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POLITICS

1. **Joint Statement by the heads of delegation of the Minsk Group co-chair countries [Noyan Tapan, 07/18/10]**

The Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, Foreign Minister of France Bernard Kouchner, and Deputy Secretary of State of the United States James Steinberg, released the following statement today:

The Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, Foreign Minister of France Bernard Kouchner, and Deputy Secretary of State of the United States James Steinberg met on the margins of the OSCE Informal Ministerial with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov and Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Heads of Delegation of the Co-Chair countries recalled the joint statement on Nagorno-Karabakh of December 1, 2009 at the OSCE Ministerial meeting in Athens and reminded the sides of their commitment to seek a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on the principles contained in the Helsinki Final Act, particularly those related to refraining from the threat or use of force, the territorial integrity of states, and the equal rights and self determination of peoples. They reiterated that the elements articulated by Presidents Medvedev, Sarkozy, and Obama on July 10, 2009 at L'Aquila and repeated at Muskoka on June 26, 2010 must be the foundation of any fair and lasting settlement to the conflict. These proposed elements have been conceived as an integrated whole, and any attempt to select some elements over others would make it impossible to achieve a balanced solution. Foreign Minister Kouchner and Deputy Secretary Steinberg expressed appreciation for the efforts of President Medvedev and Foreign Minister Lavrov to bridge the differences between the parties, taking into



consideration the positions discussed during the meetings in Sochi on January 25, 2010 and in St. Petersburg on June 17, 2010.

The Heads of Delegation of Russia, France, and the United States stressed that the efforts made so far by the parties to the conflict have not been sufficient to overcome their differences. They deplored recent developments which have increased tension in the region, including the serious armed incident of June 18-19, 2010 and inflammatory public statements. They warned that the use of force created the current situation, and its use again would only lead to suffering, devastation, and a legacy of conflict and hostility that would last for generations. They urged a greater spirit of compromise to reach agreement on a common basis for continuing the negotiations. Additional actions by the sides are needed to reinforce the ceasefire of 1994 and to create a more favorable atmosphere for further political dialogue and reaching agreements. The Heads of Delegation of the Co-Chair countries renewed their commitment to support the sides in reaching a peace agreement, but reiterated that the primary responsibility to put an end to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict still remains with Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders.

2. Armenian Assembly of America calls on newly-appointed US Ambassador to Turkey to urge Ankara to stop its campaign of denial [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

The Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) called on newly-appointed US Ambassador to Turkey Francis Joseph Ricciardone to undertake works for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. An official from the Armenian Assembly of America told Armenpress that the Assembly expects that Ambassador Ricciardone will urge Ankara to end its campaign on the denial of the Armenian Genocide. "In the past, when Turkey's relations with the West were rocky, there was a tendency to accede to Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide.

The Assembly expects nominee Ricciardone will not do anything less but to urge Turkey to end its campaign of denial and come to terms with its genocidal legacy," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "We expect the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey to press for an end of the nearly two-decade blockade of Armenia and to ensure that Turkey fulfill its international commitment to normalize the relations with Armenia without preconditions," Bryan Ardouny added.

News of the nomination coincided with the conclusion of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's South Caucasus tour, which included a special visit to the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan. Taking into account Secretary Clinton's gesture and her long-standing public support to U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, as well as the public statements of President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, the upcoming Senate confirmation process provides a timely opportunity for the Administration to unequivocally reaffirm the historical truth of the Armenian Genocide. "The U.S. record of affirmation is clear as evidenced by the 1951 U.S. filing before the International Court of Justice," Executive Director Bryan Ardouny stated.

"Ambassador Ricciardone would be well served to follow in the tradition of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau and advance the Turkish recognition of the consequences of the Armenian Genocide," continued Ardouny. The Assembly also expects that the Senate will press nominee Ricciardone on Turkey's human rights record, religious freedom and treatment of minorities; especially Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, which precipitated the assassination of Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink. The continuing delays in the trial of Dink's accused assassin remain a serious cause for concern for the freedom of the press in Turkey and the security of journalists in the country.

Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr. currently serves as Deputy Ambassador and Charges d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy to Kabul, Afghanistan. Mr. Ricciardone previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt (2005-2008) and served concurrently as Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Palau from 2002 to 2005. Ambassador Ricciardone's Foreign Service assignments include two tours in Turkey, most recently (1995-1999) as Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires; and service in Cairo, Amman, and London.

