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HIGHLIGHTS

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HIGHLIGHT

London Olympics 2012 kicks off



On July 29, President Serzh Sargsyan watches in London performances of the Armenian athletes at the summer Olympic Games

Armavia launch- es extra flights to Aleppo

Armavia Air Company is launching additional Yerevan-Aleppo-Yerevan flights to enable more Syrian-Armenians to leave the war-stricken country as soon as possible.

"Despite the ongoing clashes in Syria, and especially in Aleppo, the national air carrier is extending the helping hand to our Syrian-Armenian compatriots to take them away from war zone. The Armavia air company plans to operate an additional Yerevan-Aleppo-Yerevan flight starting from August 1. The additional flights will be operated by 108-seat Boeing on August 8, 15, 22 and 29," the statement reads.



Repeated chance

by David Petrosyan

The fifth regular presidential election was held on July 19 in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR, the Republic of Artsakh), unrecognized by the international community. According to official data of the Central Election Commission (CEC), 72,958 out of nearly 100,000 (to be more precise, 99,227) registered voters received ballot papers. 47,095 voters or 66.7% of those who received ballot papers have voted for the incumbent President Bako Sahakyan. Former Deputy Minister of Defense, Major General Vitaly Balasanyan gained 22,967 votes or 32.5%, and the third presidential candidate, Deputy Chancellor of the Stepanakert Branch of the Armenian State Agrarian University Arkady Soghmonyan received 593 votes or 0.8%.

It is the first time in the history of the NKR that a runner-up in the presidential election or a "silver medalist" has received one third of the votes. This is an extremely high index in the political history of the NKR. It highlights the circumstance

that one third of the voters support changes or are more or less discontented with the state of affairs in some sphere or other in the country.

On the other hand, the outcome of the election shows that two thirds of voters back the incumbent president's course, which allows him to adhere to his previous policy, especially as all the parliamentary parties without exception (the ARF-Dashnaktsutyun, the Democratic Party of Artsakh, and Free Fatherland) backed him in the last election.

It should be mentioned that in partially recognized states of the South Caucasus such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia, it is not uncommon for a "silver medalist" to poll more than one third of votes in a presidential election. The matter concerns first of all the 2004 presidential election in Abkhazia and the presidential elections held in South Ossetia in 2001 and 2011-2012. As regards the recognized states in the South Caucasus such as Azerbaijan and Georgia, according to official data of the elections, the "silver

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Briefing of Hovik Abrahamyan and Sergey Narishkin in the National Assembly

On July 24 National Assembly President Hovik Abrahamyan and Speaker of the RF Federal Assembly State Duma Sergey Narishkin, who arrived in Armenia on official visit, had a joint briefing.

Summing up the results of the visit, Hovik Abrahamyan noted that numerous issues relating to bilateral relations were discussed, which were connected with economy, science, education and partnership in humanitarian and other spheres, the intensification and development of inter-parliamentary cooperation had been emphasized. "Taking into consideration the allied and strategic relations of Armenia and Russia, we also underlined the need of deepening the cooperation in international parliamentary structures. The necessity of unified position in the issues of mutual importance and the role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening the inner-state relations was especially stressed,"



the Head of the Armenian Parliament noted.

Talking about effective cooperation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO PA) he also said that in September the first consultation of the Committees on Security and Defense of the parliaments of the CSTO member countries will be held in Yerevan.

In Hovik Abrahamyan's word, taking into consideration the close

cooperation shaped between the two parliaments and the necessity of deepening the partnership, the Armenian side has proposed to discuss the possibility of forming the Institute of the representatives of the two parliaments in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

As the RA National Assembly President noted, during the meeting with the Head of the RF Federal

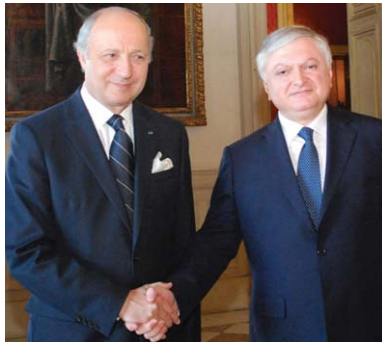
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Armenian and French Foreign Ministers discuss the process of Karabakh settlement

Armenian and French Foreign Ministers Edward Nalbandian and Laurent Fabius discussed the process of Karabakh settlement in Paris on July 24.

Highly evaluating France's constructive involvement as an OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair, Edward Nalbandian confirmed Armenia's readiness to continue talks based on the statements of the presidents OCSE Minsk Group co-chairing countries made in L'Aquila, Muskoka, Deauville and Los-Cabos and the presented proposals, Mediamax was informed in the Armenian Foreign Ministry.

The Ministers also discussed relations between Armenia and the EU. Edward Nalbandian presented the progress made in the talks on the Association Agreement, visa



regime facilitation as well as the current negotiation process on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the EU.

Edward Nalbandian and Laurent Fabius touched on Iran's nuclear programme and situation in the Near East.

Edward Nalbandian invited his French counterpart to visit Armenia.

Briefing of Hovik Abrahamyan and Sergey Narishkin in the National Assembly

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Assembly State Duma in the context of deepening of inner-state relations the necessity of activation of the activity of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee on Cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries had been highlighted.

Thanking for hospitality and

records big rates of growth. As to Mr Narishkin, particularly the volumes of goods turnover between the two countries had been restored, reaching the level, which was in place before the world financial-economic crisis, the annual investment of the Russian organizations in Armenia is over 3bn USD. Touching upon the



warm reception shown to the Russian Delegation the Speaker of the RF Federal Assembly State Duma Sergey Narishkin stressed that the relations with Armenia were important and dear for Russia. "Those are relations with allies, strategic partners. The development of relations literally in all spheres - political, economic, security, humanitarian, and others - is important for us," mentioned the Speaker of the RF Federal Assembly State Duma. In his word, the two countries pay big attention to the development of bilateral and multilateral relations especially in the sphere of economy, and the trade-economic cooperation between Armenia and Russia

cooperation in economic sphere the Speaker of the RF Federal Assembly State Duma also talked about the issue of joining Armenia to the Treaty on Free Trade Zone within the CIS framework, expressing hope that it would promote Armenia's economic development and increase goods turnover with the CIS countries.

He also thanked for promoting the development of the Russian language in Armenia, high level of teaching at schools and higher educational institutions and activity of Russian mass media. Noting that the parliaments of the two countries successfully cooperate in international platforms, Sergey Narishkin noticed that their positions either almost coincided or simply they were identical in key issues.

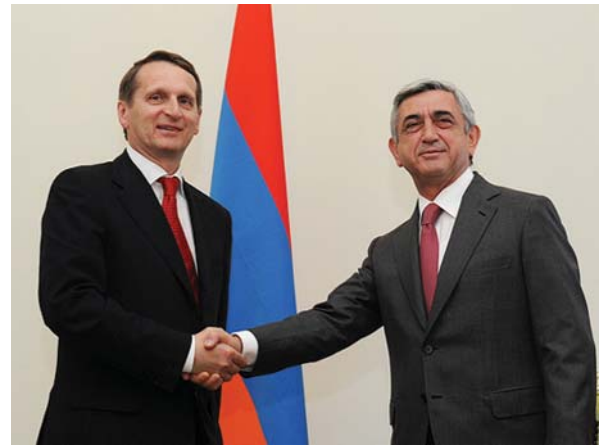
The parties highly appreciated the role of the inter-parliamentary diplomacy in the further development of relations and deepening of cooperation.

Russian-Armenian "unshakeable relations" are the cornerstone of Armenia's security, Armenian President says

On July 24, President Serzh Sargsyan received the Speaker of the Federal Assembly of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Sergey Naryshkin and his delegation.

The President expressed hope that the visit of the Speaker of the Federal Assembly of the State Duma of the Russian Federation would give a new impetus to the steadily developing Armenian-Russian strategic partnership. Serzh Sargsyan praised the personal contribution of Mr. Naryshkin to the strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries. He also underscored that Armenia was interested in the further deepening of its relations with Russia which have solid historical grounds and which develop in the spirit of allied partnership. According to Serzh Sargsyan, these unshakeable relations are a cornerstone of Armenia's security.

In his turn, Speaker of the Federal Assembly of the State Duma of the Russian Federation also expressed satisfaction with the high level of the strategic partnership of the two countries and stressed that Russia highly values development of relations and cooperation



with Armenia, which according to Sergey Naryshkin, have become even more dynamic in the last ten years. S. Naryshkin highlighted the importance of interparliamentary diplomacy in the strengthening the relations between Armenia and Russia and assured that together with the colleagues from the Armenian parliament they would do their best to ensure further deepening of the relations between the two friendly peoples and states.

The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the EU and EaP Ministerial meeting

On July 23 in Brussels Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian participated in the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the European Union and Eastern Partnership.

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission and Štefan Füle, the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy attended the meeting, as well. Addressing at the meeting, the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the passed road of the Eastern Partnership from Prague founding summit to Warsaw summit, including the activities implemented ahead of upcoming Vilnius summit are the proof of the viability of the project.

"The EaP Ministerial meetings give a good opportunity to exchange views on various issues related to the promotion of the cooperation, to sum up completed works and to present expectations, as well as to undertake new steps. It is a pleasure for me to note that after two years since the launching of the Association Agreement, Armenia has achieved significant progress-so far 28 Chapters of the Association Agreement from 29 have been closed and there is just a Chapter left in one sphere to agree upon. Based on a positive experience accumulated during the negotiations over the Associations Agreement, Armenia expects to have a smooth progress in the negotiations over the creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. We intend to come to the final stage of the negotiations until the Vilnius summit.

Fostering mobility and people-to-people contacts is another important element of the cooperation. I am pleased to note that the agreements on visa regime facilitation and readmission are now about to be finalized and in the near



future we are looking forward to sign and ratify them," said Minister Nalbandian.

In the course of the Ministerial meeting a joint declaration was adopted where the sides stressed that the road map presented by the EU High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission is a good basis ahead of the Vilnius summit to guide with the goals elaborated at the Prague and Warsaw summits.

It was mentioned that the next EaP Ministerial meeting to be held in 2013 would be a good opportunity to review and outline the further steps to be undertaken.

Ahead of the meeting Edward Nalbandian met with Štefan Füle, the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. During the meeting the sides had a thorough talk on the organization issues related to the convening of the donors' conference providing support to the reforms in Armenia, as well as the schedule of upcoming high-level visits. The interlocutors touched upon the negotiations over the Association Agreement, visa regime facilitation, readmission and the creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, as well as discussed a number of issues related to the interaction

between Armenia and the European Union. In the evening of the same day the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs met with Didier Reynders, the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Belgium had a thorough talk on a wide range of bilateral issues, touched upon the intensification of political dialogue between the two countries, the expansion of legal framework, the holding of regular consultations between the MFAs of the two countries, the promotion of economic cooperation and the steps to be undertaken for the intensification of inter-parliamentary ties. During the talks the sides exchanged views on the Armenia-EU relations.

In the course of the talk between Edward Nalbandian and Didier Reynders the cooperation in the frames of the International Organization of the Francophonie were touched upon. Upon the request of the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the efforts exerted towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Edward Nalbandian invited his Belgian counterpart Didier Reynders to pay a visit to Armenia.

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Political intrigue in Gyumri: Long-time mayor's return is in question



The Mayor of Gyumri has resigned his post as head of Shirak regional branch of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), sparking speculation that without his party's support he will not run for the mayor of Armenia's "second city" during the local government elections slated for September 9.

Vardan Ghukasyan, who has been in the news as much for his personal controversies as for his politics, has been running the city for 14 years. He has said that he will definitely seek re-election, saying that citizens demand his continued service.

When asked by journalists about his resignation, Ghukasyan only said: "It is what needed to be done".

Others following Armenian politics say Ghukasyan's resignation should be viewed in light of another event. Specifically, the Prosperous Armenia Party has nominated its

National Assembly Deputy, Samvel Balasanyan to run for the mayoral post. It has been reported that prior to announcing his candidacy, Balasanyan had a meeting with President Serzh Sargsyan, head of the RPA, during which he got the presidents "approval".

Further speculation is that an agreement has been struck between the PAP and the RPA, which would give the mayor's race to Balasanyan. It is noteworthy that at the past parliamentary elections the PAP got more votes than the RPA in Gyumri.

Vahan Tumasyan, head of Shirak Center NGO in Gyumri, believes that Ghukasyan's leaving is an opportunity to weed out corruption.

"The real owner and head of Gyumri during the recent decade and until now is the criminal mob, and Gyumretsis, at least 99 percent of them, are its humble servant. At this moment the most important

issue is the decriminalization of Gyumri, and now its possibility is quite nearer than ever. It could be done only this way," Tumasyan says.

Political analyst Yervand Bozoyan believes that the RPA refuses to support Ghukasyan anymore, and yields Gyumri to protect its own reputation.

"Vardanik [meaning Ghukasyan] has created a criminal zone in Gyumri during these years, and with his family has defamed himself and the RPA so much that the RPA understood he has no chances to be reelected, and if he is nominated he will disgrace the party. Meanwhile PAP has managed to capitalize Gyumretsis' protest, to become a force that would be a counterbalance to Vardanik. And the RPA has decided to sacrifice Vardanik in order to protect its own reputation," Bozoyan told ArmeniaNow, adding that at the moment the RPA has no other person in Gyumri to nominate other than Ghukasyan, and time would be needed to find such a figure.

The situation is tense in Gyumri against the background of these events. On Sunday online newspapers released an open letter, where a group of Gyumretsis have expressed their concerns over Ghukasyan's family, in particular his son - Spartak Ghukasyan - who is known for his allegedly-illegal behavior.

At the same time, according to Shirakcenter.org, the mayor's son has voiced threats and swearing near Balasanyan's house saying: "You will not enjoy it."

Justice Minister: Planned reforms will end "doubts, concerns, complaints"



Armenians will stop complaining about a lack of justice in their country as a result of sweeping reforms of the judicial and law-enforcement system planned by the government, Justice Minister Hrayr Tovmasyan said on July 24.

Tovmasyan referred to a four-year reform plan that was drafted by his ministry and approved by President Serzh Sargsyan last month. It envisages wide-ranging changes in the work of courts and law-enforcement bodies as well as legislative initiatives such as the adoption of a new Criminal Code.

"I don't know if I will be minister then, but I can assure you that as a result of the implementation of this program you will be asking totally different questions in four years from now," Tovmasyan told journalists after presenting the document at a public discussion in Yerevan. He declared that Armenians will stop having "doubts, concerns and complaints" about judicial independence and overall administration of justice.

The Armenian judiciary and security apparatus have repeatedly undergone structural changes

since the mid-1990s. Public trust in them remains low, however, with the police and other security services continuing to abuse human rights and courts rarely making decisions opposed by the government and prosecutors. Only about 2 percent of individuals charged with various crimes in Armenia were acquitted last year.

