



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

1. ARFD and other forces not accepting Armenian-Turkish protocols to hold actions of protest soon [Noyan Tapan, 12/14/09]

ARFD will hold mass actions of protest soon demanding that the RA Constitutional Court recognize the Armenian-Turkish protocols as not corresponding to the Constitution. ARFD Bureau member, head of the NA ARFD faction Vahan Hovhannisian reported at a December 14 press conference. In his words "not easy life is expected" in the days of the actions, and though they will be post-festive days ARFD and other organizer parties expect active participation from people.

V. Hovhannisian added that a great number of NGOs gradually join the movement initiated by the parties not accepting the protocols. In response to the question of whether they will join the Armenian National Congress the ARFD deputy stated that those ironically calling their movement "Hay Dat movement" have nothing to do with ARFD. "Blindly hating the authorities the ANC holds the same opinion with them in the issue of Armenian-Turkish relations," V. Hovhannisian said. He also declared that one had to be "an evil genius" to disappoint in three years the people that rose in 1988 and was filled with enthusiasm.

Touching upon the Nagorno Karabakh conflict V. Hovhannisian mentioned that the Madrid Principles are not acceptable for ARFD. "They are aimed at liquidating the consequences of the war and



not its reason. Therefore they accentuate return of territories and not the Nagorno Karabakh status," he said.

2. Diplomatic School's opening ceremony held at RA Foreign Ministry [Noyan Tapan, 12/14/09]

The competition of entrance of the first students to the Foreign Ministry Diplomatic School took place on December 12 at the RA Foreign Ministry. 138 entrants passing competition's first tour participated in the examination. In this tour the entrants wrote essays on Armenia's foreign policy and international relations.

RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian mentioned that Diplomatic School's foundation is an important event for Armenia's young diplomatic service. In his words, it means that there is sufficient political, diplomatic and administrative potential, and training and retraining of diplomatic specialists can be organized in Armenia.

The RA Foreign Minister informed entrants that the RA Deputy Foreign Ministers, Ambassadors of RA to foreign countries, foreign Ambassadors accredited in Yerevan will give lectures in the school. Foreign Ministers and high-ranking diplomats visiting Armenia will be invited to give speeches in the school.

According to the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, agreements on inviting leading foreign specialists have been reached with the European Union and OSCE, as well as with Rome, Moscow, Tokyo, Vienna, Tallinn and with diplomatic academies of a number of capital cities.

3. NKR parliamentary delegation to arrive in Yerevan [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

Today late in the evening delegation headed by the speaker of the National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic will arrive in Yerevan.

NA public relations department told Armenpress that the delegation consists of chairman of the social affairs standing committee Vahram Atanesyan, finance-budget and economic administration standing committee Benik Bakhshinyan, state-legal affairs standing committee Garik Grigoryan and others.

December 15 the Karabakh NA delegation will meet with the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Armenian NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan. On the same day the seventh session of the Armenian-Karabakhi inter-parliamentary commission will kick off.

4. V. Hovhannissyan, "If the Armenian president decided to stand firm for defending our interests, we only welcome it" [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

"If the Armenian president has decided to stand firm for defending our interests, we are only to welcome that. We may welcome the roughening of the position in favor of our interests", member of ARF bureau Vahan Hovhannissyan said at today's press conference while commenting on Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's latest statements on Armenian-Turkish relations, on the ratification of the signed protocols and on executing RA rights stemming from international law in case Turkey does not remain faithful to the assumed commitments. He is of opinion that Armenia can bring forward reservations, which will not reject the present protocols, but will improve them.

According to V. Hovhannissyan, Armenia is to be ready to all kinds of developments. "The Kurdish issue has brought about an aggravation of the inner situation. Turkey continues its anti-national, violent policy and it is natural that the Armenian-Turkish relations will be pushed to second plan in the created situation. A pressure will be certainly put on Turkey in the Kurdish issue, which will contain a requirement on the change of Turkey's attitude toward Armenia", ARF representative illustrated.

In regard to Nagorno Karabakh issue he noted that the "high spot" - why the war started is "wiped away" from the Madrid Principles. "Those principles are directed toward the discussion of the consequences and not toward the sources, but one cannot eliminate the consequences without eliminating the cause", V. Hovhannissyan is sure.