3. The 16th congress of the Armenian National Movement takes place [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

The 16th congress of the Armenian National Movement took place today at the Armenian government with the participation of 820 delegates. Only representatives of political forces which are members of the Armenian National Congress participated in the congress.

Deputy head of the Armenian National Movement Aram Manukyan came forth with a report about the activity of the party. He said the ANM has remained faithful to its ideology, goals and programs. "We highly appreciate cooperation between the ANM and ANC and will continue developing it," A. Manukyan



said, adding that the party is also cooperating with foreign forces, particularly with the Dutch Liberal-Democratic, German Democratic parties.

Leader of the Armenian National Congress Levon Ter-Petrosyan referred particularly in his speech to the Karabakh issue and Armenian-Turkish relations. According to him, without the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations Armenia does not have prospect of economic development.

“Preservation of the status quo does not stem from our interests and as far as the NK issue is not solved the danger of war still exists. Luckily both Armenian and Azerbaijani authorities feel the dangers of war and are trying to solve the issues using the latest diplomatic opportunities. The delaying of the NK conflict settlement may take the situation out of control which will cause a new bloodshed,” the ANC leader said.

He said today all know that Armenian-Turkish relations cannot be normalized without registering a notable progress in the NK issue. According to him, the Karabakh conflict settlement lasts for so many years not mainly because of disagreements of the conflicting parties but because it was not a priority for West. “Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran are much more important for West and the latter did not have room to think about the NK issue. Unlike the West, the South Caucasus remains under the limelight of Russia. It means that the key of the Karabakh conflict settlement and normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations are in the hands of Russia,” the ANC leader said.

Referring to the inner-political issues L. Ter-Petrosyan said that during the recent period an attempt has been made to sow discord between the ANM and ANC. The leader of the opposition assured that now there is no threat of separation of the Armenian National Congress.

Leader of the “Republic” party Aram Sargsyan, leader of the People’s party Stepan Demirtchyan, ANC coordinator Levon Zurabyan delivered speeches at the congress.

The party is going to elect new members of the party’s administration and chairman.

4. Azerbaijani side violated the ceasefire regime in the Karabakhi-Azerbaijani contact line 150 times during the past week [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

During the past week the Azerbaijani side violated the ceasefire regime in the Karabakhi-Azerbaijani contact line 150 times.

The NKR Defense Ministry press service said the rival opened fire in almost all the directions of the contact line.

During the mentioned period the activities of the rival got corresponding respond. Luckily as a result of the violation of the ceasefire regime the Karabakhi side did not have losses.

5. Armenian-Turkish discussions in Istanbul and Ankara [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

The Eurasian Partnership Foundation conducted Armenian-Turkish discussions in Istanbul and Ankara with the participation of Global Political Tendencies Center and funded by the USAID.

In Istanbul Culture University the GPTC conducted July 8 conference on “Armenia-Turkey Expertise Discussions” with the participation of Armenian, Turkish and international journalists, diplomats and experts. The main reporters of the round table coordinated by the chairman of the “Anadolu Culture” organization’s board Osman Kavala were ambassador and YSU professor David Hovhannissyan and senior consultant to the Istanbul political sciences center Yust Lagendeik. After the conference the Armenian group visited Doghyan media center where they met with the well-known journalist, political anchor and writer Mehmed Ali Birand and consultant to the “CNN Turk” TV channel Ferhat Boratav.

An official from the Eurasian Partnership Foundation told Armenpress that on the second day of the project the participants also visited Ankara where they met with a few high-ranked officials. In the Turkish foreign ministry they met with the Turkish deputy foreign minister Feridun Sinirlioglu who presented the current state of the Armenian-Turkish relations as well as ministry’s approaches toward the future of the relations. Afterwards the group visited the Turkish parliament and met with member of the Justice and Development party Suat Kenekeloglu and member of the same party former foreign minister, ambassador Yashar Yakesh.

The latter too presented to the group the activity of the government toward the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations and answered to a number of questions. The Istanbul and Ankara meetings which were the continuation of the Yerevan discussions were part of the USAID-funded “Further steps of normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations” project.



6. Vladimir Zakharov: the most important issue of the Armenian Genocide recognition is the awareness issue [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

“Armenpress” news agency’s interview with Russian expert Vladimir Zakharov and judge, heir of Kars people Alexander Tonkonozhenko.

