underline two. I would like to thank the Government and people of this country for participating in the troops exercises and secondly for participating in the exercises in



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Central Asia where the allied troops and partner troops were exercising together. And that is a symbol of what we are doing together to in order to help guarantee stability and peace in the region. And I would like to tell you that we will continue to work in this direction in the years to come. And I would like to thank once again the President and the Government for the hospitality today and the hours that I will be here tomorrow.

Thank you very much.

This was followed by a questions and answers period.

Question: Mr.Solana, I have a question to you, Sir. NATO today said that the Serbian pullout from Kosovo is not adequate and far too slow and expressed its doubts about the Serbian intentions there. Does NATO, Sir, have the will to take military action in Kosovo. Is it serious about this?

Answer: Let me start by saying that the behavior of Mr.Milosevic will be judged by his deeds and not by his words. Too many words had been heard until now from Mr.Milosevic, so we have to see how things evolve around. Let me say also that in the past few days two very important decisions were taken. One is the resolution of the UN Security Council in which it demands the engagement of the President Milosevic. Let me remind you that that decision, that resolution was adopted unanimously by the Security Council with only one abstention – by China.

Second - a decision of the North Atlantic Council to start summarize what assets different allied countries could put at the disposal of the military authorities in case action would be necessary. This is very important decision. But before that happens the UN Security Council has to take a look at the resolution.

Question: During your talks in Baky you stated that NATO is interested in deepening its cooperation with Azerbaijan. Do you mean by that development of relations within the framework of the Partnership for Peace and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council or the parties are considering new forms of interaction?

Answer: We were talking about broadening our cooperation within the PfP and EAPC – these are two instruments that are used for cooperation by many countries, your country is one of them, and that has latitude for deepening our cooperation within PfP and EAPC.



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Question: Is there a possibility of NATO signing a Transcaucasus Charter in the future, similar to the Baltic Charter?

Answer: We don't have any Baltic Charter, I am sorry.

Question: But Ukraine and Russia, and also Baltic states...

Answer: We don't have any Baltic Charter.

Question: When we, a group of Azerbaijani journalists were in Brussels at NATO Headquarters at your invitation, you said with regard to the Nagorno Karabakh issue, which is the biggest problem of Azerbaijan, that main responsibility in dealing with it lies with the OSCE. Today I would like to ask you here in Azerbaijan, in case Armenia does not sign the big peace agreement and if then Azerbaijan appeals to NATO what would be the reaction of the Alliance?

Answer: I will repeat what I said on this over and over again. I think that this problem has the framework in which it should be solved – the Minsk Group and the agreements that were taken at the Lisbon summit of OSCE in 1996 and we don't have responsibility there at this point.



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**PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN IN THE ACTIVITIES
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE "PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE"
PROGRAMME AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF CO-OPERATION WITH NATO**

Taking note of the important role that NATO plays in maintaining security and stability in Europe, the Republic of Azerbaijan on May 4, 1994 joined the NATO "Partnership for Peace" Programme. In April 1996 the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted the Presentation Document of the Republic to the NATO Secretary General.

After the Presentation Document was handed over the Republic of Azerbaijan takes an active part in the activities that are carried out in this field. The following activities have been implemented by Azerbaijan in the framework of the PFP programme so far:

- The Individual Partnership Programme is worked out and approved annually;
- In order to achieve closer co-ordination with the NATO structures a Liaison Officer of Azerbaijan has been sent to the Partnership Co-ordination Cell in Mons (Belgium);
- In accordance with the Individual Partnership Programme the military servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan participate in various courses on peacekeeping, European security and co-operation, arms control, crisis management, environmental protection, development of integration and in others that are run in military schools, colleges and other NATO institutions;

- Officers of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan take part in planning, preparation and conduct of various multinational exercises devoted to training for peacekeeping, humanitarian and other operations.
- a peacekeeping unit of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan participated in "Co-operative Banners" exercise in the Kingdom of Norway;
- three officers of the Ministry of Defence were sent to exercise "Co-operative Nugget" and "Co-operative Osprey" held in the United States;
- two officers of the Ministry of Defence participated in the preparation and planning of "Co-operative Determination" exercise in Romania.
- the Republic of Azerbaijan actively participated in all stages of planning and preparation of multinational exercise "Co-operative Demand" held in Istanbul between



Partnership for Peace

December 1-5, 1997 hosted one of planning workshops and despatched 12 officers to participate in this staff exercise.

- a peacekeeping company has been established in the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan which undergoes intensive training and is designed for participating in peacekeeping, humanitarian and other operations, as well as multinational exercise;
- a special NATO/PfP Department has been set up in Armed Forces of Azerbaijan, where, in order to achieve compatibility with the NATO standards in the field of training of military personnel, the future officers are undergoing courses for further full-scale participation in the international military activities. First year cadets started to learn English in accordance with a new enhanced programme;
- In close co-ordination with the United States and Germany the officers of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan are given the regular opportunity to study in the Institute of strategic studies of the US Marshall Centre in Garmish-





Partnership for Peace

Panterkirhen (Germany). In order to familiarise themselves with the Republic of Azerbaijan and to exchange experience, official delegations of that institution and the US National War College visited Azerbaijan;

- in order to exchange experience, holding lectures and meeting with the military servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan the military delegations of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Allied Forces in South Eastern Europe (LANDSOUTHEAST) and Partnership Co-ordination Cell (PCC) visited the country;
- in 1998 the military servicemen of the Armed Forces as observers participated in the multinational exercise on crisis management SEMEX at the NATO Headquarters, in multinational exercises COOPERATIVE ZENITH in the United States (State of Arizona) CO-OPERATIVE TIDE (Halifax, Canada), CO-OPERATIVE BEST EFFORT (MACEDONIA), CO-OPERATIVE OLYMPIA (Greece), CO-OPERATIVE KEY (Turkey), CENTRAZBAT-98 (Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan) CO-OPERATIVE BEAR





(United Kingdom), as well as took part in Initial and Main Planning Conferences for CO-OPERATIVE OSPREY, CO-OPERATIVE DETERMINATION and PEACEFUL BRIDGE. It is planned to send officers and troops at a squad and a platoon levels to enhance participation in such activities;

In the framework of the "in the spirit of PfP" bilateral activities with the Turkish Republic a Seminar "Ateshgakh-99" will be held in Baky in November, 1999.

