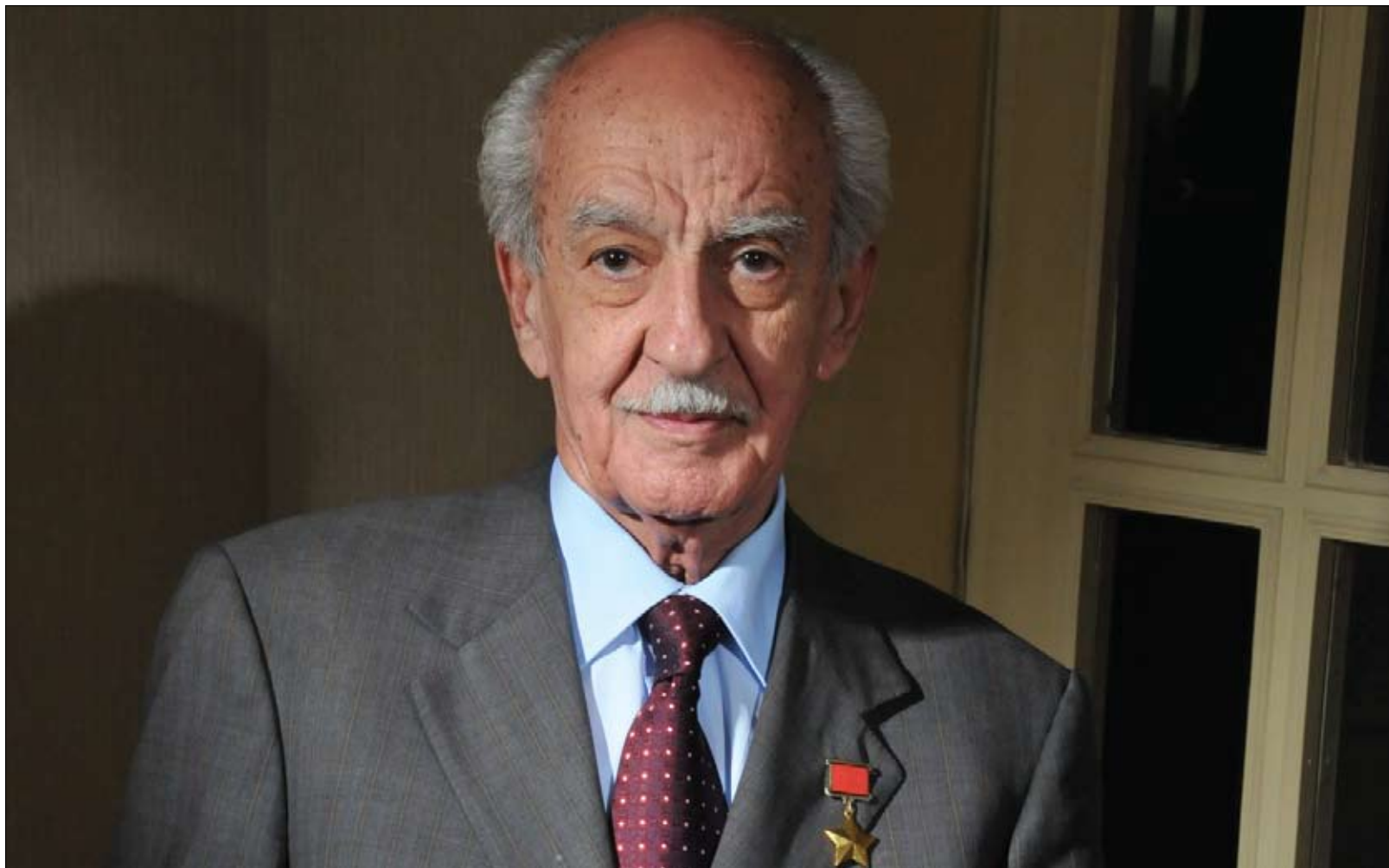




Weekly Newspaper

Published Since 1993

Gevork Vartanyan, a Soviet Armenian intelligence legend , dies at 88



He was just 19 when helped with friends derail Nazi plot to kill Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt

See p.6

Armenia: the results of this year (The foreign-policy situation)

Part 3
by David Petrosian

In terms of foreign policy, last year was ambiguous for Armenia and the Armenian leadership. There were successes, but there were problems as well.