- What ways do you see for reaching the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey?

Vladimir Zakharov: - In my opinion the most important issue is the awareness issue. It is necessary to increase the level of awareness of both European and Turkish publics over the issue as the opinion formed in Turkey does not change in any way and the expression of other opinion over the genocide, than the state one immediately brings to forensic cases, etc. But here there is an important circumstance: Turkey seeks to become member of the EU, thus the Europeans must be explained that Armenian Genocide was committed and for doing it, it is necessary to supply them books, believe me, there is a reading public there. But Turkey does not surrender too and gives Europeans literature which expresses other view about the genocide. It must be explained in what issue the Turkish opinion is wrong: this work must be implemented by all means.

Alexander Tonkozhenko: - I think that it is necessary to coordinate the facts relating to the genocide in two directions. First it must be viewed as a tragedy of human life and than as a cultural tragedy – lost homeland with its cultural wealth, the second one is international legal direction. Here of course, it is necessary to have legal arguments. Besides, international experience exists, I mean Nierenberg trial, the trials recently being held in Europe connected with the former Yugoslavia, etc.

- How do you assess the policy of denial of the Armenian Genocide adopted by Turkey?

Vladimir Zakharov: - I have met many Turkish diplomats and I have always asked them – why don’t you make the first step, why don’t you apologize to Armenians even if you do not bear personal responsibility? They say the guilty are the dashnaks and I say stop making tales. Hundred years passed and we all know that the young Turks are guilty. In reality Turks are afraid that the same may take place like in the case of Holocaust – paying compensation, etc. But finally it is necessary to answer for what happened.

Alexander Tonkozhenko: - I am not a political figure and as a judge I do not have right to deal with politics but I can say that when the Russian State Duma recognized the Armenian Genocide, I personally was very happy as the heir of people of Kars.

BUSINESS

7. Spanish businessmen received at RA government [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today a business representative delegation, headed by Juan Abelló, chairman of the Spanish ‘Torreal’ Investing Company.

The Governmental press service told Armenpress that the Prime Minister welcomed the guests and underscored the importance of the visit of such a business representative delegation to Armenia. He said the visit will promote the development of the bilateral economic relations.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan presented to the guests the current economic condition of Armenia, as well as the investment opportunities. The speakers touched upon the prospects of cooperation in the spheres of drug production, chemical industry, banking system, high technologies, etc. The Spanish ‘Torreal’ Investment Company, established 1990, is providing support to owners of companies in growth and business expansion processes.

8. Agreement on cooperation signed between Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Armenia and Armenian-British Business Chamber [Noyan Tapan, 07/18/10]

The signing of the agreement on cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Armenia (CCIA) and the Armenian-British Business Chamber (ABBC) took place in Yerevan on July 8. The agreement was signed by Chairman of ABBC Board Alan Kuchukian and CCIA President Martin Sargsyan.

Under the agreement, the sides shall exchange information on economic development and the main issues of legislation of the two countries, discuss bilateral issues at meetings, provide assistance with the organization of meetings between businessmen of Armenia and Great Britain, and present proposals of the sides to government bodies.

M. Sargsyan said that Armenian-British relations have a long history and date back to the Middle Ages. The mutual communication started in the period of crusades when on their way to Jerusalem the



English visited Armenian Cilicia seven times. Trade links with Armenian merchants were established at that time. As long ago as 1511 the word "carpet" came into English, later into other European languages thanks to Armenian merchants. In 1835 Armenian traders first arrived in Manchester, after which the Armenian community of England started to form. It is enough to mention just one name - Galust Gulbenkian who became the best representative of Armenian entrepreneurs in England. Today the Armenian community of England is a powerful tool for promoting Armenian-British economic links. According to M. Sargsyan, Armenia exports rocks, copper concentrates, clothing, synthetic fabrics to Great Britain. Oil products, drugs, computers, cars, bulldozers, excavators, etc. are imported from Great Britain into Armenia.

In the words of ABBC chairman, since Armenia will develop as a regional financial center, while London is the world's financial center, an exchange of experience between them is possible in financial-banking and insurance sectors. The sides can develop cooperation in the tourism sector too. A. Kuchukian underlined that close interaction can become a basis for setting up joint ventures and organizing joint exhibitions and business forums. He also pointed out the necessity to ensure the proper level of the Chamber's members in the state sector and in local self-government bodies of Armenia and Great Britain.

