



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 29, 2010

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

IN THIS ISSUE

1. Armenia has a privilege over Azerbaijan in NK peace talks
2. Armen Arzumanyan: President of Armenia did not use the expression ascribed to him in the video posted on YouTube
3. NA majority suggests “Heritage” not put the bill on recognition of the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh for voting October 28
4. Joint statement agreed as a result of the meeting of Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents
5. Trilateral meeting of Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents held today in Astrakhan
6. The political coalition not participate in the voting on the bill on recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
7. Levon Shirinyan says Armenia must be more initiative in the Karabakh conflict settlement process
8. The voting on bill on recognition of independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic postponed to December 9
9. Eduard Sharmazanov: Astrakhan meeting is a blow to Baku’s military rhetoric
10. Deputies of the European Parliament visit Tsitsernakaberd Memorial
11. RA political forces are unanimous – the NKR independence does not have alternative
12. Nearly 70 companies to arrive in Yerevan from 18 Russian regions for “Expo Russia-Armenia 2010”
13. “DigiTec Expo 2010” international technology exhibition to be held October 29-31
14. Time to Take a Stand: Who to Vote for and Who to Vote Against? *By Harut Sassounian Publisher, The California Courier*
15. Participants of “Come Home” hosted at RA National Assembly
16. RA Diaspora Ministry receives participants of “Come Home”
17. Ohanyan receives diaspora young people participating in the “Come Home” program
18. “Cultural Dialogue” youth festival to be conducted in Armenia
19. Serzh Sargsyan visits exhibition on the occasion of 10th anniversary of establishment of “The RA President Award”
20. Armenia and Italy to cooperate in preservation of cultural heritage
21. Brother Shahe: The public has wrong perception about monastic life
22. Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II receives Mayor of Montreal
23. “Telethon 2010” to be held November 25
24. RA Ambassador Hamlet Gasparyan meets with Romanian Minister of Culture and National Patrimony Hunor Kelemen
25. Repair works of Old Yerevan are in process
26. Ministry of Science and Education undertakes measures to reduce corruption risks in educational system
27. Main round of “Computer for Everybody” program to launch this November
28. Autumn Tree Planting in the Memory of Victims of Armenian Genocide

POLITICS

1. Armenia has a privilege over Azerbaijan in NK peace talks [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

In the peace talks over the Nagorno Karabakh conflict Armenia has a privilege over Azerbaijan. This opinion was expressed by the political analyst, director of the “Noravanak” scientific educational center Gagik Harutyunyan speaking about the coming trilateral meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents. According to the political analyst, after the previous meeting of such format in Petersburg a number of important events took place in the region and the world.

“It is obvious that the role of Russia in the NK conflict settlement has essentially increased,” Harutyunyan said, adding that an important tendency is also the solution of Turkish-Azerbaijani inner affairs. Among important developments in the region Mr Harutyunyan pointed out the prolongation of Russian-Armenian agreement.



“The Azerbaijani side made a rough mistake when after the previous meeting applied to subversive acts,” the political analyst said, adding that with it Ilham Aliyev continued keeping his country in “anti-Armenian trap”.

Mr Harutyunyan said, nevertheless, today the NK issue is closer to the solution than ever, but if previously the issue could have been solved by “status-certain territories” resolution, now this format is strictly impossible.

2. Armen Arzumanyan: President of Armenia did not use the expression ascribed to him in the video posted on YouTube [Azg, 10/27/10]

Responding to the question concerning the video posted on YouTube by an anonymous source this morning which is allegedly ascribed to Joe Biden - Vice President of the United States, the Press Secretary of the President of Armenia Armen Arzumanyan made the following statement: “The President of Armenia has never made calls to the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden. There were two phone calls initiated by the latter in 2009 and during those calls the President of Armenia did not use the expression ascribed to him in the video - directly or indirectly. On the contrary, in all public appearances and during official meetings, the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan has been emphasizing the importance of the international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide and has been urging not to excuse the procrastination of the recognition by the ongoing negotiations with Turkey. Being confident that the White House possesses all the official records of all phone calls made by the Vice President of the United States and his video recordings, the Administration of the President of Armenia gives its official consent to publish the recording of the mentioned phone call.”