In 1999 the participation of the representatives of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan is planned in the following exercises:

SEMEX-99 (Norway), CO-OPERATIVE NUGGET (USA), CO-OPERATIVE DETERMINATION (ROMANIA) (one of the preparatory phases will be held in Baky), CO-OPERATIVE KEY (Turkey), CO-OPERATIVE GUARD, CO-OPERATIVE ZENITH (Canada), COOPERATIVE BEAR (United Kingdom), CO-OPERATIVE OSPREY (USA), CO-OPERATIVE PARTNER (Bulgaria).



Partnership for Peace

Active participation in the activities for 1999 in accordance with the Individual Partnership Programme is planned.

- Taking note of the importance of removing language problems efforts are put in that direction.

Given that the Partnership for Peace programme opens wide opportunities for the Republic of Azerbaijan on the way of further development of political, economic, cultural, military and military-technical ties with the leading world countries, integration within the Euro-Atlantic structures, Azerbaijan actively makes use of its potential in implementation of its Individual Partnership Programme.

The co-operation is strengthening and developing in the following areas:

- achieving interoperability;
- defence planning and armed forces building;
- training of personnel;
- combat training and participation in the multinational exercises to implement peacekeeping and humanitarian tasks;
- democratic control of the armed forces;
- training of peacekeeping and support units (medical or logistic) to participate in peacekeeping, humanitarian and other operations;
- provision of training facilities (training centres, fire ranges, airports) to participate in the activities on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan supports NATO plans on further enhancement of "Partnership for Peace" Programme and on shortening distances between partnership and membership, as well as it deems all-side co-operation as a guarantor of its external security.



APPENDICES

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan occupies south-eastern part of the Caucasian isthmus which stretches 825 kilometres along the Caspian Sea. Almost half of its territory are mountains: in the north there is Great Caucasus with the highest peak of the country - mountain Bazarduzu (4480 m). In between the mountains there lies the largest Kura-Araks lowland. Being situated at the junction of Europe and Asia the Republic has a unique geopolitical location and since ancient times has maintained its importance in terms of world economic and cultural links. The total area of Azerbaijan, which includes also Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic is 86,6 thousand square kilometres. In the north it borders on the Russian Federation (390 km), in the west - on Armenia (1009 km), on Georgia (480 km), in the south-west - on Turkey (12 km) and in the south - on Iran (750 km).

The Republic is rich and unique in its natural resources: landscapes vary from hot lowlands of the dry subtropics to eternal snow and glaciers of highlands. Azerbaijan has nine climatic zones out of existing on our planet, ranging from dry and humid subtropical to climate of mountainous tundra with the temperature amplitude of minus 45 degrees Centigrade to plus 45 degrees in the plains.

The Republic is rich in various minerals. The oil-fields of Apsheron peninsula and the Caspian shelf are mostly well-known including a unique sort of oil-cure oil called Naftalan. Azerbaijan has considerable reserves of iron-ore and alunites, and the latter's fields near Ganja are of world significance. Northern slopes of the Small Caucasus are known for the variety of other sorts of ores (molybdenum, cobalt and arsenic). Here marble is extracted which is no worse than the karrar marble as well as tuff, beautiful and solid.

Azerbaijan is famous for its numerous mineral sources - Istisu, Turshsu and Badamly. The longest river - Kura (length inside the Republic - 900 km) has substantial reserves of hydro-energy (estimated worth of 16 bln kWt per year). There are about 250 lakes



The Republic of Azerbaijan



in the Republic among which there is a unique Binagadi lake which survived through nowadays as a place of mass burials of ancient fossil animals.

The Caspian Sea - the largest salty lake on Earth, influencing nature and economy of Azerbaijan - plays a specific role in the life of the Republic. The layer of the soil vary from mountainous meadows of Alpine highlands to sulphuric soil of half-deserts and yellow soil of subtropics. Unique are many types of flora (more than 4 000 kinds) and fauna (more than 12 000 species) of the Republic. Eldar pine-trees, Caspian lotus and others are included in the Red Book. There are more than a dozen of natural and historical and architectural natural reserves. Kyzylagaj reserve where each year more than a million of birds spend winter is of world significance.

Among the Republics of South Caucasus Azerbaijan is the most populated - there are more than 7.5 mln people who live there. It holds the leading position in terms of increase of population. Every year approximately more than 180 000 children are born. There is a relatively high life expectancy in Azerbaijan. There are more than 80



people at the age of 100 years and more for every 100 000 inhabitants. Longevity is a typical phenomenon mostly in Karabakh and Talysh. In the meantime Azerbaijan is a youth country. More than one-third of the total population are children (up to 14 years old), whereas the able-bodied part of the population constitutes about 60 percent.