A. Kuchukian said that in 2009 commodity turnover between Armenia and Great Britain made \$34.2 million as compared with \$87.6 million in 2008, with exports from Armenia amounting to \$40.8 million and imports - to \$46.8 million.

To recap, the Armenian-British Business Chamber was founded in June 2010 in order to attract British businessmen and subsequent investment in various spheres of the Armenian economy. The main purpose of the Chamber's foundation and its activities is to protect the rights and interests of its members and promote bilateral economic ties. The governing body of the ABBC is its board composed of 14 founder members who represent Armenia-based British and Armenian companies.

9. Conference of Armenian-Syrian business council held in Aleppo [Armenpress, 07/20/10]

The conference of the Armenian-Syrian Business Council was held July 17 in Aleppo under patronage of Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah al-Dardari. An official from the press and information department of RA Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that RA Ambassador to Syria Arshak Poladyan, Governor of Aleppo Ahmad Mansura, RA Consul General to Aleppo Ashot Manukyan, Consul of Honor of Armenia to the Eastern regions of Syria Suren Vardanyan and more than 200 Syrian-Armenian and Arabian businessmen partook in the conference.

Governor of Aleppo Ahmad Mansura, RA Ambassador to Syria Arshak Poladyan and Levon Zaki, co-chair of the Syrian side of the Armenian-Syrian Business Council, addressed speeches at the conference. The speakers mentioned that the level of the trade-economic cooperation yields to the Armenian-Syrian developing political and cultural relations.

They called on to exert efforts to remove the gap within a short period, to design joint investment projects, establish companies, as well as find alternative ways for increasing the volume of commodity circulation. Ambassador Arshak Poladyan touched upon the strong legal-agreement sphere, formed for the promotion of the trade-economic cooperation. He also spoke on the Armenian-Turkish relations and other reasons, which hinder the bilateral cooperation.

He mentioned about the usage of sea ways- Latakia-Poti or Batumi. The participants of the conference exchanged thoughts on the Armenian customs legislature, as well as the possibility of providing a more favorable duty regime for Syrian goods in Armenia.

10. International conference of medicine producers to be conducted in Armenia [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

International two-day conference of medicine producers will be conducted in Armenia in November. CEO of the Armenian Medicine Producers and Importers Union Samvel Zakaryan told Armenpress that approaches of the contemporary medicine production, ways for international development, issues, their solutions will be presented at the event. S. Zakaryan said the program of the conference is in the development phase.

Medicine producers from different countries of the world will participate in the conference. S. Zakaryan said initial agreement on participation has been received from Russia, Uzbekistan, France. Overall 300 people will participate in the event.



11. Film about Nagorno-Karabakh shown in France [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

The Arte French-German TV channel showed July 14 a 42-minute film about Nagorno-Karabakh. An official from the Permanent Representation of the NKR to France told Armenpress that the shown film is a part of the cycle of films under the heading "The Mountains of the World". The director of the picture is Jean-Marie Barre. Seven days after showing, the film will be available in French and German at the following links of the Arte TV channel website:

http://videos.arte.tv/fr/videos/les_montagnes_du_monde_13_20_-3313482.html (French)

http://videos.arte.tv/de/videos/auf_den_gipfeln_der_welt_13_20_-3313482.html (German).

12. Allen Hughes: 'Twin black guys of an Armenian descent- amazing' [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

Allen Hughes, who is on a visit to Armenia within the framework of the 7th 'Golden Apricot' International Film Festival, is famous for his films, shot in association with his brother- Albert Hughes.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan, responsible for the Golden Apricot Festival's 'Armenian-Turkish Cinema Platform' project, said at today's meeting with journalists that the Hughes brothers have not shot many films. 'But all the films are of high quality and very interesting. But the most appreciated thing is that they have always been stressing the fact they are Armenians by origin,' Artsvi Bakhchinyan said.

Allen Hughes mentioned he is very happy for his visit to Armenia- the homeland of his mother. 'During my visit to Armenia I try to see as more things as possible, because I should 'present a report' to my relatives,' he said.

Allen Hughes has always been creating together with his brother. 'When I was a child, my mother had to divide a cake in equal parts, fill the cup with water equally. In the beginning my brother and I were both engaged in the film directing works, but now I am director of the films, and he is a producer. We will go on working together,' he said.

