



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, September 26, 2008

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. ELECTIONS TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES TO BE HELD IN VAYOTS DZOR MARZ ON OCTOBER 12 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

Elections to local self-government bodies in the communities of Vayots Dzor marz, including in the towns of Yeghegnadzor and Vayk, will be held on October 12.

NT correspondent was informed by spokesperson for the RA Central Electoral Commission Tatev Ohanian that 2 candidates: the current mayor, non-party man Taro Avetian and the deputy governor of Vayots Dzor marz, member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) are registered to run in the election of Vayk mayor.

The candidates for the post of Yeghegnadzor mayor are the current mayor, RPA member Sirekan Babayan, RPA member David Khachatryan and ARF member Karen Karapetian.

2. ELECTIONS TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES TO BE HELD IN KOTAYK MARZ ON OCTOBER 12 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

Elections to local self-government bodies will be held in the communities of Kotayk marz, including in the towns of Abovian, Yeghvard and Tsakhkadzor, on October 12.

NT correspondent was informed by spokesperson for the RA Central Electoral Commission Tatev Ohanian that the only candidate registered to run in the election of Abovian mayor is member of "Prosperous Armenia" party (PAP), currently unemployed Karapet Guloyan. According to our information, he is the son of National Assembly deputy, PAP member Murad Guloyan and the husband of the daughter of Gagik Tsarukian who is the president of the National Olympic Committee of Armenia, the leader of PAP, and the head of National Assembly "PAP" faction.

The candidates for Yeghvard mayor are the current mayor, member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Norayr Sargsian and non-party man Baghdasar Mesropian.

The candidates for Tsakhkadzor mayor are the current mayor, non-party man Garun Mirzoyan, PAP member Sos Hakobian and RPA member Vardan Mirzoyan.

3. ACCORDING TO KHOSROV HAROUTIUNIAN, PUBLIC COUNCIL SHOULD GAIN CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SOCIETY AND COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

Armenian society has much expectations from the work of the Public Council under the RA President, Khosrov Haroutiunian, the leader of the Christian-Democratic Union of Armenia, a member of the Public Council, stated at the September 24 press conference. He assured that Public Council members periodically discuss the issue of gaining public confidence and have come to the conclusion that they should try to gain both public confidence and confidence of the President.

K. Haroutiunian reminded that people being Public Council members at present have appeared in the Council as public, political, and cultural figures having a merit before the people and the country. According to the newly formed Regulations of the Public Council, another 24 citizens should be included in the Council, who will present the demands of wide circles of society. "Public Council's goal is to become a kind of a channel, through which society's proposals and complaints should be presented to upper instances," K. Haroutiunian said.

Arshak Sadoyan, a member of the Public Council, said that people from both Yerevan and the regions will be involved in Public Council's work. They will present their troubles and problems. All that, according to him, will result in mass creative work.

4. OPENING OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH BORDER IS BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH ARMENIA AND TURKEY, POLITICAL SCIENTIST V. DILANIAN CONSIDERS [Aravot, 09/24/08]

Opening of the Armenian-Turkish border is beneficial for both Armenia and Turkey. Vahan Dilanian, the Chairman of Yerevan Center for Studies of Political Developments, said at the September 24 press conference. According to him, it is beneficial for Turkey in the respect that Armenia is the shortest way to Middle Asia and Azerbaijan. Besides, it will essentially contribute to development of



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Turkey's eastern regions. The third advantage, according to him, is that in case of opening the border Turks will get rid of the Kurdish burden: the latter will migrate to Armenia and other South Caucasian countries," V. Dilanian said. And for Armenia, according to the political scientist, opening of the border will give a possibility to easily penetrate into the Arab World and Europe.

According to V. Dilanian, at present Turkey tries to play an important role in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement. As he evaluated, as a result of the meeting of Foreign Ministers to be held in late September in New York considerable progress can be recorded in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement.

In V. Dilanian's opinion, Turks do not admit the Armenian Genocide as they do not believe that their ancestors have committed such an evil. "Recognition of the Genocide is more beneficial for Turkey, as it will deliver the latter from pressures exerted by European countries and Senate for many years," he said adding that the current Armenian-Turkish relations give serious guarantees in that respect.

According to Turkish political scientist, analyst Turgut Kerem Tuncal, the problems of the past should be put aside and all possibilities should be used for establishing good-neighborly relations between the two peoples. According to him, the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations will not be an easy process. "That way will be very difficult, but as they say, sometimes treatment is painful but saves one's life," he said. According to him, the sides should start to improve their relations from very small and mild steps. They are: opening of borders, establishment of diplomatic relations. And the most important, according to T. Kerem Tuncal, establishment of relations between the publics of the two countries should be the axis of development of these relations.

T. Kerem Tuncal also said that Turkey can play the role of a mediator in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement. "Having a stable Caucasus is in Turkey's interests, therefore Turkey will seek to solve that problem," he said. According to the Turkish political scientist, it will also deliver Armenia from dependence on Russia.

5. REGULATIONS OF PUBLIC COUNCIL SENT TO ARMENIAN PRESIDENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

The newly created regulations of the Public Council under the Armenian president were recently presented to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and sent to his legal service for examination. Garnik Isagulian, an advisor to the president, a member of the Public Council, announced this at the September 24 press conference. According to him, S. Sargsyan signed a decree on developing the regulations of the Public Council on June 13. Since that time the PC members have convened 12 plenary sittings, met with representatives of more than 320 NGOs, received and discussed 511 application-proposals from various strata of society. Each of the three preliminary versions of regulations was discussed and assessed. In the words of G. Isagulian, the final version includes all the proposals and provisions from the indicated three versions.

Under the regulations, the Public Council is composed of 36 members. The president of the country, deputies of the National Assembly, government members, members of the Constitutional Court, judges, heads of state and local self-government bodies, servicemen of the armed forces, as well as employees of the police, the national security service, tax and customs bodies, and prosecutor's office may not be members of the Public Council. Out of the 36 members of the Public Council, 12 are appointed by the RA president, another 12 are appointed from the 12 commissions (by sectors) of the Public Council and another 12 members are appointed by the above mentioned 24 citizens who are already members of the Public Council. The powers of a member of the PC are terminated 4 years after the day of the first sitting of the Public Council. The chairman of the Public Council is appointed by the president of the country.

6. STEPAN DEMIRCHIAN: ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT BE CRIMINALIZED [Haykakan Zhamanak, 09/24/08]

"The opposition is now accused of politicizing the elections, but the elections are just a political process, it is a different matter that elections should not be criminalized," Stepan Demirchian, the Chairman of the People's Party of Armenia, stated at the September 24 press conference.