"There is a lack of justice in Armenia. The courts, including the Constitutional Court, are not independent," Felix Tokhyan, a Constitutional Court judge, publicly stated earlier this month. Tokhyan complained in particular that Armenian judges challenging the authorities run the risk of arbitrary dismissal.

The reform plan presented by Tovmasyan calls for the introduction of more objective criteria for evaluating the performance of the judges. The Justice Council, a state body overseeing the judiciary, has been accused by many lawyers of arbitrarily punishing judges.

"I can't say that our courts are the most just courts in the world," said Tovmasyan. "But we have taken many, many steps that are not visible at the moment".

Repeated chance

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medalists" there have never managed to receive over one third of votes.

As for Armenia, it was only in 1996 that the "silver medalist" gained more than one third of the votes in the presidential election (the presidential candidate in question is Vazgen Manukyan who polled about 42% of votes).

According to official data, Stepan Demirchyan - the presidential candidate who proceeded to a second-round run-off in 2003 - gained slightly more than 30% of votes, while ex-President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received 21% of votes during the 2008 presidential election.

It is noteworthy that based on the outcome of the 2003 election, the Armenian authorities refused to carry out the Constitutional Court's ruling to hold a vote of confidence in the incumbent head of state Robert Kocharyan. As far as the 2008 presidential election is concerned, it was said in the memorandum sent by acting U.S. Ambassador Joseph Pennington to the Department of State that the ex-President Levon Ter-Petrosyan actually gained up to 35% of votes and a second round of voting was to be held.

The current post-election configuration in the NKR allows us to say that there are now favorable conditions for strong political opposition to be formed in that unrecognized state of the South Caucasus.

Such an opportunity first arose in the post-war NKR in 2004 when Edward Aghabekyan won the second round of Stepanakert mayoral election and then founded Movement - 88 Party. However, strong political opposition has not formed later in the NKR for a variety of objective and subjective reasons. The outcome of the 2012 election offers a repeated chance of that.

This chance is based not only on one third of votes gained by V. Balasanyan and his charisma as a Hero of the 1991-1994 War, but also on the intellectual support given to him by former Deputy Foreign Minister of the NKR Masis Mailyan (the "silver medalist" of the 2007 presidential election) who currently serves as Chairman of the Public Council for Foreign and Security Policy of the NKR.

Besides, the abovementioned Movement - 88 Party led by Edward Aghabekyan, as well as a small party called Social Justice may become basic political organizations for opposition. Karen Ohanjanyan, the leader of Social Justice Party, is also the coordinator of Helsinki - 92 Committee in Nagorno Karabakh.

As regards V. Balasanyan, presently he is a military man, rather than a politician, which is obvious even from his election campaign videos. The transformation from a military man to a politician is a rather complex process, but the first steps taken by the general can be assessed as quite successful.

The future of the opposition in the NKR will depend to a large extent on:

- the steadiness of its financing and structural organization;
- the ability to adequately react to domestic and external situations;

- the ability to make one's positions clear to society;
- regular participation in election campaigns at all levels.

There are all prerequisites for this. Moreover, being an unaffiliated deputy of the parliament who was elected in a single-mandate constituency, V. Balasanyan stands a chance of forming a small deputy group composed of the current parliament's deputies elected in such constituencies.

The proper functioning of steadfast and strong opposition in the NKR is one of the most important conditions for the formation of the unrecognized republic's statehood.

On the whole, voting passed off peacefully and in line with the law, which was confirmed by numerous observers (including parliamentarians) from the United States, Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Poland, Cyprus, Hungary, Bulgaria, Israel, Argentina, Uruguay, as well as from Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Transnistria.

V. Balasanyan recognized the election outcome with some reservations and did not congratulate the winner Bako Sahakyan.

The reaction of the international community to the presidential election in Nagorno Karabakh was, on the one hand, expected and usual. In particular, the matter concerns the negative reaction of Baku and Ankara. Particularly, Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the presidential election in the NKR "yet another attempt to unilaterally legalize the illegal actions".

NATO, the European Union, Latvia, and Georgia issued statements about non-recognition of the election held in the NKR.

On the other hand, the statement of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, namely Robert Bradtke (U.S.), Igor Popov (Russia), and Jacques Faure (France) was more adequate. They stated that they acknowledge the need for de facto authorities of Nagorno Karabakh to strive to organize social life of the population democratically by means of such procedures, adding at the same time that "like other countries, the three countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group do not recognize Karabakh as an independent and sovereign state" and that the July 19 electoral procedures "in no way impact the final legal status of Nagorno Karabakh and the results of the current negotiations on a lasting and peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict".

In conclusion, we should point out another important peculiarity of the last presidential election in the NKR. The fact of the matter is that this was the second national election in the NKR (the first was the 2010 parliamentary election), in which voters of the new generation took part. They were born in a state, which is de facto independent of Azerbaijan, although it is unrecognized by the international community. Also important is the circumstance that the proportion of new-generation voters in the NKR will grow with each year.

The OSCE to support the expansion of the women participation in political life

The head of the OSCE Yerevan Office, Ambassador Andrey Sorokin announced a number of initiatives, which will contribute to expansion of women's participation in the political life on the eve of the Armenian 2012-2013 local and presidential elections. The Government of the Netherlands provides financial assistance for the implementation of the programme.

"The participation of women in economic and political spheres, as well as in public life is an important factor to provide a democratic progress. Women's positive impact in public life is undeniable", noted Sorokin.

A number of events will be implemented within the framework of the project, including training seminars on best practices to encourage women as leaders, decision makers and candidates, to improve



gender issues in policy development, capacities for effective advocacy and work with media.

"I am impressed by the determination and enthusiasm of civil society and believe that their work will help to provide women's high participation in the local elections," mentioned the Netherlands Ambassador Pieter Jan Langenberg after a meeting with the representatives of the public organizations, which will implement the programmes.

Georgia's neutrality in Karabakh conflict is more effective - Armenian ambassador

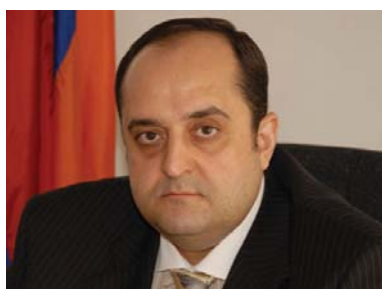
Georgia's neutrality in the Karabakh conflict issue is the more effective position, Armenia's Ambassador to Georgia, Hovhannes Manukyan, told News.ge.

He recalled that the OSCE Minsk Group was established to settle the conflict, and the settlement talks are conducted along its lines.

"Armenia is convinced that this format is contemporaneous, and it exerts political efforts to achieve success within its framework," noted the Ambassador, and added:

"Sadly, the cases of Azerbaijan's ceasefire violations have increased in recent times, and this resulted in a great number of human losses at the line of contact of the parties.

[But] Armenia does not leave these provocations unanswered. The number of Azerbaijan's casualties exceeds that of the Armenian



side, but our severe reaction is forced and it aims to not allow for the conflict's escalation.

The Armenian side does not respond to sporadic shots. Azerbaijan's tactic shows that this country does not wish to follow the principle of peacefully settling the conflict.

And with respect to Georgia's neutrality toward the given conflict, this is the more effective position, as of today, which could contribute to peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict."

Great Britain supports Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peaceful settlement within Minsk Group format

Great Britain is assisting the peaceful regulation of Nagorno Karabakh issue within the framework of OSCE Minsk Group operations. British Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Azerbaijan Peter Bateman came forth with the statement, Armenpress reports citing Azerbaijani mass media.

"Jointly with our European partners we are ready to step up efforts for the peaceful settlement of the issue based on the principles of self-determination, territorial integrity and non-use of force" Bateman noted.

To the question how the diplomat refers to Nagorno Karabakh current

stage and whether Great Britain is for Euro Union role activation in the process, Bateman was quoted as saying, "Great Britain is not a key player in conflict settlement: it is the OSCE Minsk Group headed by Co-Chairing states to deal with the issue.

Referring to the application of Northern Ireland conflict sample in the case of Nagorno Karabakh, Bateman stated Northern Ireland conflict's emerging preconditions differ from that of the NK conflict. However, the Ambassador underscored that there were common traits between these two processes, which if necessary will be utilized in Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement.



US congressmen continue praising Nagorno Karabakh presidential elections

Members of Congress, among them Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), the Ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Brad Sherman (D-CA), a senior member of this influential panel, and Adam Schiff (D-CA) continue to congratulate the citizens and leaders of Nagorno Karabakh on the democratic conduct of their most recent presidential elections, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

The legislators join Reps. Ed Royce (R-CA) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ), the Co-Chairmen of the Armenian Caucus in welcoming Nagorno Karabakh's July 19th Presidential balloting, which resulted in the reelection of incumbent Bako Sahakian over two challengers. Some 110 international observers, including those from the U.S., Canada, EU, former Soviet republics, and Armenia gave high marks to the elections.

In a statement issued immediately after the election, Rep. Berman said: "I commend the people of Nagorno Karabakh for continuing to organize their governance on a democratic basis. I also congratulate President Sahakian on his success in the July 19 election. I wish him good luck in leading Nagorno-Karabakh toward a final settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, one that fully respects the right of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination."

Congressman Sherman, who led the initial charge back in the mid-1990s for direct U.S. aid to Nagorno Karabakh, said: "I congratulate President Bako Sahakyan of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh on his reelection. Since independence, Artsakh has developed a democracy and a vibrant civil society despite remarkably

difficult challenges. I also congratulate the people of Artsakh on their record of democratization. I will continue to work in the House Foreign Affairs Committee to make sure our foreign policy is supportive of the independence and prosperity of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic."

Rep. Schiff issued a statement congratulating the citizens of Nagorno Karabakh on the conduct of free and fair elections: "Last Thursday, the people of Artsakh went to their polls to elect a new president in what has been widely reported as a free and fair election. I offer my congratulations to President Bako Sahakian, and wish him well as Nagorno-Karabakh Republic continues its hard-won progress." He added that, "By their continuing devotion to freedom and democracy, despite two decades of violence and threats from its larger, richer and undemocratic neighbor, the people of Artsakh have reminded the world of their commitment to representative government. Their cause is our cause, and they will continue to have my strongest support."

"I couldn't be prouder of the highly successful free and fair presidential election in Nagorno Karabakh," said Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), who, along with Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA), is one of two Members of Congress of Armenian heritage. "Despite decades of violence and threats from overpowering, undemocratic neighbors, the people of Artsakh have maintained an unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy, and they will always have my support."

Rep. Speier concurred, noting "Democracy lives in Nagorno Karabakh! The fifth free and fair presidential election in the

Republic is a true testament to the commitment and independence of its people and proof that Democracy can bloom in an area of the world where there is little."

Congressman David Cicilline (D-RI), whose home state of Rhode Island has recognized the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, stated: "I congratulate the Nagorno Karabakh Republic on holding another free and fair presidential election - showcasing democracy in action for the rest of the world. In addition, I would like to recognize the invaluable contributions of former Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch, who assisted as an international observer."

Rep. Jim Costa, who represents much of California's Central Valley, said: "The United States stands with the people of Nagorno Karabakh because our citizens share so many of the same foundational ideals, including a commitment to the values of freedom, human rights, self-determination and democracy. With these most recent elections, the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic have truly lived up to the promise of democracy,"

As reported earlier, Rep. Pallone welcomed Artsakh's elections by noting, "It is heartening to see [Nagorno Karabakh's] continued dedication to peaceful democracy," adding that, "I am pleased the Republic continues to hold regular parliamentary and presidential elections that have previously been viewed as free and fair by international observers." Rep. Royce stressed that: "These elections represent the strength of the democratic process in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and are a testament to the commitment of the people in Artsakh to the Republic's sovereignty."

The success of anti-Armenian resolutions in Swedish Parliament is almost impossible

The possibilities of Turkish initiative to adopt resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh in Swedish Parliament are almost impossible. Armenpress was informed about this from President of Congress of Armenians in Europe Karo Hakobyan. Hakobyan highlighted that Swedish parliamentary parties have stable formed opinions about Armenian Genocide, the Republic of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan.

"The possibility of success of the bill presented by Turkish deputy Mehmed Kaplan is very negligible but it does not mean that we should stop to be careful" assured Hakobyan. In his words during the discussions before the holidays the last initiative of that deputy on Artsakh was failed. In it was mentioned that Armenians have "occupied" Karabakh and it must be under the control of Azerbaijan. The Turkish deputy represented the approaches of Azerbaijani side. The deputies of



the Parliament were against this project. There even were not concrete discussions and the bill failed. The Turk Deputy represents the party of "Greens" which is against any anti-Armenian policy; it means that the initiatives of the deputy are personal" he highlighted.

"There are not any pro-Azerbaijani approaches in Sweden, just the opposite public institutions, Parliament and Media have very strict position on that country, especially after the song

contest "Eurovision 2012" mentioned Hakobyan. He informed that a Swedish deputy was implementing a lobby for Azerbaijan. And even the Prime Minister condemned it declaring that "Such work for dictatorial country like Azerbaijan is unacceptable".

Mehmed Kaplan already for a long time tries to provide service for the Azerbaijani authorities and to present an issue about Nagorno-Karabakh in Swedish Parliament representing the official position of Azerbaijan.



