



NEWSLETTER

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

275 Slater Street, Suite 904. Ottawa ON K1P 5H9 Canada

Tel: (613) 288 0497 Fax: (613) 230 8089

E-Mail: azerbaijan@azembassy.ca

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UN General Assembly Demands Withdrawal of Armenian Forces from Azerbaijan

Today UN General Assembly adopted resolution title "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" which reaffirmed territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and demanded withdrawal of all Armenian forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories. By a recorded vote of 39 in favour to 7 against (Angola, Armenia, France, India, Russian Federation, United States, Vanuatu), with 100 abstentions, the Assembly also reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Azerbaijani population to return to their homes, and reaffirmed that no State should recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, or render assistance in maintaining that situation. At the same time, the Assembly recognized the need to provide secure and equal conditions of life for Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which would allow an effective democratic system of self-governance to be built up in the region within Azerbaijan.

(Result of voting can be viewed from <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/ga10693.doc.htm>)

Azerbaijan Will Enhance Its Involvement in Afghanistan

"Azerbaijan is ready to contribute to the implementation of development and social programs in Afghanistan, Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Khazar Ibrahim told a reporter from "Kavkazkiy Uzel". According to Mr. Ibrahim, NATO and Azerbaijan hold negotiations over the increase of Azerbaijani peacekeepers in Afghanistan. Mr. Robert Simmons, NATO Special Envoy to the South Caucasus, has also discussed this issue with Azerbaijani high officials during his recent visit to the country. Besides,

Azerbaijan is willing to enhance its involvement in civilian projects, including education.

U.S. Says Kosovo No Precedent for Nagorno-Karabakh

The United States has said Kosovo's breakaway from Serbia is not a precedent for the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Earlier, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said Kosovo's February 17 declaration of independence had emboldened Armenian separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh, which saw renewed fighting last week. "We're concerned by the outbreak of fighting. We want to see that incident not be repeated," U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Casey said. "Kosovo is not a precedent and should not be seen as a precedent for any other place out there in the world," he said. "It certainly isn't a precedent for Nagorno-Karabakh."

Bulgaria to Buy 1 bln c.m. of Azerbaijani Gas Annually

Bulgaria is ready to buy one billion cubic meters of gas annually from energy-rich Azerbaijan, Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said during a visit to Azerbaijan. Mr. Parvanov said he had discussed Azerbaijan's participation in the European Union's Nabucco gas pipeline with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and declared Bulgaria's readiness to work on oil and gas projects in the country. "Azerbaijan and Bulgaria play a major role in developing energy security," he told journalists after meeting Mr. Aliyev. Mr. Parvanov said the two leaders had also discussed Azerbaijan feeding Caspian crude oil into the Russian-backed Burgas-Alexandroupolis pipeline project. In addition he announced plans to launch direct flights between the two countries in September.