Azerbaijan is a multinational Republic. The representatives of more than 90 nationalities - Azerbaijanis (85%), Russians, Ukrainians, Belarussians, Georgians, Armenians, Lezghins, Tatars, Talyshs, Kurds, Tats and other nationalities live there.

The population whose aggregate density is 86 persons per 1 sq.km. is scattered disproportionately. In lowlands and plains where mostly big industrial and agricultural centres are located 80% of the Republic's population are concentrated. The mostly densely populated is the Apsheron peninsula (300 persons per 1 sq.km.).

At present, the urban population make up 54% of the whole population of the Republic. Along with Baky urban area (2.5 mln inhabitants) the largest cities are Ganja (290 000), Sumgait (270 000), Mingechaur (96 000), Ali Bayramli (65 000), Khankendi, Lenkoran, Yevlakh, Sheki, Shusha and others. Intensive increase in urban population over the recent years is first of all connected with the continuing occupation of 20% of the Republic's territory and forcible displacement of people from the places of their permanent residence.

Azerbaijan is one of the most ancient homes of the civilization, a country with rich and ancient history. For many millennia unique cultural heritage had been created on its territory making part treasury of world culture.

Discovery of Azikh cave - one of earliest sites of human being on the Earth as well as the discovery of a number of other sites of Stone Age testify to the fact that Azerbaijan is a part of the zone of anthropogenesis and is one birthplaces of the human mankind. Here one can trace major milestones of the development of the civilization. First political institutions emerged in the third millennium B.C. Ninth century B.C. witnessed the development of Azerbaijani statehood: Manney Kingdom with economic and cultural level of development emerges. Pantheons of deities are created - Manneys believed



The Republic of Azerbaijan



in natural phenomena, the Sun and the Moon. In early sixth century B.C. Manney was conquered by the power of Midia. The official religion in that period was Zoroastrizm the dissemination of which was motivated with self igniting sources of oil and gas.

Substantial role in the development of the independent statehood on the territoru of Azerbaijan in ancient times belongs to the states of Atropatena and Albania. The name of the ruler - Atropat (translated as "guarded by the god of fire") explains the name of the country which had been later transformed into Azerbaijan. The process of formation of the Azerbaijani nationality has begun in Atropatena.

In the third fifth century AD. Azerbaijani statehood is strengthened. Christianity arrives in Azerbaijan, one of the first apostolic independent Christian churches is created, spiritual and secular cultures are developed. Invention of the Albanian alphabet in the beginning of the fifth century promoted the development of education.



Unique monuments of material culture and literature, architectural traditions of that period had been preserved till nowadays.

At the beginning of eighth century Azerbaijan was conquered by Arabs and was included in the Arab caliphate as a vilayet (province) of Arran. Islam became the dominant religion in Azerbaijan. New traditions and cultures evolved. Azerbaijanis like the other peoples who accepted the religion of Islam participated under the common name of "Moslems" in the development of the Islamic culture. Azerbaijan presented the world with the row of brilliant scientists, poets and architects. Continuity of statehood is preserved on the territory of Azerbaijan in the Middle Ages. The states of Garagoyunlu and Aggoyunlu as well as the state of Sefevides emerge and find their development.

Competition of a number of states in bringing Azerbaijan into the sphere of their influence resulted in an abrupt internal destabilisation in the 19th century: a number of independent and half-independent stately entities emerged that were called khanates. At the threshold of 18th and 19th centuries contradiction deepens between Iran, Turkey and Russia, wars are waged for Azerbaijan.

Turkmenchay Treaty of 1828 concluded between Russia and Iran divided Azerbaijan and separated its people: the northern part of Azerbaijan was conquered by Russia whereas its southern part fell within the Iranian state.

The 20th century has entered the history of Azerbaijan as a period of radical transformations in the social economic, public and political as well as cultural spheres of life. Intensive development of mining and processing industries has started. Baky became the world center of developing and processing of oil, delivering at the beginning of the century more than a half of the global and 95 percent of Russian oil. Cultural life livened up. Different fields of science started to develop, newspapers and magazines are published. Creation of political societies organisations and parties, dissemination of progressive democratic ideas promoted the evolution of national self-conscience, facilitated the growth of liberation struggle of the people.



The Republic of Azerbaijan

February of 1917, collapse of monarchy in Russia created favorable conditions for the further development of the national movement in its outskirts.

On 28 May 1918 Azerbaijan resored its state self-rule, the independent Azerbaijani Democratic Republic was proclaimed. Having existed for twenty three months that Republic on 28 April 1920 fell down. The units of the Red Army marched in Baky. Since December 1922 Azerbaijan had been a part of the USSR, having as a union republic all attributes of statehood: Constitution,

flag, hymn and coat-of-arms. In 1991 the state independence was restored, the Constitutional Act on national independence was adopted. On 12 November 1995 the Constitution of independent Republic of Azerbaijan enjoying the nation wide support was adopted. This event marked a new phase in the history of the Azerbaijani people - an epoch of struggle for democracy and progress.

In accordance with the Constitution adopted by the nation wide referendum on 12 November 1995 Azerbaijan is a democratic, law-governed, secular and unitary Republic. The state rule is built on the principle of division of powers: legislative, executive and judicial. The President is the head of the state and he exercises the executive power and is elected by direct vote for the term of five years. The current





The Republic of Azerbaijan

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev was elected on October 3, 1993. The legislative power belongs to the Milli Mejlis - a one-chamber Parliament which consists of 125 members elected on the basis of majoritative and proportional electoral systems for the term of five years. The representatives of eight political parties have obtained deputy mandates at the latest elections to Milli Mejlis that took place on 12 November 1995. In total, there are more than thirty political parties and movements in the Republic. The largest among them are "New Azerbaijan Party", "National Independence of Azerbaijan Party", "Musavat" party, Popular Front of Azerbaijan Party, Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party, etc.