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- ♦ **667. Nalbandyan street**, 7/5, 48sqm, 1room changed into two, excellent state, euro repaired, AC, lift. Price-86.000USD
- ♦ **684. Mashtoc avenue**, 5/4, 37.4 sq.m., 1 room, stone building, a need to repair, old tiles, no water and gas, balcony looks at the avenue. Price: 70.000 USD
- ♦ **69. Khajaznuni street**. 9/2, habituated. 50.6 sq.m, 1 room, capitally repaired, euro windows, Ariston, permanent hot and cold water, no balcony. Price: 52.000 USD
- ♦ **645. Baghramyan Street**, 5/1, 48 sq/m, newly repaired, iron door, euro windows, doors, AC, cabin, water tank. Price: 72.000USD

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **1445. Sayat-Nova street**. 5/4, 73 sq.m. 2 rooms, stone building, capitally repaired, furnished, h-3 m. Price: 150 000 USD
- ♦ **1467. Mashtoc av.** 8/5 81sq.m.2 made 3 , stone , special project , old but repaired, always running hot and cold water, looking at the Sun. Price 125.000\$
- ♦ **1440. North Avenue**, 3rd floor, 110sqm, 1 bedroom, newly built, euro repaired, furniture, parking, h-3m, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, heating system. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1459. Baghramyan Avenue**. 5/3, 55 sq.m., 2 rooms, capitally repaired, h-3.8 m, balcony, iron door, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, furniture and techniques. Price: 49. 000.000 AMD
- ♦ **1458. Bryusov street**. 9/8, 68 sq.m., 2 rooms, normal state, Baxi system, Czech tiles, showcases, wood doors and parquet. Price 75.000 USD
- ♦ **1469 Tumanyan st.** 4/3 50sq.m. 2 rooms, repaired, furnished. Price 47.5mln. AM dram
- ♦ **1357. Pushkin street**, 8/6 floor, 77 sq.m., 2 rooms, newly built, furniture, techniques. Price 165000\$

3 ROOMS

- ♦ **2474. Koryun Street**. 5/3, 100 sq.m., 3 turned into 4, euro repair , euro windows, permanent gas, balcony, 2 AC, opportunity. Price 160.000 USD
- ♦ **2454. Moskovyan str.**, 5/2, 180sqm, normal state, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, permanent water, gas. Price 370.000USD
- ♦ **2453. Koryun str.**, 6/4, 100sqm, 4 rooms, euro repaired, 2 lavatories. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2429. Ekmalyan street**, 10/9, 178sqm, 3bedrooms, 3lavatories, capitally repaired, AC, parking. Price-360.000USD
- ♦ **2393. Moskovyan street**, 5/3. 110 sq.m., euro repair, logha balcony 17 sq.m., permanent hot and cold water, cube 700 l, electric heating system, natural gas, Ariston, 2AC, satellite. Price: 400 000 USD
- ♦ **2335. Mashtots Avenue**. 4/4, 95 sq.m., 3 rooms, 2 bedrooms, stone building, euro repaire, euro doors and windows, open balcony, permanent hot and cold water, concrete cover, beech parquetry, h 3 m, closed attic. Price 125000 USD
- ♦ **2348. Abovyan Street**, 4/2, 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, concreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 250000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **2395. North Avenue**. 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1710. Sayat - Nova str.**, 1st floor, 420sqm, 2 rooms, 2 lavatories, entrance from street. Price 1.000.000USD
- ♦ **1727. Baghramyan str.**, 2 storied, 230sqm, capitally repaired, entrance from street, garage. Price 350.000USD
- ♦ **1725. Hanrapetutyán str.**, 1storied, 171sqm, 2 entrances, capitally repaired, permanent hot and cold water. Price 500.000USD
- ♦ **1703. Northern Avenue**, 9/7, 66sqm, capitally repaired, heating, lavatory, 30000AMD service rent, view to Teryan street. Price 220,000USD
- ♦ **1553. Kasyan street**. 170sq.m., working fashion saloon, large windows, facade-15m, 1room+foye, h=2.80 m, cellar 30 sq.m. Price 500 000 USD preliminary
- ♦ **1598. Nairy Zaryan street**, 180 sq.m., 1st floor, a working restaurant, hall-100 sq.m. 1st line, repaired, tonir. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1383. Nalbandian St**, cellar + 1 story, 30 sq. m. cellar, 90 sq. m. story, Euro repair, hall, kitchen, lavatory, 24-hour hot and cols water, gas supply, suitable for a bar or restaurant. Price: 512.000USD
- ♦ **1603. North avenue**, 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1 sq.m. 10 000 USD
- ♦ **1588. Tigran Mec street**, 256 sq.m, 5/1.2 ,

trade area, stone building, euro repair, 1st floor trade area - 210 sq.m., 2nd floor 46 sq.m. residential Area. Price: 600 000 USD

LANDS

- ♦ **1756 H. Qochar str.** 1000 sq m, 2-storey brick building - 1200 sq m, old repaired. Price: 1.200.000 preliminary
- ♦ **2122. Davitashen**, 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- ♦ **1869. Cascade**. 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **2121. Centre**, land-1338sqm, 1100 sqm has permission for building. Price-2million USD
- ♦ **2107 Monument**, 2400sqm, permission for building, 2 projects to build 3 storied building, possibility of water, gas, electricity, beautiful view of city and Ararat. Price-500USD per sqm.
- ♦ **2033. Tsakhkadzor**, New Quarter, 600 sq.m., 1st line, asphalted road, premises, designed for construction of residential house, with all communal conveniences. Price: 120 USD for 1 sq.m.
- ♦ **1939. Kotayk region**, Aghavnadzor district. Land 5000 sq.m., suitable for building a resort place. Price negotiable
- ♦ **2011. Proshyan street**. Land 400 sq.m. for building a house, privatized, 2nd line/ near the garden/. Price 1 sq.m. beginning from 700 USD
- ♦ **2013. Cascade**. Land 1000 sq.m. For public construction needs, First line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price for 1 sq.m. 580 USD
- ♦ **2028. District of Erebuni**, Arin-Berd street. Land 2 acr. With a 2 storied partially built building, water, electricity plastered.h=4.20m. Price 1 sq.m, 50 USD
- ♦ **1402. Hr. Kochar St**, 1,100 sq. m, personal plot, front -25 m, privatized, empty, possibility for building communications. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1351. Monument**, 2,000 sq. m, privatized, front - 17 m, APZ permission, for social purposes: suitable for a restaurant, hotel. Price negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **2725. Nork-Marash**, building - 733.25sqm, land-620sqm, semi-basement +2floors, euro repaired, semi-basement is sport room, sauna, summer room, pool, fireplace, 1st floor- sitting room, 1 bedroom, cabinet, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Spanish tiles, 2 AC. Price - 500.000USD
- ♦ **3348. Blur, Barbyusi**. 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, building-700 sq.m, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.5 million USD
- ♦ **3059. Vahagni community**, total-1500sqm, building-280sqm, 2.5 storied, newly built, not lived in, 1st floor-living room-44sqm, kitchen, family room-24sqm, 2nd floor-3bedrooms, 3 lavatories, garage for 2 cars, cellar, security system, possible to sell with furniture. Price 490.000\$.
- ♦ **3210 Aygestan community**. 2 stories, land: 480 sq.m, building: 310 sq.m, 1st floor is not repaired, garage, 2nd floor: repaired, kitchen, lavatory-tiled, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi system, a place for barbeque, garden, trees Price: 270.000 USD
- ♦ **3292. Arabkir**, 2 floors, land - 1200 sq.m, building - 340 sq.m, 4 rooms, newly built, repaired, euro windows and doors, sauna, 2 swimming-pools, 5 bathrooms, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, Jacuzzi, fireplace, laundry room, cameras, 2 satellites, garage for 2 cars, basement, fruitful garden, brick fence. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦ **3313 Blur, H. Emin**, 3 floors, land - 550 sq.m, building - 450 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 6 bedrooms. Price: 1 600 000 USD
- ♦ **2916. Ashtarak highway**, village Nazrvan. 3 storied building. Land 3500 sq.m., building 760 sq.m., euro repair, 3 tiled lavatories, a sauna, billiard, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, garden, pool, garage.The building is ramparted. Price 50000 USD

NEWLY BUILT

- ♦ **74. Cascade, Verin Antarayin**. electricity, water, gas, euro window, drywall, no exploitation fees, parking - 15.000 USD. 136-315 sq m. 1 sq m - 1200 USD
- ♦ **107. Monument, Verin Antarayin**. inhabited, 8th floor cockloft, gas, window, street view - 1 sq m -1000 USD, city looking - 1 sq m -1500 USD, parking - 4 million preliminary, price: started from 40 sq m
- ♦ **100. Leo str.** half basement parking, 1st floor - shops, 2nd floor - office spaces, elevator, equipped kitchen, central heating, water, height - 2.80 m, beautiful view, will be ready to for use at the end of 2013. 60-300 sq m. 16 floors
- ♦ **87. Sayat-Nova street**, newly built building Given to the operation in December 2012. Climate control, gas, the fasad sector has 3 bedrooms-188 sq.m, 199 sq.m, 1 sq.m- 1900 USD, 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight- 117 sq.m, 120 sq.m, 124 sq.m, 1 sq.m-1700 USD Price: 1 sq.m- 1900-1700 USD
- ♦ **93. Kievyan street**, newly built building Given to the operation in October 2011, gajats,

windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas supply, the second floor has a parking lot, parking is



possible for sale. Price 12 000 USD possible with mortgage, for 13 years term

- ♦ **94. Masiv**. Newly built, , coupling, 8 flats, in each cottege 4 flats, total-2000 sq.m, each flat has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking: 80 sq.m. Price: 160 000 USD

FOR RENT

1 ROOMS

- ♦ **1109 Teryan Str.**, 4/2 1 room transformed into 2, 47 sq.m, newly euro repaired, euro windows and doors, furnished, equipped, security camera, Ariston. Price: 500 USD
- ♦ **1009. Teryan str.**, 4/3, 1room changed into 2, 50sqm, euro repaired, furnished, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique, ariston heating system. Price 800USD per month, 60USD per day
- ♦ **1096. City Centre, Heratsu Str.**, 5/3, 1 room, newly repaired, furnished, equipped, bedroom sheets and dishes, heating, satellite. Price: 400 USD, 15.000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **1005. Lalayanc str.**, 11/5, 1room changed into 2, euro repaired, furniture, permanent hot and cold water, gas, AC, spanish tiles, technique. Price 600USD per month, 40USD per day
- ♦ **853. Amiryán street**, 10/7. 1 turned into 2, 50 sq.m., euro repair, Italian furniture, bed, utensil, techniques, permanent water, gas, antenna, Baxy system. Price 700 USD, 50 USD per day

2 ROOMS

- ♦ **2064. Aygedzor**, 7/1. 2 rooms, 60 sq .m, capital repair, euro windows, Baxi system, AC, heating floor, camera, cabin. Price 800 USD
- ♦ **2037. Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, modern furniture, spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, AC, technique. Price 100USD per day
- ♦ **2189 Vardanants str**, 24/12, 1 bedroom, newly built, 90 sqm, repaired, furnished, with elevator. Price: 450 000 AMD
- ♦ **2057. Sayat-Nova**. 11/4, 2 turned into 3, 78 sq.m., capitally repaired, Baxi system, furniture, techniques, AC, satellite. Price: 1 day- 80 USD, a month- 900 USD
- ♦ **1961. Tumanian street**, 4/2, 86sq.m., 1 bedroom, Euro repair, Euro windows, Furnished, permanent hot and cold water. Price: 1200 USD, 1day: 70USD
- ♦ **2186 Buzand str**, 7th floor, 2 rooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, equipped, internet, security system, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, underground parking, beautiful view. Price: 900 USD, 20 000 AMD per day.
- ♦ **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 220.000 AMD, per day - 50\$

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- ♦ **2005. Northern Ave.**, 8/8, 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD
- ♦ **1998 Buzand Str.**, 9/6 3 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, water, gas, heating, view to Republic Square, parking, no service fee. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **2008 Komitas, Vagharshyan Str.**, 7/3, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired, furnished, heating, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1739. Pushkin str.** 6/5, 3 bedrooms, newly built, capitally repaired-2 bathrooms, parking, price: 1600 USD
- ♦ **1723. Northern Ave**. 8/4. 3 bedrooms, 170 sq.m., 3 bedrooms,3 bathrooms, newly built, repaired, furnished , open kitchen, Falkon system. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1942. Teryan str.**, 4/2. 3 bedrooms, 120 sq.m, repaired, furnished kitchen, washing machine, AC, 2 bathrooms, open balcony. Price: 1200 USD
- ♦ **942. Teryan str**. 4/3. 2 bedrooms, 130 sq.m, concrete, Hgt. 3.50, loggia-2, tile/ital., renovation. Price: 1500 USD
- ♦ **1969. Amiryán str**, 12/11. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 180 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system

- installed, climate control. Price: 1700 USD
- ♦ **1970. Vazgen Sargsyan str.**, 10/8. 2 bedrooms, newly built,, 150 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1967. Pushkin str.**, 8/6. 2 bedrooms, newly built, 130 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1966. Ekmalyan str.**, 10/5. 3 bedrooms, newly built, 170 sq.m, capitally repaired, furnished, 2 bathrooms, Baxi heating system installed. Price: 1300 USD
- ♦ **1951. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /13, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 122 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, usage fee included. Price: 2000 USD
- ♦ **1950. Buzand/Mashtots crossroad**. /8, 2 bedrooms, newly built, 163 sq.m, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, furnished, heating system, climate control, open balcony, view to the garden, usage fee included. Price: 2500 USD
- ♦ **1137. Moskovyan str.**, 6/1, 2 bedrooms, lavatory, pool, normal state, furnished, technique, DVD, AC, permanent hot and cold water. Price 1100USD, possible daily rent.
- ♦ **1790. Byuzand street**, close to Abovyan st., 7/5, newly built, 2bedrooms, euro repaired, 2 balconies, furnished, baxi, technique, 2 lavatories, garage. Price 1600USD per month.
- ♦ **1787. Koghbeci street**, 13/6, 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, furnished, 2 lavatories, central heating. Price 1700USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1793. Teryan street**. 260 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capital repair, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), newly built Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1564. Tumanyan street**, 7/4. 110 sq.m.,



euro repaire, 2 lavatories, Spanish tyles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, Baxi system, satellite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.

- ♦ **1720. Amirian Street.**, 18/10, 2 bedrooms, 190 sq/m, newly built, euro windows, permanent hot and cold water, gas, central heating, 2 open balcony, nice view to the city, possible with or without furniture, parking for 3 cars. Price 3000USD per month negotiable, for long term - 6 months and more.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦ **1191 Aygestan**, 2 floors, land 350-400 sqm, building - 270 sqm, 1sr floor - living-room, kitchen, study. 2-nd floor - 4 bedrooms, bathroom, storage room, partly furnished, summer garden, garage, swimming- pool. Starting Price: 3500 USD.
- ♦ **1218. Cascade, freeway**. 3700 sq m, 3 floors brick building - 1490 sq m, capitally repaired, walls - otto chento, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, heating, gas. Price: 12.00 USD
- ♦ **999. Aygedzor 1st lane, Land** -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors` 310 sqm, capitally repaired, 4 bedrooms, living room, hall, 4 bathrooms, new furniture, equipped, 3 AC, Baxi, sauna, swimming-pool, house garden, barbeque equipment. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1094. Noy block**, 2 storied building - 400sqm, garden, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, technique, 1 lavatory, gas. Price 2000USD
- ♦ **1095. Aygestan**, 1 storied building - 105sqm, 3bedrooms newly built repaired, furniture, technique 1 lavatory, garden. Price 1000USD per month, 100USD per day.
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, 4 storied building, each floor-160sqm, total-400sqm, euro repaired, 1st floor- garage, sport room, swimming pool, 4 bedrooms, summer kitchen, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, furnished, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 4000USD
- ♦ **1152. Baghramyan**, 3 floors, land - 800 sq.m, each floor - 200 sq.m, 10 rooms, 7 bathrooms, newly capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 TV, heating system, garage. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **1197. Blur str**, 2 floors, land -779 sqm, building-720 sqm, first floor from the yard, basement on the street side, swimming-pool, sauna, living room, 1st floor - hall, study, dining room, 2 bathrooms, 2ond floor -4 bedrooms, 1 study, 4 bathrooms, barn, no furniture. Price 8000 USD
- ♦ **1096. Blur**, Qeru, 5 floors, each floor 160 sqm, land-400 sqm, euro repaired,1st floor-gym, garage, 3rd floor-4 bedrooms, open balcony, nice view, summer kitchen, fireplace, swimming-pool, 5 bathrooms, Jacuzzi. Price: 4000 USD
- ♦ **211. Ajgedzor**. 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutfull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD
- ♦ **721. Blur Qery street**, land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, tele-

phone, refrigerator, washing machine, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 lavatories, a pool, camin, permanent hot and cold water, a cellar is used as a sport hall. Price : 3000 USD