According to him, the opposition will continue the legal way considering that they can achieve a result only in case they fight within the framework of the Constitution.

As regards possible change of tactics of fight carried out by the opposition against the authorities, the PPA leader said that there is always a necessity to correct tactics, but it does not mean that no rallies



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will be held. Meanwhile, according to Demirchian, opposition's fight will not be limited to only holding of rallies.

Touching upon the investigation regarding the March 1 events, S. Demirchian stressed that no unbiased investigation has been carried out up to the present, on the contrary, the policy of slurring over the case and laying the blame on the opposition continues. As regards hearing through opposition figures, according to Stepan Demirchian, "they would rather hear through and publish talks of Robert Kocharian and a murderer, whose name I do not want to mention."

7. DESPITE REFUSAL OF YEREVAN MAYOR'S OFFICE, ARMENIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS TO HOLD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26 [Azg, 09/24/08]

The Armenian National Congress (ANC) announced in advance and applied to Yerevan mayor's office with notification of holding a meeting and a march on September 26. The mayor's office rejected this application based on an unfounded and false motivation. This time the leitmotif of the meeting will be the election of head of Yerevan's Kentron community on September 28. For that reason the ANC's candidate for Kentron community head Ararat Zurabian also applied to the mayor's office with the request to hold a meeting-rally with voters within the framework of his pre-election campaign. However, according to a statement of the ANC, the mayor's office rejected this application, this time violating the Electoral Code as well.

"We consider such refusals as unacceptable because they violate the Armenian citizens' constitutional rights and their rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We will exercise our rights and hold a meeting on September 26," is said in the statement of the ANC.

8. POLICEMEN PREVENT "POLITICAL" WALKS IN NORTHERN AVENUE FOR THREE DAYS [Haykakan Zhamanak, 09/24/08]

Since September 21, the police have prevented, by using force, supporters of the radical opposition from organizing "political" walks in Yerevan's Northern Avenue, NT correspondent was informed by member of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) Diana Mardanian on September 24. According to her, policemen use rubber batons and stun guns to disperse people. In the words of another activist who requested anonymity, policemen do not substantiate their actions in any way.

From 7 pm to 7:40 pm on September 24, some 70 opposition activists, mainly women and students, gathered in Northern Avenue. There were about 40 policemen in the avenue who urged the oppositionists not to gather in one place.

9. DRAFT STATUTE OF PUBLIC COUNCIL PRESENTED TO ARMENIAN PRESIDENT [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

The task group set up to coordinate the Public Council formation works has developed and presented to the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan the draft statute of the council.

Consultant to the Armenian president, supporter of the works of the task group Garnik Isagulian said that next month it is expected that by the decree of the leader of the country the statute will be approved and the process of formation of the council will start. Garnik Isagulian said that by the end of the year the Public Council will be formed.

According to the draft statute the Public Council will consist of 36 members, 12 of which will be appointed by the head of the country, 12 will be elected by the commissions relating to different spheres, and the other 12 will be elected by the 24 members of the council. The public Council is being formed with four-year term.

Armenian president, member of parliament, members of the Constitutional Court, judges, heads of state and local self-governmental bodies, servicemen of Armed Forces, police, national security, tax, customs and prosecutor's bodies cannot be members of the Public Council.

Khosrov Harutyunian said that Public Council will face two demands – being a consulting body affiliated to the Armenian President, it must have the trust of the leader of the country, on the other hand presenting the voice of the public it must have the trust of the public as well.

The head of the Public Council will be appointed by the president from the membership of the council.

During the past three months the members of the task group had a number of meetings with representatives of different spheres, non-governmental organizations.



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10. OPPOSITION ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ELECTIONS OF SELF-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

The activity of the opposition must not be limited with meetings. The leader of the Armenian People's Party Stepan Demirchyan said today at a press conference that their further programs will soon be presented to the public.

The leader of the party said that it is not purposeful to draw parallels with the 2003 opposition headed by him and today's opposition.

According to him, the opposition will carry out political fight by exceptionally legal and political ways. "This is the only way for reaching results," he said.

S. Demirchyan noted that the opposition attaches great importance to the elections of the self-governmental bodies, particularly, the coming elections of the head of Kentron district.

The leader of the People's Party said that he is sure that the nominated candidate of the opposition Ararat Zurabyan has an opportunity to win in the elections.

Referring to the issue on relations with Turkey, S. Demirchyan pointed out that the opposition and particularly the Armenian People's Party is for the establishment of relations with Turkey without preconditions, "but not at the price of the national values."

Referring to the March 1 events, he noted that a criminal case must be opened for each murder. According to him, for increasing the reputation of the National Assembly it is necessary to form a new parliament by conducting free and fair elections.

"Today the parliament does not express public moods that is why the opposition demands urgent parliamentary elections," he said.

11. TURKISH PRESIDENT ABDULLAH GYUL REFERS TO KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION ISSUE AT THE SESSION OF UN GA [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Turkish President Abdullah Gul, delivering speech on Tuesday at the 63-rd session of UN's General Assembly, referred to the issue on regulation of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, press service of the Turkish president reported.

A. Gul noted that Turkey's initiative to create Caucasian security platform "has great goals and prospects and the implementation of this idea will promote the regulation of not only Nagorno Karabakh conflict but other frozen conflicts as well".

Pointing out that Turkey has not been represented in UN's Security Council for over 50 years, the Turkish president asked the General Assembly to support Turkey's nomination for membership to the Security Council in 2009-2010.

In his speech Gul also referred to the negotiation process between Cyprus' Turkish and Greek communities, reminding that Turkey supports all the diplomatic efforts directed towards creation of joint state in the island.

12. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT MEETS WITH OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan met today in New York with the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen.

Press secretary of the president Samvel Farmanian told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed Karabakh conflict regulation process as well as opportunities of the next meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents.

13. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT AND DUTCH PRIME MINISTER UNDERSCORE HIGH LEVEL OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, who is New York to participate in the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly, met today with the Prime Minister of Netherlands Jan Peter Balkenende.

During the meeting the sides highly underscored the level of political dialogue between Armenia and Netherlands and expressed interest towards the further development of relations.

Serzh Sargsyan expresses gratitude to the Dutch government for the technical support provided to Armenia and said that the economic partnership has good prospects and work must be carried out in



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that direction. Holland is the third among the EU countries with the volume of trade turnover with Armenia, and Armenia is member of the "Dutch Group" of the World Bank.

Armenian president thanked the Dutch prime minister for the balanced position over the Nagorno Karabakh issue. He also informed Jan Peter Balkenende about the visit of the Turkish president to Armenia. On his part the Dutch prime minister greeted the dialogue between Armenia and Turkey.

