



Attention:
Foreign Affairs L.A.

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant
From: Kate Nahapetian, Government Affairs Director
Date: March 2, 2006

Re: **Azerbaijani President threatens war**

I wanted to call your attention to two recent news items about Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's threats to restart his country's war against the people of Nagorno Karabagh, who have lived peacefully and democratically under a cease fire agreement for the past 12 years.

Nagorno Karabagh is a historic part of Armenia that Joseph Stalin forcefully placed under Azerbaijani administration in 1921, but which voted overwhelmingly in 1991 for independence from Azerbaijan in an internationally monitored referendum. Peace talks have been mediated by the OSCE since 1994 and were close to a resolution in 2001 (Key West, Florida) and, most recently, just a few weeks ago (Rambouillet, France). Both times, Azerbaijan walked away from the negotiating table, preferring instead to pursue a military solution to this conflict.

After rejecting the Rambouillet discussions, President Aliyev traveled yesterday to the trenches on the front lines of the conflict and agitated for Azerbaijani soldiers to prepare for war.

* **Associated Press**

A March 1st Associated Press Worldstream article quotes President Aliyev during a visit to his troops as saying that his military must take over Nagorno Karabagh "no matter what it takes." AP reporter Aida Sultanova added that Aliyev followed his comments by stressing that his nation's military had been strengthened significantly over the past two years.

* **Radio Liberty**

Radio Liberty reported yesterday that President Aliyev "urged his countrymen to be prepared for winning back the Armenian-controlled territory [Nagorno Karabagh] by force. The remarks followed Aliev's effective rejection of an international peace plan that would reportedly enable Karabakh's predominantly ethnic Armenian population to formalize its de facto secession from Azerbaijan."

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Armenia	Azerbaijan
<p>Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Committed to a peaceful, negotiated resolution of Nagorno Karabagh security and status issues. ◆ A partner for peace 	<p>Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Walked away from its agreements at the OSCE's 2001 Key West and 2006 Rambouillet summits. ◆ Threatens new aggression
<p>Freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Qualified as one of only 16 candidates for the Millennium Challenge Account ◆ Rated "Mostly Free" by the Heritage Foundation-Heritage Foundaton Index of Economic Freedom, 27th overall 	<p>Freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ineligible for the Millennium Challenge Account due to corruption and ruling unjustly. ◆ Rated "Mostly Unfree" by the Heritage Foundation-Heritage Foundaton Index of Economic Freedom, 123rd overall.
<p>Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Democracy ◆ Tolerance ◆ Respect for human rights ◆ Religious freedom and respect for other faiths 	<p>Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hereditary neo-monarchy ◆ Intolerance ◆ Official corruption ◆ Destruction of Armenian cultural heritage