The highest body of executive power is the Cabinet of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The judicial power is exercised by independent courts - Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and Highest Economic Court. The official language is Azerbaijani which belongs to south-western, Oghuz branch of the Turkic languages. The state bodies promote the free use and development of all the languages of various ethnic groups, which are taught in schools and used as languages of publications without any restrictions. The religion of the majority of the population is Islam. There are also five Orthodox Russian, four Armenian-Gregorian, three Jewish, one Orthodox Georgian, thirteen Molocan, one protestant, one Krishnaite and one Ba'haite communities.



KARABAKH: THE CHRONICLE OF THE ARMENIAN AGGRESSION

Karabakh is an ancient Azerbaijan land, one of the first centres of human civilization, testified by the archaeological excavations in the caves of Azikh, Khanlar and some others. Originally Karabakh was a part of the Caucasian Albania - an ancient Azerbaijan state, ethnically consisting of the Turkish and the tribes speaking in the Caucasian language. And in the Middle Ages Karabakh was a part of the Azerbaijan states formations like Atabeys, Eldaghizes, Gara-Goyunlu, Ag-Goyunlu, Safavids. With the start of disunity of feudalism some khanates were formed in the Azerbaijan territory, among them the Karabakh khanate, the first governor of which was Panah Ali-khan. Governor's new residence - Panahabad, a fortress, later called Shusha became the capitale of the Karabakh khanate. The Karabakh khanate rapidly developed during the years of Ibrahim-Khalil khan's reign, establishing diplomatic and commercial relations with other Azerbaijan khanates, as well as with Turkey, Iran, Georgia. As a result of the Russian-Iran and Russian-Turkey wars in the first third of the XIX century the Northern Azerbaijan, including the Karabakh khanate, was made a part of Russia. According to the post-war peaceful treaties the migration of the Armenian population from the territory of the neighbouring Moslem states to the territory of former Azerbaijan khanates began. More than 1.000.000 Armenian migrants were settled in the new lands, including Karabakh. In that way the Russian tsarism tried "to dilute" the population of its new Moslem outskirts with Christians. That was the time when the first territorial conflicts between the Armenian migrants and local Azerbaijani population began.

History testifies: Шовров Н.И. "Новая угроза русскому делу" (Санкт-Петербург, 1911, стр. 59-61): "From 1828 to 1830 we settled to Transcaucasus more than 40000 Persian and 84600 Turkish Armenians and installed them in the best government lands of Elizavetopol and Erivan provinces, where the number of the Armenian population was very small. Happily ended Turkish war of 1877-79 endowed us with a stream of new Asiatic settlers: about 50 thousands Armenians and about 40 thousands Greeks were settled in the Kars region... By the time of the arrival of the re-appointed governor of the region G.S.Golitsin in 1897 there already were not 100 thousand of the Armenian settlers as in 1894, but about 900 thousand. The greatest



number of the settlers are of the Armenian origin, from 1 mln 300 thousand persons living in Transcaucasus nowadays, more than 1 mln don't belong to the native population of the region and have been settled here by us.

...Using false testimony, the Armenians, who were landless migrants, seized vast areas of lands" belonging to the state.

History testifies: А.С.Грибоедов "Записка о переселении армян из персии в наши области" (соч. в 2-х томах. Правда, М. 1971, с. 339 - 341): "The Armenians mostly have been settled in lands of the Moslem Landowners.

...The settlers live in crowds and make the Moslem grumble at the lack of space.

... Besides we discussed a great deal of those instilling which should be done to the Moslems so as to reconcile them with their burden, which is not going to be long, and to eradicate their fears that the Armenians will have the lands for ever which they were first allowed to settle."

Ethnic "Cleansing" and Seizure of Territories

Inspired by the support of the tsarist colonial authorities the Armenian leaders put forward the idea of creation of a buffer "Armenian state" - The Great Armenia "from sea to sea". Their territorial claims cover huge territories of Azerbaijan (Nakhichevan, Zangezur, Karabakh) and Georgia. Armenian terrorist organizations repeatedly arranged bloody massacres of Azerbaijanis in Zangezur, Baku, Karabakh and other places (in 1895, 1904-1905, 1918 etc.), and thousands of peaceful population turned victims of these massacres.

With the decay of the Russian Empire and formation of three independent Transcaucasian states (1918-1920) the territorial claims of Armenia led to the beginning of the Armenian Georgian and Armenian-Azerbaijan wars. Hundreds thousand of Azerbaijanis were driven out of their native lands, the province of Zangezur was captured as a result and Nakhchivan was cut off the main land of Azerbaijan. Under the pressure of Bolsheviks, who occupied the mountainous part of Karabakh, where the Armenian migrants formed the majority as a result of the migration policy of the tsarist



The Chronicle of the Armenian Aggression

authorities and ... attacks of the Armenian bandits, Karabakh was declared an Armenian autonomy within the territory of Azerbaijan.

Then in 1946, 1961, 1965, 1976 the Armenian leaders again tried to tear away the mountainous part of Karabakh from Azerbaijan with the help of the leadership of the former USSR.

Attempts of violent seizure of other territories of Azerbaijan included in the mythical "Great Armenia", did not cease. 1984 - 1.700 hectare of lands were seized in the district of Gazakh; 1985 - 40 hectare of lands in the district of Lachin; 1986 - the Armenian side tried to capture lands in the district of Gadabey and Gazakh.

