

Aggression against Azerbaijan is the Appeal to the World Community

On November 12, 2003 Azerbaijan's standing representative in UN addressed a letter to UN Secretary General in connection with the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 884 by Security Council on sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, integrity of international borders and inadmissibility of the force use for gaining territories, condemned "the occupation of the Zangelan region and Goradiz town by Armenian occupation forces on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan" and contains the demand of "unilateral withdrawal of occupation forces from the Zangelan region and Goradiz town and also from other regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, occupied not long before that".

The letter reads that Armenia openly and impudently ignoring the will of the international community, distinctly expressed in four resolutions of Security Council, adopted in 1993 and has enjoyed "the atmosphere of impunity, which is worthy of sorrow" for 10 years and continued to carry out State policy of consolidation of Azerbaijan, occupying illegally nearly 1/5 of the territories of the sovereign State, a member of United Nations Organizations. The letter is accompanied by the Report on results of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and the last events on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, worked out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. The introduction of the report shows that UN Security Council in its Resolutions 822, 953, 874 and 884 dated 1993 having confirmed the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, called to an immediate, entire and unconditional withdrawal of the occupation forces from the territories of Azerbaijan. But Armenia ignored entirely these resolutions. In its resolution Security Council also applied to UN Secretary General, acting chairman of Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and OSCE Minsk Conference chairman with the request to inform the Council about all the aspects on situation, though this regulation is not carried out, too.

Social Economic Damage

Warlike aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan damaged its social-economic sphere. Here is the list of following concrete facts:

- 6 cities, 12 settlements of urban type, 830 provinces, 700 hospitals and medical institutions are destroyed on the occupied territories;
- more than 150,000 dwelling houses and apartments, the total area of which 9,1 mile² are ransacked and destroyed;
- 4366 buildings for public and medical purpose (including 693 secondary schools, 855 pre-school institutions,

4 health centers and a number of other health services) are destroyed;

- 927 libraries are plundered; 4, 6 ml books and invaluable manuscripts are obligated;
- 6 state theatres, 368 clubs and 85 musical schools are destroyed;
- 6000 industrious, agricultural and other enterprises are plundered;
- 1200 km of irrigation systems are obliterated;
- 244,000 sheep and 69,000 heads of horned cattle are driven away from the occupied territories to Armenia;
- 70% of summer pasture of Azerbaijan are located on the occupied area;
- telephone stations for 35,000 subscribers, 2500 transformer substitutions and 15,000 km of electric lines are pillaged;
- only in 1993 were 206, 6 thousand of cubic m of valuable species of wood taken out to Armenia;

Pillage of Natural Resources

Fifth part of Azerbaijan is rich in natural resources; thus, 595,600 hectares out of 1,230,000 hectares of occupied lands are suitable for agricultural purpose, 246,200 hectares are woods, and 10,100 more hectares are personal plots. As it is noted in the document at the initiative stage, when the conflict assume a large-scale character of war yet, the damage 4,73 million USD according to estimate.

Armenian invaders destroyed a service of important natural sights, including 2 national preserves, 152 valuable species of trees, 13, 197.5 hectares of forest-plantation, 5 geological units. The occupied territories of Azerbaijan are turned to a huge dump of industrial waste products.

The document issue, dedicated to flora and fauna, reveals that nut-trees, oaks, and other species of trees on the occupied territory were subjected to felling, and stored up timber was exported, forest tracts in some occupied regions were obliterated. Some species of trees and forest vine, Buassie pear-tree, box-tree evergreen, Eldar's pine-tree, persimmon (data-palm), etc. which have been under the protection for a long time are on the verge of disappearance.

Armenian invaders cut down forests on the territories, which had been protected by the government before the conflict started, for example, in Bositchay national preserve in the occupied Zangelan region. This preserve takes first place in Europe and second one in the world according to natural preserves of platan (plane tree). Some platan trees are 1200-1500 years old, the diameter of their trunk reaches 4 meters, and the height is 154m. At present timber of almost all valuable species is illegally sold abroad by Armenian.