As for successes, we should mention the improvement of Armenian-Georgian relations. No doubt, the greatest contribution to this progress was made by the two presidents – Mikheil Saakashvili and Serzh Sargsyan. No, there were no breakthroughs in that direction, but positive changes were obvious, out of which we should mention the fact of granting legal status to five religious confessions in Georgia, including the Armenian Apostolic Church. We must point out the circumstance that having taken this rather tough decision, the head of the Georgian state went against not only the head of the Georgian Orthodox Church Ilia II, but also against some part of public opinion. Last year the social and political situation in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region remained stable, although the level of that sta-

bility cannot be assessed as high. In 2011 several intergovernmental and interstate documents were signed, and there was some revival in economic ties and investments. Despite this progress, after the latest amendments to the concept of Georgia's national security, Armenia continues to have the status of a partner, rather than that of an ally – like Azerbaijan and Turkey. It is so very understandable: a military-political ally of Russia - the chief enemy of present-day Georgia – cannot expect more.

Armenia's relations with its main military-political partner – Russia remained stable. In particular, we should note the successful military-political cooperation within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the bilateral ratification of the prolonged agreement on the Russian military base. Let us remind that the amendments made expand the zone of the base's responsibility. We should also mention the successful state visit of President Serzh Sargsyan to Moscow.

On the other hand, no notable

continued on page 4

Armenia, Belarus to develop cooperation in defense sphere

Secretary of Armenia's National Security Council Artur Baghdasaryan discussed with the Minister of Defense of Belarus Yuri Zhadobin issues on deepening Armenian-Belarusian ties in the sphere of defense.

Press office of the NSC told Noyan Tapan that Baghdasaryan met with the Belarusian Minister for Agriculture and Food Mikhail Rusy. Issues on ensuring food safety in the two countries, reinforcement of bilateral cooperation in the sphere of agriculture were discussed at the meeting. The interlocutors also stressed the main directions of future cooperation. The delegation headed by Rusy will arrive in Armenia in February-March for implementing the reached arrangements.

Accompanied by the first deputy minister of industry of Belarus, NSC Secretary visited "Minsk Tractor Works" and got acquainted with the powers of the plant. During the visit the parties

discussed a number of issues on creation of service centers for Belarusian tractors in Armenia.

During the visit Armenian National Security Council and the State Secretariat of the Security Council of Belarus signed 2012-2013 cooperation program.



Spokesman for the NSC Secretary Harutyun Amiryan told Noyan Tapan, Artur Baghdasaryan met with his Belarusian counterpart Leonid Maltsev. Issues on cooperation in the security sphere were discussed at the meeting.

Arthur Baghdasaryan also met with the President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko. During the meeting Baghdasaryan expressed confidence that the delegation's visit will contribute to the reinforcement of Armenian-Belarusian relations and development of bilateral cooperation in all the areas.

President of Belarus underlined the necessity of efforts addressed at increasing the volume of trade turnover between the two countries. Alexander Lukashenko expressed willingness to discuss any cooperation proposal with the Armenian side.

Afterwards the Armenian delegation met with the leadership of the State Military Industrial Committee of Belarus. Issues on reinforcement of Armenian-Belarusian cooperation in the military-industrial sphere, including establishment of joint Armenian-Belarusian enterprises were discussed at the meeting.

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2012



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HIGHLIGHT

**French Senate
to discuss bill
penalizing the
denial of the
Armenian Genocide
on January 23 at
6 p.m. local time**

French Senate approved the January 23 agenda of its sitting which included the discussion of the bill penalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide. The discussion is scheduled for 6 p.m. local time.

The similar bill proposed by the Socialist Party was rejected by the Senate on May 4, 2011. The new bill has been proposed by the member of the Union for a Popular Movement Valerie Boyer. It was adopted by the National Assembly of France on December 22, 2011.