He added that being twins is a little bit difficult. 'People always forget that we are separate individuals. There is a moment, when you want them to accept you as an individual. Imagine, two black guys of an Armenian descent are walking in the street- it is quite amazing,' Allen Hughes said.

He says when shooting a film, it is quite important that the scenes are meaningful. 'When I read the scenario of 'The Book of Eli', I understood that the Holy Bible is very powerful. If bad people own it, they use it as a means for doing evil, but on the hands of kind people the Holy Bible can become a means for giving people endless joy,' the director said.

Allen Hughes has a number of dreams, one which is traveling. 'I always tend to travel all over the world and contact with more and more people,' he said.

13. National Armenian Educational and Cultural Union's Students forum kicks off in Yerevan [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

National Armenian Educational and Cultural Union's Students forum kicked off in Yerevan with the participation of 35 Armenian students from different communities of Diaspora (the USA, Lebanon, Iran, Syria, Brazil, Britain, Australia, Canada, Armenia). The goal of the event is to gather Armenian students studying in different countries of the world.

An official from the union told Armenpress that during the 14 days of the forum which launched July 18 the students will have an opportunity to meet with the Armenian intellectuals, social-political figures, will hear lectures on historic-cultural topics, will discuss with their Armenian contemporaries different issues and will visit Armenia's sightseeing.

They will be hosted in YSU, Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin, Diaspora Ministry.

14. Samson Panyan winner of the "Crimean Waves" international contest-festival [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

International contest-festival of young talents "Crimean Waves" took place June 23-28 in the town of Feodosia, Ukraine. Armenia was represented by Samson Panyan who got the first award in "Profy" nomination.

Samson Panyan is from Charentsavan and has represented Armenia in many international contests getting first awards. "Armenpress" spoke with Samson Panyan about the details of the contest.

- How did you get the invitation to participate in the contest?



- Firstly I must say that for the first time I got an invitation to participate in the international "Crimean Waves" contest-festival in 2007 when the Armenian Ministry of Culture conveyed the invitation to the Nadezhda Sargsyan's "Emmy-Bi" cultural center the pupil of which I was. At that time I performed in the group of non-professional singers under 25 years old and got a Grand Prix. That year I already came forth in the category of professionals and got the first prize.

- Who were your main competitors?

- Overall, about 850 people from 20 countries participated in the event. Armenia was the only country who presented one participant in the "Profy" nomination. In the final round of the "Profy" nomination together with me were representatives of Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Yakutia, Bulgaria. My rivals were quite succeeded singers and presented good and remarkable songs. They had special talent of performing and were exclusive masters which were important factors for participating in the contest.

- What songs did you select for performing in the contest?

- The first one was M. Toshikyan's "My Ani" work and the second one Sayat-Nova's "Dard mi ani" song. After performing Sayat-Nova's song a lot of positive responses were voiced: many were saying that not knowing Armenian, just listening to the melody they perceived the whole "Armenianity" and mystery of the song. And it was not accidental that at the end of the performance together with congratulations they all emphasized that during the song it seemed as if Armenia was in front of them with its wonderful mountains and ancient-long history. We were aimed at presenting pure Armenian and to voice to the whole world about our rich culture.

- What new opportunities has this contest opened for you?

- I have received offers to participate in a number of contests and experience exchange, but they are in the discussion phase.

- When will you have your first clip?

- I hope in autumn I will present my first clip the song for which is already selected.

15. The Film of Armenian Director to be shown at Bristol Film Festival [Armenpress, 07/20/10]

Within the framework of the 'Armenian Panorama' competition of the 7th 'Golden Apricot' International Film Festival Lithuanian-Armenian film director Marat Sargsyan's 'Lernavan' short film was awarded two prizes- The Hrant Matevosyan Award and the prize by the British Council.

An official from the PR department of the British Council's Armenian Office told Armenpress that Marat Sargsyan will present his film at the Encounters International Film Festival in assistance with the British Council. The Encounters, world-famous festival of short films, will be held in Bristol, UK from November 16-21.

'Lernavan' is Marat Sargsyan's first film, which tells about a tour of father and his son to Armenia. The difference between the fictive and real worlds becomes evident when they reach Armenia. They find only white mounts there. There no any houses, streets and! traditions there any more. Nonetheless, the father decides to restore the traditions and plants the first tree.

