



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 28, 2011

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

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POLITICS

1. Eduard Sharmazanov: It is time for Azerbaijan to awaken [Armenpress, 10/25/11]

Thanks to the military-technical cooperation within the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) an army with strong fighting capacity has been formed, which is able to take full responsibility for security of NK people in case of Azerbaijani aggression against the Nagorno Karabakh, Secretary of NA Armenian Republican Party's faction Eduard Sharmazanov stated today at the National Assembly, adding that Azerbaijan perfectly realizes this and that is why it takes every chance to create a storm in a cup of water. "The Aliyev clan presents the fact of becoming a non-permanent member of the Security Council as a big success, while I should mention that here we deal with an imaginary propaganda," he stressed.

According to the Secretary of the Armenian Republican Party's faction, this fact cannot affect Artsakh seriously, as the co-chair countries of the Minsk Group are permanent members of the UN Security Council, and their opinion is in harmony with Armenia's position.

"Pakistan became a permanent member, too. Its both home situation and the relations with terrorists are not a secret, and I do not think that international community considers it a consolidated state," Eduard Sharmazanov said, adding that Islamic and a dozen of states of the third world have voted for Azerbaijan, perhaps fascinated by "the green scent of Baku oil".

According to Eduard Sharmazanov, both French President Sarkozy in Yerevan and Russian President Medvedev in Moscow noted that the Artsakh conflict only has a peaceful political settlement, and "Armed Aggression is Inadmissible" call was addressed to Azerbaijan. "It is time for Azerbaijan to awaken," stressed Eduard Sharmazanov.

2. Serzh Sargsyan meets with the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin [Armenpress, 10/26/11]

In the evening of October 25, President Serzh Sargsyan met with the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

Noting, that a meeting with the Chairman of the RF Government in the framework of his state visit provides a good opportunity to discuss prospects of the Armenian-Russian relations, President Serzh Sargsyan noted with satisfaction that the bilateral relations are on a very good level. He also said that the existing atmosphere and the dialogue between the two governments allow to discuss any issue.



"We believe that our economic relations are developing properly. As You have already mentioned, last year our turnover reached one billion USD," President Sargsyan said. According to the President of Armenia, it's a serious number for our country. Serzh Sargsyan also noted that Russian investments make 57 percent of all foreign investments and there are almost 1500 joint ventures and enterprises with Russian capital, which means that there is a certain growth. He also spoke about the Armenian-Russian cooperation in the humanitarian area, which is also developing well enough. President Sargsyan said that during his visit to the Russian Federation, the parties have reached agreement regarding new quotas. "We would like, of course, to discuss possibilities of new programs, which will further strengthen our relations," President Sargsyan said.

Welcoming President Sargsyan, the Chairman of the RF Government noted that he was extremely pleased to meet with the Armenian President in the framework of his state visit to the Russian Federation and spoke about economic, including trade relations of the two states.

Vladimir Putin also praised the Armenian-Russian relations in different areas, noting that quite recently he has had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister of Armenia and discussed in detail additional steps aimed at the enhancement of bilateral relations. The Chairman of the RF Government underlined with satisfaction that over all things are progressing in the operative mode.

3. Serzh Sargsyan receives Mayor of Paris [Armenpress, 10/26/11]

President Serzh Sargsyan received today the Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoe, who is also President of the International Association of the French-speaking Mayors.

President Sargsyan said Yerevan was glad to host the sitting of the International Association of the French-speaking Mayors, which has brought together Mayor of a number of cities from all over the world and which shows the importance Armenia attaches to the inter-cultural dialogue and the development of economic and cultural cooperation with member countries of the International Organization of the Francophonie.

The Mayor of Paris expressed gratitude for hospitality and for the opportunity to hold the sitting of the International Association of the French-speaking Mayors in Yerevan.

Referring to the Armenian-French relations, the interlocutors noted that the recent high-level visits and the events organized within that framework have further reinforced the firm bases of friendship between the two countries.

4. NA deputies pay tribute to the memory of victims of October 27, 1999 [Armenpress, 10/27/11]

Members of the RA National Assembly paid tribute today to the memory of their colleagues who were murdered October 27 1999 in the parliament's session hall. NA Chairman Hovik Abrahamyan and parliamentarians of all the factions put flowers at the memorial placed in the court of the NA.

Twelve years ago October 27 at the Government-National Assembly Q&A the National Assembly was attacked and eight state figures – Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, NA Chairman Karen Demirchyan, Vice Chairmen Yuri Bakhshyan and Ruben Miroyan, Minister of Operative Affairs Leonard Petrosyan, members of parliament Armenak Armenakyan, Henrik Abrahamyan and Mikhael Kotanyan were murdered.

5. Richard Kirakosian: Armenia did its best in normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations [Armenpress, 10/27/11]

Armenia has done the utmost in respect of the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations, director of the Regional Studies Center Richard Kirakosian told a news conference today, pointing out that the international community is waiting today for the steps of Turkey.

He said a serious conference is going to take place over the Armenian-Turkish dialogue in Istanbul the goal of which is to find ways out and give new impetus to the process. The speaker considered it remarkable that the conference follows the earthquake in Van and the opening of St. Giragos Church in Tigranakert. Richard Kirakosyan highly assessed the initiative of Serzh Sargsyan to provide quake aid to Turkey. "The fact that Turkey refused the aid of all the countries and accepted only Azerbaijan's speaks of the fact that the signals coming from Armenia and Turkey in regard of normalization of relations differ," the political analyst said. Richard Kirakosian said Turkey's foreign policy is marked with the losses of Syria, Libya, Iran which makes Turkey weaker as compared with Armenia, which is in more strong positions both in respect of NK issue and in respect of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations.



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In this context the political analyst rated high the assistance of Russia and West to Armenia. According to Richard Kirakosian, because of its wrong calculations in Kazan Azerbaijan failed to justify the expectations of the Minsk group, which in its turn reinforced more Armenia's positions in the NK issue.

"Today Armenia faces only one challenge in this process - use and maintain this military privilege being not only a responding but the initiating side as well," the political analyst said.

6. Eduard Sharmazanov says victims of Oct 27, 1999 see from above that Armenia has chosen a right path to move forward [Armenpress, 10/27/11]

October 27, 1999 is one of the painful pages of Armenia's newest history: prime minister, NA chairman, members of parliament were shot down, secretary of the Republican Party of Armenia faction Eduard Sharmazanov said speaking to Armenpress. "We must keep the memory of the victims bright and with our work we must show them that Armenia has chosen a right path to move forward. Everything must be done so that extremism, intolerance, such like terrorist acts not take place here," the parliamentarian said. He voiced hope that no country will ever face such terrorism act.

"In general, when an Armenian raises hand on the Armenian, it is mean. Unfortunately, mean people exist. It is greater pain for our party as we have lost our leader Vazgen Sargsyan, party members Yuri Bakhshyan, Armenak Armenakyan, and others," Sharmazanov said, adding that they all had serious contribution to the reinforcement of our reality.

Twelve years ago, this day, eight state figures - Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, NA Chairman Karen Demirchyan, Vice Chairmen Yuri Bakhshyan and Ruben Miroyan, Minister of Operative Affairs Leonard Petrosyan, members of parliament Armenak Armenakyan, Henrik Abrahamyan and Mikhael Kotanyan were murdered.

7. Armenia receives official request of quake aid from Turkey [Armenpress, 10/27/11]

Armenia has received an official request of quake aid from the Turkish Government. Press service of the Emergency Situations Ministry told Armenpress that today in the evening the representatives of the RA emergency Situations Ministry will transport the aid of the Armenian government – 40 tons of cargo, tents, sleeping bags, etc. – to the Turkish town of Izmir.

Additional information on the flight hour and place will be provided.

8. Montreal Mayor visits Tsitsernakaberd [Armenpress, 10/27/11]

Montreal Mayor Gerald Trambly visited today Tsitsernakaberd, memorial complex dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

"We condemn the Armenian Genocide. I have come to say that I remember what happened, and you are not alone. Peace and human dignity are the greatest merits, which are necessary for continuing the life," the Montreal Mayor said,

The delegation members put flowers around the unquenchable fire and paid a tribute of honor to the memory of the innocent victims of the Genocide 1915 with one-minute silence.

Then the delegation arrived from Canada visited the Armenian Genocide Museum, and Gerald Trambly made a note in the commemoration book.

9. Artak Zakaryan: Rumors spread about coalition are artificial [Armenpress, 10/27/11]

Prime Minister's statement, that those who will not join RPA, will be back to square one, was neither a threat, nor a warning, but just a parabolic expression," member of RPA parliamentary faction Artak Zakaryan told today a news conference, qualifying it as a message, advice, call of cooperation to all the 74 parties. "Any force cooperating with RPA should realize that it is moving forward with a force, which has been extending productive activity for at least 20 years. RPA is open for cooperation, but there is no need of giving lessons to the party," he said, adding that this is not the party, with which one can deal with trade.

Referring to the rumors spread about the coalition, the member of RPA parliamentary faction noted that they are artificial. According to him, normal processes are running in the coalition. Like in any coalition of the world, here, too, contradicting statements may be voiced. "The elections can change the coalition moods. No change of form can take place now, but content changes are possible," said Mr. Zakaryan.



10. News about resignation of Yerevan Mayor confirmed [Armenpress, 10/28/11]

Information about the resignation of Mayor of Yerevan Karen Karapetyan has been confirmed personally by the mayor in his interview to ArmNews TV channel. According to rumors circulating in press Karapetyan will take the office of the deputy of the chairman of the Russian "Gasprom" company Alexey Miller. Armenpress tried to clarify the information from "Gasprom" but our calls remained unanswered.

11. Karen Karapetyan says he is leaving the office, but not the President's team [Armenpress, 10/28/11]

Mayor of Yerevan Karen Karapetyan is going to submit a resignation application because of moving to another office and some personal reasons. He stated about it in the interview to "ArmNews" TV channel. "I have made the decision of leaving the office of the mayor with great difficulty, and I ask the Yerevan residents to be indulgent if I have not justified certain hopes. At the same time I am very pleased with words of gratitude of the citizens they express through social web sites," the outgoing mayor said. He noted that his family members also received the news with difficulty.

Karen Karapetyan rejected the news that his resignation is connected with certain disputes in the Republican party. "I have enjoyed the unlimited trust of the President and the party. I have spoken with the President about the resignation. He respects my decision. My resignation does not mean that I am going out of the president's team. I have very friendly relations with the president's team," Karen Karapetyan said.

At the same time the mayor did not reject the news that he is going to take office in the RF. "A very good team has been gathered in the City Hall. I am sure in two-three years the city will be unrecognizable," he noted.

12. Arman Melikyan about preliminary refusal of Turkey: Playing theater was not right [Armenpress, 10/28/11]

Armenia's offer to show humanitarian support to Turkey on the occasion of the destructive earthquake occurred in Van was a humanitarian step. Commenting on the preliminary refusal of Turkey, former NKR Foreign Minister Arman Melikyan noted that it was understandable: Armenia offered support, and after thinking a lot Turkey took note.

"Playing theater was not a right thing, but we are, in all appearances, theater-loving peoples," Mr. Melikyan said, adding that this cannot be explained otherwise. "We had to propose and we proposed, we were asked to send, and we sent, we cannot do anything more expressive," he stressed.

To remind, from the Armenian government 40 tones cargo is being transported to Erzurum town, Turkey – more than 100 tents, 500 sleeping bags and over 7000 bed accessories.

ARTS

13. Exhibition of Armenian artists in Germany [Armenpress, 10/25/11]

Exhibition of 11 Armenian modern artists opened October 20 in Talstraße Gallery of Halle town of German State of Saxony-Anhalt.

Press service of Armenian Foreign Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that the representative of the government of the state, Armenian Ambassador to Germany Armen Martirosyan and head of Culture Ministry's department Mrs. S. Harutyunyan welcomed the participants of the opening ceremony. Mrs. Harutyunyan read the welcoming speech of Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan. Manager of the exhibition Seda Shekoyan told about the presented works and their authors. The exhibition will be open till December 4.

14. Concert of world famous violinist Pinchas Zukerman in Yerevan [Armenpress, 10/26/11]

Concert of world famous violinist Pinchas Zukerman will take place today at the Aram Khachatryan concert hall with Armenia's State Philharmonic Orchestra. Though the musician was in Armenia half a year ago but it is the first time he will perform with the Philharmonic Orchestra.

Speaking to reporters today, head of the "Yerevan Prospects" festival Stepan Rustumyan said that it is the last 12th concert within the framework of the festival.



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"I am very happy that the festival is being closed by Zukerman's performance. It is impossible to describe this musician by words. We may describe this concert as the biggest achievement of this festival," the head of the festival said.

"I am happy to be in Armenia again, I see that the town has become more beautiful and alive," Zukerman said.

RELIGION

15. Sanahin complex in focus of the state [Armenpress, 10/26/11]

The issue of preservation of Sanahin monastic complex has been raised on the international level. Not only the province of Lori and the Republic of Armenia are concerned with it but foreign countries as well.

With the assignment of the RA Government specialists have been sent to the province of Lori to study the situation and assist in the solution of the issue. They have studied the restoration, water removal and water isolation issues and are working on the basis of collected information after which professional conclusion will be given. German specialists have also visited the complex and ended their studies connected with the wall paintings.

With the efforts of the RA Government and Ministry of Culture, days ago a group of specialists headed by Alberto Torsello arrived from Italy to study the wall paintings. They brought with them contemporary devices and for five days studied the resistance of the wall paintings of the whole monastic complex.

Scientific worker of the Lori provincial service of the Preservation of Historic Environment Hrachik Marukyan told Armenpress that the experience of the invited specialists is well-known all over the world, and they have arrived in Armenia after the successful completion of works over monument-reserve in China.

SOCIAL

16. 31st general assembly of Association of Francophone Mayors launches in Yerevan [Armenpress, 10/25/11]

The 31st general assembly of the Association of Francophone Mayors kicked off today in Yerevan. Press service of Yerevan Mayor's Office told Armenpress that welcoming the guests on behalf of Yerevan Mayor and Yerevan people, representative of the Mayor's Office, chief architect of Yerevan Narek Sargsyan noted that Armenia's capital attaches high significance to the affiliation with the association, as this is a platform, where experience and information exchange takes place through direct contact over numerous issues and challenges.

The goal of the Yerevan assembly is to sum up this year's works and discuss issues on increase of efficiency of cooperation between state and local self-governing bodies, border cooperation, over which the members of the association will try to form general approaches. Narek Sargsyan stressed that Yerevan, as a part of the big family of European communities, intends to actively work with all European and international partners. He simultaneously noted that Armenia's self-governing system has a well-developed legislative field, distinct direction of development, institutional structures, the productive activity of which is the guarantee of democratic development of the system.

This year is significant for Armenia, as the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence and 15th anniversary of local self-governing bodies are marked. Narek Sargsyan said that in 2009 Armenia was the first among the capitals of the South Caucasus, where elections of mayor and council of elders took place.

Armenia has been affiliating with the Association of Francophone Mayors since 1998.

17. Yerevan and Paris Mayors sign agreement on friendship and cooperation [Armenpress, 10/25/11]

Wrapping up the meeting at Yerevan Mayor's Office, Yerevan Mayor Karen Karapetyan and Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe signed an agreement on friendship and cooperation between the two cities.

Press service of Yerevan Mayor's Office told Armenpress that after the solemn ceremony of signing of the agreement, Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe noted in his speech that the Yerevan meetings are held in family atmosphere, and noted with gratification that family has enlarged by presence of the



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participants of the 31st assembly of Francophone. Referring to the signed agreement, Paris Mayor noted that the document includes interesting verges of cooperation between the two cities. "Besides our high-class cultural cooperation, we intend implementation of serious economic programs," said Bertrand Delanoe.

Yerevan Mayor Karen Karapetyan stressed in his speech that both Armenian-French relations and the relations between the two cities are at the highest level today. "The signed document elevated our cooperation to a new qualitative level, and I am sure that after this meeting our friendly relations will be more strengthened," said Karen Karapetyan.

Welcoming the members of the International Association of French Speaking Cities one more time, Yerevan Mayor expressed confidence that the Yerevan assembly will be conducted in practical and productive atmosphere, and new perspectives of cooperation between French-speaking cities will open.

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.