Then come the events of February of 1988. The armed Armenian separatists supported and directed from Armenia began a new large-scale territorial expansion. During 1988-93 the Armenian armed formations, using considerable military, political and financial support from abroad, carried out mass deportation of the Azerbaijanians from Armenia, seized the mountainous part of Karabakh and other seven bordering districts - about 20 per cent of the Azerbaijan territory. In December of 1993 - February of 1994 - the national army of Azerbaijan repulsed the attacks of the Armenian troops in the directions of Beylagan and Tartar and launched a counter attack liberating 25 populated areas. Despite of the resolutions of the UN Security Council No 822, 853, 874, 884 which demand the unconditional evacuation of the occupied Azerbaijani territories, the Republic of Armenia violates the UN Charter, the OSCE principles, the Paris Charter and continues her aggression against Azerbaijan. The basic norms of international law - respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, inviolability of borders, non-interference into one's internal affairs, right to live and security of millions of Azerbaijanian's have been violated by Armenia.

Potitical and Legal Aggression

On December 1, 1989, the Armenian parliament together with the National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh adopted a joint resolution "On the reunification of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Nagorno Karabakh".



On January 9, 1990 the Supreme Soviet of Armenia adopted the state plan of economic development of the Republic for 1990 which also included the Nagorno Karabakh.

In May of 1990 the Parliamentary elections were held in Armenia. 12 electoral districts were organized in the Nagorno Karabakh. At present 12 deputies of the Armenian Parliament are from the Nagorno Karabakh including Robert Kocharyan, the chairman of the so-called Defence Council of the Nagorno Karabakh .

In August of 1990, the Armenian Parliament adopted the "Declaration on the sovereignty of Armenia" which again confirmed the joint resolution on the reunification of Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh . In June of 1992, the Armenian Parliament passed a resolution in which the following was said in particular:

1. In order to guarantee the security of the Republic of the Nagorno Karabakh and its population the Republic of Armenia is to ensure their defence.
2. To consider any document stating that Nagorno Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan as unacceptable for the Republic of Armenia.
3. To carry out a purposeful military mobilization in the Republic of Armenia, in connection with the situation to create necessary conditions for observing law and order, and take measures for preserving military secrets.

Strictly following the second item of the above mentioned resolution Armenia is the only state among the participants of many conferences that rejected the final document on the Karabakh conflict, not accepting the part of the document where the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was mentioned:

- the annual conference of the foreign ministers of CSCE countries in 1993 in Rome;
- on April 15, 1994, in Moscow, Armenia again rejected another similar document - "Declaration on observance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of states" - signed by all the presidents of member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- the summit OSCE countries in 1996 in Lisbon;



- in September of 1994 a resolution on the unification of monetary systems of Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh was adopted.

We stress these facts because Armenia is a member state of the United Nations, OSCE and CIS, the Charters of which recognize the territorial integrity of all member states, including Azerbaijan.

Genocide

The policy of ethnic cleansing pursued by the Armenian Nazis in the territory of Armenia has been crowned with an absolute result - today not a single Azerbaijani is living in the territory of Armenia. They were forcibly driven out by means of extremely brutal methods. Out of the 216 killed 57 were women, 5 infants and 18 children. They were killed by the doctors in hospitals, tortured, beheaded, burnt alive. The Azerbaijani were also burnt in the territory of thus, during the Armenian attack to Baganis Ayrum, a bordering village with Armenia, 7 Azerbaijanis were driven into the shed, were thrown petrol and burnt. The youngest of the victims was several months old, and the oldest was 70. The Armenian monsters of cruelty repeated the same terrible act in a farm in the same Karabakh . They burned there 6 people alive. And an absolute result was achieved in Karabakh , not a single Azerbaijani remained there. But one day the Karabakh tragedy shook the whole world. At night of the 26th of February 1992 the Armenian terrorists, supported by division 366 of the joint military forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, seized the Azerbaijani town of Khojali. In order to imagine how they were killed, and generally to understand what is the meaning of primordial Armenian antitürkism and anti-islamism, we quote a document, prepared by the independent authoritative lawyers from Moscow. It is called: "Report of the lawyers centre "Memorial" on mass violation of human rights, connected with the seizure of Khojali settlement by the armed formations at night between the 25th - 26th of February 1992". Let us quote only one example: "The corpses taken off to Agdam had the traces of gibing. The doctors of hospital train of Agdam fixed more than 4 scalped bodies, one beheaded body. The cases of alive persons being scalped were also stated."



The Consequences of the Armenian Aggression

As a result of "ethnic cleansing", followed by summary massacres, executions and torture of peaceful inhabitants in Yerevan, Gugark, Masis, Gafan, Spitak and other settlements of the Republic of Armenia, 216 Azerbaijanis including 57 women, 5 infants, 18 children have been killed. Over 200 thousand Azerbaijanis have been forcibly driven out from 172 burnt Azerbaijani villages in the Armenian Republic. Today Armenia has become the only monoethnic state among the 15 former USSR republics. And in Azerbaijan itself, as a result of Armenian aggression, over 800.000 Azerbaijanis from the upper part of Karabakh and regions adjoining to it have become refugees. About 600000 refugees out of 1 million are children, women and old people. More than 18000 Azerbaijanis, mainly women, old people and children, have been killed by the Armenian butchers.