16. Results of book gathering, announced in February in Beirut, concluded [Armenpress, 07/20/10]

The results of the book gathering, announced February in Beirut, were concluded today at the Armenian National Library.

Director of RA National Library Davit Sargsyan said it is quite gratifying that the Armenian community of Beirut partook in the book gathering with enthusiasm. 'Though we had some difficulties with importing the books, but it is quite gratifying that the books are already in Armenia,' he said.

Suzan Simonyan, National Library authorized representative to the Near East, said that during a number of meetings, the intellectuals of the Diaspora always stated that Armenia-based Armenians do not read the books, published in the Diaspora.

'We are proud of our Institute of Old Manuscripts, but we should not forget that the Armenian literature roves about the world. Now we exert efforts in order no any Armenian author is ignored and forgotten by the homeland,' she said.

According to Suzan Simonyan, more than 5000 published materials were gathered in the result of the book gathering; 3000 of them are books, the rest of the materials are calendars, map collections, newspapers. 'I do not believe that a book does not have a reader. We should just create history of literary thinking, which is the guarantee of the existence of generations,' she added.



17. 'Luys' Foundation's students received at RA government [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today the students of Luys Foundation at RA Government. The students are currently in Armenia for partaking in the Luys Develop Armenia Program (LDAP). Within the framework of the program the students will visit the cities of Gyumri, Jermuk, as well as Sevan's Tsaghkunk and Artsakh's Vank communities.

They will endeavor to use their knowledge in the direction of designing development projects and scenarios for Armenia. The Governmental press service told Armenpress that in his welcoming speech Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan mentioned that the Luys Foundation is aimed at supporting talented young people by giving them the opportunity to continue their education in the leading universities of the world. He said he is sure the number of the students, who take advantage of the opportunities of the Luys Foundation, will increase this year.

'It is too important to us to form a new atmosphere, which is called the Armenian World, and due to which we will create favorable conditions for you for self-development and self-realization,' the Prime Minister said. He underscored the importance of the role the Luys Foundation and the Armenian National Competitiveness Foundation play in the formation of the 'Armenian World'. As to the role of knowledge in the modern world, he said that 'in the industrial society the base of the economic system was the production of goods and services, and in post-industrial societies the basic process is the mental activity'.

'Knowledge changes the content of the process of organizing the society,' he added. Executive Director of the Luys Foundation Jacqueline Karaaslanian, Anahit Bakhshyan and Father Mesrop Aramyan, members of the education board, addressed welcome speeches as well. A Q&A between the students and the Prime Minister followed.

18. Seminar on National Symbols, Independent Statehood and Armenian Language conducted [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

The Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) convened a roundtable discussion today, entitled "National symbols, independent statehood and Armenian language," focusing on the Armenian language as a foundation for Armenian statehood and independence. The meeting brought together leading analysts, policy specialists, public and political figures, including the head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, as well as NGO representatives, and members of the press.

After welcoming the participants, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian noted that "today, the Armenian society can no longer remain a spectator and its voice needs to be heard by the decision makers."

Karine Hakobian, art critic and publicist, then discussed the matter of cultural identity as a pillar for the formation of an independent and a national state, and stressed that the Armenian language is the axis of that identity. "Ever since the early 1990s, an insufficient importance was placed on the role that culture, language, and national symbols play in the establishment of independent statehood. As a result, the studying of artistic heritage and the challenge of national self-consciousness became a derivative, and this brought about today's reality, when the Armenian language could turn into a scapegoat for the current insoluble state of education in the country," Hakobian maintained.

The second speaker, Director Ruzan Sarian of the Sarian Museum, presented the history behind the creation of the second Armenian republic's coat of arms. According to Sarian, this crest, which was created by the great Armenian painter Martiros Sarian, had placed a strong emphasis on Mt. Ararat as the main symbol. Sarian also quoted Simon Vratsian, the last prime minister of the first Republic of Armenia, who had criticized the first republic's cote of arms as being a "unification of symbols that have no connection with the Armenian identity."

The roundtable discussants also included Raffi K. Hovannisian; analyst Garegin Chugaszian; culture specialist Lala Mneyan; ethnographer Levon Abrahamian; and several others.