He noted that the move of ARF to opposition field created views of "offense" both in the field of coalition, which is understandable, and among the extremely radical opposition, which is not understandable. "Levon Ter-Petrosyan with his statements does not draw an ideological line, but tries to justify his mistakes and crimes. In 3 years he managed to disappoint people who sought for a new life and made them to seek for emigration. For that reason he is to be called an "evil genius", ARF representative said.



According to him, the cooperation of ARF with authorities around good projects is always possible.

5. G. Minasyan says for recognizing NKR independence we need waiting for more convenient moment [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

In case Turkey does not ratify the protocols on the improvement of Armenian-Turkish relations and on opening the border and tries to doom the process into failure, the international community will give an adequate response to Turkey, which first will be manifested with a new wave of recognizing the Armenian Genocide, Chairman of the NA's standing committee on financial-loaning and budget issues Gagik Minasyan said at today's press conference in the debate with member of NA ARF faction Artsvik Minasyan.

G. Minasyan, nevertheless, has a hope that if Armenia continues the way it has adopted, it will reach to the point that Turkey will ratify the protocols ensuring diplomatic relations between the two countries and a normal work of a joint border.

G. Minasyan reminded that after the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to USA, U.S. State Secretary Hillary Clinton had a phone talk with the Armenian president and said that the agreements and contracts acquired beforehand remain in force.

A. Minasyan in his turn considers dangerous the statement of U.S. president, according to which in case Turkey does not ratify the protocols, it will be difficult in U.S. Senate to suspend the adoption of the resolution on recognizing the Armenian genocide. According to him, it means that, however, in case of ratifying the protocols, they will manage to suspend the adoption of the resolution.

In answer to the question why Armenia has not recognized independence of Nagorno Karabakh Republic up today, G. Minasyan said that "There are truths and there is time for saying those truths –time, when the saying will be more effective". According to him, to make such an announcement at this moment will be less effective, we need waiting for more proper time".

6. Manouchehr Mottaki, "Iran is ready to come forward as a mediator in Karabakh conflict resolution" [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki after the meeting with his counterpart Elmar Mammedyarov in Tehran stated that Iran is ready to come forward as a mediator in giving a solution to Karabakh conflict.

"Trend" reported that Mammedyarov in his turn said, "Iran is our neighbor, and we hope that Tehran will continue to exert efforts toward the restoration of peace and stability of the region". According to him, Iran is a stable country in the region, and that stability is of great significance in Karabakh conflict resolution. "The quicker that conflict is solved, the better it will be for the region. Iran plays a unique role in ensuring the security of the region", Mammedyarov noted.

7. Monitoring of the south-east section of the Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijani armed forces' contact-line stopped due to a gun shot from the Azerbaijani side [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

The scheduled-for-December 15 the monitoring of the south-east section of the Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijani armed forces' contact-line to be implemented by the OSCE Mission was stopped, due to a single submachine gun shot towards the group implementing the monitoring from the positions of the NKR Defense Army.

NKR MFA Press Service told Armenpress that the incident was caused by the fact that the Azerbaijani party hadn't led the OSCE observers to its borderline, thus violating the earlier achieved arrangement.

The shot was fixed by the monitoring group members – the OSCE Office Coordinator, Lieutenant-Colonel Imre Palatinus (Hungary), Field Assistants of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representative Irge Aberle (Czech Republic) and Vladimir Tchountoulov (Bulgaria) who decided to stop the monitoring, for security purposes.



8. Serzh Sargsyan: The negotiations over peaceful regulation of the Karabakh conflict may bring success only in case Nagorno Karabakh Republic participates in them [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today delegation of the National Assembly of Nagorno Karabakh headed by the chairman Ashot Ghulyan. The delegation in Yerevan participated in the seventh session of the inter-parliamentary cooperation commission.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the president wished success the NKR parliamentarians in the joint work with the Armenian National Assembly and said that the harmonized work of all state administration circles and particularly parliaments of Armenia and Artsakh is important not only in the current round but solves various issues for the future. "From this viewpoint I register with pleasure the activating cooperation and consolidating ties between the parliaments of the two countries, one thing that is really visible. I also hope that through the Armenian parliament the parliamentarians of the Nagorno Karabakh NA will get new opportunities to have a more involved participation in various regional and international processes, additionally raising the voice of the people of Artsakh and unbreakable will to govern the own fate on the own land."