In August 2002 the officials of Agdam regional Department of Ecology and Natural resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a report which says that woods and bushes of Gulluyaja, Garvand and Geytepe provinces of Agdam region were obliterated as a result of conflagration. The report, made the same year by experts of Fizuli regional department of ecology and fire, made by Armenians in Ergunesh forest, which covered the territory of 500 hectares. Such fires damaged the animal kingdom, too.

Referring to the journalists, who visited Lachin and Khankendi, the report notes that the Armenians cut down red oak with a view to sell stored up timber. In the above said regions wild large-measured nut-trees are subjected to felling as well and timber is exported for a furniture production.

In 1996 fires in Dashbashi and Leshkar forest tracts were fixed. In autumn of the same year the trees of Leshkar tract were entirely cut down and taken out. Armenians also cut down nut trees, planted in 1957-1958 and occupying 55 hectares. In 1996-97 while building new roads through forest tracts top and shukarataz Armenians cut down and took out 350-400 year-old oak-trees.

The animal kingdom of the occupied territories suffered great losses, too. The fact was confirmed obviously by investigations, held with a view to take stock of animal representatives in the area of conflict, including Kelbajar, Gebrail, Fizuli, Zangelan and Gazakh regions, Lachin national preserve, Gubatli national reserve and national preserve Goy Gol.

There are rich beds of mineral resources on the occupied lands - 155 various deposits in all: 5 gold - beds, 6 mercury - fields, 2 copper - fields, 1 bed of lead - zinc ore, a great deal of various valuable minerals and building materials, 11 beds of fresh subsoil water and 10 beds of mineral water. Armenia carries out a large-scale exploitation of these fields illegally.

The issue on land resources explains that 1,226,644 hectares out of 4.1 million hectares of Azerbaijan's lands, suitable for agricultural purposes (47,7% of the total area of the country) are under occupation, including 139.336 hectares of irrigated fields.

All the plots of lands, except those used by Armenians for cultivation, are made worthless.

Armenia damaged Azerbaijan's water recourses, too. Thus, about 2.1 million m3 of polluted water is thrown down without preliminary purification in the Araz, first of all in its tributaries, running on the territory of Armenia and Azerbaijan occupied territories every day.

Particular attention is attached to the fact that sewage of the copper - molybdenum group of enterprises and the Ganuiss maintain - concentrating mill, containing chemical contamination elements and also sewage of Katan and Gajaran cities and other populated areas of Armenia are thrown down without any purification on the territory of Azerbaijan via the river Okhchuchay. The micro flora and fauna of this river are destroyed; the river was changed into "the dead zone".

Modern vandalism

Armenian aggression caused irreplaceable damage to cultural property of Azerbaijan as well. The Armenian armed forces took out a great deal of historical, cultural and religious monuments and masterpieces from the occupied territories. Most of them were sold by auction and in shops in different countries throughout the world, their identification data indicative of their belonging to the Azerbaijan culture, being changed.

The invaders pillaged and destroyed the Museum of History of Kalbejar region with its unique collection of antique coins, golden and silver ware, rare and precious stones, carpets and other handwork goods: the Museum of History of Shusha



Agression

№2(10), 2004

city, a unique Museum of Bread in Agdam city, the Museum of stone monuments in Zangelan region and others. About 500 monuments of history and architecture, more than 100 archeological memorials, 22 museums of 40,000 displays, 9 palaces, 44 temples, 10 mosques, 4 picture galleries were subjected to damages on the occupied lands. Hundreds of ancient mausoleums and strongholds were destroyed.

The mosque Govhar Aga, built in the XVIII c. on the territory of Shusha region, and a series of other mosques on the occupied lands were destroyed and burnt out. Most mosques are turned to storehouses and depots. The occupiers razed to the ground unique memorials of the Bronze Age - more than 10 barrows on the Khojali barrow field with the area of 50 hectares.

