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to: Foreign
Affairs LA

Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs LA
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: August 26, 2005

Re: Democratic Progress in Nagorno Karabakh

In the past week, you may have received a letter from Azerbaijani Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev that misrepresents the progress of democracy and the success of free elections in Nagorno Karabagh. Sadly, the Azerbaijan government - on the defensive about its own record on democracy and freedom - is again resorting to misstatements and outright falsehoods to advance its agenda. These lies, however, can't obscure the simple fact that:

*At the heart of this issue is Nagorno Karabagh - a democracy
defending itself against a corrupt monarchy that blockades its
neighbors and abuses its own citizens.*

If officials in Baku truly cared about the rights of the Azerbaijani people, they would spend less time attacking Nagorno Karabagh's free elections, and more time learning from Nagorno Karabagh's success in developing a flourishing democracy.

Democracy will bring peace to the region. Recognizing this, the Armenian side has held free and fair elections, and shown a willingness to make reasonable compromises at the negotiating table. In contrast, Azerbaijani leaders, fearful of the outcome of democratic elections, have remained mired in a cycle of finger-pointing and angry rhetoric designed to satisfy extremists back home.

Attached find a list of facts about U.S. support for Nagorno Karabagh. As always, feel free to contact us for more information at (202) 775-1918 or anca@anca.org.

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Key Facts: The U.S. Record in Support of Nagorno Karabagh

- * Declassified CIA reports from the seventies, eighties, and nineties reveal a pattern of official - although confidential - acknowledgement that Nagorno Karabagh is a historic part of Armenia. (www.anca.org/docs/cia1-website.pdf)
- * In the late 1980's, the United States welcomed Nagorno Karabagh's historic challenge to the Soviet system and its leadership in sparking democratic movements in the Baltics and throughout the Soviet empire.
- * The U.S. Senate, in November of 1989, adopted S.J.Res.178, recognizing that "Nagorno-Karabagh has continually expressed its desire for self-determination and freedom."
- * The U.S. State Department's representative to the OSCE "Minsk Group" regularly visits Nagorno Karabagh, which is an official party to the peace process, and consults with its democratically elected leaders.
- * The U.S. Government, since 1992, has been on record officially condemning Azerbaijan's blockades and other uses of force against both Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh (Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act).
- * The U.S. Government, over Azerbaijan's protests, has provided direct humanitarian assistance to Nagorno Karabagh since 1998.