- ♦ **1117. Aygestan**, land-420 sq.m., building 646 sq.m., 3 storied, 4 bedrooms, open kitchen, euro repair, new tiles, furnished, techniques. Price" 5000 USD
- ♦ **1195. Nork**, Armenakyan str, 4 floors, land - 2000 sqm, building-520 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished, basement, 1st floor-1 living room, study, kitchen, bathroom, living room, swimming-pool, sauna, 2nd floor - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor - open balcony, 1 bedroom, bathroom, gym, garden. Price: negotiable
- ♦ **1142. Dirvej**, Bagrevand community. 3 storied, land-1000 sq.m., building-700 sq.m., 1st floor-cellar, pantry, playing room, kitchen, lavatory, 2nd floor- a big hall, kitchen, dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3rd floor- resting room, 1 bedroom repaired, each bedroom has its lavatory, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary/garage for 2 cars, parquet, Spanish tiles. Price: 4 000 USD.
- ♦ **1114. Gulakyan Str. in parallel with Baghramyan Str.** 3 storied building 500 sq.m., euro repair, 1st floor: sauna, a pool, kitchen, 2nd floor: kitchen, dining room, 3rd floor 3 bedrooms, lavatories in each floor. Price: 3300 USD
- ♦ **1190. Aygestan str**, 3 floors, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1203. Blur**, H. Emin str, 3 floors, land - 550 sqm, building-450 sqm, capitally repaired, furnished. Starting Price: 6000 USD.
- ♦ **1219. Monument**, Aram Cholakyan str, 3 floors, land - 800 sqm, building - 300 sqm, newly capitally repaired, partly furnished, euro windows and doors, 1st floor - 2 rooms, garage, 2nd floor - 1 bedroom, 2 rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathroom, 3rd floor- 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, water, gas, heating system. Starting Price: 5000 USD
- ♦ **1085. Aygestan district**. 2 storied stone building, land 500 sq.m., each floor 12 X 14, 3 bedrooms, a cabinet, 3 lavatories, a cellar, a sauna, kitchen with cupboards, Baxi system, AC. Price 3000 USD
- ♦ **1139. Komitas, Sundukyan street**, 2 stories, stone building, land : 700 sq.m, each floor 185 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, cellar 185 sq.m, , capital repair, Baxi system, swimming pool, a place for barbeque, 2 lavatories, garden, 1 cabinet. Price: 3000 USD
- ♦ **333. Nork**, 3 storied, 250sq.m, euro repair, 4 bedrooms,7 lavatory, permanent hot and cold water, central heating, natural gas, garden, pool. Price negotiable.
- ♦ **1014. Nork Marash district**. 2 storied, a cellar, capitally repaired, land 567sq.m., building 551 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 1 cabinet, furnished, a heating system. Price 2500 USD primary.
- ♦ **1076. Nork**, 2 storied, 220 sq.m., euro repair, in the 1st floor 2 rooms, kitchen, lavatory, in the second floor, separate entrance, open kitchen, 3 bedrooms, lavatory, furnished, view to city, garage, garden. Price: 2000USD
- ♦ **990. In Monument, Papazian street**, 2 storied stone building + half-cellar, has mansard,5bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2bathrooms, laundry, permanent hot and cold water, gas, plot of land 250sq.m, the size of whole construction is 370 sq.m. Price 2500USD

PREMISES

- ♦ **1694. Komitas, H. Qochar str.**, newly built, vitrines, front 20 m, 196 sq m, Price: 3500 USD
- ♦ **1693. Malatia-Sebastia**, 4rh floor., repaired, stone building, 2 entries, no artificial walls separating the territory, climate control, 2 elevators, storage space at the ground floor, parking, two-sided parking in the street. 1200 sq.m. Price: 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1525. Hanrapetutyán street**, 1st floor, 3steps up, h-3.20m, repaired, 1 large hall+3 rooms, 2 entrances, kithen, lavatory. Price 1400USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1526. Byuzand street**, 5/semi-basement, 170sqm, 4-5 step down. cellar-50sqm, has 6 rooms, the largest is 30sqm, 2 entrances, 2 lavatories, 6 windows from street side. Price 2000USD per month, negotiable.
- ♦ **1528. North Avenue**, 9/1, 2 floors, total area 159sqm, 1st floor-66sqm, 2nd floor 93sqm, newly built, euro repaired, has the entrance from the street, security system, heating system. Price 7500USD per month.
- ♦ **1482. North Avenue**, 210 sq.m., 1st floor, with 2 floors, h=8m. Price 10.000 USD
- ♦ **1408. Zarobyán street**, parallel to Baghramyan, 2 storied, 300sq.m.construction, 600 sq.m. land, in a first floor hall and kitchen, in a second floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capital euro repair, gas, baxi system, permanent hot and cold water, telephone, garage, fruit garden. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦ **1438. Komitas**, 6 floors, cellar, mansard. Each floor is 120 sq.m., hasa need for cosmetic repair, walls are plastered, floor is leveled, hanging ceilings, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price: Negotiable
- ♦ **1462. Teryan street**, 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

The Army News: Next NATO Delegation Visits Armenia, Next Meeting on Implementation of Demining Program, Next OSCE Contact Line Monitoring and Next Azeri Soldier Surrenders Voluntarily

Azeri villagers attack with sticks their snipers who shoots to Armenian peasants



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief correspondent

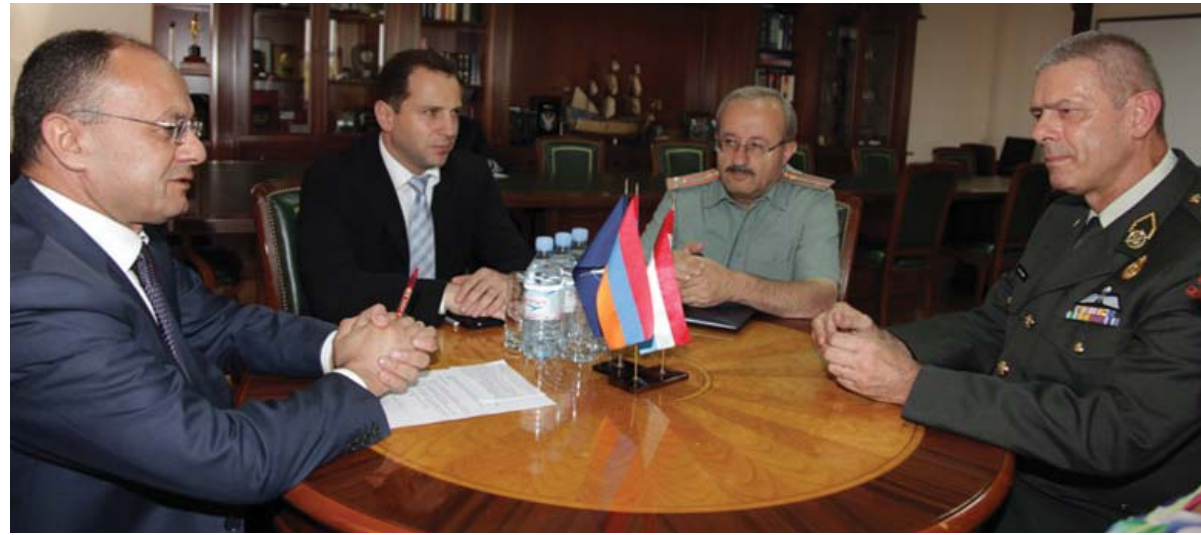
A delegation led by Chief of Joint Chiefs of Military Medicine Services of NATO member and Partnership for Peace (PfP) Program participant countries, Chief of Military Medicine Service of Netherlands Brigadier General **Rob van Der Meyer** was in Armenia, between Wednesday and Friday, July 25-27, on a working visit.

Defense Minister **Seyran Ohanyan** received General van Der Meyer on Thursday, MOD Press service informs.

During the meeting, they discussed the prospects for experience exchange, the approaches toward the challenges facing modern medical services, adjusting of work methods, and carrying out effective cooperation between the Armenian Armed Forces' Department of Military Medicine and the medical services of the armed forces of NATO member countries.

It was recorded that effective cooperation can be implemented between the Armenian Armed Forces' Department of Military

Medicine and the Kingdom of the Netherlands Armed Forces Military Medical Service, by way of making use of the opportunities for conducting professional training and holding joint military medical exercises and symposiums.



On July 23 First Deputy Defense Minister **Davit Tonoyan** had a meeting with the Head of Program Implementation Division of Swiss Foundation for Mine Action **Valery Fabroni**. According to the MOD Press service, they discussed issues related to implementation of the program of demining of Armenia's mined territories. **Ruben Arakelyan**, Director of "Humanitarian

Demining and Expert Center" who participated in the meeting, expressed readiness to collaborate with Swiss Foundation and contribute to implementation of the Program.

On Wednesday July 25 OSCE mission held a regular monitoring

OCSE reps situation in the frontier villages, ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani side, focused their attention on the fact that in the recent months population there has been suffering from the fire from the opposite side, and such cases have becoming more

ly, News.am reports.

Col. Mkrtumyan met with field assistants of the Personal Representatives of OSCE Chairman-in-Office Antal Herdich and Irjie Aberle on Wednesday after the monitoring held along the line of contact between the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"Firing at peaceful citizens is a serious violation of the Geneva Convention. Targeted fire at the peaceful citizens is equal to murder," Mkrtumyan said.

Referring to a series of provocations undertaken by Azerbaijan within the last month, the representative of the General Staff said that during the previous monitoring Armenia stated that it would be reluctant to resort to retaliatory measures.

"However, we were forced to undertake adequate actions to finally calm down the Azerbaijani side. Therefore, I am asking once again let the Azeri side know that our patience is not endless. Armenian soldiers adhere to the Geneva Convention but our patience may run out, they felt it a month ago," said Mkrtumyan.

The rep of the General Staff said that the Armenian side offered to hold direct meetings between the representatives of the commands, and representatives of local communities in the future.

"I am sure this will have a positive impact on maintaining the ceasefire. In addition, we have evidence that the Azeris, the residents of border villages, attacked with sticks the soldiers who were firing at our villages. This suggests that peaceful population of Azerbaijan does not welcome the shooting at Armenian civilians," he concluded.

Meanwhile the RA MOD disseminated an info according to which on July 26, at around 06:00 am, in the north - eastern part of the Armenian - Azerbaijani border/contact line, a serviceman of the Azerbaijani Republic Armed Forces **Firuz Farazov** has crossed the border and so has surrendered to the Armenian militaries.

The Azerbaijani has been arrested, investigation is being carried out, said **Artsrun Hovhannisyan**, the Press Secretary of Defense Minister.

Meanwhile the Azerbaijani side has issued a statement which said that the soldier had got lost that's why he was found on the Armenian side.

Commenting on the above-mentioned statement, Mr Hovhannisyan told Panorama.am that "Normally, at 06:00 am a soldier either should be asleep or should be on frontier position. A soldier crossing the border of his adversary waving a white flag doesn't seem to be lost."



at the line of the contact between the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The monitoring was conducted in direction of Aygepar village of Armenia's Tavush Region and Alibeyli village of Azerbaijan's Tovuz Region.

From the Armenian side, the monitoring was carried out by the Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office's field assistants **Antal Herdic** and **Irjie Aberle**.

From the Azerbaijani side, the monitoring was conducted by field assistants **Hristo Hristov** and **William Pryor**.

Also a visual contact was established from a 300-meter distance, and for six minutes-between 11:23am and 11:29am Armenia time -, Armenian News-NEWS.am reporter informs.

No ceasefire violations were recorded during the monitoring.

According to our sources at the Armenian Defense Ministry, on the monitoring completion Messrs Herdic and Aberle had a meeting with the Mayors of Aygepar, Nerqin (Lower) Karmraghbyur and Movses villages of the Armenia's Tavush Marz. The latters presented to the

and more frequent. **Manvel Kamendatyan**, the Head of Nerqin Karmraghbyur village, said the Azerbaijani side has recently intensified shots targeted at civilians. At the same time, Movses village Head **Lyudvig Aperyanyan** claimed that no day passes without shots, while the Aygepar village Head **Andranik Aydinyan** added that shots targeted at peaceful residents have become more frequent.

Two civilians were wounded by the Azerbaijani bullets in June and July.

OSCE field officers, accompanied by the RA Armed Forces reps, visited also Nerqin Karmiraghbyur village where they met local resident **Gor Piloyan** who was wounded on July 21 due to shooting from Azerbaijani side when the latter was doing agricultural works.

The Armenian side is ready to remove snipers from the border, an Armenian military said.

Representative of the General Staff of the Armenian Armed Forces Colonel **Andranik Mkrtumyan** said Armenia welcomes the initiative and is ready to implement it but not unilateral-



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World Vision Summer Camps are now supported by Cronimet Foundation

Amongst tough economic conditions of their families that lead to their untimely maturity and bothersome life, many of Armenian children can only share just one joyful highlight in their lives - the summer days they spent in World Vision's Christian Summer Camps. It is almost 14 years World Vision turns the summer of vulnerable children in Armenia into uninterrupted moments of enjoyment when games, food, intellectual and sports activities are all fun. Church and Government Relations Manager at World Vision Armenia Karine Harutyunyan kindly agreed to tell more about the Camps.

- 14 years on now, we can see how well established are World Vision's Christian Summer Camps. How did the programme start and was it all that easy at the beginning?

- Some 14 years ago, World Vision had less presence in Armenia, and of course the organization did not have as many staff members back then. At the beginning we initiated yard camps in three communities of Armenia and our aim was to create a somewhat different environment for children who used to spend their summers idly at home. We developed a busy schedule with games, development and recreation activities for yard campers. Also, balanced meal was provided to them several times a day. We wanted children's parents to feel secure for their kids and not worry about them during the day. With the scarce human resources, yet due to immense efforts, our experience turned to be very positive. Gradually we reached the point when the camps became full-time and currently last seven to ten days. More importantly, we recruit children from all 199 communities that World Vision works at.

- Why do you think that Summer Camps are vital for children?

- We are all aware about the statistics that every third child in Armenia is considered poor, aren't we? We are also aware that the majority of parents, especially in rural areas, often struggle because of the scarce financial means and that their children have no opportunities for an arranged holiday during the summer period. World Vision's Summer Camps proved to

be a life-changing experience for nearly 2,000 campers each year that provides an ample chance to be refreshed and to build deeper life skills - such as communication, perseverance, listening, problem-solving and teamwork. There is no



reason for kids to be bored in the camp when there is a whole world of outdoor play waiting for them. Sports activities for kids are designed for everyone there. Campers are also given classes in hygiene, nutrition, as well as, traditional forms of art such as sewing, drawing, singing, theatre-performing are also taught. All these kinds of fun is mixed with well-maintained accommodations and four-times meal a day.