Armenian President meets with intellectuals

On January 12, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan visited Henrik Malian Theatre of Armen-film Studio, which has just been repaired. Here the President also met with intellectuals, Noyan Tapan reports.

Narine Malyan, daughter of Henrik Malian, artistic director of

out the issue on updating of the pop orchestra instruments, which has been completely solved.

Actor Azat Gasparyan voiced hope that the ongoing support of the state will not stop during 2012 as well and the cultural figures will refine their work.

After the repair the theater has



Henrik Malian Theater, thinks the theater is a warm hearth that hosts actors/actresses and its spectator. She said the repair of the theater lasted 3-4 months. It was repaired with the support of the Union of Armenian Cinematographers and individual philanthropists.

According to composer Martin Vardazaryan, cultural figures always feel the state attention. As an example, Mr. Vardazaryan pointed

been equipped according to up-to-date standards, new cloakrooms, make-up and rehearsal rooms have been added.

The President walked around in the repaired building, then some famous films by Henrik Malian and parts from performances were presented to him. Subsequently the intellectuals had an opportunity to communicate with the head of the republic in a frank atmosphere.

Pre-election campaign "starts" in Armenia



The Armenian Center for Political and International Studies, together with the US Democratic Institute, convened a political discussion on January 13 devoted to the economic platforms of Armenia's political parties.

The ruling coalition's Republican Party of Armenia representative Vardan Ayvazyan said they specifically underscored the conduct of a

stable economic policy.

The opposition's Free Democrats Party representative Tatevik Avetisyan focused, in the first place, on encouraging job creation and, in this sense, on the establishment of tax privileges.

Parliamentary opposition ARF Dashnaktsutyun Party representative Artsvik Minasyan likewise underscored job creation, and the taking of steps which will improve the competitive environment and increase the country's competitiveness.

And opposition Armenian National Congress representative Vahagn Khachatryan noted that, first and foremost, the market economy needs to be restored, and corruption must be combated.

Noyan Tapan Media holding invites you to take part in the exhibition of the famous artist, the member of the Armenian Artists' Union, the member of the International Artists' Union(UNESCO) **Henrik Vardenikci Sargsyan.**

The Exhibition is being held within the activities of artist's 60 anniversary.

The Exhibition will take place on January 20, 2012, at 14:00.

Address: Isahakyan 28. 3rd floor, "Noyan Tapan" Media Holding.

President Serzh Sargsyan met with the members of the newly created Commission on Ethics

President Serzh Sargsyan signed a decree to form a Commission on Ethics of the High-level Officials. Lilit Petrossian, who was nominated by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Armen Khudaverdian, who was nominated by the Prime Minister of Armenia, Areg Shushian, who was nominated by the Chairman of the RA Constitutional Court, Emil Babayan, who was nominated by the Chairman of the RA Court of Cassation and Artak Sarkissian, who was nominated by the RA Prosecutor General have been appointed members of the Commission for a six-year term.

The Commission has already convened its first meeting. At the meeting elected were the Chairman and the Vice Chair of the Commission - Emil Babayan was elected the Chairman and Areg Shushian was elected the Vice Chairman of the Commission.

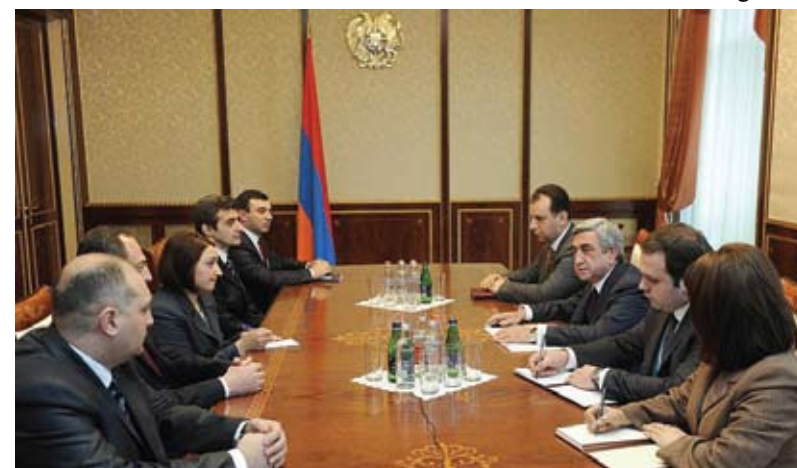
Today, President Serzh Sargsyan met with the members of the newly created Commission on Ethics. At the meeting, the President of Armenia presented his vision of the Commission's work and stressed the importance of this structure's mission.

The President noted that in recent years the Republic of Armenia has been undertaking consistent steps aimed at the reformation and improvement of the activities of the officials and the state bodies, including through the introduction and implementation of the anticorruption measures in the state structures. According to Serzh Sargsyan, the Law on Civil Service, adopted in 2011, was a logical continuation of that process. A basic requirement of the law is the creation of the ethics commission of the high-level officials.

"From now on, issues related to the creation and functioning of the Commission, will naturally be under special public scrutiny, while activities of the Commission should in fact become the standards for structural changes, better opportunities

for fight against corruption as well as for changing social attitude and behavior regarding corruption," the President of Armenia stressed.

According to the President of Armenia, the Commission's mission is to increase social trust toward public institutions in our country, create a system of good governance, as well as make activities of the high-level officials more transparent and public. He also said that the area of the Commission's expertise should include analysis and publication of the data on the officials' income and estate, disclosure of the conflict of interests and violation of ethical norms, publication of the concrete materials on the breach of ethics and other activities.



"I believe that under these conditions, the independent status of the Commission requires great responsibility on behalf of the members of the Commission both in exercising their authority and, naturally, manifestation of the best professional skills and abilities and, most importantly, political impartiality and neutrality in drawing conclusions and making proposals. I would like to underscore that any influence on the members of the Commission must be excluded; you must be influenced only by the law and your personal moral standards," the President of Armenia said.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed confidence that the establishment of the

Commission will become a cornerstone of the institutional structure which will make Armenia a better place.

The President underlined that he would keep the activities of the Commission in the focus of his attention. He also said that he expects the Commission to conclude in the shortest period of time its works related to the adoption of the efficient and transparent internal procedures. According to the President, the Presidential Administration will provide for the Commission's technical base as needed.

President Sargsyan noted that in the formation and development of the Commission, he anticipates establishment of close working rela-

tions with all those state structures which are functioning based on the RA Law on Civil Service. He also stressed the importance of work with the civil society and underscored that any proposals, comments and notes must be given due consideration.

"I am well aware of your professional abilities, and I also know that you have to some extent studied the international experience, and this is an area where your knowledge and experience must be utilized and utilized efficiently," the President of Armenia stressed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Serzh Sargsyan wished the members of the Commission success in their high and responsible mission.

Chinese MOD delegation is in Yerevan

A delegation from China's MOD is visiting Armenia on January 13 -15

On Friday, the Chinese delegation held meetings at Armenia's MOD, during which the parties discussed the bilateral military cooperation. They also reached accordance on developing the cooperation, MOD informed Noyan Tapan

The results of these discussions were summed up during the Chinese delegation's meeting with First Deputy Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan. Highly evaluating the development of the Armenian-Chinese military cooperation, Tonoyan underscored the need to fully implement the potential of this cooperation. Afterwards, the Armenian and Chinese MOD officials signed

an agreement on bilateral military and military-technical cooperation.

On the same day, the Chinese MOD delegation was received by Armenia's Minister of Defense, Seyran Ohanyan. Expressing a delight over the reached accordance, Ohanyan expressed a conviction that the Armenian-Chinese military cooperation has wide prospects for development.

Armenia's NSC Secretary meets with Nikolay Bordyuzha

Secretary of Armenia's National Security Council Artur Baghdasaryan met with Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Nikolay Bordyuzha. During the meeting the sides discussed a wide range of cooperation issues and referred to the schedule and cooperation plan within the CSTO signed in Yerevan.