3. NA majority suggests “Heritage” not put the bill on recognition of the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh for voting October 28 [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

Heads of the parliamentary factions, headed by the Chairman of the Armenian National Assembly Hovik Abrahamyan, met today with the “Heritage” party to discuss the issue on voting for the bill on recognition of the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting “Heritage” parliamentarian Raffi Hovhannissyan noted that his viewpoint has remained unchanged and if till the launch of October 28 session the coalition does not suggest any solution in keeping the bill in the big agenda of the NA, they will put it for voting. Raffi Hovhannissyan said recognition of Artsakh’s independence is of all-national significance.

Head of the Armenian Republican Party’s faction Galust Sahakyan said that during the meeting they called on the “Heritage” party to take the responsibility and not put the bill for voting. “They must at least wait for another two months, till the summit of the presidents of the OSCE member-states in December. In that case the issue will stay in the agenda of the NA in a “natural” way,” Galust Sahakyan said.

According to him, such bill cannot pass in the NA, “as the responsible for it are authorities who currently do not find expedient putting the issue for voting now.”

4. Joint statement agreed as a result of the meeting of Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

A joint statement has been agreed as a result of the trilateral meeting of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev held today in Astrakhan on the initiative of the Russian President. In a briefing that followed the meeting the Russian President considered the meeting very useful.

“It was useful first for the thing that the negotiations are always better than the active stage of the conflict. Second, that is more important, these are not only negotiations, but also a step forward. I conduct such type of event already for the 7th time, and though they are not easy meetings and run in conditions of rough debate, sometimes being emotional and complicating the work of the mediator, they are very useful,” Mr. Medvedev said.

The Russian President said that a joint statement has been agreed between the parties, which is of humanitarian nature, and is important in regard that today there are various complications between Armenia and Azerbaijan connected with regulation of the Karabakh issue. In particular, the speech is about a special declaration, directed toward strengthening of the means of mutual trust, in regard that exchange of captives and return of the bodies of the killed must be implemented without delay.



“This seems to be a very dramatic and private theme, but it is very important, as it is a long time that the parties are not in direct conflict, but there are still issues, firing and people are killed. And at some moment it is just necessary to look at the situation directly, to make mutual steps, to try to solve though small, but important issues,” the Russian President said. According to the Russian President, the next theme discussed today is the agreement on peace and general regulation.

“This theme exists during all our discussions, beginning from the “Minedorf” meeting, when the joint statement was adopted, and today, too, we referred to that topic. We agreed that there are issues, which concern the general regulation and in future must appear to be basic principles for the agreement on general regulation and peace.

Nevertheless, we have passed a certain path, which gives a basis to hope that if the parties work well in the upcoming months, and we will assign such a task to our foreign ministers, then on December 1-2 in Kazakhstan during conduction of the OSCE summit we will be able to come around the general principles of the regulation of the agreed version,” the Russian President said. He specially pointed out that there are still many issues, but there is the striving of the parties to reach agreement over non-regulated disputes at textual level. “Russia will go on with its efforts, and I think we can reach a result.

There is certain optimism in that issue. The main part of the work is still ahead,” the President said. The presidents voyaged in Volga River by “Esperansa” ship. Serzh Sargsyan participated in a working dinner given on behalf of the Russian President. Today’s 7th trilateral meetings is the third during the year, the first one was conducted in January in Sochi, and the second – in June in Saint Petersburg.

5. Trilateral meeting of Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents held today in Astrakhan [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/27/10]

The trilateral meeting of the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents held today in Astrakhan has wrapped up. The meeting was held on the initiative of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev within the framework of the peaceful regulation of the NK conflict. Armenian presidential press service told Armenpress that the presidents discussed details on the regulation process of the NK conflict to continue the negotiation work till the OSCE summit to be held in Astana and to come to mutual agreement on the basic principles.

An agreement was reached on humanitarian principle on exchanging military captives and bodies of the killed. Before the trilateral meeting President Sargsyan visited the Armenian monument in the center of Astrakhan and put flowers on it. Clergyman of Saint Hripsime Church Sebeos Ghalachyan, representatives of local authorities and Armenian community visited the monument together with the president.

6. The political coalition not participate in the voting on the bill on recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

The parties of the ruling coalition of the National Assembly – the Armenian Republican Party, the Prosperous Armenia Party and the Orinats Yerkir Party – issued a joint statement today. NA Public Relations Department told Armenpress that the statement particularly says:

“The Armenian Republican Party, the Prosperous Armenia Party and the Orinats Yerkir Party are assured that there is no alternative to the international recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The full realization of the right of Artaksh’s people to self-determination is the dream and ultimate objective of all Armenians.

Supporting the efforts and initiatives exerted for the international recognition of the NKR, we express confidence that unilateral recognition of the NKR by the Republic of Armenia does not stem from the constructive position of the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan in the negotiations going on within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group endorsed by the parliamentary coalition.

The Republic of Armenia has been assured throughout the past 18 years that the peaceful and fair settlement of the Karabakh issue is possible only in case of consistent implementation of basic principles of the OSCE.

At the same time, we are assured that the right to have an own state is the supreme value, for the sake of which the National Assembly of Armenia is ready to make more decisive steps if the negotiation process fails jeopardizing the fundamental right and security of the people of Artsakh.

In case of failure of negotiations, we will initiate the recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and will support any such initiative of other concerned political forces.

At this point the political coalition declares that it will not participate in the voting on the bill on recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.”



7. Levon Shirinyan says Armenia must be more initiative in the Karabakh conflict settlement process [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

Armenia must be more initiative in the Karabakh conflict settlement process, political analyst Levon Shirinyan said, adding that Armenia has nothing to be afraid of, as far as like Armenia wants peace the same wants Azerbaijan.

"It is known that if you want peace you must get prepared for war," the political analyst pointed out. According to him, Armenian-Azerbaijani battle has turned into "exhaustion of nerves" and fight to foster own viewpoint. "We must imagine the solution of the issue at least registering the current situation," he noted.

Referring to the October 17 meeting of the presidents of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan, Shirinyan said that such meetings have become traditional but it must be taken into consideration that the conflicting parties have very different interests and it complicates the settlement of the conflict. Speaking about the activation of Azerbaijanis! on the Karabakhi-Azerbaijani line of contact, the political analyst said if the violations of cease-fire regime continue, Armenia without any hesitation must present all the facts to the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries and declare about going out of negotiations.

8. The voting on bill on recognition of independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic postponed to December 9 [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

The voting on bill on recognition of independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has been postponed to December 9. This was initiated by the member of the NA's "Heritage" faction Raffi Hovhannissyan. Yesterday at the meeting of the "Heritage" party with the heads of the factions and NA Chairman Hovik Abrahamyan a suggestion was voiced to wait until December 1-2 OSCE Summit.

According to the NA Regulation, the bill was to be put for voting today. In any case if it would have been done the Republican party's faction would not have participated in the voting like secretary of the faction Eduard Sharmazanov told the reporters.

9. Eduard Sharmazanov: Astrakhan meeting is a blow to Baku's military rhetoric [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 10/28/10]

The results of the October 27 visit of the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani president is a blow to Baku's military rhetoric, subversive acts and policy, secretary of the Republican faction of the NA Eduard Sharmazanov said, adding that the joint statement of the three presidents was a direct reference to the Mairdorf Declaration where the principles on exclusively peaceful way of the settlement of the conflict, non usage of force and solution on the basis of international norms were registered.

"It contradicts to the policy held by Azerbaijan, its statements that the conflict must be resolved only on the principle of territorial integrity and the military solution is not excluded as well," the parliamentarian said.

The other achievement Sharmazanov said refers to the humanitarian sphere. "The Armenian side has always expressed readiness to exchange the war prisoners which was not done by Azerbaijan," he noted.

Eduard Sharmazanov said, in general the October 27 meeting may be useful: "besides, the RF president expressed opinion that by the end of the year important results will be achieved over the basic principles."

Nevertheless, the parliamentarian is not so optimistic in the issue "as there is a problem connected with the Azerbaijani side" "Many times Ilham Aliyev, in an appearance of a civilized person, participated in the negotiations but returning to Baku manifested policy of medieval sultan, continuing the war rhetoric and non-constructive way of thinking, violating the arrangements. Azerbaijan must prove that it is ready to be constructive only after it is will be possible to expect positive moves," he added.

Edward Sharmazanov said theoretically the war in the South Caucasus cannot be excluded as Azerbaijan is negotiating and afterwards organizes subversive acts. Nevertheless, he excluded wide-scale military activities as it will cause serious loses to the party that levied the war.

10. Deputies of the European Parliament visit Tsitsernakaberd Memorial [Armenpress, 10/29/10]

The deputies of the European Parliament – member of the European People's Party Damien Abadi and member of the European Green Union Michel Rivaz – visited today Tsitsernakaberd memorial



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 29, 2010

to pay tribute to the victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Turkey. They also visited the Armenian-Genocide Museum Institute, getting acquainted with the history of Meds Yeghern, the documentary materials.

Yesterday, October 28, they were in Artsakh, met with the Nagorno Karabakh President, Chairman of the National Assembly, Armenian refugees immigrated from Azerbaijan, representatives of different layers of population, visited schools. "We saw that the situation is quite sensitive, people are struggling for their peace," Mr Rivaz said, pointing out that it is very difficult to give right assessment to the NK issue from Europe.

Member of the European People's Party Damien Abadi attached great significance to the visit which he said was aimed at pointing out to solutions of the NK issue. "The European Parliament should support Artsakh through big educational, cultural, economic and energy projects," he said, adding that they both are representatives of France and are proud for their ties with the Armenian community.

Member of the "Prosperous Armenia" Party Naira Zohrabyan, who was accompanying the delegation, said the visit of the French parliamentarians to Artsakh, getting acquainted with the issues on site is very important as they have discussions in international instances, present proposals, vote on the NK issues. "Speaking with us our European partners frankly confessed that really, there was a necessity to pay such visit, to see on site that there exists such state the institutions of which are functioning, where people are living peacefully: the independence of such state does not have alternative," Naira Zohrabyan said.

She noted that the guests stated that the situation in this region and the conflict are presented in the international instances in a very incomplete way. "We must organize such visits more frequently, they will give favorable and effective results," Naira Zohrabyan said.

11. RA political forces are unanimous – the NKR independence does not have alternative [Armenpress, 10/29/10]

If any political force undertakes steps promoting the international recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the RA authorities are ready to discuss and implement them, spokesman for the Republican Party of Armenia Eduard Sharmazanov said today at briefing in the NA, adding that they stand ready to hold discussions over the all-national issues with any political force.

"There is no Armenian in the world that will be against the recognition of the NKR. It is just necessary to find best way of it. We will never make such a step that will be inappropriate and will impede the negotiations and our work directed toward the international recognition of Artsakh," Eduard Sharmazanov said, referring to the bill on recognition of the NKR the voting of which has been delayed till December 9 after the OSCE summit in December.

Eduard Sharmazanov pointed out that de facto today the NKR is independent and will never be part of Azerbaijan. According to the parliamentarian, many things depend on two circumstances – first Azerbaijan must demonstrate a constructive position and understand that the wishes it is voicing every time will never become a reality and the second one is a direct participation of Nagorno Karabakh in negotiations, "as no other state has authorities to make decisions instead of NKR".

Head of the ARF faction Vahan Hovhannissyan said not a desperate but "not pleasant" situation has been created over the bill. "I think that during the OSCE summit no serious progress will be registered in the NK issue. Other options are necessary to find for the NKR recognition bill," Vahan Hovhannissyan said.

Member of the "Heritage" faction Armen Martirosyan said the postponement of the voting does not contradict the interests of political forces. "We will wait till the OSCE Summit after which will! put the issue for voting," Martirosyan said.

BUSINESS

12. Nearly 70 companies to arrive in Yerevan from 18 Russian regions for "Expo Russia-Armenia 2010" [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

"Expo Russia-Armenia 2010" third annual expo will be conducted October 28-30 in Yerevan. Products on machine construction, energy, medicine, information technologies and on other themes will be presented.

Chairman of the organizational committee of "Expo Russia-Armenia 2010" Davit Vardanov said today at a press conference that the Armenian party will be represented at the expo by "Multi Group" concern, and nearly 70 companies will arrive in Yerevan from 18 regions of Russia.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 29, 2010

Companies like “Moskovskiy Teleport”, “Kamskiy Kabel”, “SevZapkran”, “Uraltransmash” will take part in the expo. “We are sure that these will be interesting days. Round-table discussions on up-to-date themes will be organized among society,” Mr. Vardanov said.

This year the expo will be conducted under the slogan of “2010 - A Year of Science and Innovations”. Different types of products will be exhibited, which will be presented by about 70 businessmen who have registered notable achievements in their sphere.

13. “DigiTec Expo 2010” international technology exhibition to be held October 29-31 [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

The sixth annual “DigiTec Expo 2010” international technology exhibition will open October 29 in Karen Demirchyan sport and concert complex and last until October 31.

Sixty five international and local companies, including German “Krone”, Singaporean “Singapore Technologies Kinetics”, Russian “Samara State Aerospace University” and others will participate in “DigiTec”. The companies will present IT devices and systems, IT applications in everyday business, finance-banking and accountant solutions, automatization of business processes, hi-tech and engineer solutions, etc.

Karen Vardanyan, CEO of the Union of IT Enterprises, organizer of the exhibition, said today at a news conference that this exhibition differs from the previous ones first with its larger scale – it exceeds the number of participants of the 2005 by 30%. “This year we are expecting 15 000 visitors against 12 000 of the previous year,” he said adding that the expectations of making the exhibition as biggest regional IT event has been justified.

The main goal of the exhibition is creation of favorable atmosphere for contacts between the high-tech companies, business consumers and society. It is also aimed at expansion of international ties.

DIASPORA

14. Time to Take a Stand: Who to Vote for and Who to Vote Against? [Noyan Tapan, 10/27/10] By Harut Sassounian Publisher, The California Courier

The November 2 congressional elections are expected to have a tidal wave effect on America’s political landscape. Campaign ads and political commentaries have flooded the airwaves and everyone is anxiously following the polls to see if their favorite candidate or party is going to prevail or get tossed out.

In two short years, Pres. Obama’s popularity has plummeted precipitously. Disappointed by his administration’s disastrous performance, the American public has turned on Democratic incumbents, many of whom fear losing their congressional seats.

Even though several key races are too close to call, political pundits expect that Republicans will take over the House of Representatives, and possibly the Senate. If these predictions come true, there will probably be total gridlock in Washington until the next presidential and congressional elections in 2012. Until then, all new initiatives undertaken by the Obama administration will be stalled in Congress, making it almost impossible to pass any bills on important national issues.

In such a confusing situation, how would Armenian-American vote? Those who are staunch Democrats or Republicans have an easy choice to make. They would vote for their party’s candidates, regardless of their position on issues.

However, those who care about Armenian issues have a somewhat more difficult task. They could take the position that since Democrats have not delivered their promises on the Genocide resolution, they would punish them by voting instead for Republican candidates. The problem is that traditionally most Republican members of Congress have been less supportive of the Armenian Genocide issue than Democrats. Thus, voting for all Republican candidates, while perhaps emotionally satisfying, will not benefit the Armenian Cause. On the contrary, Armenians would be helping to elect candidates who are less sympathetic than the current members of Congress, many of whom are Democrats.

Another option is to sit out the elections completely, since neither Democrats nor Republicans delivered on Armenian issues when they were in power. This is not a good option, however, as it would squander decades of political investment the Armenian community has made in American civic life.

The option I recommend for the consideration of Armenian-American voters is none of the above. Do not vote blindly for your party’s candidates, and do not sit out the election.

The optimum choice is to vote for candidates of any party who have demonstrated a proven track record of active support on Armenian issues. Those who are reluctant to vote on the basis of a candidate’s stand on Armenian issues should remember that most voters make their selection based on



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 29, 2010

their perceived self-interest. Jews, Blacks, Hispanics, Turks and other ethnic groups vote for candidates who support their causes. Those in high-income brackets typically vote for candidates who promise to lower their taxes, while poor people usually support those who favor funding more social services. Why should Armenians be the exception and shy away from supporting candidates who favor their issues? Voters make their electoral choices on the basis of their interests. It is then up to elected officials to balance the conflicting interests of their constituents.

Armenian-Americans can keep their friends in Congress by re-electing the 120 Democratic and 36 Republican House members; and 12 Democratic, 2 Republican, and 1 independent Senators all of whom received top grades from the Armenian National Committee of America. At the same time, Armenian-Americans can reduce the number of their opponents in Congress by supporting candidates who are running against the 18 Democratic and 22 Republican House members who received a failing grade from ANCA. To check the individual record of Members of Congress, please consult the ANCA's report card by clicking on: www.anca.org.

Finally, everyone must be aware that the day after the Nov. 2 elections is the unofficial start of the next presidential campaign. In this regard, it is distressing that Pres. Obama came to Los Angeles and Glendale last Friday and not a single Armenian protested his appearance. How could Armenians ignore the fact that the President did not keep his promise to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide during his first two years in office? As Pres. Obama was desperately seeking to convince voters to support Democratic candidates, Southern California's large Armenian community missed a unique opportunity to show the President its displeasure before the national media.

By their absence, Armenians sent an ominous message to all candidates: You can promise anything to Armenians to get their money and votes, and after the election, you can break your promise with impunity!

Armenians need to wake up from their lethargy. If they want elected officials to take them seriously, they must reward their political friends and penalize their opponents!

15. Participants of "Come Home" hosted at RA National Assembly [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

About 40 participants of the last round of "Come Home 2010" program were hosted today at the RA National Assembly, got acquainted with the repaired hall of the parliament and followed the speeches of parliamentarians from a hall. Chief of Diaspora Ministry's staff Firdus Zakaryan told Armenpress that before the start of the session NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan welcomed the participants of "Come Home".

"We did not plan such a change in the program, but as the hall is newly-repaired and children expressed wish to see it, the ministry made such a decision," Mr. Zakaryan said. "The participants of "Come Home" not only walked around in the building of the parliament, but also talked to the employees. Afterward they paid a visit to the Armenian History Museum and Aram Khachatryan House-Museum. About 600 Diaspora-Armenian young people have arrived in Armenia this year within the framework of "Come Home" program.

16. RA Diaspora Ministry receives participants of "Come Home" [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

Armenian Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan met today with participants of "Come Home" (Ari Tun) program. They were handed certificates, and the hosting families – diplomas of appreciation. Chief of Diaspora Ministry's staff Firdus Zakaryan told Armenpress that Hranush Hakobyan made the participants acquainted with the medals, works of applied art and souvenirs of the Diaspora Ministry.

"It became clear from our meeting that the juniors arrived from Vladikavkaz almost do not speak Armenian, which surprised and made the Minister upset, while the representatives of French communities mastered the Armenian language quite well," Mr. Zakaryan said. After the meeting with the minister the participants of "Come Home" watched "Yerkir" (Country) film by Radik Vanunts.

The participants of "Come Home 2010" visited today the Armenian Virtual University and YSU, got acquainted with the inner life of the higher educational establishments and with the educational process. They also attended the YSU History Museum. This is the last 6th round of "Come Home" program, in which 40 Diaspora Armenians participate, the 16 of who from Vladikavkaz, and 24 from Marcel, France. About 600 Diaspora Armenians have arrived this year in Armenia within the framework of "Come Home" program.

17. Ohanyan receives diaspora young people participating in the "Come Home" program [Armenpress, 10/29/10]



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 29, 2010

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan received October 28 the 50 diaspora young people that are participating in the “Come Home” program organized by the Diaspora Ministry. Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan partook in the meeting.

Welcoming the diaspora young people, the defense minister rated high the ties of the diaspora young people with the National Army, noting that the RA Defense Ministry is a native home for each Armenian young person.

Press and Public Relations Department of the Defense Ministry reported that Seyran Ohanyan presented the defensive policy conducted by the Ministry and the prospects of development of the Armed Forces, saying that the army is the national guarantee of the country's security.

Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan highly praised the cooperation between the Defense and Diaspora ministries within the framework of the “Come Home” program! , noting that the development of the cooperation makes realistic the opportunity of the implementation of the “Come Home” program.

Armenian Defense Minister answered to the questions of the young people who came forth with suggestions, including giving opportunity to the diaspora young people serve in their native army.

ARTS

18. “Cultural Dialogue” youth festival to be conducted in Armenia [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

“Cultural Dialogue” youth festival will be conducted in Armenia November 22-28 organized by the “Youth Events Organization Center” of the RA Sports and Youth Affairs Ministry. Director of the center Samvel Mertajyan said that more than 100 young people from 15 countries will arrive in Armenia. The goal of the event is to support the inter-cultural dialogue, preservation of cultural variety and development of cooperation of the young people. The festival will be conducted in Tsakhkadzor and the ceremonial closure will take place in Yerevan.

The participants must form national groups to present the history of their country, geography, ethnography, nature, architecture, religion, music, etc. A day of cuisine will also take place within the framework of which the participants of the festival will divide into mixed groups consisting of four people and prepare two national dishes. Visits to historic and cultural sites of Armenia are also expected.

19. Serzh Sargsyan visits exhibition on the occasion of 10th anniversary of establishment of “The RA President Award” [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited today Armenian Artists' Union to be present at the opening of exhibition on the occasion of 10th anniversary of establishment of “The RA President Award”. Presidential press office told Armenpress that works of fine arts that received the RA President award during the past 10 years were presented at the exhibition.

“The RA President Award” is annual and is aimed at evaluating and encouraging the young and elder generations of the cultural, scientific spheres. As part of the exhibition the prize holders will also have an opportunity to sell the presented works.

Till now, 161 individuals of most different specializations were awarded “The RA President Award” – natural, humanitarian, technical sciences and IT, physics, medicine, art, literature, classic music etc. Since the establishment of the prize the number of spheres has increased. The money awards which are the part of the awards set up with the decree of the president is being provided by “Robert Poghosyan and Sons” Foundation on behalf of Jan and Albert Poghosyans.

The event has been initiated by the “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund which is carrying out the prize giving process.

20. Armenia and Italy to cooperate in preservation of cultural heritage [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

An agreement will be signed between Armenia and Italy on the implementation of “Support to the Armenian institutions for preservation of local cultural heritage” program. Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan said today at the session of the government that the agreement will give an opportunity to get acquainted with the Italian experience of protection of cultural heritage and get their assistance in work. Hasmik Poghosyan said for the implementation of the program devices, materials will be brought to Armenia.

The parties will participate in the seminars and symposiums on the issues of cultural heritage protection. A number of events of mutual interest are going to be carried out.



RELIGION

21. Brother Shahe: The public has wrong perception about monastic life [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin has temporarily suspended the circulation of a press release in mass media which says that the Armenian Apostolic Church invites those who wish to live in monastic life. Holy See Brother Shahe Ananyan told Armenpress that after few responds it became clear that the public has wrong perceptions about monastic life.

“The applicants think that the church is offering job, they ask working hours, amount of salary, and such things. It is a result of cutting the root of Armenian monastic life having history of centuries,” Brother Shahan said with regret.

He told that in 1930s the representatives of the soviet emergency commission drowned monk Yeznik in the waters of Lake Sevan and destroyed the whole monastery. “This is the very case that is being mentioned in our history as the end of monastic life,” he noted. The Holy See Brother says that after such cruel and sharp stop, it is natural that it will be difficult to restore the tradition.

To fill the lack of information about the monastic life and informing the public the church is going to work out Monk Regulation to present the demands of monastic life.

22. Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II receives Mayor of Montreal [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

Catholicos of All-Armenians Karekin II received today Mayor of Montreal Jerald Tremblay, accompanied with Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Canada, Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan. Press service of the Mother See told Armenpress that His Holiness, welcoming the visit of the mayor to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, expressed his appraisal and gratitude to Canadian authorities for not being ignorant of the Armenian biggest tragedy and recognizing the Armenian genocide still 17 years ago. The Mayor of Montreal expressed his warm gratitude for reception.

Getting acquainted with the treasures of Armenian spiritual culture kept in the Mother See, the honorable mayor expressed wish to show them to the people of Montreal, in order they remind them of the merits which are not subject to oblivion and by which one must live.

SOCIAL

23. “Telethon 2010” to be held November 25 [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

This year the all-Armenian charitable telethon implemented by “Hayastan” all-Armenian fund will be held November 25. For implementing donation through the SMS method, which appears to be a new mechanism of donation in the recent years, this year the fund has agreements with all the three operators supplying the republic. “8000” short phone number has been chosen for donations. By sending the name and the surname, the subscriber will be registered in the list of donators, which will be certainly published in some state newspaper.

“This is also a means to assure the donator that the donation, irrespective of the size and place, gets place and is treated with respect,” Executive Director of the fund Ara Vardanyan said today at a meeting with the students of Yerevan State University. According to him, 13 thousand donators were registered last year only as a result of cooperation with “VivaCell”.

Pointing out the importance of the telethon, Mr. Vardanyan stated that it is broadcasted by an American public TV channel and by different channels in the whole world. “American authorities receive numerous letters from the Azerbaijani party before the telethon with application of prohibiting the broadcasting of the telethon,” he said, adding that day the official website of the fund appears in a risky zone as well; last year within 12 hours there were 3700 attempts of breaking the site.

Public Relations Manager of “Hayastan” all-Armenian fund Hasmik Grigoryan told Armenpress that such money gathering mechanisms have been imported and successfully applied over the 3 years throughout the 18 year history of the fund, whose goal is one - to give opportunity to ordinary citizens of Armenia and Artsakh to participate within the limit of their opportunities in implementation of programs which are of primary significance for Armenia and Artsakh. Thanks to those mechanisms donations are made by means of about 900 Armenian branches of “Haypost” and short phone numbers provided by mobile operators.



The names of the citizens who have donated 10, 100, 1000, 10 000, 100 000 AMD are publicized and included in "Golden Registry" of the donators of the fund, as well are placed in the website of "Hayastan" all-Armenian fund.

24. RA Ambassador Hamlet Gasparyan meets with Romanian Minister of Culture and National Patrimony Hunor Kelemen [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

On October 15, Romanian Minister of Culture and National Patrimony Hunor Kelemen received Armenian Ambassador Hamlet Gasparyan. During their conversation issues on bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the sphere of culture, items of the Armenian-Rumanian agenda were discussed, as well as thoughts were exchanged over a number of programs.