- World Vision Camps are



Christian and Bible study classes are practiced there. Could you tell more about that?

- World Vision's main mandate is to stand next to the Armenian Church with the mission to support and give a hand to the most vulner-

able in communities. Bible study classes are inspiring for campers as the students for the Theological Seminary of Holy See teach them Christian values and together with them pilgrimage to ancient Armenian churches. World



Vision's aim is to promote more for the young spiritual leaders to know better their community young members, as well as children to see

that their spiritual leaders are young, very friendly, human and supportive. We wanted to break the stereotype and show the campers

that priests not only can provide Biblical classes but can also play football with them. There are children who keep correspondence with their camp spiritual leader when they get back home. Also, many of theology students

involved in Summer Camps initiate visits to orphanages and homes for children. One trigger for that, amongst others, is their newly acquired skill of communicating with children during the camps.

Let me also mention that the



World Vision runs other joint projects with the Armenian Apostolic Church, with the main focus on the spiritual education. We develop

handouts and educational materials for Sunday school children and teachers. Besides, depending on the community needs, we establish computer classes, illuminated manuscript, sports, singing and dancing clubs

and a Puppet Theatre for children and youths.

- Who are World Vision camp leaders? How is their selection



processed by World Vision Armenia?

- World Vision's Summer Camps leaders have a very important role; they volunteer, they are very caring and devoted. We select young people - either graduates

from the Pedagogic University or those who have an experience of working with children; many of them are our ex-campers. It is a must for our organization that camp leaders are trained on child protection issues, World Vision's core values and mission, as well as acquire the first aid skills. Along with children, camp leaders have to follow the set rules and camp curriculum. Three camp leaders are attached to each group of children consisting of at most 12 campers.

- How much does World Vision spend on a child during the whole stay in the camp?

- We spend in average 4000 AMD per a child per day. Let me just mention that World Vision Summer Camps are all possible due to our donors from the UK, US, Canada, France, Germany and Taiwan. These are ordinary people that have regular jobs in their countries. Most of them even have never been in Armenia. If you ask me which part of World Vision's Summer Camps is Christian, my answer will be - everything about them, because they are done with great love.

- For how many more years World Vision is going to arrange its Christian Summer Camps?

- When you visit World Vision's Summer Camps, the smiles on the faces of children speak volumes; for them a "summer camp" is a place where creativity reigns, friendships flourish and confidence grows. Summer Camps should be ongoing; there is no doubt about that. This year we tried to organize fundraising locally, within Armenia. We appreciate very much that Cronimet Foundation listened to us and donated some 12mln. AMD. That helped to recruit more children to the camps this year. It is the culture of donation that World Vision wants to instill in Armenia. We have to care for and support each other. Just want to thank all World Vision donors both abroad and our local partner Cronimet Foundation once again and say that their support is hugely appreciated!

- Thank you Ms Harutyunyan, for your time. We wish Summer Camps to be sustainable and recruit more and more children.

- Thank you for your kind interest and wishes.

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Ambassador Aves meets with Junior Achievement of Armenia students at summer camp

His Excellency Jonathan James Aves, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia, was the guest speaker at Junior Achievement of Armenia summer camp where more than 140 high school students from different regions had convened. The Ambassador gave a brief history of his personal background and spoke of the UK's desire to boost its bilateral relationship with Armenia, underscoring the importance of Armenia's interests being satisfied if there was to be peace and stability in the region. He called on the students to excel in their studies and to pursue attaining different skills in life since today's world requires flexibility and diversity. He gave his own personal example of changing careers from being an academic in Russian history

to that of a diplomat. The students heard with great interest the reasons why the Ambassador and his wife Ms. Katherine Jane Leach had decided to share the post of ambassador in Armenia and how they work as a Team Ambassador.

The youngsters addressed numerous questions to the Ambassador ranging from his family situation to the UK's stand on genocide recognition. The Ambassador answered all of the questions with pleasure. The discussion was followed by a photo session of the students with the Ambassador. The Ambassador

shared his impression of the meeting with the youngsters "It was a delight to meet such a lively group of young

commented for running this programme which gives young Armenians the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and broaden their horizons".

The event is part of Junior Achievement's "Entrepreneurial and Civic Activism of Young People of Armenia" program, which is funded by USAID. Throughout the year, the students learn about free enterprise and set up their own businesses during the academic year. The students also study corporate social responsibility and set aside a portion of their profits to serve the community. To carry out

their public activities, the students establish NGOs that apply for grants from Junior Achievement of Armenia. The successful grant applicants receive an award of AMD 115,000, which is used to implement different projects benefiting their communities.

The summer camp is the culmination of the program. The high achieving students are selected for this seven day event where through different activities they come to reinforce their knowledge of economics and civics. JAA's executive Director Armine K. Hovannisian concluded: "It was a big honor for us to have the Ambassador speak frankly with the students on issues that interested them. He is certainly an exemplary person and gifted a day to the students which they will remember for a long time".



people. I was impressed by the range and thoughtfulness of the questions they asked me. The JAA is to be

News from VivaCell-MTS

The winners of the special draw organized by VivaCell-MTS for buyers of handsets identified

The winner of the special draw won a trip for two to Spain, and the other 287 winners got valuable mobile devices from VivaCell-MTS.

On July 25 Armenia's leading mobile operator announced the results of the draw organized for the buyers of phones from VivaCell-MTS service centers from May 14 till June 10, 2012.

Overall, 288 prizes were established. The winner of the main prize of the special draw won a trip to Spain, the country-winner of 2012 European football championship (by the day of the announcement of the draw, the winning country was not known yet). The other 287 winners of the draw got valuable mobile devices from VivaCell-MTS, such as two HTC Flyer tablets, as well as five BlackBerry 9700, five Google Nexus S, twenty five MTS Ego, fifty MTS 551 phones, and 200 two hundred "MTS Connect Diamond" USB modems.

The draw was open to all those who bought MTS, HTC, Black Berry, Samsung Galaxy Nexus or Samsung Google Nexus phones from VivaCell-MTS service centers from May 14 till June 10, 2012.

The winners were identified by a computer system that chose randomly from the IMEI codes of the mobile devices obtained during the abovementioned period.

The winners received their prizes at VivaCell-MTS Headquarters.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between VivaCell-MTS and Kentron Administrative

District of Yerevan

On July 24 VivaCell-MTS and Kentron (Center) Administrative District of Yerevan announced the beginning of cooperation. VivaCell-MTS General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** and the Head of the Kentron Administrative District of Yerevan **Ara Sadoyan** signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The MoU outlines the spheres of cooperation between Armenia's Leading Telecommunications Operator and the Administrative District for the year 2012. In particular, organizations will implement

porting projects aimed at the development of the city cannot be overestimated, and as a responsible corporate citizen, VivaCell-MTS cannot stay apart but to agree to extend hands to support Kentron Administrative District.

"The center of the capital is a national value belonging to each and every Armenian. We have to cherish it as much as possible. The center of the city is the place where from the guests of the city can form impression of the whole Nation, observe the architectural ensembles of the capital, as well as the level of

of Yerevan", said the Head of the Kentron Administrative District Ara Sadoyan.

VivaCell-MTS started cooperation with payment system "Rapida"

On July 23 VivaCell-MTS announced launch of cooperation with Russia's biggest payment system "Rapida" for accepting prepaid and postpaid payments for VivaCell-MTS.

Always at the forefront of intro-

Immediate payments for goods and services, banking transactions and money transfers can be realized in 90,000 payment points across Russia. Transfer of funds to the payee may also be done with the help of mobile phone payment service "Rapida" Online.

The payment system "Rapida" cooperates with the Russian Post, the largest Russian and foreign banks, retail sales networks, trade and service enterprises, including leading mobile operators and fixed line, commercial television, Internet service providers, utilities and many others.

"City Talks" tariff plan - now in two options

On July 21 Armenia's leading telecom operator announced that the "City Talks" postpaid tariff plan offered to individuals and small businesses is now available in two options.

Depending on the individual needs of communication, one can choose between the options of embedded services, provided for AMD 5500 monthly fee.

Embedded Services	Option 1	Option 2
On-net airtime (minutes)	1500	1500
Airtime to RA other networks (minutes)	150	0
SMS to RA GSM networks (SMS)	150	150
Internet (MB)	0	1500

As before, in case of consuming beyond the mentioned limits, the cost of services is charged according to the set tariffs.



joint projects in the spheres of public education and culture.

The cooperation is aimed at the development of the center of Yerevan city. Kentron Administrative District is both the cultural and business center of Yerevan. The majority of cultural, administrative and educational institutions of Yerevan are located in the center of the city. The center of Yerevan is one of the most important reference points of visitors in Armenia as well as Armenians, and a venue for different conferences, cultural and state-national celebrations, open door concerts and exhibitions.

In this context, the need for sup-

the country's development. The center of the capital is the place where one can see the marks that shape the historical and social development of the city, and Armenia at large", VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian told.

"VivaCell-MTS' care towards our capital, especially the Kentron Administrative District, is much appreciated. I am confident that the results of our partnership will be visible in the near future. The projects and activities implemented jointly will help visitors to receive more complete and impressive information about our city. Not by chance it is said, that the Kentron Administrative District is the heart

ducing technological innovations, VivaCell-MTS, Armenia's Leading Telecommunication Operator, saves no efforts to provide its subscribers with all the convenience of all available technologies for a better lifestyle.

"Rapida" is successfully operating in the Russian market with instant payments since 2001. The payment system "Rapida" is licensed to conduct banking operations and is a part of "Nomos Bank" Group. The company offers a large network of payment points, including cashiers' desks in shops for household appliances and in the Service Centers of mobile operators, self-service terminals and ATMs.

Faster growth likely in 2012, insists government



Armenia's economy can grow this year significantly faster than originally forecast by the government and international lending institutions, Economy Minister Tigran Davtyan insisted on July 23.

Davtyan said an economic growth target of 7 percent set by President Serzh Sargsyan is "absolutely realistic," citing strong gains in industrial and agricultural output shown by official statistics in the first half of this year.

The government forecast late last year that economic growth in the country will slightly slow to 4.2 percent in 2012. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank came up with virtually identical fore-

casts before slightly revising them downwards this spring.

Sargsyan announced last month that a GDP growth rate of 7 percent is his "primary expectation" from his newly reshuffled government.

"I think that the fairly high 7 percent target is absolutely realistic," Davtyan told a news conference. "Of course, one can now find few economies in the world that have such programs for this year, and we will do everything to achieve such a pace of growth. Our indicators for the first six months make us optimistic."

According to first-half government data cited by Davtyan, industrial production in the country rose by

13.5 percent. The Armenian agricultural sector similarly expanded by 8 percent in this period.

The government's most recent growth data is for the first quarter of the year. It shows a 4.7 percent GDP increase.

"We can now conclude that there are quite positive economic developments," said Davtyan. "Structural changes are underway within the economy. I would call those changes positive."

The minister cautioned at the same time that faster growth targeted by the Armenian authorities could be hampered by a weak global economic environment resulting, in large measure, from Europe's sovereign debt crisis.

Asad Alam, a senior World Bank official, said last month that external factors will influence the country's macroeconomic performance. "I think the 7 percent growth rate is achievable but it is very much based upon what the government is able to do in the remaining parts of the year and also the global economic environment," Alam said in Yerevan.

azatutyun.am

8-9% growth expected in Armenia's agriculture - Minister



An 8-9-percent agricultural growth is expected in Armenia by the year's end, Agriculture Minister Sergo Karapetyan stated during a press conference on July 26.

Presenting the results for the first six months of this year, Karapetyan said there are significant improvements. Specifically, the agricultural products increased

by 8.1 percent in January-June 2012, as compared with the same time period in the year past.

Also, crops increased by 28 percent, livestock grew by 2 percent, and pisciculture went up by 25.2 percent.

There is a particularly great success in apricot collection. A total of 13,300 tons of apricot are already exported, as compared with the 7,300 tons of last year. And they will still be collected for 10-15 days. The local purchasing companies have already bought 6,150 tons of apricot, as compared with the 2,830 tons of the year past.

A high number of grapes, peach and apple crops are expected, too. And the sole problem is connected with the grain crops, yet gross harvest is up by 4-5 percent.

"Rosagrolizing" Russian subsidiary company enterprise in Armenia

"Rosagrolizing" Russian subsidiary company should be set up in Armenia in the near future. As "Armenpress" reports Minister of Agriculture Sergo Karapetyan mentioned at a news conference followed by the government session, that the company is going to take up agricultural technology, greenhouse farm equipment sales with long-term and low rates.

This year, significant changes in the agricultural sector are registered. The highest growth was registered in the field of plant-growing-28%, 25.2% growth is registered in fish-breeding and 2% in livestock sectors. "Armenia is in the leading position with the growth of livestock in the whole CIS

area. These developments will continue till the end of the year: we expect to have 8-9% growth: we have all the prerequisites for it", mentioned the minister.

To his word, there are great achievements in the fruit-growing sphere: if last year 7300 tons of apricots were exported, then in the first half of this year the amount was 12 thousand 130 tons. Storage volumes have also grown, and the harvest is still going on. There are some certain difficulties in terms of grain plants. Compared to last year, per hectare crop yield may reduce, although the total volume of gross domestic product will increase by 4-5%. "Our greatest achievement is the increase of the sowing areas

with 25 thousand 300 hectares, and the main task is the sale of the product which is provided by export", noted Sergo Karapetyan.

The minister also highlighted the harvesting process. Activities are being carried out and all the purveyor organizations operate for it.

"One of the unresolved problems is the reduction of the fertilizer prices, supply of diesel fuel and machinery-tractor parks modernization", mentioned Sergo Karapetyan.

According to the National Statistical Service in the first half of this year the volume of gross agricultural output increased by 8.1% amounting to 203 billion 575 million drams.

Haypost reopens 3 renovated post offices in Ajapnyak and Shengavit districts of Yerevan

On July 25 the reopening ceremony of 0036 and 0048 post offices in Ajapnyak and 0086 post office of Shengavit took place.

The press service of Haypost CJSC informed that 2 post offices of Ajapnyak, one of which is 45m², the other 95 m², and one post office in Shengavit of 150m² area joined the ranks of modernized post offices of Haypost.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Juan Pablo Gechidjian, Managing Director of *HayPost Trust Management*, the managing staff of Haypost CJSC and representatives of Ajapnyak and Shengavit administrative districts, as well as the local population who came to get introduced to improved conditions of their post office.

Each modernized post office including the front and back offices is capitally renovated. The new image developed for HayPost is reflected in every post office, which is completely refurbished and rebranded according to the new image. The modernized post offices began providing services with modern IT technologies, state of the art software and on-line connection to the head office, which

allow providing faster and efficient postal, financial and commercial services to the population. Each modernized post office is equipped with new security and safety equipment and technology. Modernized post offices have a designated retail area for the sale of magazines, newspapers, books, stationary and other products. *Service Corners* offer to the public Internet, Photocopy, Fax, Printing, and Scanning services. Employees in modernized post offices are provided with new uniforms and undergo all the training programs, and they are ready to assist Haypost customers.