"Everyone must be aware that the people of Nagorno Karabakh had to defend their right to live freely at the cost of their blood, during the obligatory war. Not once we have stated that as a result of NK negotiations we must find such solutions the realization of which will not bring to new displacements and new ethnic cleansing. There are such solutions: it remains that people be able to see them, be able to differentiate between the dreams and reality, between fair solutions and ambitions. I am sure the time will not leave any alternative to it," the president said.

Serzh Sargsyan noted that it must also be realized that the negotiations over peaceful regulation of the Karabakh conflict may bring success only in case Nagorno Karabakh Republic participates in them. "I am sure the time will not leave any alternative to it too," the president said.

The NKR parliament speaker assessed the work of the commission as effective and noted that it is very useful in respect of getting information and practical work. Ashot Ghulyan said that at the sessions urgent issues are being discussed. According to his assessment, the activity of the commission gradually becomes more active.

BUSINESS

9. Project on creating All-Armenian Bank is in the round of realization [Armenpress, 12/16/09]

Currently works are being undertaken toward working out a business program on creation of All-Armenian Bank. International experts are also involved in the process, and it is expected to be ready by the end of the year.

Public relations department of the Armenian Central Bank reported that after the adoption of the program and selection of the executive director, the All-Armenian Bank will start its activity.

The process of selection of the executive director for this financial establishment is not finished yet. A corresponding competition has been announced with that aim.

The All-Armenian Bank will be created on the principle of state-private cooperation within the "Armenian World" concept and in this respect will be the first financial institute.

The goal of the establishment will be to finance such projects which will form and use strong, competitive and knowledge-based potential of the all-Armenian network. It will particularly finance all-Armenian projects, maintaining two basic principles. The first one is not to compete with trade banks: the bank will finance such projects which the trade banks do not want or cannot finance. The second one is the trade activity principle, which means that the bank will finance only profitable projects.

Answering to the question of "Armenpress" news agency, Armenian prime minister stated that the All-Armenian Bank is expected to start its activity in already 2010.

10. Armenian-Spanish business office opens in Yerevan [Armenpress, 12/16/09]

Armenian-Spanish business office opened today in Yerevan founded by Spanish LUPICINIO lawyers' company. The prior goal of the Armenian office will be to ensure qualitative legal consultation for Armenian and Spanish businessmen in the investment sphere as well as present the interests of businessmen in private and public sectors.

Armenian deputy economy minister Ara Petrosyan welcomed the Armenian-Spanish initiative, noting that the office is a big step in improvement of Armenia's investment field. According to him, it opened on time as the Armenian government is forming a number of programs for future – Jermuk



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tourism development strategic program, information and high technology in Armenia, construction of North-South highway to which the Armenian-Spanish office may have its contribution.

According to him, Armenian Economy Ministry will do everything to support the office and promote its effective activity.

Representative of LUPICINO company Lupicinio Rodrigues presented the activity of the chief office, its issues and achievements. According to him, Spain today has a number of issues particularly in the economic sphere.

"Today a new role-maker appeared in our country – China, which competes not only in prices but in quality and volume of products. In this pre-context we wish to involve other countries in this new game of economic role-makers, in this case Armenia. We will help the Armenian businessmen to enter Spanish market, will promote the sale of products and will support in their advertising," Rodrigues said.

Armenian honorary consul to Spain Luis Barbera Sabatero highly assessed cooperation and expressed assurance that Armenian-Spanish friendship on this level will too be mutually beneficial and fruitful.

DIASPORA

11. Gathering-reception of China-based Armenians held in Beijing [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

Gathering-reception of China-based Armenians was held December 12 in Armenian Embassy in China.

Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry press service told Armenpress that Armenians being citizens of Beijing, Shanghai, Shenjen, Guanjou, Hong Kong and of other Chinese towns participated in the event held for the first time. Students, businessmen, servicemen, people of different age group and profession were present.

French citizen Mihran Papazyan and U.S. citizen Vache Petrosyan applied to the gathered people on behalf of the organizers. Armenian Ambassador to China Armen Sargsyan delivered a welcoming speech expressing gratitude to all the organizers of the event and participants for undertaking and conducting the gathering. He promised the support of the embassy in organizing and sponsoring various events for the Armenians who live in China or are there temporarily. Ambassador Sargsyan stressed the importance of similar events in establishing firm ties between the Armenians of the homeland and China, as well as in bringing Armenians representing different countries close to each other.

