



NEWSLETTER

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Azerbaijani and Armenian Presidents Discussed Conflict Resolution

Talks between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Zurich, Switzerland, on January 28, ended with “no breakthrough, just discussion of the different difficult issues,” said Azerbaijan presidential spokesman Azer Gasymov without elaborating. Presidents Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Serge Sarkisian of Armenia agreed to intensify talks over the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict when they last met three months ago. Mr. Gasymov said a date for more talks was not set. Washington and Moscow appear newly energized to push for peace across the energy-rich Caucasus after Georgian-Russian conflict in August underlined the need to settle other regional conflicts through talks instead of weaponry. The crisis in Georgia once again approved the necessity of strong support by international community for the territorial integrity of all countries in the region. Considering Azerbaijan’s strategic location, leading role in the region and significant contribution to European energy security, the resolution of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict and complete restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is of utmost importance for stability. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s Special Representative on Nagorno-Karabakh Goran Lennmarker on the eve of his visit to the South Caucasus countries also said “there is a “good possibility” for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to be solved this year, but “time is scarce” and it is now “critically important to seize the opportunity”.

Investigation of Russian Arms Handover to Armenia

A group of Azerbaijani parliamentarians will travel to Moscow to investigate Russia’s handover of 800 mln worth of arms to Armenia. Addressing the opening session of Milli Majlis on February 2,

speaker Ogtay Asadov said a group of Azerbaijani MPs proposed to discuss Russian arms handover to Armenia. Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry has launched investigation into this case. Azerbaijani MPs will feedback on the results of Moscow discussion.

Law on Special Economic Zones Improved

The bill “On Special Economic Zones” has been totally improved, chairman of the Milli Majlis standing commission on economic policy, Ziyad Samedzade said. The law envisages establishment and management of special economic zones, creation of a number of economic institutions in Azerbaijan. Creation of this legal base for development of special economic zones will pave the way for influx of foreign investments.

45th Munich Conference on Security Policy

Azerbaijani delegation led by the Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov attended the 45th Munich Conference on Security Policy that brought together more than 300 representatives from over 50 states. The conferees discussed global financial crisis, international security, NATO enlargement to the East, situation in the South Caucasus, Russia-Ukraine gas dispute etc. Azerbaijani delegation mainly focused on the topics of resolution of Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict, stability in the Caucasus, Europe’s energy security. Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan delivering a speech at the session "Caucasus and Balkans" said “the situation in the South Caucasus will change after the complete normalization of relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan and Armenia”. Voicing hope that the negotiation process between Azerbaijan and Armenia will be positive, he also noted the Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform, initiated by Turkey for the restoration of stability in the region, was supported by many countries.

Embassy’s Newsletter is compiled from various sources