The Republic of Azerbaijan expresses its deep anxiety in connection with the transformation of the Azykh cave, an invaluable monument of a prehistoric epoch and one of the most ancient prehistoric hearths of the human civilization, to the depot. Besides, the document stresses that the fate of the Caucasian-Albanian round vault and the Khojali mausoleum of the XIV c. is unknown.

A zone, where right norms are absent

As a result of the conflict and occupation of the Azerbaijani territories, there appeared "gray areas", illegally controlled by Armenia, which are widely used for terrorism activity, money laundry, trafficking in drug, guns and people. The occupied lands differ in fertile soil and the climate, favorable to cultivating plants, containing narcotic such as marijuana and other sorts of hems, which are, thereupon, used for the preparation of narcotic products. As it is mentioned in the report, a 130 kilometers length of state border of Azerbaijan with Iran is under occupation, and from here passes a channel of drugs traffic from Asia to Europe, that is impossible to be controlled either on national or international juridical level. Such a situation does not allow the Republic of Azerbaijan to carry out an effective control over its territory, prevents a stable economic growth and a steady development of the country.

The national bank of Armenia by means of financial institutions, established illegally on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, launders money and carries out illegal banking operations with the participation of a number of foreign banks. Thus, at the request of the Republic of Azerbaijan in banks of some European countries there were discovered and frozen the accounts of "Artsakh bank", licensed by the National Bank of Armenia. Unfortunately, some foreign banks still operate illegally, and keep accounts of illicit financial institutions, acting on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, thus breaking all norms of international right. Competent state authorities of Azerbaijan hold investigations on every case of this kind. But to contribute to global efforts on prevention of money laundry and financial terrorism a closer cooperation of the interested countries is necessary.

Foreign enterprises keep in touch with illicit separatist regime, reigning on the occupied territories of the Republic of

Azerbaijan, in other fields, too. Thus, an open joint-stock company "Rostelecom" of the Russian Federation allotted a new telephone code "8-893" for this territory and renders communication services to the occupation regime. By the order of the Ministry of Communication of Azerbaijan illegal communication services were stopped, however, as recent investigations showed illegal telephone connection was resumed.

The report draws attention to the fact that, according to some data, Armenia takes out some radioactive waste products from Metsamor nuclear power station to the Azerbaijani occupied territories, where western European companies build depositories for them on the territory of Fuzuli, Agdam, Lachin and Gubatli regions.

Tricky armistice

Azerbaijan MFA marks that Armenia still breaks ceasefire agreement, established in May 1994. In summer 2003 the number of cases of armistice breach by the Armenian side increased suddenly, the Armenian troops not only Azerbaijan's positions along the contiguity line of the sides and kill Azerbaijani soldiers, but also attack civilians. Here are some recent examples:

- on May 22, 2003 Armenian militants kidnapped Famil Mamadov (1989), a citizen of Kaimakli village, Qazakh region, and Sarkhan Mamadov (1988), a citizen of Ganja city;
- on May 2003 Hussein Aliyev, a citizen of Kapanli village of Terter region, got injured as a result of breaking armistice terms by Armenia;
- on July 21, 2003 Armenian militants kidnapped Amil Jafarov together with 235 heads of cattle;
- on August 9, 2003 Armenian militants subjected the Kapavillage of Terter region to bombardment with large caliber machine-guns from the occupied lands. As a result a vil-lager Safar Guliyev's haystack burnt, a school and several houses were destroyed.

Indulgence towards aggression is inadmissible

This is just some parts of results and consequences of long-term aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan notes with deep regret that ten years have passed since passing the resolutions of UN Security Council, dedicated to Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, but none has been carried out yet. The world community must not carry out the policy of pacifying the aggressor, who violates publicly and cynically the norms and principles of international right.

Hence, the MFA statement underlines that Azerbaijan re-calls on the Security Council to take more effective measures with a view to secure the fulfillment of the regulations of its own resolutions and to make the aggressor release immediately the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. ●

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan*