



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Tuesday, November 23, 2010

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

1. **Bako Sahakyan left for the United States of America with a working visit [Noyan Tapan, 11/20/10]**

On 17 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan left for the United States of America with a working visit to partake at the organizational activities of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian fund's annual telethon.

On 18 November Bako Sahakyan met in Los Angeles representative of the Western USA Central Committee of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Party (Dashnaksoutyun) Avetik Izmirlyan, the Central Committee's members Chris Guldjian and Varouzh Urfalyan, chair of the Armenian Relief Society of Western USA Aryusak Melkonyan, Hamazgayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society's Western USA regional chair Vigen Haborian and Homenetmen Western USA regional chairperson Garnik Abrahamyan. Issues related to the Artsakh-Diaspora relations, socioeconomic situation in the NKR, the current stage and prospects of the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict settlement were discussed during the meeting.



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The Head of the State noted the necessity of continuous strengthening the Motherland-Diaspora ties considering them among the most effective ways to solve problems the Armenian people and statehood face.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan and other officials partook at the meeting.

On the same day President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church's Great House of Cilicia and met prelate of the Western Diocese Archbishop Moushegh Martirosyan, members of the Diocese's central executive and religious councils, representatives of local Armenian community.

The President rated high the role played by the Great House of Cilicia in preserving Armenian national identity in the Diaspora and strengthening its ties with the Motherland. The Head of the State expressed gratitude to the representatives of the Armenian community in assisting our republic noting that Artsakh always felt compassionate attitude of our compatriots from the Diaspora.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, members of the Artsakh Republic's delegation, consular general of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Grigor Hovhannisyan, mayor of the Glendale city Ara Najarian, president of the United Armenian Fund, vice-president of the "Lincy" foundation Harout Sassounian, philanthropists, public and political figures partook at the meeting.

2. Address of Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan to the participants of the annual phonothon organized by the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund [Noyan Tapan, 11/20/10]

Dear compatriots,

I am glad to welcome all of you and express my deep gratitude for your efficient participation in the life of Artsakh. Due to your immediate and active support numerous programs of strategic importance have been realized in almost all spheres of Artsakh's economy. These programs greatly contribute to the development and prosperity of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic. The Armenian community of Europe is especially active during the annual fund-raising campaign organized by the "Hayastan" All-Armenian fund.

The phonothons carried out here are distinguished by a very high level of organization. I was a witness of these activities and felt moments of pride seeing the devotion of the younger generation and their eagerness to be useful to the Motherland as far as possible. The formation of such an atmosphere is also a result of the activities carried out by the fund's branch in France. The Artsakh people are fully aware of that and appreciate it very much.

I am confident that with this spirit we shall continue our patriotic undertaking, further strengthen the Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora trinity and solve all the issues set before us with dignity.
20 November, 2010.

3. Bako Sahakyan visited Los Angeles city council [Noyan Tapan, 11/20/10]

On 19 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan delivered a speech at the World Affairs Council of Orange County. After the speech the Head of the State answered questions raised by the attendees.

Consular general of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Grigor Hovhannisyan, head of the Central information department of the Artsakh Republic President's Office Davit Babayan, NKR permanent representative to the USA Robert Avetisyan, chairman of the Artsakh Public TV and Radio company's board Norek Gasparyan and other officials partook at the event.

On the same day President Bako Sahakyan visited Los Angeles City Council, met its members at the head of the Council's president Eric Garcetti. The Head of the State also partook at the City Council's meeting and in his speech expressed gratitude to the authorities of Los Angeles for their stance towards our compatriots and assistance provided in solving issues the Armenian people face.

The members of the City Council delivered speeches too. Welcoming the President of the Artsakh Republic they underlined the importance of independent, free and democratic Karabagh and its existence. According to them there are numerous similarities between the history and state building in Artsakh and the United States, which make better prospects for developing and deepening bilateral relations.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, consular general of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Grigor Hovhannisyan, president of the United Armenian Fund, vice-president of the "Lincy" foundation Harout Sassounyan and other officials partook at the events.



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On 19 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited also residency of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church and met its primate Archbishop Hovnan Derderyan, members of the Diocesan Council and representatives of the local Armenian community. According to the Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President, the President considered important the construction of the new St. Leon Cathedral noting that the church was not only a masterpiece of Armenian architecture, but would also play a significant role in preserving national identity in the Diaspora.

Issues related to socioeconomic situation in Artsakh and Motherland-Diaspora relations were touched upon during the meeting. Speaking about them Bako Sahakyan rated high the input of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church in backing up Artsakh.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martorosyan, consular general of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Grigor Hovhannisyanyan, and other officials partook at the meeting.

4. Armenia's President not to leave for Lisbon: The draft declaration not acceptable to Armenia [Armenpress, 11/19/10]

President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan was scheduled to participate in the NATO meeting on Afghanistan in Portugal on November 20.

Presidential press office reported that Armenia attaches importance to the cooperation with NATO, which develops within the framework of the North Atlantic Partnership Council and on the basis of the Armenia-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan. Today Armenia is actively involved in the Partnership for Peace program. As a partner country, Armenia has hosted NATO military exercises on its territory. We highly appreciate the contribution of the North-Atlantic treaty to the process of implementation of reforms in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia. Armenia's participation in peacekeeping activities in Kosovo and Afghanistan are the best proof of productive cooperation with NATO.

This cooperation is one of the components of Armenia's security. In this regard, Armenia attaches special importance to the content of the documents on vital issues for Armenia and the wording of those documents, which should be targeted at the reinforcement of security in the region, the statement of released by the press office stated.

The Armenian side has been repeatedly stressing the unacceptability of general formulations regarding resolution of conflicts. The maintenance of the former common formulations on settlement of conflicts in the South Caucasus in the draft Lisbon declaration, which refers to only one of the principles proclaimed by the OSCE, could become a bad impulse and create difficulties in the process of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict especially against the background of the recent military expenses and the bellicose rhetoric of Azerbaijan.

Taking these concerns into consideration, the President of the Republic of Armenia has made the decision not to leave for Lisbon. Armenia will be represented by Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan.

5. Yervand Bozoyan: 'Armenia must attack first in the regulation of the NK Issue' [Armenpress, 11/19/10]

Armenia must attack first in the process of talks over the regulation of the NK issue and act efficiently, according to Yervand Bozoyan, political scientist. He said today at a meeting with journalists that before the OSCE summit in Astana, Azerbaijan attempted to achieve some success in the diplomatic front; however it did not succeed.

'During the recent trilateral and bilateral meetings the Azerbaijani party insisted that they will not tolerate status quo any more,' Yervand Bozoyan said. He added that all the propaganda theses appeared to be useless. The political scientist says no any road map can be proposed in Astana, as not only the Armenian party, but also Russia is against it. Levon Shirinyan, political scientist, said that the OSCE summit, which will be held in Astana, does not imply any change of the objective situation of the regulation of the NK issue.

'We already know from experience that nothing will be changed in the result of such meetings, and the Azerbaijani hysteria is redundant,' he said. The expert stressed that the recent statements of the RA President balanced the situation psychologically. 'In case we manage to preserve the status quo, I think we will win, but we always need to be prepared for war and settlement of the conflict,' Levon Shirinyan said.



6. Hovik Abrahamyan to depart for Syria [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

Armenian National Assembly chairman Hovik Abrahamyan will depart for a three-day visit to Syria today in the evening. The delegation consists of head of the ARP faction Galust Sahakyan, head of the ARF faction Vahan Hovhannissyan, chairman of the NA's agricultural and environment issues standing committee Khachik Harutyunyan, chairman of the NA's human rights standing committee Aram Safaryan, members of parliament Anahit Bakhshyan, Surik Poghosyan, Martin Sargsyan, and head of the NA's staff Gegham Gharibjanyan.

NA public relations department reported that the NA chairman will meet in Damaskus with the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Chairman of the Syrian parliament Mahmud al-Abrash, Prime Minister Najji Otri.

Hovik Abrahamyan will deliver speech at the Syrian People's Assembly sitting where the extended session of RA and Syrian delegations will take place and the chairmen of the two parliaments will sign memorandum on mutual understanding. The delegation headed by the NA chairman will also visit the Damaskus Primacy of the Armenian Church.

In Aleppo Hovik Abrahamyan will meet with the governor Ali Ahmad Mansura, Syrian senior mufta Badr ad-Din Hassun and will participate in the exhibition of Armenian goods. The delegation headed by the NA chairman will also meet with the representatives of the Armenian community.

In Der Zor the delegation will meet with the governor Hussein Arnus and members of the provincial authorities. The Armenian parliamentarians will also visit memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

7. Karen Avagyan says RA President's decision not to depart for Lisbon a right step [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

By not departing for Lisbon, the President of Armenia showed his clear position on the equality of principles of regulation of the Nagorno Karabakh issue: this was a right step, according to Karen Avagyan, RA NA deputy, head of the ARP youth organization and the Armenian parliamentary delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

He said today in an interview with Armenpress that the regulation of the Nagorno Karabakh issue 'can and must be processed on basis of those principles, adopted within the framework of the OSCE Minsk group'.

He said none of the three principles – territorial integrity, right of nations to self-determination and non-use of force or threat of force – has more significance or dominancy over the two ones. 'By not departing for Lisbon, the President proved this position,' Karen Avagyan said.

He added that such statements, which were involved in the declaration of NATO's recent summit, may hinder ensuring of peace in the region, as warlike moods and anti-Armenian propaganda are available in Azerbaijan.

He added that the NATO has always expressed its position on the regulation of the Nagorno Karabakh issue, stressing that it must be regulated under the mandate of the OSCE.

'I do not think the fact that the President did not depart for Lisbon will have any negative influence on the NATO-Armenia relations. Our collaboration has been and still remains program collaboration. Armenia has always showed its constructive approach in this field of cooperation,' Karen Avagyan stated.

8. President of Cyprus calls on international community to support recognition of Armenian Genocide [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

President of Cyprus Dimitris Christofias and Chairman of the Parliament Mario Karayan called on the international community to support the Armenian Genocide Recognition. Armenpress reports that Dimitris Christofias mentioned in his written address to the participants of the event, organized in Surb Astvatsatsin Armenian Church in Nicosia, that the Republic of Cyprus will always support the Armenians.

In the address Mr. Christofias stressed the fact that the Republic of Cyprus is the first European country, which recognized the Armenian Genocide in 1982. Mario Karayan, chairman of the Parliament of Cyprus, stated at the event of Surb Astvatsatsin Church that 'Turkey must face the consequences of the crime it committed'. 'The recent so-called Armenian-Turkish peace initiatives were not trustworthy and have ulterior motives,' the Chairman of Cyprus's Parliament said.

BUSINESS



9. 100 companies expected to partake in DigiTec 2011 [Armenpress, 11/19/10]

68 companies partook in the DigiTec Expo 2010. As compared to the number of participants of the last year, this year it increased by 30%. Last year the number of visitors of the exposition was 12,000. Over 16,000 people visited the exposition this year.

Ruzan Apresyan, PR manager of the Union of Information Technology Enterprises (UITE), told Armenpress that next year they expect participation of 100 companies.

'This year the DigiTec Expo registered a new record and became one of the greatest IT events not only in Armenia, but also in the region,' Ruzan Apresyan stated.

She said the number of foreign participants and representations increased two times and made 10. The number of specialist-visitors and female visitors increased as well. 'The participating companies were well-prepared and organized their own events in their pavilions, by this making their pavilions more interesting for visitors,' she added.

According to the UITE PR manager, several international companies, among them the German 'Krone' and 'Singapore Technologies', entered into Armenia due to the DigiTec. She says the most important technological innovation of the exposition was the Long-Term Evolution technology. The LTE will be operated by the VivaCell MTS in the near future and will grant Armenia the opportunity to be one of the few countries, which have 4G network.

'The visit of the 'D-Link' company's 40-member delegation, headed by D-Link's CEO and President Tony Tsao, was interesting as well. Mr. Tsao visits only the significant events of the world,' Ruzan Apresyan said. She added that the D-Link showed great interest in complex solutions of its product.

10. New opportunities of Armenian-Indian cooperation through direct flights [Armenpress, 11/19/10]

The Economy Ministry of Armenia and Embassy of India to Armenia organized today a workshop on 'Promotion of Tourism between Armenia and India'. The opportunities of extension of the Armenian-Indian cooperation in the sphere of tourism were presented at the workshop. 'These two nations have serious history and rich cultural heritage,' RA deputy Economy Minister Ara Poghosyan said.

He added that the Armenian side is ready to involve a larger tourism market year by year. He called on Armenian businessmen and travel agents to think in the direction of developing the tourism to India and presenting various offers. 'The advertisement and high-quality presentation of our country will be implemented in a national level,' Ara Poghosyan said.

'The state support has always existed, and further strengthening and development of relations will exist as well,' he added. According to Achal Malhotra, ambassador of India to Armenia, Armenia and India have a number of great values to show to each other. 'Our aim is to use in association with the Economy Ministry of Armenia the great bilateral potential, we see in these countries within the framework of mutual tourism,' he said.

During the workshop, the two sides made presentations about the attraction of tourism in the two countries. A number of Armenian and Indian businessmen, involved in the sphere of tourism, held a discussion, too. According to Ara Poghosyan, the Armenian party will pay a visit to India in spring, 2011.

11. 2011 state budget to release totally 40 billion AMD for the spheres of science, education, culture, youth and sports [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

The Armenian 2011 state budget will release totally 40 billion AMD for the spheres of science, education, culture, youth and sports which makes the 3.7% of the GDP or 14% of the total expenditures of the budget.

Head of the NA's science, education, culture, youth and sports affairs standing committee Artak Davtyan said today at a news conference that the first round of discussions of the draft budget have already ended at the NA and currently there is a break for presenting suggestions. Davtyan said more than 16 suggestions have been presented to the government after the discussion of which the amended variant of the budget will be sent for the approval of the NA.

"In this suggestions I highlight the issue of increasing the provisions to the pre-school establishments, teachers' training and the issue on providing 45 million AMD for restoration of the roof of the National Book Chamber," Artak Davtyan said.



12. Serzh Sargsyan participates in the opening of “Armprodexpo” exhibition [Armenpress, 11/23/10]

The 10th annual international “Armprodexpo” exhibition opened today in the session hall of the RA Government at the presence of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. The exhibition presents different kinds of drinks, canned vegetables, meat, dairy products, sweets, cigarettes both of national and foreign productions. Leading companies of the republic, enterprises representing small business as well as more than 20 food producing foreign enterprises from Belarus, Ukraine, Austria, Germany, Finland are among the participants of the event.

The head of the republic accompanied by the Minister of Agriculture Gerasim Alaverdyan walked across the pavilions, tasted the presented goods.

Gerasim Alaverdyan said the main goal of the exhibition is to present the development of re-processing industry of the republic, show the best products produced in Armenia, create direct ties among local and foreign organizations, reveal new markets and promote export.

“The exhibition is an important step in advertising the local products, spreading them in the international market, establishing economic ties,” the agriculture minister said, adding that the participant guests will also visit local re-processing enterprises. Gerasim Alaverdyan said a number of events – meetings, round-table discussions will be held within the framework of the exhibition.

Director of the Armenia’s Agro Business Development Center Armen Davtyan said the representation of international enterprises in the exhibition speaks about the increase of authority of “Armprodexpo”. “Here the progress of the food industry sphere is being presented. One of the important factors of the exhibition is the establishment of international ties which will contribute to the increase of the volume of exports from our country,” Davtyan said.

The exhibition is organized by the RA Agriculture and Foreign Affairs Ministries, RA Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Agro Business Development Center. The exhibition will last until November 26.

DIASPORA

13. Bako Sahakyan highly rates the role played by the traditional Armenian parties in the Diaspora and their support of Artsakh [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

On 20 November Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan met in Los Angeles members of the governing body of the Western USA Hnchakyan Social-Democratic Party at the head of its chairman Vazgen Khodanian.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that on the same day the President received also members of the Central Committee of the Ramkavar Azatakan Party led by chairmen of the party's Western USA Regional committee Hakob Nazaryan.

Issues related to socioeconomic situation in the Artsakh Republic, regional developments as well as to the current stage and prospects of cooperation between Artsakh and Diaspora were discussed during the meeting.

The NKR president considered important the role played by the traditional Armenian parties in the Diaspora and their support of Artsakh.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan and other officials partook at the meeting.

14. Bako Sahakyan participates in the “Telethon - 2010” Gala dinner party [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

On 21 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan partook at a Sunday religious service carried out at the St. Leon Cathedral of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that on the same day the Head of the State received sheriff of the Los Angeles county Lee Baca. Issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

Thereafter Bako Sahakyan left for the city of Pasadena and partook at the “Telethon - 2010” Gala dinner party where he delivered a speech that runs as follows:

“Respected compatriots!

Dear friends!

Ladies and gentlemen!



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I am glad of having another opportunity to meet and welcome our brothers and sisters from the Diaspora. The world-spread Armenians have always had a great role in developing and strengthening the Motherland, especially Artsakh.

During the last 15 years different programs worth of dozen millions of dollars have been carried out in Artsakh through the channels of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian fund. The people of Artsakh are grateful for such an attentive attitude.

A year ago all the Armenians united their efforts around the idea of restoring and developing Shoushi - one of the ancient Armenian towns. Reconstruction activities there have already started and entered an active stage. We are confident that this town will undoubtedly become modern and prosperous.

The issue of drinking water is also among the most significant problems Artsakh has ever faced. It is of vital political and socioeconomic importance. Our people still meet great difficulties in satisfying their minimal needs in drinking water. Serious shortage of water is felt in capital Stepanakert, regional centers and the countryside. People are obliged to solve their daily vital problems with great difficulty. Only several districts in the capital and a number of settlements have twenty-four-hour water supply in our republic, which we managed to do only recently.

Of course, the Artsakh authorities try to ease the problems of the population as far as possible. We have registered certain successes in this sphere. As I have already mentioned we managed to solve this urgent problem in some settlements. However, within the framework of the whole republic it requires consolidated approach of the world spread Armenians.

Friends, together we are able to solve this issue. The Artsakh Republic has enormous water resources. The Tartar, Arpa, Vorotan and other large rivers have their origin there. In Artsakh only surface water flow constitutes 19 thousand cubic meters per capita, with the waters of the Araks River this figure exceeds 65 thousand cubic meters. Within this context our republic belongs to the richest countries of the world in terms of water resources. What we need to do is just use this wealth properly and build modern water supply systems.

Speaking of the Motherland, we, the Armenians, often use the expression "Our Soil and Water". It has a profound meaning. Water is among the most important factors that binds the man to soil. There is indeed no life without water. The water issue touches upon all the spheres of life. If we succeed in solving this issue we will create reliable basis for developing the whole socioeconomic system of Artsakh making its future prosperous and reliable. We very much anticipate your active participation in this undertaking.

Today people who represent the Armenian Diaspora and have always made their personal contribution to the development and prosperity of the Motherland gathered in this hall. Due to the support of our brothers and sisters from the Diaspora and Mother Armenia Artsakh managed to recover from the wounds of the war and become viable country inspiring pride to all the Armenians in different quarters of the world. I am sure that with this spirit we shall continue strengthening the Armenian-Artsakh-Diaspora trinity and record new joint glorious victories.

Thank you!

15. Memorandum of Cooperation to be signed between Diaspora Ministry and French University [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

The RA Diaspora Ministry and the French University of Armenia will sign November 23 a memorandum of cooperation. An official from the press and PR office of the RA Diaspora Ministry told Armenpress that the first initiative within the framework of the Ministry-University cooperation will be a lecture by RA Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan. The lecture will be dedicated to key issues on the Armenia-Diaspora economic and cultural relations. The Minister will deliver the lecture for the French University's 'Cultural Communication, Tourism and Management' MA students as well.

16. The world-spread Armenians have always had a great role in developing and strengthening the Artsakh [Noyan Tapan, 11/22/10]

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17. 29 Armenian educational establishments work in Iran [Armenpress, 11/23/10]

Twenty-nine Armenian educational establishments work in Iran, the majority of which are in Tehran. An official from the Department of Armenian Communities of the Near and Middle East of the Armenian Diaspora Ministry told Armenpress that the number of the attendees of Armenian schools are gradually decreasing, its main reason is emigration, as a result of which the schools either close or are joined with Armenian schools. And the Iranian-Armenians mainly emigrate to the USA.

Nearly 50-60 thousand Armenians live currently in Iran, the majority – in Tehran. The Armenian Diaspora Ministry provides books to Armenian educational establishments of Iran, involves Iranian young people in programs organized by the ministry and organizes trainings of teachers in Armenia; 9 teachers passed here training last year.

There are not national minorities in Iran, the Armenians, Azoreans and Jewish are recognized as religious minorities. According to the Department of Armenian Communities of the Near and Middle East of the Armenian Diaspora Ministry, it is the Armenians that have the largest opportunities in Iran. There are a dozen of churches, the majority of which are working, and the Iranian government does its best for preservation of Armenian churches.

18. Bako Sahakyan meets with American-Armenian philanthropists [Armenpress, 11/23/10]



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On 22 November Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan received in Los Angeles philanthropists Isahak Vardanyan and Gevorg Voskanyan.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that issues related to the prospects of carrying out projects in the sphere of construction were discussed during the meeting.

On the same day the President met philanthropists Rafik Khachatryan and Michael Minasyan and discussed with them cooperation in the field of real estate management.

On 22 November President Sahakyan also met philanthropist Anto Baghdasaryan. Issues related to the development of dairy industry in Artsakh were discussed during the meeting.

During all the meetings the NKR president considered important to apply the experience of developed countries in Artsakh underlining the role played in this process by Diaspora Armenian organizations.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, executive director of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian fund Ara Vardanyan, head of the Central information department of the Artsakh Republic President's Office Davit Babayan, NKR permanent representative to the USA Robert Avetisyan, chairman of the Artsakh Public TV and Radio company's board Norek Gasparyan and other officials partook at the meetings.

19. Bako Sahakyan visits the city of Montebello [Armenpress, 11/23/10]

On 22 November President of the Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan visited the city of Montebello and met members of the city's council led by mayor William Molinari.

Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh Republic President told Armenpress that in his speech the NKR president considered important the determination of Montebello's authorities to developing relations with Artsakh the best evidence of which has been the signing of the sister-city agreement with capital Stepanakert. Bako Sahakyan appreciated resolute stance of the city's authorities towards the recognition of the Armenian genocide.

Mayor Molinari in his turn presented the proclamation of the Montebello city council where he welcomed the Artsakh Republic President and members of the delegation led by him as well expressed readiness to deepen and widen relations with our country in every possible way. Thereafter President Sahakyan visited Armenian center of Montebello and met representatives of the local Armenian community.

Bako Sahakyan rated high the role of this community in cementing the Motherland-Diaspora relations and helping Artsakh.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, consular general of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles Grigor Hovhannisyanyan, head of the Central information department of the Artsakh Republic President's Office Davit Babayan, NKR permanent representative to the USA Robert Avetisyan, chairman of the Artsakh Public TV and Radio company's board Norek Gasparyan and other officials partook at the meetings.

ARTS

20. Armenia – winner of the Junior "Eurovision 2010" song contest [Armenpress, 11/19/10]

Armenia became the winner of Junior Eurovision 2010 Song Contest held November 20 in the capital of Belarus, Minsk. Vladimir Arzumanyan, 12, with his "Mama" song gathered 120 points. Russia came second with 119 points, followed by Serbia and Georgia. The slogan of this year's contest was "Feel the magic".

Armenia is participating in the contest since 2008. For the first time our country was represented by "Arevik" ensemble with "Dream" song that took the second place. In 2008 Armenia was represented by 13-year-old Monika Manucharova who took the 8th place and in 2009 by Laura Hayrapetyan with "Barcelona" song which took the second place.