Over 50000 people have been wounded or have been taken hostage, including 320 women, 173 old people and 71 children. 17000 km of land (about 20% of the territory of the whole republic), have been occupied by the Armenian armed forces. The Armenian troops control over 100 km of the Azerbaijan frontier with Iran. The total sum of damage inflicted by the Armenian aggressors is estimated at over 1 billion dollars. More than 6000 industrial, agricultural and construction enterprises, more than 107000 residential buildings, 741 secondary schools, 219 kindergartens, 250 medical centres have been destroyed. More than 300 cultural-historical monuments of Azerbaijan, including the Mausoleum of Molla Panah Vagif, U.Hajibeyov's and Bul-Bul's museums and others have been pillaged and destroyed, thousands of Azerbaijani cemeteries have been ruined. Decade long tragedy is still continuing.



RESULTLESS ACTIVITY

Resolution No 822 of the UN Security Council

"Reaffirming the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region, reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory, the Security Council... 1. demands ...immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kalbajar district and the other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan; 2. decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

Resolution No 853 of the UN Security Council

"Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the the Republic of Azerbaijan ..., reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for acquisition of territory, the Security Council:

1. condemns the seizure of the district of Agdam and of all other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijan Republic;
2. demands ... the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces involved from the district of Agdam and all other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijan Republic; 14.decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

Resolution No 874 of the UN Security Council

"Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the the Republic of Azerbaijan and of all other states in the region, reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory, the Security Council: - 5. calls for the immediate implementation of the reciprocal and urgent steps... including the withdrawal of forces from recently occupied territories..., 13. decides to remain actively."



Resolution No 884 of the UN Security Council

"Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the the Republic of Azerbaijan and of all other states in the region ... reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory, the Security Council: - 1. condemns the occupation of Zangelan district and the city of Horadiz...; 4. demands ... unilateral withdrawal of the occupying forces from Zangelan district and the city of Horadiz and the withdrawal of the occupying forces from other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijan Republic...; 9. decides to remain actively seized of the matter."

Statement of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office

You all know that no progress has been achieved in the last two years to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the issue of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I regret that the efforts of the Co-Chairman of the Minsk Conference to reconcile the views of the parties on the principles for a settlement have been unsuccessful.

Three principles which should form part of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were recommended by the Co-Chairman of the Minsk Conference. These principles are supported by all member States of the Minsk Group. They are:

- territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic;
- legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh defined in an agreement based on self determination which confers on Nagorno-Karabakh the highest degree of self rule within Azerbaijan;
- guaranteed security for Nagorno-Karabakh and its whole population, including mutual obligations to ensure compliance by all the Parties with the provisions of the settlement.

I regret that one participating State could not accept this. These principles have the support of all other participating States.

This statement will be included in the Lisbon Summit documents.

A Z E R B A I J A N





The occupied territory of the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan (former NKAO) – 4388 sq. km – population of which, according to the 1988 census, formed 186.1 thousand, 138,6 thousand Armenians (73.5%); 47,5 thousand Azerbaijanis – (25.3%).
As result of ethnic cleansing conducted by the armed forces of the republic of Armenia, all Azerbaijani population of this region was ousted.



700000 persons were forced to leave the homes from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which are situated outside the administrative borders of the former NKAO.
As result of the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan – more than 800 settlements, nearly 6000 industrial, agriculture and other enterprises, more than 150 thousand dwellings with total area of 9 mln. sq. m, 4366 social-cultural objects, 690 secondary schools, 855 per schools, 490 hospitals and other medical facilities, 10 mosques and etc. are burned, looted and ruined - 368 clubs, 972 libraries, 86 musical schools, 22 museums, 4 picture galleries, 6 state theatres and concert halls are ruined, 44 temples, 31 mosques, 9 historical places, 800 km of car roads, 1 mln. hectares of agricultural lots, more than 260 thousand hectares of forests; more than 200 paleontological, fauna and geological monuments of nature remain of the occupied territories.
The damage inflicted upon Azerbaijan as a result of war is estimated as exceeding 22 billion US dollars.

Lachin region – 1835 sq km, population – 61763 persons;
occupied – 18 May 1992;

Kelbadjar region – 3054 sq km; population – 60898 persons;
occupied – 3 April 1993;

Agdam region – 1154 sq km; population – 158000 persons;
occupied – 23 July 1993.

Fizuli region – 1366 sq km; population – 98958 persons;
occupied – 23 August 1993;

Jebreil region – 1050 sq km; population – 57125 persons;
occupied – 25 September 1993;

Gubadli region – 802 sq km, population – 30678 persons;
occupied – 31 September 1993;

Zengilan region – 707 sq km; population – 34924 persons;
occupied – 28 October 1993.



The territory of Shusha district of the Nagorno Karabakh region populated by Azerbaijanis, where a full ethnic cleansing was conducted.

Shusha district – 289 sq km, population – 23156 persons; occupied – 8 May 1992;



Refugee camps and settlements



Tent camps



Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

In February 1997, international public opinion got wind of massive deliveries of Russian weapons made between 1994 and 1996, unknown to the President and Government of the Russian Federation, to the Armenian Republic which had embarked on military aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani party was more particularly concerned by the fact that, as we have learnt, these deliveries of weapons, particularly heavy armoured vehicles and tactical Scud missiles, had assumed exceptional proportions following the conclusion, on 12 May 1994, of a cease-fire agreement between Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, which Azerbaijan respects scrupulously, notwithstanding the fact that the Republic of Armenia continues to occupy Azerbaijan's territory.