Referring to the discussions over Armenian Genocide issue in the parliament of Netherlands, the prime minister said that "Of course we are very well aware of the issue, it is important to be frank and fair with the history."

The Dutch prime minister thanked Armenian president for the support provided to the Dutch citizens during Georgian-Ossetian crisis, thanks to which hundreds of Dutch citizens managed to return home through the territory of Armenia.

Armenian president invited Dutch prime minister to visit Armenia, saying that the visit will promote the further expansion of economic cooperation and discussion of the prospects of partnership.

The president is also going to meet today with the Serbian President Boris Tadic, Latvian President Valdis Zatlers. The president will also have a conversation with the U.S. State Secretary Condoleezza Rice. Tomorrow Serzh Sargsyan will deliver speech at the UN GA and conduct other bilateral meetings.

14. MUSHEGH TUMASIAN APPOINTED DEPUTY ECONOMY MINISTER [Hayastani Hanrapetutium, 09/25/08]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan decreed to appoint Mushegh Tumasian deputy economy minister, governmental press service informed Armenpress.

15. OFFICIAL BAKU WISHES TURKEY TO BECOME OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRING COUNTRY [Azg, 09/25/08]

The head of the international relations department of the Azerbaijani president's staff Novruz Mamedov stated that the official Baku wants Turkey to become a mediator in the process of regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict. "Azerbaijan would like Turkey to become OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing country," he stated.

"Turkey is Azerbaijan's friend, strategic partner and is presented in Minsk Group. But the formation of the Minsk Group is made on the principle of mutual agreement. I think that the possibility that Armenia will agree to Turkey's co-chairing is equal to zero," he said.

16. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT MEETS WITH HIS SERBIAN AND LATVIAN COUNTERPARTS, U.S. STATE SECRETARY AND DELIVERS SPEECH IN FRONT OF AMERICAN ARMENIAN COMMUNITY [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, who is New York to participate in the 63d session of the UN General Assembly, had a number of bilateral meetings on September 24.

During the meeting with his Serbian counterpart Boris Tadic, the sides underscored the necessity of further development of political, economic and cultural relations between Armenia and Serbia. The two presidents pointed out that there exists enough potential and concrete steps are necessary for its effective usage.

Serzh Sargsyan and Boris Tadic pointed out that in spite of the geographic distance Armenian and Serbian peoples have many historic-cultural similarities and warm attitude towards each other.

With the request of the Serbian president, Serzh Sargsyan presented Armenia's approaches towards Karabakh conflict regulation, Armenian-Turkish relations and recent developments in the region. Serzh Sargsyan and Boris Tadic agreed that peaceful regulation of all the conflicts is the way to progress and development of the region. The Serbian president also pointed out the role of the Serbian-Armenian community in further development of bilateral relations. Boris Tadic also invited Serzh Sargsyan to pay visit to Belgrade.

On the same day Serzh Sargsyan met with his Latvian counterpart Valdis Zatlers. The two presidents said they are pleased with the level of relations between Armenia and Latvia, underscored the necessity of their further development.

Serzh Sargsyan and Valdis Zatlers also underscored cooperation within the framework of EU's New Neighborhood policy. In this respect Latvian president expressed readiness of his country to support



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Armenia in European integration process. The two presidents also referred to a number of regional issues. Valdis Zatlers invited Armenian president to visit Riga.

Afterwards Armenian President visited New York's "Metropolitan" museum.

On the second part of the day Armenian President received U.S. State Secretary Condoleezza Rice. During the meeting the sides discussed a wide-range of issues on Armenian-U.S. relations, regional developments. Serzh Sargsyan thanked the U.S. government for the support provided to Armenia. In response, the secretary of state pointed out that she has registered progress in Armenia's political reforms which is a good basis for continuing the support to Armenia.

The sides also referred to the process of negotiations over Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation. Armenian president reiterated Armenia's readiness to solve the conflict peacefully, through negotiations. Condoleezza Rice underscored the peaceful regulation of the conflict and pointed out that such solution of the conflict will promote the establishment of peace and cooperation in the region.

The state secretary also congratulated the Armenian president for his initiative directed towards the regulation of relations with Turkey and expressed hope that the visit of the Turkish president to Armenia will be a beginning of a future cooperation.

Late in the evening of September 24, Armenian president was present at a reception organized on his honor where he delivered a speech. More than 700 representatives of the American Armenian community were present at the event.

17. ARMENIAN NA SPEAKER TO PRESENT HIS SECOND RESIGNATION APPLICATION [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Armenian National Assembly Speaker Tigran Torosian met today with the staff of the National Assembly on the occasion of his resignation.

Public relations department of the NA told Armenpress that addressing to them Tigran Torosian said, "I am sure that all those who are in the hall are aware of the recent events and know that I have presented a resignation application. Tomorrow is the deadline for the repetition of my application. I am going to do it today and want to just thank you all for the joint work. I think that the importance of the work of the NA staff has not been fully assessed during the past years. May be it is natural because our state is only 17 years old and we had to learn many-many things in the process of our work and we have to do it today and may be tomorrow. There are phenomena, there are establishments over which there exist certain stereotypes and ideas. Unfortunately, even in the political field the real idea of the essence of the parliament, its importance, content has not been completely formed.

Once again I want to thank you all. I will stay in the parliament, and I am sure that we will work together with many of you. I want to wish you success and happiness. I am sure that we will continue working together for the sake of the parliament, our country and welfare of the people," he concluded.

18. BARONESS CAROLINE COX AWARDED MEDAL OF ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 09/25/08]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan decreed to award deputy speaker of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, baroness Caroline Cox with memorial medal of the Armenian Prime Minister for her contribution to the development and consolidation of Armenian-British relations and her friendly relations with the Armenian people.

Today the prime minister handed the medal to baroness during the meeting in the government.

Governmental press service told Armenpress baroness Cox has paid her regular visit to Karabakh and Armenia accompanied by a delegation, the members of which, according to baroness, in future will become best friends of Armenia.

Greeting the guests the prime minister expressed gratitude to Caroline Cox, noting that she has become a legendary person in Armenia and Artsakh and is well-known for her missions.

Deputy speaker of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland spoke her visit and thanked Tigran Sargsyan for his award and warm words.

19. UNLESS AUTHORITIES FALSIFY ELECTIONS, ARARAT ZURABIAN WILL WIN PREFECT ELECTIONS, SUREN SURENIANTS CONSIDERS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

The radical opposition is sure that unless the authorities falsify the elections, its candidate, Board Chairman of the Armenian National Movement party Ararat Zurabian will gain a convincing victory in the September 28 elections of Yerevan's Kentron community. Suren Sureniants, a member of the Political



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Board of the Hanrapetutiun (Republic) party, stated at the September 25 dispute. In response to the question of why the Council of Europe has decided to carry out a monitoring mission only in the Kentron Yerevan community, he said that Kentron is Yerevan's heart, besides, that community's local self-government elections can play a considerable role on the threshold of the forthcoming Mayor's elections.

