



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

PRESS-RELEASE

July 09, 2009

No. 7

90th ANNIVERSARY OF AZERBAIJAN'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Azerbaijani diplomats are celebrating the 90th anniversary of its first foreign office, on July 9, 2009, the date when the Government of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) established a "Temporary Counsel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)" in 1919 and commenced the operation of Azerbaijani diplomatic service.

Among the first achievements of Azerbaijan's foreign office was the participation of ADR's delegation in the 1919 Paris Peace Conference and the formal recognition of Azerbaijan by the Allied Powers on January 11, 1920, within ten days of the inaugural session of the General Assembly of League of Nations. Even though ADR fell to the Bolshevik invasion (USSR) a few months later, this recognition became a successful test for Azerbaijani diplomacy: for the first time in history, the international community recognized an independent, democratic and secular nation of Azerbaijan.

During this first stage of Azerbaijani diplomacy, in 1919, 16 diplomatic missions of foreign countries, including USA, Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Ukraine and other, were already functioning in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Building upon this glorious experience, since the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence in 1991, the MFA further strengthened Azerbaijan's positions on international arena. Facing difficult problems in the early years of independence, namely the aggression by Armenia and occupation of 1/5 part of the territories, and other challenges stemming from the geopolitical location, hydrocarbon reserves and global players' clashing interests in the country, Azerbaijani diplomacy led by President Haydar Aliyev managed to pursue balanced and firm foreign policy for the sake of national interests.

With 60 diplomatic missions functioning abroad, a number of international forums and delegates frequenting Azerbaijan each year, leading role in the region and in the trans-regional projects and strategic partnerships established with countries like US, Russia, Turkey, EU, active involvement in international efforts towards peace and security in the world, Azerbaijan gained good respect among the international community.

Nevertheless, national diplomacy still has many tasks to achieve for: to strengthen Azerbaijan's independence, restore territorial integrity via diplomatic means, negotiate for the peaceful resolution of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, represent Azerbaijan's interests all over the world consistently and make stronger its position in the international realm.