The event passed in warm, friendly atmosphere accompanied with Armenian music, song and dance.

12. Armenian ambassador to India visits Calcutta [Armenpress, 12/16/09]

Armenian ambassador to India Ara Hakobyan left December 15 for the capital of Western Bengal Calcutta. During the visit meetings with the representatives of the local Armenian community, acting governor of Bengal and chief minister Budhadeb Bhattacharji were intended.

Armenian Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department told Armenpress that the ambassador conducted meetings with Primate of the Council of Calcutta's Armenian St. Nazareth Mother Church Michael Dat, senior member of the council Sunil Sobti, and other representatives of the Armenian community.

In the evening of December 15 the re-opening of the reconstructed hall of the Armenian Humanitarian College took place and an event dedicated to the 140th anniversary of Komitas birthday.

ARTS

13. Kurds shoot film on Armenian Genocide [Noyan Tapan, 12/14/09]

Armenians in Kurdistan - it is the title of a new film on the 1915 Armenian Genocide. The film is about Armenians who fled off to Kurdistan in the years of Abdul Hamid's tenure and settled in villages near the town of Zakho on the current border of Turkey and Iraq. The film is shot by Kurdish director Ranjdar Rizgar with the help of Kurdish cinematographers, analitika.at.ua reported quoting kurdistan.ru. The film is about relations of Kurds and Armenians, as well as presents the attitude of Kurds to the Armenians of Kurdistan. In the past years some Kurdish leaders apologized for participation of Kurds in the Armenian Genocide. The film is also about the religion, language and social traditions of Armenians of



Kurdistan. It is mentioned that in the last elections the Armenians received a seat in Kurdistan's parliament.

14. English guitarist John McLaphlin and “The 4th Dimension” group to give concert in Yerevan [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

Legendary English jazz-fusion guitarist John McLaphlin and “The 4th Dimension” group will give a concert next year April 28 in Yerevan. An official from “Vibrographus” company, which is the organizer of the concert, told Armenpress that the event will be held within the frameworks of “World Music Festival” program.

“World Music Festival” will be conducted during the whole duration of 2010. Negotiations over the participation in the festival are being conducted with such world-famous musicians as the solo performer of “Jethro Tull” group Ian Anderson and guitarist, best performer of gipsy jazz Angelo Debar.

John McLaphlin is one of the founders of jazz-rock. He is mainly famous for his performances, which have been recorded in Miles Davis’s “In a Silent Way” and “Bitches Brew” albums.

The guitarist is one of the founders of the pioneer of “The Mahavishnu Orchestra” group and “World Music” genre – “Shakti” project. J. McLaphlin is one of the most famous stars of jazz-rock of the 1970s appearing to be also a member of the legendary acoustic trio, in which he performed with Al di Meola and Pako de Lucia.

In November of 2009 McLaphlin and “The 4th Dimension” group recorded an album, which will be released in 2010 and will proclaim the beginning of their European tour performances.

15. “Armenian Spiritual Stones” documentary film produced by “SAP” Italian archeological company translated into Armenian [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

The Armenian version of the documentary film entitled “Armenian Spiritual Stones” produced by “SAP” Italian archeological company is already ready and will be handed to the judgment of the spectator in spring of 2010. Press service of the Armenian Culture Ministry told Armenpress that the English translation of the film is intended as well.

This Italian company has shot the mentioned documentary film on the historical-cultural and architectural monuments of the country in 2009, which has been placed in the web page of the company. The film has raised a great interest in Italy, the testimony of which is the visit of thousands of people to the web-page.

The Armenian Culture Ministry has reached an agreement with Italian “RAI” TV channel on purpose of getting an opportunity of a partnership with some Armenian TV channel, as well as on purpose of organizing the TV showings of Armenian films in Italy.

16. An exhibition of photos dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin wall opened in Yerevan [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

An exhibition of photos dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin wall opened today in Armenian State University of Architecture and Construction.

The presented about 30 photos were divided into two headings – “20-year peaceful revolution” and “Local Time”. The comparative image of Berlin buildings were presented in them – the buildings before the collapse of the wall and after it. The exhibition opened with collapse of the symbolic wall by university rector Hovhannes Toqmajyan and German Ambassador to Armenia Hans Johan Schmidt.

According to the rector, the Berlin wall had a great importance for the construction of life of German people dividing the same nation into two parts. The collapse of the wall promoted not only the formation and development of one German state, but the formation of new traditions and establishment of new edges of cooperation as well. “Germany is considered to be one of the homelands of engineering thought, and our university cooperates in that sphere. Bases have been laid with Magdeburg University on purpose of inserting a garbage procession program in Armenia”, he said.

German ambassador to Armenia expressed gratitude to the board of the university for hosting the exhibition and noted that Armenian-German cooperation is put on quite a good level in different spheres. He expressed hope that the higher educational establishments of the two countries will develop their cooperation rates by implementing an experience exchange and a number of joint programs.



17. Yerevan History Museum is planning to conduct “Urban Building in Yerevan” exhibition [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

Yerevan History Museum is planning to conduct “Urban Building in Yerevan” exhibition. The director of the museum Armine Sargsyan told Armenpress that exhibits related only to the urban construction of Yerevan will be displayed at the exhibition. The visitors will have an opportunity to see the capital’s maps dating back to the second half of the 20th century and nowadays, personal things of chief architects, their awards, photos as well as photos of bowed churches. A. Sargsyan said that such exhibition relating to the Yerevan urban construction is being conducted for the first time.

“Urban Building in Yerevan” exhibition is the continuation of the recently opened “Yerevan in Photos” exhibition in Yerevan History Museum.

18. Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan was present today at the opening of the monument to the world famous astrologist Victor Hambardzumyan [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan was present today at the opening of the monument to the world famous astrologist Victor Hambardzumyan.

Presidential Press Office told Armenpress that the monument to the scientist has been placed in the park between Teryan-Abovyan street.

RELIGION

19. Crimean St. Cross church to continue be headed by the Ukrainian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

The chairman of the Supreme Rada of Autonomous Republic of Crimea Anatoli Gritsenko, had a phone conversation with the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II in response to the note the Catholicos has sent in connection with St Cross Church of Crimea.

Press service of the Holy See told Armenpress that the chairman of the Supreme Rada assured the Catholicos that no changes will be made in the status of the Crimean St. Cross church. The church will continue be headed by the Ukrainian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church as an establishment of spiritual-church importance.

SOCIAL

20. “Lincy” Foundation to continue “School-building” program in Armenia [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

“Lincy” Foundation will continue “School-building” program in Armenia. The Foundation will finance the reconstruction of six schools in the disaster zone. Director of the “School-building” program implementation office Hrayr Sargsyan told Armenpress that a tender of contractor for school building has already been declared. The three of the schools are in rural areas of the Armenian province of Shirak, one is in Spitak, in Vanadzor and in Stepanavan towns of Lori province.

Currently the works on forming contracts are in process. According to H. Sargsyan only after the contracts are ready the sum intended for reconstruction of schools will be publicized. The time of the implementation of the program will too be specified after preparation of the contracts, but it is obvious that in 2010 the program will possibly launch.

Within the framework of the previous “School Building” program reconstruction and construction of new buildings of schools were implemented in five provinces and in Yerevan: totally in 10 schools. The “Lincy” Foundation provided 19 million 993,538 USD for the program which launched November 22, 2006 and ended September 30, 2008.



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SPORTS

21. Weightlifter Nazik Avdalyan and Armenian Greco-Roman style wrestling team recognized the best athlete and the best team of 2009 [Armenpress, 12/15/09]

According to the results of polling conducted among sports journalists, champion of the world and Europe in weightlifting Nazik Avdalyan (69 kg) has been recognized the best Armenian athlete of 2009 gathering 520 points.

Weightlifter, world vice-champion, vice-champion of Europe Arakel Mirzoyan (69 kg), who has gathered 420 points, occupies the second place. World vice-champion, boxer Andranik Hakobyan (75 kg) is in the third place with 355 points.

Fifty two sports journalists took part in polling, which is conducted traditionally among Armenian sports journalists. Among the candidates they have mentioned also the names of chess player Levon Aronyan, football-player Henrik Mkhitaryan, unarmed self-defense sportsmen Vachik Vardanyan and Ashot Danielyan, free style wrestlers Edgar Yenoqyan, Zhirayr Hovhannisyanyan, Ruslan Basiev, basketball-player Boyana Vulichi, gunner Norayr Bakhtamyanyan and sailor Sara Heber.

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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.