Karen Avagian, a representative of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), in his turn, stated that the Council of Europe has chosen the Kentron community for a monitoring mission as the struggle will be hot in that territory due to emphasized pro-governmental and opposition candidates' running for the elections.

Touching upon RA Police Chief Alik Sargsian's statement made the day before that law enforcers' patience to unauthorized rallies may be exhausted, S. Sureniants stated: "We will do what we want irrespective of the extent of A. Sargsian's anger." In response to the question of why after the last rally the leadership of the Armenian National Congress decided to yield to the persuasions of policemen and gave up the march, S. Sureniants said that people's security is too important for the opposition.

Responding to these words, K. Avagian asked ironically whether people's security is important for the Armenian National Congress. "It has always been important: in any case, the opposition has never organized murders in the Aragast cafe, in the National Assembly, and in the streets," Hanrapetutiun's representative stated.

20. U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO PROCESS OF NAGORNO KARABAKH PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT DURING MEETING WITH RA PRESIDENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

RA President Serzh Sargsyan, who is in New York to participate in the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly, met with Jan Peter Balkenende, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, in September 24. During the meeting, the sides highly evaluated the level of the political dialogue between Armenia and the Netherlands and mutually expressed interest in further deepening of the relations.

S. Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the government of Holland for technical assistance provided to Armenia and said that economic cooperation has good prospects, which requires work to be done in that direction. Holland is the third among the European Union member countries by the index of commodity circulation with Armenia, and Armenia is a member of the World Bank Dutch Group.

The RA President expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of the Netherlands for a balanced approach to the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. He also informed Jan Peter Balkenende about Turkish President's visit to Armenia at his invitation.

The Prime Minister of the Netherlands welcomed the current dialogue between Armenia and Turkey. Touching upon discussions of the problem of Armenian Genocide in the parliament of the Netherlands, the Dutch Prime Minister said: "Of course, we are well aware of the issue of Genocide, it is important to be sincere and honest with the history."

The Dutch Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the RA President for assistance to citizens of Holland in the period of the Georgian-Ossetian crisis, thanks to which hundreds of citizens of Holland being in Georgia had a possibility to return to the homeland through the territory of Armenia.

The RA President invited the Dutch Prime Minister to Armenia, which will give a possibility to more minutely discuss the prospects of further deepening of the political dialogue between the two countries and the prospects of economic cooperation.

According to the report provided to Noyan Tapan by the RA President's Press Office, the same day S. Sargsyan also met with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs. Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, also took part in the meeting. Issues regarding the negotiations process of the Nagorno Karabakh settlement, as well as the possibility of the next meeting of Armenian and Azeri Presidents were discussed.

S. Sargsyan also met with President of Serbia Boris Tadic. During the meeting, the Presidents attached importance to further deepening of cooperation between Armenia and Serbia in political, economic, and cultural spheres and said that there is rather great potential in that direction, the efficient realization of which needs exact steps.

At Serbian President's request S. Sargsyan presented Armenia's position on Nagorno Karabakh settlement, Armenian-Turkish relations, and latest regional events. The interlocutors held the same opinion that solution of the current problems through negotiations, establishment of peace and stability in the region are an important precondition for progress, development, and implementation of regional initiatives.



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The Serbian President emphasized the unique role the Serbian community can have in the issue of further development of Armenian-Serbian relations. B. Tadic invited S. Sargsyan to visit Serbia on an official visit.

The same day S. Sargsyan met with President of Latvia Valdis Zatlers. The two countries' Presidents expressed satisfaction with the current level of relations between Armenia and Latvia. They attached importance to cooperation within the framework of the European Union New Neighborhood Policy. S. Sargsyan considered instructive Latvia's experience in the direction of European integration. V. Zalters, in his turn, expressed readiness to assist Armenia in that direction.

A number of regional problems were also touched upon during the meeting. Valdis Zalters invited the RA President to Riga.

In the second half of the day S. Sargsyan received U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in her residence. A wide range of issues related to Armenian-American relations and regional developments were discussed during the meeting.

S. Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the U.S. government for assistance provided to Armenia. In response, the U.S. Secretary of State said that Armenia records progress in political reforms, which is a good basis for providing permanence of such assistance.

The sides touched upon the process of Nagorno Karabakh problem settlement proceeding within the framework of OSCE Minsk Group. The RA President reaffirmed Armenia's readiness in the issue of peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh problem through negotiations and compromises. C. Rice attached importance to the process of Nagorno Karabakh problem peaceful settlement and emphasized that such a solution of the problem will contribute to establishment of peace and cooperation in the region.

The Secretary of State congratulated the RA President on the occasion of his initiative aimed at normalizing relations with Turkey and expressed the hope that Turkish President's visit to Armenia and latest Armenian-Turkish meetings lay a good basis for cooperation.

21. ARA PAPIAN: IN CASE OF WRONG DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS ARMENIAN DIPLOMACY'S EFFORTS OF LAST 50 YEARS CAN BECOME EQUAL TO ZERO [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's arbitrary decision on Armenian-Turkish state border is considered especially important today, because if Turkey wishes to establish normal relations with Armenia, it should undertake certain steps in that direction. Ara Papian, the former Ambassador of Armenia to Canada, stated in his September 25 interview to journalists. According to him, Armenia showed initiative to start relations with Turkey since getting independent it is a different matter at what price these relations should be established. "What should we sacrifice and what should we receive? Diplomacy is very like medicine, therefore, steps undertaken should be done by the principle "don't do harm." Turkey has already started to gain, but what have Armenians gained, it is not clear," he said.

A. Papian said that he returned from New York the day before and has an impression that Americans are surprised at the fact that Armenian-Turkish relations are becoming warmer and why Armenians make concessions. And American Armenians, according to A. Papian, are indignant as such a step regards not only Armenia but also the whole Diaspora. "In case of a wrong development of relations the efforts of Armenian diplomacy of the last 50 years can become equal to zero," he mentioned.

22. OPPOSITION IS GOING TO PRESENT ITS NEW STRATEGY AFTER SEPTEMBER 28 ELECTIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

The September 15 events showed that we deal with terrorist authorities, which are ready to use their whole punitive machine against their own people. Levon Zurabian, the Coordinator of the Armenian National Congress, stated at the September 25 press conference.

"We live not in an anti-democratic country, but deal with a terrorist band, which has taken citizens prisoners," Zurabian said. According to him, we should realize reality well and be cautious with terrorists, but also should do our best to get rid of them as quickly as possible.