HayPost Trust Management intends to develop the traditional postal services, as well as to introduce new modern, more demanded by the population commercial and postal-financial services, such as catalogues sales, motor, travel and visitor insurance, courier and other services.

Haypost ensures equal opportunities for provision of services to the residents of cities and remote rural areas. The quality of provided services is permanently increasing along with the development and introduction of a new modern range of products and services.

Government to assist Argentinean-Armenian businessman's viticulture program



The grapes of *Tierras de Armenia* Company, which is established by Argentinean-Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekian, can now be used for producing Armenian brandy.

The Government of Armenia on July 26 made a change in one of its previous decisions, whereby the

list of grape varieties permitted to produce Armenian brandy was specified.

And with the Government's decision, several new grape varieties are included in this list.

To note, the *Tierras de Armenia* Company started its operations in Armenia in November 2004, and it acquired a 2,300-hectare brown land. And with the Company's fifteen-year development program, at least 80 percent of this land is envisioned to become cultivable.

Around 300 hectares of vineyards are planted along the lines of this program.

Sergo Karapetyan hosted the Iranian Ambassador to Armenia

During the meeting with the newly-appointed Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Reisi, the Armenian Agriculture Minister Sergo Karapetyan attached importance to the further expansion of bilateral connections, especially in the spheres of plant growing and cattle-breeding. "Armenpress" was informed about this in the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Here there are great unused opportunities. Last year I was in the Islamic Republic of Iran on official visit and signed a memorandum of mutual understanding on bilateral cooperation. Unfortunately, the required work on this important document is still not enough. I wish that with the ambassador's support we

fulfill the obtained agreements, as a first step creating a slaughterhouse complex with "Halal" trademark in Armenia", noted the minister.

Expressing his gratitude for the warm reception, the Ambassador expressed readiness to continue the consistent implementation of the agreements reached in the past and contribute to the further deepening of bilateral cooperation. Minister Sergo Karapetyan reminded that in the Armenian-Iranian intergovernmental commission meeting on trade-economic issues to be held in Yerevan, issues related to agriculture are included, so the Armenian side suggested to invite the Minister of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic.

"Foreign Investors Want Predictability in Armenia" Thoughts Spoken Aloud by Anthony (Tony) Moroyan, a Veteran of Silicon Valley...



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief correspondent

Tony Moroyan is a man of a really unique life and extremely diverse professional experience. These have enabled him and people he has motivated and worked with to leave a lasting imprint on Armenia's High Tech Industry. It seems to us it wouldn't be a very big exaggeration to say that his exemplary devotion and efforts of many years has set a benchmark in Armenia for other High Tech investors.

In spite of the fact that Tony Moroyan is very well known and respected in Armenia as a top High Tech businessman and executive from the US Silicon Valley, many really do not know the extent of his expertise and achievements in the global high tech industry.

Tony has started his journey helping Armenia since 1991. Spending dedicated hours every week to help build the high tech industry in Armenia, successfully evangelizing Armenia as a preferred high tech destination for foreign investments and operations. The reason he has been able to succeed in his efforts is because of his rich and diverse hands-on experience and his extensive network in the world. Tony not only has evangelized and helped, he has also implemented much of what he had evangelized and preached about investing in Armenia both financially as well as with his time.

Many of us do not know also that Tony Moroyan's achievements and imprints are already on the High Tech industry worldwide. An industry, which has been to surpass all other industries in the world in size within 60-70 years of its debut with the invention of the electronic transistor and the integrated circuit.

It is very difficult to cover all aspects of Tony Moroyan's multidimensional achievements and capabilities as one of the influential high tech executive in the Silicon Valley, or his dedication to the Armenian community and, since 1991, his dedication to Armenia.

(Moroyan's short CV is included at the end of this story for our readers to be exposed to Tony's keen knowledge of the High Tech Industry and his achievements to give him the well deserved authority to answer the questions below about Armenia's High Tech Industry).

In this interview, I try to ask Tony Moroyan some thoughts provoking questions about Armenia's high tech industry during the last 20 years that he had been instrumental in helping to forge and some of the challenges he sees for the future relating to the high tech industry in Armenia. I am only publishing a part of our conversations during several sessions I had with him. I hope there will be the right opportunity in the near future to publish other parts of our discussions.

Gourgen James Khazhakian (G.Kh.) - Tony, what makes you tick when you hear the word "Armenia" and "Armenian"? It looks like these two words have very high priority in your life?

Tony Moroyan (T.M.) - I was brought up with strong Armenian culture and Armenian history. These further were enhanced and punctuated by my visit to Armenia in 1991. As a high tech professional all thru my life, I was lucky and blessed being right in the middle of the most exciting, dynamic and ever-changing high tech industry. I was further blessed to have extensive technical background and given the chance to have very strategic roles during my career. I had to have keen understanding of all industries and the underlying and enabling technologies all the way to the semiconductors also understand the changes that were coming faster and faster



Tony Moroyan interviewed by The Highlights in his office at the Viasphere Technopark, Yerevan, Armenia, 2012

and their impact on these industries. This is a very serious undertaking and I was in the middle of these. I and some of my teams were responsible for setting 5 to 10 years and sometimes 20 years of strategic plan for trend setting American, Japanese and European corporations. The costs for mistakes and wrong analysis were very expensive, some were over \$100 million. Having these as background, it was very natural the topics relating to "Armenia" and "Armenian" had very high priority for me and I devoted much time and efforts using systematic methodology that I was expert of analyzing and formulating long range outlook and vision.

G. Kh. - Can you give some examples of some of these topics?

T. M. - Here are the major topics that have my share of mind:

- Free and independent Armenia was a gift from God that happened during our live times. We have a country, we have very educated and high energy Armenians inside Armenia and outside and we have a flag that is recognized by the world. But, where are we taking Armenia next 50 or 100 years? What legacy we plan to leave for the next generations of Armenians and mankind? What projectile are we setting for Armenia? One of the most critical Core and all enabling industry that is already recognized but may not be well understood yet by everyone is the High Tech industry. Since its

birth just 20 years ago, Armenia progressed quite fast and with the hard work of many of us both from Armenia and outside Armenia, Armenia is already recognized as one of the leading high tech centers in the world in several high tech fields. But how do we keep the momentum going? I would say how do we enhance the current momentum to enable Armenia to achieve the next higher phase? Next phase is more difficult and complex. It requires more preparedness, planning and strategy. One of the key ingredients is the Outside ("Foreign") High Tech Investments. We better understand how we will be able to succeed in attracting these. My comments are based on my 20 years of extensive involvement in trying to help build this core Industry in Armenia and at the same time being aware of the levels and the intensity of the efforts of other

countries as well as Armenia's neighbors.

-A real case study about Viasphere Technopark, an internationally Award winning entity that houses the highest number of high tech professionals in Yerevan, Armenia. This is the first and successful commercial High Tech Technopark and Incubator in Armenia. This is a USA investment in consultation with the USA Embassy in Armenia by a privately held corporation named Viasphere International, Inc., located at the heart of the Silicon Valley, California. At the time of acquisition in 2000-2001, the facility was a dilapidated and money losing enterprise that was a burden on the state who owned all real estate at the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today Viasphere Technopark houses over 800 of some of the best high tech professionals in Armenia and 18 high tech entities that includes several leading edge foreign multinationals as well as foreign headquartered start-ups and domestic start-ups. The parent company, Viasphere International, Inc and its investor's vast network in the Silicon Valley, USA and other countries in Europe, South America and Japan have been very effective and instrumental in helping to build the high tech industry of Armenia. This of course has brought leading edge Multinationals and foreign investments, leading edge technologies, rich and advance

tools to the industry and universities in Armenia, recognition and testimony that Armenia has the ingredients to deliver and meet expectations in technology development. Today, Viasphere International, Inc. is taking steps to elevate the Armenia operations to new heights and closer to its original objectives and vision armed with new management in Armenia. This is in spite of obstacles the Armenia operations had encountered. Viasphere International objectives includes effective cooperation with other entities and centers in Armenia as well as multinationals and start ups inside the Viasphere Technopark or other locations in Armenia

- How do we fuel the international efforts to promote and attract foreign investments at the same time mobilize the high tech professionals of world wide Armenian Communities. Among many activities and events in Armenia and outside, is ArmTech Congress that we have founded in 2006 in collaboration with our high tech friends in the high tech industry in Armenia as well as the government and the universities of Armenia. We have delivered unprecedented Global High Tech Business Forum and Conference in 2007 and 2009 in the Silicon Valley. ArmTech Congress 2009 was attended and was under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Armenia. 2008 and 2010 ArmTech Congress took place in Yerevan, Armenia. The target is to deliver the newly formatted 2012 ArmTech Congress again in the Silicon Valley, CA in Nov 2012. All the previous ArmTech Congresses were made possible by the generous sponsorship of **VivaCell-MTS and Synopsys Corporation as Diamond and Partner Sponsors**. Also we have to thank other category sponsors and all the volunteers both in USA, France, Armenia, Middle East, South America and other locations that spent gigantic efforts to enable top level and unparalleled such Global Events. This includes the Government of Armenia and the universities.

- An Ultimate Vision that I and few others have started to evangelize is **The PAN Armenian Vision**. We have to think daringly. We have to think and it is about time to plan for 10 years, 20 years and why not for 100 years. Vision for 50 or 100 years with objectives, strategies and tactics how to get us there starting short term (1-2 year)s, Mid tem, and long term and very long term (50-100 years) targeting as far as our imagination takes us to forge the Pan Armenian Vision. We have the tools and the technologies, we should have the proper efforts and methodology how to go about to build this Pan Armenian Layered Network and Armenian Centers that will act as intelligent nodes and house different layers of the Armenian communities. This is a very major undertaking and requires special discourse."

G. Kh. - How important is high

tech for Armenia and why?

T. M. - In history, Empires have been built and destroyed for many reasons. One of the most important reasons is the capability and competitive advantage of advance weapons which are the product of the advance technologies. Today more than ever in the history of the human kind the advance technology plays a very critical role. This includes materials, architecture, but above all the electronics and the power of communications and networking. It is said that Information is the ultimate wealth and weapon. Countries very fast are being differentiated as "Information Poor" and "Information Rich". The countries that cannot keep up and become "Information Poor" will lose to "Information Rich" countries. This will happen if we choose or not. If we do not choose, i.e. plan to make efforts to be "Information Rich" our faith will be decided for us and we might not like the results of the choice's.

If we analyze both the technology and Information, we see that the enabling layers are heavy dependent on High Tech which includes Information Technology.

Everything we touch at home, at work, on the road, in any vehicle, in the sea, on land, in the air or in the space is driven by High Tech. Let us take a look at Armenia and where high tech is playing a key role: Not only computers, tablet PC's but also appliances in the kitchen (Microwave oven, refrigerator, espresso makers, even knives, etc.), Entertainment systems (TV, HI FI, Cameras, projectors, any equipment), communications (cell phones, land lines, networking, IP telephony, satellite communications, etc.) Transportation (Navigations, GPS, tracking, control systems in the city, e.g. the traffic lights, etc.) banking (networking, all the terminals, ATMs, cash payment terminals, international funds transfer, credit cards, ATM card, loans, credits, etc.), Government (taxes, communications, weapons, monetary systems, laws, courts sessions, archives, etc.) and everything. Of course, the confidentiality and security measures, reliability, back ups, power grids and systems, etc. etc...

How can any country not make the High Tech (which includes the IT industry as a core) as one of the very core strategic industries? Without this, the country is destined to be "Information Poor" and subservient. The concerning and the scary part is that the rate of change and new technologies are being introduced and being obsolete is getting faster and faster. Catching up in the future will be harder and harder. Armenia has to choose: to be "Information Rich" or "Information Poor". I say Armenia has to be "Information Rich".

G. Kh. -You have been continuously engaged in helping build Armenia's high tech industry

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"Foreign Investors Want Predictability in Armenia" Thoughts Spoken Aloud by Anthony (Tony) Moroyan, a Veteran of Silicon Valley...

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When did this start and why?

T. M. - I was invited to the first Conference in 1991. We had newly created free Armenia at the fall of Soviet Union. My interest was high tech industry. Being somewhat familiar to the High Tech activities of Armenia during Soviet Union, I saw Armenia in ruins as far as the High Tech industry was concerned. All lines with Moscow were severed and suddenly no more funding was available from Moscow. No more technology, no more joint activities, no more outsourcing orders from Moscow and no more demands of designing or manufacturing any products from Moscow. The situation seemed desperate.

The provisional government had organized this conference to bring Armenian businessmen and executives from all businesses. The purpose was to start collaboration of receiving help in terms of funds, joint ventures, and strategic ideas.

The total who participated from the Diaspora were about 60-70 people, if I am not mistaken. Only few were from the high tech industry. As a result, the demand was very high on my time and on the time of two of my colleagues.

I was asked to have many meetings and trips to many factories, Academy of Sciences, institutes, Universities and meetings with government officials.

I was asked to give a high level High Tech related advice to this newly born country with very limited resources and aging factories, & infrastructures, unreliable telephone land lines, the Universities had aging systems, tools, etc. Although the graduates had very strong background in basic sciences and computer science.

I was very positive and coming from one of the very active high tech multinationals and being involved in Silicon Valley Strategic Policy teams and Affiliate Programs between the Universities and the government and the industry as well as very involved in the strategic teams that were very intimately involved in the short, medium and long term strategic planning of Japan, and the upcoming South East Asia countries like: Singapore, S. Korea, Taiwan, etc. (the "Tigers") and taking into consideration of Armenia's land locked, very few natural resources but small size, highly educated population and literacy rate and Armenia's achievements in high tech during the soviet Union, I was able to provide many short, medium and long term strategic advice how to bring up the high Tech industry. The government was in its infancy and trying very hard to get on its feet. There were the old soviet era managers who had operational experience and new generation with more open minds and eager to be westernized. I also realized many habits that I was told were very nor-

mal during the Soviet times but they were very strange to us westerners. I regard the creation of AUA as Joint Venture of Armenia Government, University of California (UC) system with the collaboration of AGBU as one of very important milestones to establish the first high profile Joint Venture with the West.

I was asked to create a high tech



Tony Moroyan showing a special US Congressional Recognition to honor ArmTech Congress 2009 in the Silicon Valley, California at Fairmont Hotel signed by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo.

joint venture under the name of Armenian Technology Group (ATG) - this is not the same ATG operating today which is mainly in agriculture, etc.). Our ATG included High Tech manufacturing plant (Mars), Computer group, Power semiconductor group, Ministry of Telecommunications, and a newly formed Silicon Valley based high tech start up to focus on Armenia.

G. Kh. - **What are your impressions and observations for the first several years from 1991 to 1999?**

T.M. - Armenia had survived major down-turns that included energy crisis, all telecommunication and networks monopoly, not well planned start and stops by some high tech companies that included outsourcing services, currency fluctuations, slow growth and country going thru embryonic phase in building up the government, the legislation, the systems, etc. Much migration to the west.

Being in the Silicon Valley, I tried to help several High Tech professionals that somehow made it to the USA. Even helped several individuals to locate to USA and helped to find jobs with leading edge high tech companies with the clear understanding that they will return to Armenia and help in building the High Tech Industry. Many have returned and doing exactly that.

Towards the end of the energy crisis, some start ups start to show up. I and my colleagues in the Si Valley helped bring up several start ups in the USA with subsidiaries in Armenia. These few start ups had the influence to motivate the Armenian Government to be aware of and start taking steps to fix the copyright, trademark and patent laws which are vital to any High Tech company operations and protection of Intellectual property. Also, the government started realizing the need to effective telecommunication infrastructure and affordable pricing.

Our experience from the Silicon Valley which was very intense in devoting our efforts and time for Armenia were very mixed. Mentally

we had to come to the understanding that things were very different between us and the people in Armenia. This included: the values, the working ethics, etc. Many form Diaspora received scars and difficulties. There were some bright spots though.

G.Kh. - **How about during 2000 to 2010?**

T.M. - I was invited to come to Armenia after few short years of absence. The country was going thru changes and there was new way of thinking. My meetings with the government were interesting in the sense that they realized much more the importance of the High Tech industry as one of the most important cores to build future Armenia on.

Start ups were growing. The Government paid serious attention to what we were saying regarding freeing Armenia from exclusive agreement that Armenia as tied to with a Greek entity on all the telecommunications of Armenia. They have locked the country in a non-functioning and producing monopoly. Without competitive and effective telecommunications infrastructure and both cellular and internet competing providers it was for sure there was going to be no High Tech industry. Our monthly fees were astronomical (over \$20,000 per month for what we needed) compared to US or what we can get today in Armenia.

But with the encouragement of the top officials of the Armenian government and promising intents, I

impressive since it took place within 6 months of our acquisition of the facility. It was also impressive because at the opening we had already done many renovations and have located two subsidiaries of two of our start ups in Silicon Valley both related to advance semiconductors: Mosaic Systems, Inc which was in very super fast SRAM memories and Arset Logic which was in Semiconductor design tools.

Here are the very revealing questions and answers and presentation that were given by me as the Chairman of Viasphere International, Inc. During the ribbon cutting ceremony in July, 2001 by the then current president of Armenia and in the presence of the diplomats, academia officials, and industry executives. All that was said is applicable today for a foreign investor. The following questions were raised:

Question: What is Viasphere International, Inc vision?

Answer: Tony Moroyan

- Shared Vision with the vision of the Government of Armenia to make High Tech Industry a core and very successful industry.

- To achieve Commercially Sustainable Operation (Technopark and Incubator) and on going collaboration between foreign investors and the government of Armenia to solve problems in a speedy manner.

- ROI- Viasphere International, Inc. is a USA corporation and this is an American Investment and must have Return On Investment ("ROI") and protected by USA. The USA Embassy was very involved in the acquisition of the facility from the

or locate subsidiaries in Armenia. Armenia was doing this during the Soviet era very successfully.

-Promised continued government support and initiatives to help the foreign Investor to achieve its visions and objectives. Taking away obstacles that come up.

-Move towards Democracy and Stability.

Question: What are the benefits to Armenia?

Answer: Tony Moroyan

- Help in realization of Armenian's Vision re high tech

- Help demonstrate start up model and template for others to replicate

- Create sustainable and stable jobs

- Attract the leading edge technology developments and new ones for global markets

- Help modernize the university programs, tools and collaboration with the industry

- Achieve recognition for Armenia as the Powerhouse of technology and talent and destination for investments

Question: What do you need from Armenia and the Armenian Government?

Answer: Tony Moroyan

- Predictability - The laws and legislations (tax, IP related, foreign investor protection and assistant, holidays, currency) and behavior. Not only setting up the laws but the proper and fair execution of the laws set.

- Sensitivity to the Investor Needs. Keep the finger on the pulse what the foreign investor needs, what are his problems, how to help increase the efforts and investments from the foreign investors. Manage the expectations.

- Short term conducive legislation:

- Protecting Company Intellectual Property (IP): Copyright, Patent, Trademark, etc. at USA and international levels.

- Providing cost effective and competitive Internet and telephone (cellular and land line) rate and availability. Must have multiple providers and competitors. Without this there will be no high tech industry - this is the backbone of high tech industry.

- Sensitivity to the need of Start ups- Have your finger on the pulse. Start ups are the ones that will push the technologies and creation of new technologies and diversification. Acquisition of start ups could be the main reason that will bring the multinationals to Armenia.

G.Kh. - **Have you seen the realization of the above points that were made during last 10 years or so?**

T. M. - I have seen much progress in many areas. Many of the points that we made and or answers we gave to the audience at the opening in July, 2001 were realized with the cooperation of the Government, Universities and the High Tech industry. The reader can find the sta-

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Special evening event during the ArmTech Congress 2009 in the Silicon Valley, California at the Capital Club to honor Dr Craig Barrett (the retired Chief of Intel), the first ever Laureate of the RA President's Global IT Award. From right to left: RA Prime Minister Dr Tigran Sargsyan, Rich Goldman (VP of Synopsys, Inc and CEO of Synopsys Armenia), Vahram Nersissians (fmr Chief Economic Advisor of the President of RA), Robert Haroutunyan (Director of ADA), Tony Moroyan and Mike Malone (celebrated author of many books and articles on IT/High Tech including The Wall Street Journal).

was able to raise the funds to purchase an ailing factory in Yerevan. The entity, Viasphere International, Inc. a USA Corporation was set up to establish off shore high tech facility to help to support the subsidiaries of Silicon Valley start ups and corporations. Viasphere Technopark was the first one that was created in 2001.

The opening ceremony was very

Armenian Government.

Question: Why Armenia (why you have chosen to come to Armenia?)

Answer: Tony Moroyan

-Existing and proven high tech talents.

-Academic Excellence (Math, Basic Sciences and Engineering).

-Expertise in working with Companies who want to outsource

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tistics from many sources in Armenia, including the Ministry of Economy, Armenian Development Agency, EIF, UITE and other non-governmental sources.

The industry flourished and number of start ups went up drastically, I was even able to bring leading Multinational companies. One example is Synopsys, Inc., the leading EDA (Electronic Design Automation) Company in the world that acquired first two companies several years ago then the thirds one and the fourth one was acquired in 2010. This is a Silicon Valley based company with operations in numerous countries including countries that provide talents, e.g. India and China. However, the operation in Armenia which is located at the Viasphere Technopark, in Yerevan, Armenia represents the largest single R & D facility outside the Silicon Valley campus of Synopsys. Other select high tech multinational companies have entered Armenia as well that include National Instruments (USA), Mentor Graphics (USA), Cubic Corporation (USA), Damaris (French), SCDM (Austrian). These all have engineering and development teams. Other companies also have presence for various reasons, e.g. market access, collaborations, etc., e.g. Microsoft (USA).

Actually we saw interesting trend of high tech professionals returning to Armenia to set up start ups and presence.

Competitive rates and The Telecommunication and Internet access have been achieved and the on going competition is doing its job of providing better and better solutions and rates. The creation of Vivacell had set high bars as they entered market in terms of driving the reliability and functionality and rates. These are being further enhanced by all three cellular providers that include Orange (France Telecom- French) and Bee Line (Russian).

There legislation also moving forward. The IP laws are good and par with the west.

Recognition of Armenia as Preferred High Tech Destination has been achieved in the Silicon Valley and other countries. These were the result of 20 years of evangelizing Armenia, doing real leading

edge high tech successful start ups with subsidiaries in Armenia, and Global events and conferences, e.g. ArmTech Congress 2007 in SF and 2009 in the Silicon Valley as well as in Yerevan in 2008 and 2011. Also shows and conferences in Armenia, e.g. Digitec, the industry exhibition annually in Yerevan Armenia. AUA, the American University in Armenia (as joint venture) has been very successful forging intimate links with US campuses, including UC Berkeley. Other collaborations with other universities in Armenia and USA and other countries have accelerated. E.g. Stanford (Silicon Valley) and French institutions.

G. Kh. - You listed the successes and realizations during the last 10 years. How about failures, deficiencies, not realized points? What do we have to do better to be competitive and attract foreign investment for the next 5-10 years?

T. M. - The country is a small country with limited resources and with few natural resources. The international melt-down in recent years have not helped. Armenia was also impacted and is trying to recover. The advances to date have been enormous under the given circumstances.

G. Kh. - What are some of the challenges facing Armenia and things that have not yet achieved?

T. M. - Special focus and sensitivity to High tech Foreign Investments by the Government of Armenia. High tech investments have not accelerating at a rate to fuel the new growth and development to meet the next phase in High Tech industry development. Next phase will be more challenging than the last few phases that we were able to help Armenia move thru with great success and become the envy of the region. Foreign Investment cannot be taken for granted. The reason the next phase will be more difficult is because:

THE COMPETITIVENESS

The neighbors in the region are awake and trying to enhance and develop their high tech industries. Competitiveness is getting much more aggressive from many countries. These include even competitiveness within traditionally developed economies. Within these countries there are pockets or regions or states or cities that are very compet-

itive. This is very true in the USA, Italy and many other countries. Also traditionally lower wage countries in Middle East, North Africa, CIS countries, S America, etc. One should not just look at the salaries. This is one of the obvious indicators.

At the end, when all said and done, the Corporations (including the start-ups now) look at the total cost of total ownership that hits the bottom line and the profit. This is what every company looks at after initial trials. Here are some examples that might not be obvious in Armenia:

- Better Predictability (all comments relating to High Tech industry and foreign investors):

- Looking at the current laws from High Tech Foreign Investor's point of view and enhancing them

- Being very careful for new laws and legislation (forward looking laws) and their impact on Foreign Investors and Foreign Companies Operating in Armenia before finalizing the laws. In general, the Predictability applies all other items that make up the total cost of ownership.

- Keeping the finger on the pulse continuously with foreign investors and foreign companies operating in Armenia.

- Wages and deductions

- taxes,

- tax holidays (as much as possible-to keep competitive)

- ease of moving in and out funds without punitive tax and other hindrances,

- Access to the Country (airlines, goods to be send in and out),

- easy and conducive customs laws and regulations and speed of operation,

- being able to have consultant and contractors outside Armenia that are absolutely key to grow the value added business in Armenia without punitive fees and taxes. Right now one has to pay 10% withholding tax and there is a limit how much one can pay to outside contractors, consultants or operations. Also, to be able to deduct these as expense at the end of the year. This one item is very severe and will not allow high tech companies to hold outside offices and operations. This will drive foreign companies not to generate and revenue in Armenia but just use the local talent to do projects and pay them salaries. This severely impacts the motivation to move up the food chain in terms of generating more revenue or even IP that brings more income and royalties.

- Finding ways to make operations from Armenia to surrounding countries easy, efficient and cost effective, Armenia as the hub.

- Tax-free Zones. Since it is not feasible to move all companies who can generate more revenue to one locations, it could be possible to allow many centers to be able to effectively operate as tax-free zones. The issue is that a facility like the Technopark, there will be several companies that would like to utilize this to increase

their revenue moving up the value chain. But other companies at the same time and location may not want to be under very heavy restrictions to operate. To satisfy both types, it is very feasible to create the proper acceptable laws and rules and restrictions. Guess, what, I can say with high level of confidence that the number of companies that would want to take advantage of Tax Free Zone benefits and start the proper operations, e.g. final assembly and testing will rise very fast.

- Forming a small core Advisory Group and Board that is respected by the foreign high tech community to interact with them and the government and other industry groups. The Advisory group to meet with the Prime Minister or the President. High tech Foreign Investor representatives from outside Armenia, twice per year. Or other similar interactions at high level so that things can move at a strategic level and not be under administrative layers and layers. US Embassy used to do this very successfully during Ambassador Ordway. I was on of the members of the Ambassador's Round table and we met twice per year with the Embassy and received reports on all USA agencies operating in Armenia. We even met with the president Of Armenia with his ministers. There were about 6-8 of us. This kind of format will greatly enhance the communication and increase the confidence of the foreign corporations. This effort to be in addition to other industry groups that exist in Armenia.

- Global Conferences - e.g. ArmTech Congress with modified format and agenda that gets closer to Davos and involves top high tech community form abroad and the proper level of attendance form Armenia. The 2012 format will be more effective than the format of the previous years.

- Help work with the universities and the industry to prepare all levels of managers: first level, middle level and executive level. This is not easy. This requires the proper education working with universities. Besides capable managers, the foreign investor needs a manager who has high standards for ethics, values, loyalty and dependability and who will resist many bad habits. The second most important requirement after the predictability for the foreign investor is to have capable manager who are ethical, reliable, dependable and honest to help the company and the employees and the government and not be involved in unethical behavior and taking advantage of the foreign investors and their assets. The government has a major role in this to have a fast process to punish the managers, especially the top executives, e.g. The Managing Directors and make an example of him. The foreign companies that Armenia needs are the Companies that act the proper ways and pay their proper taxes, and follow legitimate laws of the country and be an example in term of ethics and management to the workforce. Bribes and devious meth-

ods cannot be encouraged and at the end everyone knows about it and when this gets in to ears of the Foreign Investor, it is a show stopper.

- Make sure that the current Foreign Investors and companies, especially the very active promoters are listened to and have been given the means to access the proper people in the government and can solve their problems or accelerate their problems to be solved so that they give good recommendations to the potential Foreign Investor. I tell you, I get many enquiries by potential investors who want to know if they should invest in Armenia, followed with 20 standard questions.

- Armenia is very fortunate to have a strong landing point in the Silicon Valley. The bridge we have built with Armenia last 20 years is an enviable asset for Armenia. This has been used last several years. We should find ways to take more advantage of this asset.

-What I think about Armenia: there is no feedback loop here. Government should be interested to go to foreign companies and meet with the foreign investor and its representative from outside the country and not just local representatives. To know what to do in order to have more investments. But, alas, there are no of such visits! None!

- Exchange rate predictability. This is a very serious one and if the variance is too big and the frequency of the fluctuations, this will effect the foreign investor to be on the cautious side in terms of the size of his investment.

I think I should say, that the progress has been phenomenal in Armenia in regards to developing the high tech industry, attract the top and leading edge players, as well as Armenia's recognition as referred high tech destination for off shore operations on leading edge technologies and products as well as for investment. With more and proper forum, the factors that will attract foreign investments can be easily formulated and discussed and I am sure find ways Armenian government can put in place the proper and very attractive and predictable environment and the flow to resolve major issues in the speediest manner.