Press service of the Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that expressing gratification on the cultural programs implemented between the two countries, the interlocutors it said that the Armenian-Rumanian ties of many centuries and the current potential, as well as the official mutual contacts afford favorable conditions for it.

Highly assessing the constant care of the Romanian government and the support displayed particularly in preservation and development of rich historical-cultural heritage of the Romanian-Armenians, the importance of the scientific assessment of the joint heritage and its proper presentation to public was pointed out as one of the best manifestation of cultural biodiversity.

An agreement was reached to join the efforts of the two countries and initiate new programs in near future.

25. Repair works of Old Yerevan are in process [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

The repair works of the Old Yerevan are in process. Chief architect of Yerevan Samvel Danielyan told Armenpress that agreements have been signed with several organizations on starting the construction; separate parts have already been cleaned for implantation of the works.

About 5 years ago it was announced about a program, according to which in the heart of Yerevan, in the neighborhood of the Republican Square, the historical-cultural environment of Yerevan will be restored, which will occupy about 2,2 hectares territory. Monuments depicting the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, public buildings - art studios, exhibition halls, small shops, hotels, cafes, etc will be in Old Yerevan. The presence of dwelling houses is excluded. Mr. Danielyan said that this is a confirmed program and irrespective of everything it will be brought to life.

Currently there are 5 buildings in the parts included in Yerevan restoration program; the other 14-16 will be repaired. Besides green-covered areas and buildings reminding of the last century, there will be car parks, which, according to the main architect, will not hinder in creation and preservation of old Yerevan environment.

26. Ministry of Science and Education undertakes measures to reduce corruption risks in educational system [Armenpress, 10/27/10]

Learning is necessary for reducing corruptions risks in the sphere of education, Deputy Minister of Education and Science Ara Avetisyan said today at a meeting with journalists. According to him, the ministry, as a body working out and implementing state policy, makes an attempt to organize the process in such a way that corruption risks are reduced.

"Relevant changes are made in the field of legislation, control is taken by the ministry, new tools are introduced in educational system, and I do not understand how people can pay for not learning," Mr. Avetisyan said.

According to him, the reforms implemented in the sphere of education are several. A credit system has been introduced in higher educational establishments, which reduces the corruption risks and student-lecturer contacts. The rotation system is also in use, according to which the students displayed good results can move to free system and quite the opposite.

The ministry undertakes all the possible measures to reduce the corruption risks in the system," Mr. Avetisyan said.

27. Main round of "Computer for Everybody" program to launch this November [Armenpress, 10/27/10]



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 29, 2010

The main round of “Computer for Everybody” program will launch this November. The program is currently under final discussion. Director of the Enterprise Incubator Foundation Bagrat Yengibaryan said today at a meeting with journalists that the start of the main round has been a bit delayed for a number of reasons, the first of which is conditioned by cooperation with the World Bank: the financial issues were specified nearly two weeks ago. For implementation of the program the World Bank will provide 3 million USD.

The issues on the means to be provided within the co-financing of the Armenian government were confirmed a week ago. “One must not forget that the pilot round has not finished yet, it is going on successfully, and about the start of the main round the whole republic must be informed,” he said, adding that the map of the whole territory of the republic has already been drawn. Over 100 shops have been studied, the 40 have been chosen initially as points of sale. The issue on training of specialists of those points has also been solved.

“There is also a big initiative, which delays the start of the main round: it is the cooperation with ‘Microsoft’,” Mr. Yengibaryan noted, explaining that after announcing the program the latter will announce discounts for Armenia. “This time there will be at least two suppliers, but there are still other interested organizations,” he added.

28. Autumn Tree Planting in the Memory of Victims of Armenian Genocide [Armenpress, 10/28/10]

The Association of Youth Organizations of World Armenian Congress in late autumn will start the regular phase of tree planting dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide committed in 1915 in Turkey. Responsible for the Association Mariam Martirosyan told Armenpress that according to the ecologists cooperating with them, in autumn it is the most convenient time for planting trees. The tree planting is being carried out within the framework of “In the Memory of Innocent Victims” movement.

It started March 30 with spring and autumn phases and will last until 2015. During that period it is expected to plant 1.5 million trees. The number of trees planted till now is 10 000. “We do not want remember the victims of Meds Yeghern only April 24,” Mrs Martirosyan said.

By the way, though initially it was not planned but in this phase it is expected to plant trees in Diaspora as well. This suggestion was made by the representation of Armenian community in Ukraine.

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.