Levon Zurabian said that terrorist policy carried out by the authorities to the people has become stronger lately. According to him, the authorities feel more unpunished, as due to the Russian-Georgian war the international community has deviated from Armenia's domestic problems and the situation in Georgia and around it has become the "dominating subject."

Besides, Serzh Sargsyan has started a "one-sided process with Turkey." In L. Zurabian's opinion, Serzh Sargsyan has received assistance from the West for such a process, but the above mentioned



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process is carried out at the expense of Armenia's interests. "S. Sargsyan has received a carte blanche to crush the opposition. Proceeding from that, the opposition should introduce serious corrections to its strategy," the representative of the Armenian National Congress stated.

According to him, the most serious battle for the Armenian National Congress will be the election of Kentron prefect to be held on September 28. After the elections the opposition plans to analyse the formed situation and to present its strategy to the people.

23. RESULTS OF EXPERT EXAMINATION OF VIDEO SPREAD BY OPPOSITION TO BE PRESENTED AT SEPTEMBER 26 SITTING OF NA AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INQUIRY INTO MARCH 1-2 EVENTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

The results of the expert examination of the video film spread by the opposition in September will be presented at the September 26 sitting of the RA National Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on Inquiry into the March 1-2 Events in Yerevan. To recap, after watching the video, the committee sent it to the RA Prosecutor General's Office for an expert conclusion.

NT correspondent was informed by Samvel Nikoyan - the committee chairman, a member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) that the experts who are invited to the sitting will not only present the results of the expert examination but also give explanations regarding a number of questions raised in the video.

He said that he has applied to the law enforcement bodies with the request to find the young men sitting at a wall with obvious blood stains on them as well as the citizen run down by a Vilis car (as shown in some scenes of the video) and to invite these persons to attend the committee's sitting.

24. WORKING VISIT OF ARMENIAN PRESIDENT TO NEW YORK CONTINUES [ARMENPRESS, 09/26/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, after his speech at the 63d session of the UN General Assembly, which was his first one in this establishment, visited the American Diocese of the Armenian Church, St. Vardan Church in New York. Together with the representatives of the American Armenian community Serzh Sargsyan participated in the dinner organized by the primate of the Eastern Diocese, Archbishop Khajak Barsamian in the honor of the Armenian president.

On the second half of the day Serzh Sargsyan visited Armenian permanent representation in UN, met with the diplomatic staff. The president also conducted meetings with the representatives of the Armenian Assembly of America. He highly underscored the role of the American-Armenian lobbying organizations in the further development of Armenian-U.S. relations as well as their activity in supporting Armenia.

During the meeting the president presented Armenia's approaches towards Karabakh conflict regulation issue, prospects of Armenian-Turkish relations, recent developments in the region, Armenia-Diaspora cooperation.

On September 26 Armenian president will meet with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and President of Cyprus Republic Dmitris Khristofias.

On the same day the delegation headed by the president will arrive back to Armenia.

25. AMERICAN DIPLOMAT TO SEEK NORMALIZATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 09/26/08]

Diplomat James Jeffrey, who is going to be appointed a U.S. ambassador to Ankara, stated that he will seek normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, CNN Turk reported.

During his speech in the Foreign Relations Committee of U.S. Senate, Jeffrey stated that he will support each action of Washington directed towards normalization of relations between Ankara and Yerevan and will exert efforts for the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border.

"The present relations of these two countries have greatly improved as compared with the past," Jeffrey said.

"Turkish president visited Armenia, and high level meetings are being held between the two states," the American diplomat added.



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26. HRAYR KARAPETIAN TO CARRY OUT DUTIES OF NA SPEAKER [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 09/26/08]

Armenian National Assembly Speaker Tigran Torosian presented his second resignation application on September 26 to the deputy speaker Hrayr Karapetian by which the resignation is considered accepted: the first application was presented September 19.

Armenian public relations department told Armenpress that the duties of the speaker will be implemented by deputy speaker Hrayr Karapetian.

The elections of the parliament speaker are expected to take place September 29 during the four day sessions of the parliament.

BUSINESS

27. HOVNANIAN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY BUILDS DETACHED HOUSES OF NEW TYPE - TOWNHOUSES IN VAHAKNI RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

"Townhouses" of a new type are being constructed in the Vahakni residential community on the outskirts of Yerevan. As Lilit Martirosian - the CEO of Hovnanian International company implementing this project - stated at the opening ceremony of a detached house, there are six models of townhouses with different areas: the smallest house has an area of 122 square meters, while the largest one occupies 172 square meters.

Bishop Ter-Anushavan Zhamkochian blessed the newly-built houses and wished success to the family of Vahak Hovnanian - the founder of Hovnanian International, famous U.S. businessman of Armenian origin.

The head of Yerevan's Ajapniak district Ruben Hovsepian thanked the company for building such a beautiful residential community in their district and for assisting with solution of a number of problems, including the problem of greenery planting.

"Let your work rather than you speak," Vahak Hovnanian stated in his short speech.

After the end of the official part of the ceremony, those present had an opportunity to become acquainted with several townhouse models. It was announced that the company will continue building such houses.

The event included various attractions and entertainments.

Hovnanian International was founded in 1998 by Vahak Hovnanian with the aim of housing and industrial real estate property development in Armenia. It is planned to have 700 detached houses and 2,300 apartments based on unique architectural solutions along with special city amenities and infrastructures in the Vahakni residential community, which was designed and built by the company and is located 11.6 km from downtown Yerevan. It is envisaged constructing a modern trade center in the community in the near future where local and foreign companies will have the opportunity to open their shops and offices.

28. SPECIAL ACCOUNTANT CENTER TO BE ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESS [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Within the frameworks of small and medium-sized business support, a special accountant center will be established on the initiative of the Armenian Ministry of Economy which will be provided 61.7 million drams with that aim.

Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtian said today at the government's session that the center will provide relevant services to the businessmen of big, medium and small enterprises.

The provided funds will be directed towards the formation of the center, its furnishing and ensuring necessary technical means.

The minister assured that steps will be undertaken for establishing the center in 1-2 months giving opportunity to the businessmen to make use of its services.

At the session of the government Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian described the formation of the center as an important event, noting that it stems from the concept of improvement of tax administration of small and medium-sized business and is aimed at providing available services to small and medium-sized business.

"We will have a large territory where accountant companies will be located. With the support of the state they will be "under one roof" as a result of which the tariffs and services must be low. The services will be provided from January 1, 2009," Armenian prime minister said.