In the statement it issued on that subject on 21 February 1997, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan drew the attention of the international community and the leaders of the Russian Federation to the fact that these illegal actions were in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and of the decisions of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe regarding the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, all of which banned deliveries of weapons to the States involved in the dispute, for those deliveries of weapons encouraged the escalation and continuation of the occupation of Azerbaijani territory. Furthermore, it was indicated that deliveries of Russian military materiel to Armenia were contrary to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. They undermine the authority of the Russian Federation in its capacity as mediator of the settlement of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Since the deliveries of Russian weapons to Armenia came to light, the Russian Federation has tried to conduct investigations into the matter. In particular, the State Duma of the Russian Federation, after having devoted a special debate to the issue, asked its Committees on Defence, Security, and Commonwealth of Independent States and ties with fellow citizens to conduct a thorough investigation into the facts surrounding the illegal deliveries. In its statement of 14 March 1997, the Ministry of



Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan expressed the hope that the investigation would lead to the disclosure of the identity of those officials who had been involved in the illegal activity regarding the deliveries of Russian weapons to Armenia, that these activities would be dealt with appropriately at the legal and political level and that the necessary steps would be taken to have the weapons withdrawn from the Republic of Armenia.

On 11 April 1997, the State Duma of the Russian Federation, having heard the report of the Chairman of the Defence Committee, Mr. L.Rokhlin, on the illegal deliveries of weapons and military materiel valued at one billion United States dollars to Armenia, adopted a resolution entitled "Measures to enforce the legislation of the Russian Federation concerning deliveries of weapons and military materiel to foreign States".

In this resolution, the State Duma requested the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, to take the necessary political and diplomatic steps to forestall the complications which might arise between States on the occasion of illegal deliveries of weapons and military materiel to Armenia, and to take detailed measures to prohibit similar violations of the legislation concerning deliveries of weapons involving other countries and to hold individuals who permitted such violations personally responsible. The State Duma of the Russian Federation also asked the Attorney-General of Russia to verify the violations of the legislation on deliveries by Russia of weapons and military materiel to Armenia and the cases where members of the armed forces of the Russian Federation might have used their official functions for reprehensible purposes.

In September 1997, Mr.E.Primakov who was then Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, acting on instructions from President Boris Yeltsin made a statement in which he set forth the official position of the Russian Federation regarding the conclusion, in 1997, between the Russian Federation and Armenia of a treaty on friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance which contained, inter alia, an article on military co-operation and mutual assistance between the two States. He indicated in that statement that "the Russian-Armenian treaty was not directed against Azerbaijan and would never be used to benefit those who are hostile to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan".



Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

It also indicated that the leaders of the Russian Federation were concerned with the fact that "calls are being made at the present time, especially in Nagorny Karabakh, for a settlement of the conflict that has been going on for many years between Armenia and Azerbaijan by military means".

In its statement of 19 September 1997, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan deemed the statement by Mr. Primakov to be positive. However, it was again pointed out that during the preparation of the Russian-Armenian treaty no account had been taken of the possible negative consequences of the implementation of the Treaty both on the process of the peaceful political settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and on bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation. In its statement the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the hope that all the obligations stemming from the Russian-Armenian treaty would not enter fully into effect until an overall settlement had been reached to the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which presupposed the liberation of all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the return of refugees and displaced persons to the places of their permanent residence and the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Unfortunately, as it turns out, not one of the initiatives taken in the Russian Federation to look into the facts concerning the massive illegal deliveries of Russian weapons to Armenia has been completed and therefore not one has had any result whatsoever. What is more, the deliveries of weapons to Armenia are continuing, this time openly and legally. Subsequently, the statements by officials of the Russian Federation claiming that military cooperation between Russia and Armenia was not directed against Azerbaijan have quite simply not been confirmed. That is the conclusion to be drawn from the articles of the treaty concluded between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia which have been supplemented by more than 20 agreements on cooperation in the political and military fields as well as military-technical cooperation.

These conclusions are also borne out by the visit made to Armenia on 14 and 15 July 1998 by the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, Mr. I. Sergeyev during which the results of the co-ordination of the future co-operation plans regarding



Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

military facilities were officially announced and the timing and budgets were determined; also determined were the further development of the Russian military base in Armenia and its co-operation with the armed forces of that country including the improvement of a system of unified air defence system based, inter alia, on the deployment of S-300 surface-to-air missile systems; the plans for delivering modern weapons to Armenia, which provided, inter alia, for the modernization of the equipment of the 102nd Russian military base, joint military exercises in the presence of the Ministers of Defence Russia and Armenia on a training ground not far from Yerevan and plans for the reinforcement of Russian military troops in Armenia by reducing Russian forces in Georgia.

In its statement of 18 July 1998, adopted following the visit to Armenia by the Russian Minister of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan indicated that Azerbaijan was concerned, and not without cause, about plans to strengthen the strategic military alliance between the Russian Federation and Armenia, which cause a serious threat to the process to find a settlement as soon as possible and by peaceful means to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and, more generally, to the security of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and cast a shadow on the role of Russia as a mediator in the settlement.

On 29 July 1998, the Director of the Department of International Military Cooperation of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, general L.Ivashov, made a statement in which he confirmed the plans of Russian military leaders to replenish the military materiel of the 102nd Russian military base established on the territory of Armenia and, particularly, to strengthen operational coordination of the military machinery of the two countries.

In the statement it issued on the occasion of General Ivashov's statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan indicated that the frank and unambiguous statements by the above-mentioned military official of the Russian Federation strengthened Azerbaijan's apprehension regarding the purpose of this new phase of political and military co-operation between Russia and Armenia, which had thus been lifted to a qualitatively different strategic level.



Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The statement indicated that for the first time it had been acknowledged in Russia at so high an official level that all past and present deliveries of military weapons to Armenia had but a single purpose, namely, to strengthen that country's military potential and to enable it to obtain strategic military superiority over Azerbaijan. The qualitative replenishment and expansion of the military capacities of the Russian base, the strengthening of operational coordination between Russian military forces and the Ministry of Defence of Armenia and the continued deliveries of weapons to Armenia left no doubt as to the true intentions of the leaders at the Ministry of Defence of Russia regarding shifting the military-strategic balance in the zone of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and throughout the region in favour of Armenia.

On 15 and 16 December 1998, the Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force of the Russian Federation, General A. Kornukov, paid a visit to Armenia during which further agreements were concluded in the area of military co-operation between the Russian Federation and Armenia. The visit was an occasion for examining specific technical questions raised by the considerable strengthening of the 102nd military base established in Armenia, the new aircraft unit to be supplied to that base, the improvement of the operation of the unified air defence system which was to be equipped with modern armaments, including S-300 surface-to-air missile systems, and questions concerning the permanent deployment in the territory of Armenia of Russian MiG-29 aircraft. In Baku, the frank statements by General Kornukov did not pass unnoticed; it was clear that the Russian-Armenian military units might be used against both Turkey and Azerbaijan.

In the statement it issued on 19 December 1998 on the occasion of the visit of General Kornukov to Yerevan and the further military agreements concluded between Russia and Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan pointed out that Azerbaijan was following with concern the expansion of the Russian military presence in Armenia and in the entire southern Caucasus region and saw it as a factor in the tension which not only was not contributing to but was hampering the establishment of peace, stability and security throughout the political area stretching from the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea.



Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Azerbaijan considers the military co-operation between Russia and Armenia and the Russian military presence in Armenia as a threat to its security particularly since the Russian military base is being used to strengthen the military capability of the Armenian armed forces and since the military personnel of that base is being used in the context of the armed aggression waged by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan believes that the strengthening of Russia's military presence in Armenia may have unpredictable consequences for the region and beyond.

Numerous statements issued by officials of the Russian Federation to the effect that the Russian military base in Armenia is not directed against Azerbaijan are not credible. Accordingly, the following question must be asked: Why is Russia maintaining a military base in Armenia, a country with which it does not even have a common border? In order to ward off a possible threat from Iran? But Russia's relations with that country are very good. To ward off a threat from Turkey? But if Russian officials are to be believed, these two countries have good-neighbourly and friendly relations.

We sometimes hear it said in the Russian Federation, including at the official level, that the Russian military base in Armenia is a means of checking the shadow that NATO casts on Russia. But everyone knows that the Alliance is expanding to the west of the Russian Federation, that is to say thousands of kilometres away from Armenia.

The strengthening of the military and strategic co-operation between Russia and Armenia, the continued deliveries of military materiel to Armenia, which merely serve to strengthen the latter's military potential, and the inaction, not to say the paralysis, of the trilateral committee for the settlement of the problem of weapons deliveries point to a different conclusion: these facts demonstrate that there are certain forces in the Russian Federation which are plotting in the corridors of power and which are managing to systematically carry out plans to reduce to zero the efforts made to put an end to the arming of Armenia, to settle the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan by peaceful means, to improve relations between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan and to strengthen the role of Russia as a mediator with a view to the settlement of the conflict.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan is authorized to state that all the foregoing considerations are cause for deep concern to the Azerbaijani public opinion and are forcing the Azerbaijani leaders to consider measures that would guarantee the country's security and defend its independence and sovereignty.

**Information of the Press-Service of the President
of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Sent a Letter to the President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin.

Heydar Aliyev, continuing his dialog with the leadership of the Russian Federation with regard to the illegal arms transfers to Armenia deemed it necessary to once again draw the attention of President of Russia to this issue.

The letter notes with regret that despite the numerous promises of the Russian side the investigation into the arms transfers to Armenia worth 1 billion of US dollars has not yielded any results. The office of the Prosecutor-General, the Ministry of Defence and other federal executive bodies of Russia have not implemented instructions of the President of Russia Boris Yeltsin, the officials involved in that case have not been identified and punished, the necessary political and legal assessment of the illegal activities on arms transfers has not been made. In the meantime, the work of the tri-lateral interstate commission set up in connection with this problem was qualified in the letter as complete non-action that yielded no result so far.

President Heydar Aliyev outlined that the arming of Armenia by Russia causes damage to friendly ties existing between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan and fully contradicts the spirit and contents of the Treaty on friendship, co-operation and mutual security signed between our states.

A special concern in the letter has been expressed over the deployment by Russia in Armenia of offensive weapons, the most sophisticated weaponry - S-300 air defense



Information of the Press-Service of the President

missile systems and MiG-29 aircraft as well as over the increased military co-operation between Russia and Armenia. It has been especially emphasized that such militarization of Armenia is seriously undermining military strategic balance in the region. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan underlines that the Russian Federation, as a Co-chairman of the OSCE Minsk Conference, must make full use of its capabilities for a just settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict and consolidation of peace and tranquillity in the Caucasus. And this would serve both to the enhancement of the international authority of Russia and to development of co-operation and friendship between our countries.

Heydar Aliyev stressed that the Azerbaijani side remains committed to the settlement of the conflict by peaceful means, to observance of the cease-fire regime up until the achievement of peace and intends to develop traditionally friendly ties with Russia.

ARMENIAGATE AND MISSILE THREAT IN CAUCASUS