The presentations were then followed by a series of questions and answers, and featured a lively exchange with the audience. At the end of the roundtable, numerous attendees joined an initiative group's movement against the establishment of foreign-language schools in Armenia.

19. The NKR chief prosecutor's office – member of the International Association of Prosecutors [Armenpress, 07/19/10]



The NKR chief prosecutor's office has become member of the International Association of Prosecutors.

A month ago the NKR chief prosecutor submitted an application to the secretary general of the association Henk Marquart Scholtz for becoming member of IAP and the latter few days ago gave his positive response.

"It is another important initiative directed toward the international recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic," Arshavir Gharamyan, the NKR chief prosecutor said.

20. Tigran Sargsyan in the camp of "Miasin" youth movement [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan visited July 18 Armenian province of Gegharkunik where the "Miasin" ("Together") youth movement is conducting its annual gathering.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that the prime minister toured in the camp, was presented the activity of the "Miasin" movement. He got acquainted with the conditions of the camp, visited the computer center.

Tigran Sargsyan also was presented the business programs developed by the young people. They suggested the prime minister create an Assistance Fund for Young Businessmen.

Tigran Sargsyan delivered a speech at the event. He presented the economic situation in the country.

In the evening the prime minister returned to Yerevan.

21. Serzh Sargsyan receives delegation of the "Pyunik" benevolent foundation [Armenpress, 07/19/10]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today delegation of the "Pyunik" benevolent foundation. Presidential press office told Armenpress that the president highly praised the mission of the foundation in being useful to the public in educational, cultural, social insurance and health spheres. The president said that such establishments find the way to the hearts of common people easier and in that respect they have an important and up-to-date role.

The CEO of the "Pyunik" benevolent foundation Gabriel Jambarjyan presented to the leader of the country the program of the Foundation and noted that they are going to extend the circles of partnership and promote Armenia's development.

During a year the foundation has carried out a number of programs in Armenia and Arstakh closely cooperating with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

22. Artak Davtyan: 'We have a lot of things to do in the legal sphere, regarding the state youth policy [Armenpress, 07/20/10]

There a number of things to do in the sphere of youth affairs. As compared to the young of the other states of the region the Armenian young does not have enough resources and readiness yet, according to Atom Mkhitarian, head of 'Youth Clubs Alliance' NGO, and Artak Davtyan, chairman of RA National Assembly's permanent committee on education, science, culture, sports and youth affairs.

At today's meeting with journalists they spoke on the role of the young in the regulation of the regional conflicts and said that despite some advancements and steps, undertaken in the direction of the rise in the role of the youth, Armenia does not have any law on youth yet. 'We solved the Nagorno Karabakh issue in the battlefield due to our youth, too. We speak about registering such an achievement in the diplomatic sphere as well.

In this process the role of the youth is very important. We have a lot of things to do in the legal sphere, regarding the state youth policy,' Artak Davtyan said. He also reminded that two bills are currently drafted in the National Assembly. According to him, both of them are incomplete. Atom Mkhitarian, head of 'Youth Clubs Alliance' NGO, said a lot of grants are provided to the South Caucasus for the implementation of youth projects. However, he says, most of the grants are provided to Azerbaijan.

He added that the total amount of the grants, provided to Armenia 2006 by the Council of Europe, differs from that of provided to Azerbaijan 10 times. 'The reason is the youth policy Azerbaijan has been leading since the 90s. I hope that the NA will discuss the bills of RA Law on Youth during the autumn session,' Atom Mkhitarian said.

23. Road taking to Tatev monastery to be reconstructed [Armenpress, 07/20/10]



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

The number of visitors to the Tatev monastery has notably reduced. Head of the village Murad Simonyan told Armenpress that if 3-4 years ago the number of visitors reached 50-55 thousands annually, last year their number was only 15 000. This year it is already notable that their number will be less. The head of the village said the only reason of it is the road of the village which is difficult to pass. The visitors confess that they hardly persuade the drivers to bring them to Tatev.

The construction of the Tatev cable way – the longest in the world – is in process after which the road issue will also be solved.

The visitors of the monastery are people of different gender, age and profession. Part of them are Armenians, the others are Diaspora Armenians and foreigners. In case of wish, the head of the village said, the tourists have an opportunity to stay in the village for a night or two. Residents of the village offer their mansions with that purpose. Though the head of the village says the budget of the community is not increased.

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

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.