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29. AUSTRIAN INVESTMENTS IN GEGHARKUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Austrian investments are expected to be made in the Armenian province of Gegharkunik, within the framework of the agreement ratified in May of 2008 between Gegharkunik Governor's office and Austrian "Alares" organization. The investments will be directed towards implementation of social-economic development programs in the province.

Deputy governor of the province Artush Ghukasian told Armenpress that an effective and long-lasting economic cooperation is expected to be established between Austria and Gegharkunik.

Immediately after the first investments offices will be established and construction of small hydro power plants will start. The investment programs will be directed towards agricultural, environment protection, tourism spheres as well as development of small and medium-sized businesses.

30. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NUCLEAR POWER UNIT IN ARMENIA TO COST 5.2-7.2 BILLION DOLLARS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

A document on Armenia's joining the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) will be signed during a conference of GNEP in Paris on October 1, the RA minister of energy and natural resources Armen Movsisian stated at a September 24 event on presentation of the sections "Information on the Environment of the New Nuclear Power Unit in Armenia" and "Preliminary Planning Studies" which make the main part of the documents "Feasibility Study on Construction of a New Nuclear Power Unit in Armenia" and "Assessment of the Impact of the New Nuclear Power Unit on the Environment". The documents were developed with the assistance of USAID.

According to the minister, the indicated documents' section on personnel training is being prepared with the help of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and will be ready in June 2009, while the section on geophysical and seismological characteristics of the platform of the power unit to be built is being developed with financing of the Armenian side. The indicated documents will be finished in June 2009.

The minister said that in December 2008 the Armenian government will submit the bill on construction of a new nuclear power unit of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP). With its adoption, the powers and obligations of the organizations involved in the construction of the new power unit will be established.

The U.S. ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch said that it is planned to decommission the operating unit of the ANPP in 2016, and taking into account the fact that it generates 40% of Armenia's electric power, the replacement of the capacity of the operating unit is of great importance from the viewpoint of ensuring Armenia's energy security. This is the reason why the U.S. government assists Armenia with creation of new replacement capacities. In her words, the new power unit will open new opportunities for Armenia and will enable to deepen the regional energy integration and develop the regional energy market.

The above mentioned main sections of the documents "Feasibility Study on Construction of a New Nuclear Power Unit in Armenia" and "Assessment of the Impact of the New Nuclear Power Unit on the Environment" were presented by Armen Arzumanyan, the head of the first company of PA Consulting Group/ Scientech group involved in the development of the documents. He said that the operating nuclear power unit will be decommissioned in 2016 - at the end of the designed term of its service, in case of availability of a replacement nuclear capacity. It is envisaged constructing the new power unit in the area of the ANPP and putting it into operation in 2017.

The construction cost of the new nuclear power unit with a capacity of 1,000-1,200 megawatts will make 5.2-7.2 billion USD. The only possible source of debt finance of the project are the export credit agencies of construction service and equipment supplying countries. The project's financing at the expense of own capital will be done with Armenia's state resources, and resources of private investors and a state-private association. Financial resources of the governments of Armenia's neighboring states are another possible source of finance.

The calculated wholesale tariff of electricity to be generated by the new nuclear power unit will make 7.5 cents a kilowatt if the Armenian government is the owner of the unit, 9.7 cents if the owner is the state-private association, and 12.7 cents if the power unit is owned by an independent investor.

By the documents, for Armenia, the program of expansion of atomic energy production has no economic alternative because in case of any scenario of financing the construction of a nuclear power unit, the cost of electricity generated by a nuclear unit is much lower than that generated by thermal power plants with an equivalent capacity.



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31. WORK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AGREEMENT FROM ARMENIA TO TURKEY CONTINUES, ARMENIAN MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

Turkish company Unit did not renounce the agreement on power supply from Armenia to Turkey, which the company reached with the RA ministry of energy and natural resources and High-Voltage Electric Networks of Armenia CJSS: the agreement is in force, and both sides are doing work on implementation of the agreement, the RA minister of energy and natural resources Armen Movsisian stated.

To recap, on September 10 the minister announced that starting from 2009, Armenia will sell electricity to Turkey. According to him, discussions on this were held during the visit of Turkish President to Armenia at the invitation of Armenian President. Within the framework of meetings, an agreement was signed between the ministry and Unit company (Turkey) engaged in the import and distribution of electricity in Turkey. Besides, as the minister announced, an agreement was signed between High-Voltage Electric Networks of Armenia and Unit on the direct export of power through Kars.

Under the agreement, in the initial period 1.5 billion kwh of electricity will be exported annually. In parallel with the growth of capacities, exports are likely to reach up to 3.5 billion kwh. The Turkish side is obliged to eliminate the technical problems and restore the power transmission lines within the next four months.

However, later the Turkish minister of energy Hilmi Guler denied the information that an agreement on purchase of electricity had been signed between Turkey and Armenia during the Yerevan visit of Abdullah Gul, Sabah daily reported.

"There is no such agreement. There are some power transmission lines which were built in 1980 and before that, but no such agreement exists," the Turkish official stated, adding that some Turkish private companies had conducted negotiations on this issue.

"Do not pay attention to such statements and there is no need to irritate them," the Armenian minister of energy and natural resources said, adding that the president of Unit has arrived in Armenia: he is a Turk by nationality, an experienced expert in energy and perceives quite correctly the current situation around Armenian-Turkish relations.

He explained that Unit is a conglomerate-company and there are organizations of the same name in Belgium, some other European countries, Iran and the U.S. Unit operates in various sectors but the main sphere of its activities is energy.

32. GOVERNMENT APPROVES BILL ON 2009 STATE BUDGET [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

At the September 25 sitting, the Armenian government approved the bill on the 2009 state budget of the Republic of Armenia, which will be submitted to the National Assembly in order envisaged by law, NT was informed by the government's press service.

By the bill, the revenues of the consolidated budget will make 927.1 bln drams (without revenues received from interbudgetary transfers), the expenditures - 967.1 bln drams (without interbudgetary transfers), and the deficit will make 40 bln drams.

The 2009 budgets of Armenian communities will amount to 50.1 bln drams (revenues and expenditures, with revenues including official grants from the state budget).

The bill proposes approving the 2009 state of the RA in the following amounts: revenues - 905.4 bln drams, expenditures - 945.4 bln drams, deficit - 40 bln drams.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan instructed all the ministries and departments to present editorial notes about the bill to the RA ministry of finance within 2 days so that the final text of the document could be submitted to the NA within the envisaged period.

DIASPORA

33. CHARLES AZNAVOUR TO RECEIVE "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" AT MIDEM [Aravot, 09/24/08]

Legendary French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour will receive a "Lifetime Achievement Award" at MIDEM on 19 January, 2009.

The 43rd edition of MIDEM, the international music market, takes place in Cannes from 18 to 21 January 2009. Charles Aznavour will be in the spotlight at the end of 2008 with the international release of his new album "Duos". "Duos" is a collection of some of his greatest songs recorded as duets with



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some of the biggest stars of the French and international stage, including Paul Anka, Celine Dion, Placido Domingo, Bryan Ferry, Josh Groban, Herbert GrAnemeyer, Johnny Hallyday, Julio Iglesias, Elton John, Carole King, Liza Minnelli, Nana Mouskouri, Laura Pausini and Sting.

In addition, a musical comedy based on his songs entitled "Je m'voyais deja" (I Could Already See Myself), written by Laurent Ruquier and under the artistic direction of his daughter, Katia Aznavour, will open on 2 October at the Theatre du Gymnase, Paris.

34. CONGRESS OF CANADIAN-ARMENIANS SUPPORTS THREE CANDIDATES IN COMING ELECTIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

The Congress of Canadian Armenians (CCA) today declared its support for the candidacy of Stéphane Dion, Agop Evereklian and Eleni Bakopanos in the Canadian general election that will be held on October 14, 2008.

"The CCA does not in any way endorse any particular political party" said Taro Alepian, Chairman of the CCA. "However, we have decided to support these three individual candidates in the Montréal-Laval region because they have proven through their actions over many years to be friends of our community, and because they have declared their intention to continue to promote several issues that are important to Armenians."

This is the first time that the CCA has declared its support for individual candidates in an election.

In future elections, it will selectively extend this support to candidates in other regions of the country where there are significant Armenian communities.

The CCA encourages all eligible members of the Armenian community to exercise their democratic right to vote on October 14.

35. CANADIAN-ARMENIAN PHOTOGRAPHER Y. KARSH'S EXHIBITION OPENED IN BOSTON [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/25/08]

The exhibit of Canadian-Armenian photographer Yousef Karsh's work opened in the Rabb Gallery of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on September 23.

The exhibit titled "Karsh 100: A Biography In Images" features more than 100 of Karsh's works. It includes photos of presidents, scientists, artists, writers and musicians, including Jacques Cousteau, Georgia O'Keeffe, Ernest Hemingway and Sophia Loren. Karsh was born in 1908 in Western Armenia (in present-day Turkey). His family fled the Armenian Genocide and he ended up living with an uncle in Canada. His career was launched with a classic portrait of Winston Churchill in 1941. He was considered a master of studio lights and his work is housed in the permanent collections of some of the most well-known world museums. The exhibit will run up to Jan. 19, 2009.

ARTS

36. INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF BRAZILIAN-ARMENIAN PHOTOGRAPHER TO OPEN IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Individual exhibition of Brazilian-Armenian photographer Manuk Poladian entitled "Native Moments" will open today in "HayArt" cultural center.

M. Poladian told yesterday journalists that 78 works will be exhibited which have been made during his visits to Armenia.

According to Brazilian vice consul to Armenia Hovsep Seferian, these works are the expressions of his love towards his homeland. Armenian landscapes and portraits are presented in black-and-white and colored photos.

Being born in San Paolo, the photographer was engaged in photographing from an early age and took part in international exhibitions many times.

M. Poladian has organized 22 individual exhibitions and took part in 26 group photo exhibitions, his works were presented in Germany, Italy, Argentina and in many cities of Brazil.

He said it is his second visit to Armenia and he is impressed with the development of his native country.

The exhibition will last for a week.



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37. EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ARMENIAN ARTIST TO OPEN IN FLORENCE [ARMENPRESS, 09/26/08]

The works of the Armenian famous artist Minas Avetisian are expected to be exhibited in Florence. The consultant to the Armenian culture minister Sona Harutyunian said yesterday that the initiative of opening of the exhibition of Minas Avetisian works in Italy belongs to specialists of restoration from Italy who were in Armenia to restore one of the frescos of the artist.

Currently the process of the organization of the exhibition, which is expected to be held within the frameworks of the events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the artist, is in the round of negotiations and will probably open in spring, 2009.

S. Harutyunian also said that another exhibition will be organized in Moscow in May of the coming year which will present the works of the artist that are going to be displayed in the Armenian National Gallery in October. At present works are being carried out by the Culture Ministry and Moscow Foundation of Armenian Culture Development, to present the works of the artist in New Manege.

Arrangements have also been reached with other countries for presenting the works of the Armenian artist.

"The exhibitions will be accompanied with concerts of classic music, but now it is difficult to say anything connected with the dates of their conduction," S. Harutyunian added.

38. COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN ARMENIAN AND SLOVAKIAN CULTURE MINISTRIES [ARMENPRESS, 09/26/08]

Armenian and Slovakian culture ministers Hasmik Poghosian and Marek Madjaric signed today a cooperation agreement which supposes restoration and development of cultural ties between the two countries.

Armenian culture minister underscored the signing of the agreement as it is not only an expected document for the consolidation of cultural ties but will also give an opportunity to the two peoples to get acquainted with each other's history, art and culture.

"The arrangements registered in the agreement will not remain on the paper only they will be implemented by all means as the two sides are interested in doing it," she said.

According to the signed agreement, it is expected to conduct in Bratislava days of Armenian film, as well as organize exhibition of collages of Sergey Parajanov. The performances of Al. Spendiarian Opera and Ballet Theatre are also expected to be organized in Slovakia.

In 2010-2011 it is expected to organize days of culture in Armenia and Slovakia. The Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra has already performed in Slovakia.

Slovakian minister said that the agreement is based on the friendly relations between Slovak and Armenian peoples.

"There is a big Armenian community in Slovakia, we are acquainted with the Armenian film, but we are not aware of the Armenian theatre and literature and would like to be introduced to it as well," he said.

The Slovakian minister said that the new cooperation will not start with great projects but first small ones will be carried out.

39. TIGRAN KHZMALIAN'S "SARDARAPAT" DOCUMENTARY TAKEN OFF LIST OF FILMS SHOWN IN MOSCOW CINEMA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

The documentary "Sardarapat" of film director Tigran Khzmalian has been taken off the list of films shown in the Moscow Cinema. The film was made by an order of the RA ministry of culture. It was ready in early May but has not been demonstrated so far. By a preliminary agreement, the documentary was to be shown in the Moscow Cinema on September 27, but four days before its screening the film director was informed that his documentary had been taken off the list of that cinema's films.

T. Khzmalian said during a talk with NT correspondent that he does not understand what is going on in Armenia. "I don't even have the right to show my work to the public. I can't imagine in what times we live."

A 68-minute version of the film was shown at the Narekatsi Center on September 16, but the "May" version is a 38-minute one and has another accentuation. As T. Khzmalian had said at the Narekatsi Center, during the film's shooting he as the scriptwriter discovered some interesting facts and video materials unknown to many. "I was sent sensational facts and video materials from various countries, and all of them occurred and were filmed in 1916-1920. I became acquainted with the



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documents which were not published due to the political situation in this region. I made an attempt to sum up what happened 90 years ago - now, at the beginning of the 21st century. All that happened at that time was because of feebleness of dull political figures, parties and improvident leaders," T. Khzmalian underlined.

SOCIAL

40. CATHOLICOS KAREKIN II RECEIVES CHAIRMAN OF GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/24/08]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II received on September 24 the delegation headed by the Chairman of the German Federal Constitutional Court Hans-Jurgen Papier. The delegation was accompanied by the Chairman of the RA Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunian. Welcoming the guests, His Holiness spoke about Armenian-German friendly relations and close ties.

According to a press release of the information system of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Hans-Jurgen Papier thanked Karekin II for his warm reception and informed him about the meetings he had during his visit to Armenia.

41. EVERYTHING POSSIBLE DONE OVER 100 DAYS BUT HEAD OF RA POLICE DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS WORK AS SATISFACTORY [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/24/08]

In the words of the head of the RA police Major General Alik Sargsyan, over the first 100 days of his tenure, everything possible was done to protect public order throughout Armenia, to wage an "active and uncompromising" fight against crime and restore the prestige of the police among various strata of society. "Along with the work done, there are still serious shortcomings, there is much to be done," he said. He attributed the rise in crimes (about 500 cases) in the indicated period to the elimination of the vicious practice of not registering crimes. "I do not consider our work as satisfactory because the index of crimes committed in our country and their detection index are not satisfactory," he noted.

According to A. Sargsyan, the police reforms, in particular, reforms in traffic police and passport units, will have continuous character. "You will soon see an efficient round-the-clock service in the capital city and I think there will be a decline in some types of crime."

A. Sargsyan touched upon the problem of beggars: one can often see "beggars" in busy streets of Yerevan who literally chase people and demand money by using various methods. "We conducted checks and revealed that not all of them need this money," the police head said, adding that the creation of a reception and distribution station will allow to keep homeless people in the state care and solve the problem of their fates.

He underlined the importance of establishing operative control throughout Yerevan with the use of cameras which will enable to record violations of traffic rules and to search for those wanted by the police. An attempt is also being made to optimize the personnel and buildings of the police system, with this work to be completed by 2009.

A social council adjust to the RA police with the involvement of intellectuals will be set up in the coming days. They will have the right to supervise police work and inform the mass media about it.

42. CANDIDACY OF SLAVA SARGSYAN NOMINATED FOR THE OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF CASSATION [Azg, 09/25/08]

At the yesterday's session of the Justice Council the issue on nomination of judge of the Civil and Administrative Chamber of the Court of Cassation Slava Sargsyan in the office of the chairman of the Court of Cassation and Civil and Administrative Chamber was discussed.

Press secretary of the Court of Cassation told Armenpress that during the session it was decided to suggest the Armenian president the candidacy of Slava Sargsyan in the office.

43. ARMENIAN CHIEF PROSECUTOR DISCUSSES CORRUPTION CRIMES [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Armenian chief prosecutor Aghvan Hovsepiyan received today the representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss the peculiarities of preventing, revealing and investigating corruption crimes. A. Hovsepiyan noted that it is not the first time such discussions are being held, lately they were held in the provinces of the republic with the participation of the law enforcement bodies.



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The third, more extended discussion is scheduled for October. "Suchlike discussions are important, because during them it is being spoken about the carried out work, future activities and the flaws are being pointed out which in future are being taken into consideration," A. Hovsepian said.

The head of the "Investigating Journalists" NGO Edik Baghdasarian noted that the society does not trust the law enforcement bodies today, as it is spoken about the fight against corruption but publicly only some small cases are being shown. "If a big case of corruption is discovered, people will believe. They will think that the fight against corruption exists," E. Baghdasarian said. The chief prosecutor agreed with him and noted that the problem is lack of trust of the public towards the law enforcement bodies.

He said that there are cases when the witness changes his initial testimony saying that he did not give bribe. "The society must understand that it helps the state to reveal the crime and to prevent the consequences. People must perceive this correctly and the cases should be examined in a legal way and the guilty be punished," A. Hovsepian said. He also noted that there are problems with getting full proofs. That's to say they know that there is a fact of corruption but the case is sent to the court with only that fact and the person rejects his previously given testimony and the case is dragged out.

A. Hovsepian noted that the case becomes especially complicated when legal support is needed from other countries. "During the last few years bilateral agreements have been signed with different states with an expectation of legal support. Now the agenda includes the process of signing agreements with Ukraine and Czechoslovakia, currently the necessary documents are being prepared. This is one of the ways to make the work more operative," A. Hovsepian added.

44. 2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR OF YEREVAN SCHOOL OF POLITICAL CLASSES OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE KICKS OFF [ARMENPRESS, 09/26/08]

The 2008-2009 academic year of the Yerevan school of Political Classes of the Council of Europe kicked off today. The director of the school Armen Zakarian said in his speech that by these classes an opportunity is provided to solve socialization and communication issues.

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan noted that the importance of the class is that if the most important resource of the world is knowledge, the thinking person, such an environment must be created where he/she will be able to display his/her abilities at the best.

According to him, in the quickly changing world when the knowledge gets old very quickly, there is a necessity to get new knowledge. He said it is necessary to form the mentality that after graduating from a school and university the process of studying is not ending. T. Sargsyan noted that the issue on contemporary studying is not only just giving knowledge but also to teach thinking.

It is already the 4th year since Tigran Sargsyan is giving lectures in the Yerevan school of Political Classes of the Council of Europe: the first lecture was dedicated to the challenges of the 21st century and Armenia's issues. The theme of lecture of this year will be dedicated to Armenia's similarization and European values.

The school has been created under the sponsorship of the Council of Europe.

SPORTS

45. ANDRE AGASSI AWARDED WITH "BIG LEGENDS" PRIZE [ARMENPRESS, 09/25/08]

Famous American-Armenian tennis player, Olympic champion, winner of 8 tournaments of "Grand Slam" and 68 other tournaments of professional tennis Andre Agassi was awarded with special prize "Big Legends". Andre Agassi was the leading tennis player of the world for a long time.

The prize was awarded to him by the USA "Baunakonty" fund during the ceremony in the New York "Walldorf Astoria" hotel.

The legendary tennis veteran continues to be engaged with tennis, he has his active role in the world of tennis. In all his interviews A. Agassi always mentions about his Iranian-Armenian roots.

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Established in 1906, AGBU (www.agbu.org) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.