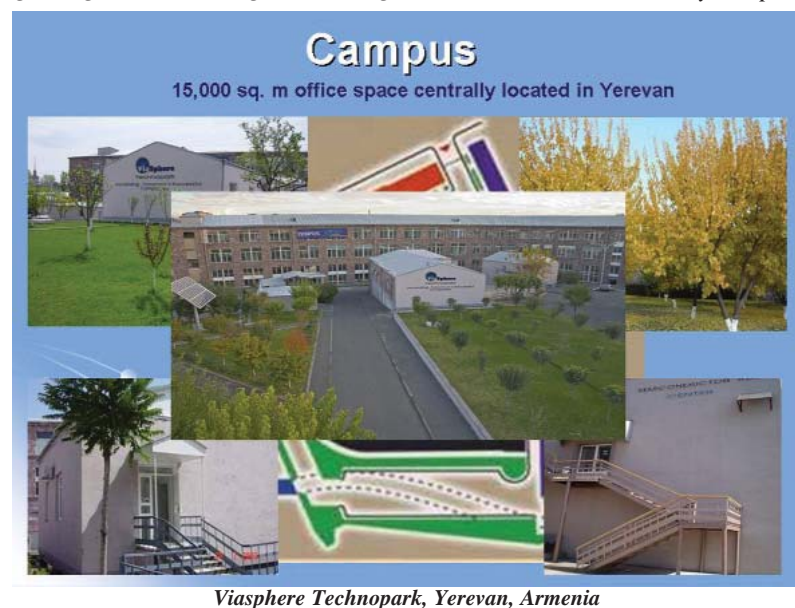
We have to attract foreign investments and operations that are interested in long term relationship and good citizenship. I am very confidence that this can be achieved.

G. Kh. - Why do you spend much time with Armenia?

T. M. - The main reason is to build the high tech industry in Armenia. Of course, this will provide high caliber and highest paying jobs and help the country. Of course I am convinced this will have direct and indirect humanitarian and social benefits.

-For humanitarian reasons, I will do that since I am Armenian. Also, I am Christian. I do not think there is

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Viasphere Technopark, Yerevan, Armenia

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another country that can come close to having the percentage of Christians as a percentage of total country's population. We promote being the first country. But we do not promote the point I make.

-For business- I really believe Armenia can be a high tech destination that actually realizes the expectations of foreign Investor as far as ROI and great experience. It is well known that charity does not last and a country should not depend on charity in building its industry. There must be no nonsense ROI. This is the only way industry and economy can sustain itself long term.

G.Kh. - How much time Armenia in general has taken from you last 20 years?

T.M. - I should say, when I landed in Armenia for the first meeting in 1991, I did kiss the soil when I got out of the airport. So did my fellow passengers. They say Armenia is like a very attractive and irresistible lady, once you kiss her you fall in love. That and along with the legacy: my father and mother who were orphans from 1915 and had gone thru a very hard live that I was told about it; my mother's surviving brother who had migrated to US in 1912 and escaped the Genocide but had volunteered in General Antranig Army to come to Armenia and joined with the Russian army to fight and free parts of Armenia. These combined with my upbringing in Lebanon as Armenian make it very difficult to turn my face away from Armenia. I have gone thru many difficulties last 20 years, some of them very hurtful, I am sure I am not the only one but as an important person said to me in Armenia, the people who will help to build Armenia are the very dedicated ones that people call them "Crazy". These are not the people who come to Armenia to take pictures, just talk, criticize, and shake hands. The Crazy ones are the ones with resilience and strength not to give up but try to change the country for the better. Of course a Crazy person must have a wife or a husband and children who tolerate him and support him. I give all the credit to my wife and my son and daughter who have sacrificed not having time with me.

I think the intensity of the statement is an

indication of the time I spend on Armenia whether I am in Armenia or in California. I can tell you that the hours I spend on Armenia if very major. This is on continuous basis every week.

By the way, I have met many domestic Armenia Crazies as well. This is what is encouraging to me!

G.Kh. - Armenia became free. This was a miracle! What is your ultimate dream or vision?

T.M. - MY GREATEST DREAM of all is to see a PAN Armenian global community. With creation of independent Armenia, this is even more feasible. We have to bring the Diaspora and Armenia together. Armenians should not look at each other and judge by the flag of their country where they were born, or the church they go, or the organization they have membership to. Armenians have always been loyal to the countries they live in. Armenians in the USA for example, are very American and will do everything to help the country and uphold its interests above all other interests. A sub-culture as being Armenian or French or Japanese only enriches USA and makes it stronger and ties to those countries and creates natural stable links and allies.

Anthony (Tony) Moroyan

Chairman of Viasphere International, Managing Director of D-Age (a VC) & Co-Founder of ArmTech Congress

Tony Moroyan is a seasoned and hands-on executive of high tech industry trend setting multinationals, start-ups, ventures capital, angel funds, M & A and spin-offs. He has been the founder, president and/or board member of several successful leading edge start-ups since 1993.

He was the founder of one of the first incubator in Silicon Valley. In 2001 he founded Viasphere International, Inc, in the Silicon Valley that in turn founded Viasphere Technopark CJSC, the First successful and award winning Commercial Technopark and Incubator in Armenia.

He has been a Sr. Advisor to select multinationals (e.g. Microsoft, Sharp, Phillips, LG and Hitachi) as well as to

Technology and industry related ministries of Japan, Brazil and The Netherlands.

Tony Moroyan was on the team at Texas Instruments that developed and marketed the first 16 bit Microprocessor and Microcontroller in the world. Later he was a founding member of Super H Series Microprocessors and Microcontrollers of Hitachi (now one of the top two in the world)

He has been recognized as one of the most influential Armenian High Tech executive in the Silicon Valley.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Mathematics, w/Minor in Physics & Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UC Berkeley. He has attended several business, management and executive courses.

His Journey with Armenia started in 1991 when he was invited by Government of Armenia to help assess Armenia's high tech level, help plan and help build the high tech industry of Armenia. He was appointed several years ago as Sr. Advisor in Silicon Valley to the Government of Armenia. Since last year Tony Moroyan was appointed as a Board Director of PanArmenian Bank, in his words, "the first true Investment bank in Armenia". Tony has been awarded many international commendations and medals for various achievements.

What makes Tony Moroyan, we would dare to say in this way, - very valuable and even unique for Armenia, is his very diverse experience in high tech industry, his achievement that have punctuated his professional career with many distinguished contribution to the high tech industry and above all his passion and continued efforts to see Armenia a top and ever growing destination for high tech advance technologies, products, innovations and preferred choice for foreign investments. He has encountered many challenges in Armenia; these have further strengthened his resolve and the resolve of the Board and majority shareholders of Viasphere International, Inc to continue extensive efforts for Armenia.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Gevorg Emin

(1918 -1998)

Over Ancient Manuscripts

I dreamed I was a monk of St. Mughni.*
I couldn't sleep - dark thoughts tormented me;
Gevorg of Ashtarak, chronicler, painter, bard,
I tossed about upon my bedstead hard,
Lover of light, sworn enemy of gloom,
I struggled with my doubts in my dark room.
First among sinners, hindmost among saints,
I lay and prayed, forsaking pen and paints.
How had it happened, heaven only knows:
Instead of frankincense, I wrote about a rose.
Instead of glorying the tree of crucifixion,
I gave the tree of life rhymed benediction.
Instead of your pure eyes, O Virgin Mary,
I drew the eyes of Khumar from the dairy
Upon the Gospels. Then the Lives of Sairits,
Instead of illustrating, with complaints
To the Almighty Saviour I amended.
Here too my list of sins was not yet ended;
Wine I called holy myrrh, and further sinned,
Extolling picnics on the grass in May's soft wind.
I kept ungodly writings in my cell;
Not only kept, but read them through as well.
Tomorrow morn, when nine shows on the dial,
Before the Holy Synod I stand trial.
Long centuries have passed, and more will pass.
How many rockets sped off to the stars!
Owls hoot among the ruins of Mugni,
Yet still I cannot sleep - thoughts torture me.
Gevorg of Ashtarak, bard, chronicler and painter,
I'm still the same, my heart has not grown fainter,
Lover of light, sworn enemy of gloom,
I lie and fight with phantoms in my room.

* Monastery of St. Mughni on Lake Sevan



Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20--Apr. 19) :

Your significant other may be acting like a horse's patootie right now, but you don't have to follow suit and play in the same court. Neither of you is being served by sharp words and irritable behavior. "Prove it if you love me" is a game left over from the cave people. Leave it alone.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

Your love of luxury and pleasure in finding a bargain may cause you to spend money on an item of personal dress or for your home. Think carefully if it's a splurge. Mercury is retrograde. Social and romantic life is favored this week. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

This is an especially social week. Love and social life blossom. Activities related to education and short distance travels are favored. You may be reconnecting to siblings or other family members. It is a fine time to have a family reunion or to pursue a love affair.

Cancer (June 21--Jul y 21) :

You have cause to feel proud of an accomplishment this week. Authority figures or others will be singing your praises. This is a good time to request favors of those who have a certain amount of power. The work environment is especially favorable now.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

This is a really good period to travel. You may be given a lot of attention for an accomplishment in your career or life direction. You have nagging concerns related to an important decision. Don't pressure yourself. Let it rest until the right answer evolves.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Working behind the scenes or staying below the radar is your best option this week. You may have positive experiences that come as gifts from another. If you are in business, this might include referrals. Dealings with children and/or a lover may bring up issues of power.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22) :

This is a wonderful week to travel. Any activities involving the internet, publishing, education, or your church are also favored. Your attitude is positive and draws interesting people toward you now. Romance and social life augur well.

Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21) :

Your vehicle or other means of transportation may interfere this week with your career. Prepare ahead by considering other options if the car is disabled. Circumstances may develop that pressure you to recognize where you stand on the Power continuum in your relationships.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 --Dec. 20) :

You may receive positive news related to legal matters, publishing, the internet, or education this week. However, before you celebrate, wait until the middle of August for a final result. Things may turn over between now and then. Traveling is favored.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

Circumstances involving repayment of debt, insurance settlements, alimony, investments, or spouse's income may be put on hold for a time this week. It will be a challenge to make anything happen in these areas. Give your attention to social and romantic life, which is working now.

Aquarius (Jan. 20--Feb. 17) :

This is a good time to discuss issues within a relationship because you are steady of mind and likely to be realistic, in relation to yourself as well as others. You intend to keep your promises. Once the issues are settled, celebrate by doing something different or unusual.

Pisces (Feb. 18--Mar. 19) :

You are a kind-hearted soul. People are drawn toward your calm appearance and generous attitudes. During this period one or more persons may tap you on the shoulder for financial help. This is likely someone whom you have helped previously. Take care of yourself in this situation.

HUMOR

A very depressed man

There's a man sitting at a bar just looking at his drink. He stays like that for half an hour. Then, a big trouble-making truck driver steps next to him, takes the drink from the guy, and just drinks it all down.
The poor man starts crying. The truck driver says, "Come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand seeing a man crying."
"No, it's not that. This day is the worst of my life. First, I fall asleep, and I'm late to my office. My boss, in an outrage, fires me. When I leave the building to my car, I found out it was stolen. The police say they can do nothing. I get a cab to return home and when I leave it, I remember I left my wallet and credit cards there. The cab driver just drives away. I go home and when I get there, I find my wife sleeping with the gardener. I leave home and come to this bar. And when I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison."

Quote of the week



**The important thing
is not to stop
questioning.**

Albert Einstein

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

MEZZO

classic house club

French Armenian singer Martin Yorgants to have concerts in Armenia and Artsakh



French Armenian singer and composer Martin Yorgants is scheduled to visit Yerevan within the framework of "My Armenia" Pan Armenian festival. In the briefing with Armenpress the festival director Samvel Haroyan stated the visit was initiated by the singer himself aimed at participating in "My Armenia" festival's Individual Performers sub festival. "As the news on the festival is widely spread in Diaspora, France inclusive, Yorgants immediately expressed a desire to participate in it" Haroyan noted.

In the frame of Individual Performers Sub festival, within July 30- August 5, Yorgants is set to come forth with the concerts in the provinces of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. Haroyan informed as well the solo concert of the singer is scheduled on July 31, in Puppet Theater after Hovhannes Tumanyan.

Over 30 performers are going to come up in "My Armenia" festival's Individual Performers Sub festival, young and already famous young performers inclusive.

Yorgants performed concerts for the participants of "Back to Home" program 7th stage, Ministry of Diaspora, in 2011. The singer had three concerts in the Republic. Besides the well known Armenian songs "Armenian's eyes", "Love You", "You are always Spring -Yerevan", "Ayb Ben Gim", "Chkuytik" the singer is going to perform Italian and French popular songs.

CLUBS

MEZZO CLASSIC HOUSE CLUB

28 Isahakyan

July 30 at 9.30 p.m.
Marina and City Project Band

July 31 at 9.30 p.m.
Lupe y la Banda

THE CLUB

40 Tumanyan Street

July 30 at 7 p.m.
Tea Master invites to tasting Chinese teas

July 31 at 8 p.m.
Film Screening

STOP MUSIC CLUB

Moskovyan Str., 37

July 30 at 9 p.m.
Suren Arustamyan Blues

COMPOTE CLUB

Koryun 19a

July 31 at 8.30 p.m.
Crayfish

NORTHERN AVENUE

August 5 at 6 p.m.
Flashmob with white T-shirt

BOURBON ST.

Teryan 19

August 5 at 8.30 p.m.
Exodus Reggae Band

CHEERS PUB

Abovyan st 3.

August 1 at 9 pm.
Lelo & Friends

CAFESJIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Cascade Complex

August 31 at 8 p.m.
Music Cascade: Armenian Jazz Band

August 1 at 8 p.m.
Piano Evening with Zhora Sargsyan

August 3 at 8 p.m.
Lighthouse New Jazz Project, Vardan Gasparyan,

July 26 - 01 at 3 p.m.
Solo Exhibition. Painting. Nerses Jaladian, Holland

August 2 at 7 p.m.
Hope in Life Spiritual Series

August 2-6 at 3 p.m.
Solo Exhibition. Sergey Shashikyan

THEATRES

G. SUNDUKIAN NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

Grigor Lusavorich st., house 6

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of the President of RA
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Ալեքսանդր Չաուշյան
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Artistic Directors of the Festival
Alexander Chaushian
Eduard Topchjan

ՀՀ Ազատության կախարարությունը և
Հայաստանի պետական
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ներկայացնում են
The Ministry of Culture of RA &
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Երևանյան միջազգային
երաժշտական
փառատոն
6
Yerevan International
Music Festival

10 Սեպտեմբեր
September 2012 20 Քոկտեմբեր
October

Արամ Խաչատրյան համերգասրահ
Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall

ARG
ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ
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Տոմար (Հայաստան) և «Ճանաչողություն» համադրությունը ամրագրված է / Tickets are available from the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall's Box Office / Տոմ. / Tel: 54 57 42

guitar,
Vardan Harutyunyan, piano
August 4 at 8 p.m.
The Gurdjieff Folk
Instruments Ensemble
Music of Gurdjieff, Komitas,
Sayat-Nova and Jivani
Lusine Grigoryan, piano
Artistic Director, Levon
Eskenian

NAREGATSI ART INSTITUTE

Vardanants 16/1

August 1,2 at 7 p.m.
The Adventures of Masha
and the Bear

H. TUMANIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

Sayat-Nova av., house 4

August 8 at 7 p.m.
Operation Nemesis

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