21. "Armenian cross-stone art. Symbolism and Craftsmanship of Khachkars" included in intangible cultural heritage list [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

At the fifth session of the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage in Nayrobi November 17 a decision was made to include the "Armenian cross-stones art. Symbolism and Craftsmanship of Khachkars" into the list of renowned intangible cultural heritage.



Press and Information Department of the Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that the whole package about cross-stones was jointly prepared and passed to the UNESCO headquarters by the Armenian Culture Ministry and Armenian National Commission on UNESCO Affairs.

The intangible cultural heritage is the entity of traditions, custom and cultural expressions as well as knowledge and skills which certain groups of people recognize as part of their self-consciousness and cultural heritage.

Taking into consideration that cross-stone is a living tradition for all Armenians, its involvement in the list will create a wide circle of knowledge, tradition! as and crafts preservation for passing it to next generations. It will also guarantee the recognition of Armenian cultural values and respect toward it.

22. Armenian Culture Ministry consistent in making Armenian culture renowned both abroad and in RA provinces [Armenpress, 11/23/10]

Armenpress interviewed head of the Modern Arts Department of the Armenian Culture Ministry Sona Harutyunyan about presentation of Armenian cultural heritage abroad.

-One of the primary directions defined for the Culture Ministry by the Armenian government is making Armenian culture renowned abroad. In your opinion, do we manage to properly present the Armenian culture to the world?

-The opportunities and means of presenting the Armenian culture abroad need reconsideration. The financial support, which is extended to the events conducted in Armenia, maybe reduced and extended to all the initiatives outside the borders of Armenia. One of the primary directions defined for the Culture Ministry by the Armenian government is making Armenian culture renowned abroad. In order that priority becomes reality we must have much more distinct programs. And in general, we must balance the series of all the events, which are intended for the next year.

When you are abroad, you understand that your country's culture does not concede the culture of the given country, but you cannot introduce yourself, as you do not have an opportunity, and it is sorrowful. The circumstance that Armenian art figures will have an opportunity to be presented abroad is of utmost importance. In this case painting and musicology afford the best opportunity, as here neither translation nor efforts are needed. In case of both painting and music we may calmly come forth on foreign stages, where art becomes accessible without any speech and mediation.

-What kind of programs has the Ministry worked out in the direction of making culture renowned? In particular, what surprises has the Culture Ministry prepared for Armenian art-loving society for the upcoming year?

-I can note with great delight that the Culture Ministry has initiated a number of events in the direction of making our art renowned to the world. International forum of modern art of Arshile Gorky will be conducted, within the framework of which Armenia will host a number of art figures from abroad. A scientific conference and an exhibition will be conducted within the framework of the forum. That is, the forum will promote that foreign art figures pay visit to Armenia, get acquainted with our country and culture.

An exhibition entitled "Caucasian Paris" will also open, in the direction of organization of which close cooperation is running with Georgia. The exhibition will open in Armenia, then in Georgia and in 2012 in Paris.

The Culture Ministry attaches importance to teaching of "History of Armenian Art" subject in higher educational establishments of abroad. The professor-lecturer staff of "Albert Ludwig University" of German Freiburg town will visit Armenia in 2011 and will sign an agreement with Yerevan State University on exchange of students and lecture! rs.

-Proportionate development of culture in provinces is among the primary directions defined for the Armenian Culture Ministry by the government. What kind of steps does the Ministry undertake in this direction?

-Both presentation of Armenian art to the world, and the approach to art in Armenian provinces is among our primary issues. The ministry will be consistent in creation of International Festival of Caricature, and currently negotiations are running in deciding the place of conduction of the festival. We pay high importance to conduction of cultural programs in Meghri, as it is geographically the place, where Artsakh, Armenia and Iran come together, and that position provides an opportunity those three states to join and become a cultural center.

23. 'Star Boy' Book on Artsakh War Published [Armenpress, 11/22/10]



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The 'Star Boy' book by Ashot Beglaryan, journalist, member of the Writers Unions of the Republics of Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, was published in Artsakh. Ashot Beglaryan – author of a plenty of short-stories and adventures, laureate of various international literary awards – said in an interview with Armenpress that the book is consisted of 21 stories, some of which were published in Armenian and foreign literary journals.

The book is in Russian. The author said the main theme of all of his creations is war. He partook in the war of Artsakh and received a severe wound during the war. The first film in Artsakh was shot on the base of Ashot Beglaryan's 'The Home, Which was Shooting' book.

RELIGION

24. Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II receives French ambassador [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II received today newly appointed French ambassador to Armenia Henry Reno. Holy See press office reported that the Catholicos referred to the important service the embassy carries out for making the relations between the two countries closer.

The Armenian Patriarch spoke with delight about the special attitude of France toward Armenian people, referred to the resolute stance of France toward the recognition and condemnation of Armenian Genocide.

On his part, Henry Reno said that the Armenian Church is one of the powerful elements of the identity of Armenian people with the strength of which the existence of the Armenian people was ensured.

During the conversation they referred to the challenges the church is facing and ways of their solution, etc.

At the end of the meeting the Catholicos wished the ambassador good mission in Armenia.

SOCIAL

25. 'Beeline' national entrepreneurial camp in Tsakhkadzor [Armenpress, 11/19/10]

This is the third year the 'Beeline' national entrepreneurial camp has been held in Armenia.

Narek Tovmasyan, head of British Council's projects, said today at a meeting with journalists that the national entrepreneurial camp is organized by the British Council within the framework of 'Skills at Work' program in partnership with the RA Education and Science Ministry and 'Junior Achievement of Armenia' organization. The sponsor of the competition is the 'ArmenTel' company.

The 'Skills at Work' program kicked off a month ago with a competition of a business-task compositions. Students of middle professional educational establishments of 10 provinces of Armenia wrote compositions on 'How to Succeed Due to the Internet'. Narek Tovmasyan said that the 'ArmenTel' company selected 50 ones of the 250 compositions, which offered impressive theorems of success. Those 50 authors will partake in the final round of the 'Beeline' national entrepreneurial camp.

'I am sure that through the development of educational and entrepreneurial skills of students, we prepare them for the future,' according to Anush Beghloyan, head of ArmenTel's PR service. She added that the authors of the compositions offered variants of helping seek and needy people via the internet.

According to Mr. Gareth Wynn Owen, deputy head of mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia, the 'Skills at Work' program is implemented in the UK and 10 countries of South-East Europe. 'The competition is aimed at encouraging the young, promoting their innovations, and developing their entrepreneurial capacity by direct involvement of employers,' he said.

'This is a very good impetus for the strengthening of education-society-entrepreneurship ties,' said Robert Abrahamyan, head of the RA Education and Science Ministry's department of middle professional education.

The names of the winners of the competition will be announced today after the final round.

26. "Austrian" Gyumri children's hospital and "Gyumri-Maternity Ward" replenished with equipments of neonatal care [Armenpress, 11/22/10]

With the support of "Viva-Cell-MTS", "Austrian" children's hospital of Gyumri and "Gyumri-Maternity Ward" were replenished today with equipments of neonatal care.

It is already the third year that a program on replenishment of neonatal care is implemented by BirthLink NGO with the support of "VivaCell-MTS. The equipments of nearly 144 million AMD obtained within the framework of the program, have already been placed in 11 hospitals of the capital.



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At the meeting with journalists in Gyumri, Director General of "VivaCell-MTS" Ralph Yirikyan noted that this is a struggle against death of new-born children. "We know that the index of death of premature born children is quite high because of absence of special equipments. This year we will be in Sevan, Martuni, Goris, Kapan and Berd. We will not stop until we are convinced that all the maternity wards and children's hospitals are ensured with suchlike equipments," Ralph Yirikyan said.

The program also includes the ingredient of professional training, according to which specialists making use of neonatal care equipments will be trained.

27. An incident in NKR army resulting in deaths [Noyan Tapan, 11/20/10]

On November 19, around 24:00 o'clock there has been an emergency incident at the primary line, which resulted in deaths. The line was being protected by one of the Southern military units of NKR Army.

According to unconfirmed information there are 4-5 victims and injured soldiers. NKR Defense Army's Media and Propaganda department informs that a criminal case has been initiated and an investigation is underway. There will be details about the incident in 1-2

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