



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: azerbajian@azembassy.ca

May 12, 2008

№ 8

Swiss President Visits Azerbaijan

On May 11-13 Mr. Pascal Couchepin, Swiss Confederation President, visited Azerbaijan. Mr. Couchepin met with Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Speaker of the Parliament, the Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and some other officials. The Swiss President attended the inauguration of a new Swiss Embassy building in Baky. Mr. Couchepin stressed the growing political and economic relations between the two countries. The President noted that Switzerland supported the peaceful solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh region within the framework of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. He stated that Swiss businessmen are interested in allocating investments to construction, energy, chemical industry and pharmacology. The economic ties between the two countries are enhancing with focus on energy sector. In 2007 Switzerland exported goods and services to Azerbaijan worth \$80.2 million USD while imports totaled 33.6 million. Switzerland is considering several options of diversifying energy resources to ensure its energy security. One of these ways is the project of Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) which goes from Greece to Italy from Turkey. The Government is willing to purchase gas from Azerbaijan and transport it to Switzerland through a new building network of pipelines. Swiss companies are also working in non-oil sectors of Azerbaijan. For example, cement maker Holcim is the nation's biggest foreign investor outside of oil.

Commemoration of Heydar Aliyev's 85th Birthday

On May 11, 2008 in Toronto the Embassy of Azerbaijan and the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival organized a concert to commemorate

the 85th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, the late president of Azerbaijan (1993-2003). The concert featured Toronto Silk Road Orchestra conducted by Azerbaijani composer Ismayil Hajiyev, and Azerbaijani folk music and dance.