The interlocutors also touched

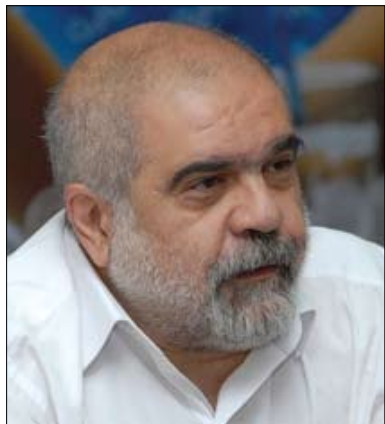


upon the issues on conduction of military exercises in Armenia in 2012. Delegation led by CSTO Secretary General will arrive in Armenia in February to implement the achieved arrangements.

The delegation headed by Arthur Baghdasaryan attended the funeral ceremony of legendary Soviet intelligence agent Gevorg Vardanyan.

War against Iran ahead of elections madness for US - Armenian expert

A war against Iran ahead of elections may become insanity for U.S., Armenian political analyst



Alexander Iskandaryan told journalists on Tuesday, January 10

The head of Caucasus Institute considers that West's pressure on Iran pursues political goals rather than preparation for war. Washington is trying to hamper Iran's nuclear program and disrupt ongoing processes in Syria advantageous to Iran.

Tough statements regarding Iran's policy have been voiced since the Islamic revolution of 1978-79, he added.

"Iran stands pressure confidently. War is not likely to break out at least in the near future," he said.

Armenia's parliamentary elections to be serious trial for state's democratization process - MP

If the elections are not held in accordance to democratic criteria in Armenia, then the image formed in foreign political field will disappear immediately, Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) MP, Armenian delegation member at the PACE, Naira Zohrabyan told in the interview with the Armenian News-NEWS.am correspondent responding to the question whether there are any preconditions to hold peaceful and transparent parliamentary elections in 2012.

"Currently there are assurances that the elections should be held free, fair and transparent. We should do everything to implement those assurances. Otherwise, if we do not hold elections proper to democratic criteria, then the image formed in foreign political field will disappear immediately. International authoritative organizations have stated it clearly. They have never been so attentive to the elections in Armenia, as the upcoming parliamentary ones," the



MP told.

According to Zohrabyan, the parliamentary elections will be a serious trial for Armenia in its democratization process.

As for the statements of the opposition that the PAP uses administrative and financial recourses in the pre-election struggle, Zohrabyan said that the party does not carry out philanthropic activity. Those activities are carried out by the Gagik Tsarukyan Foundation.

Armenian MP asks police to provide her with security

Armenian MP of Heritage parliamentary faction, member of NA Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs Zaruhi Postanyan sent a letter to Armenia's police chief Vladimir Gasparyan on Friday asking to provide security for herself and several other citizens,



Heritage informed Noyan Tapan

"On January 15 I and several other citizens will leave for Lori region and will spend the whole day in villages including Teghut. Taking into account that crowds will gather in those regions I ask to take measures according to the law to ensure our security," she said.

Several environmental organizations and ecologists have decided to organize a march on January 15. As the Information and PR department of Valex Group informs representatives of 'Teghut Civic Initiative' are not allowed to organize any marches in the region of 'Teghut' company on January 15. Thus, any attempt to enter Teghut on January 15 will be considered as violation of 'Teghut' companies rights.

U.S. expert: "Turkey and Armenia have a strong interest in keeping Iran from developing the nuclear weapon"

Matthew Kroenig's interview to Armenian Mediamax news agency

Matthew Kroenig is an assistant professor of Government at Georgetown University and a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. From July 2010 to July 2011, he was a Special Advisor in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, responsible for the development and implementation of Middle East defense policy and strategy. Matthew Kroenig published an article "Time to Attack Iran" in the latest issue of Foreign Affairs Magazine.

- In your article you have suggested that "...a military strike intended to destroy Iran's nuclear program, if managed carefully, could spare the region and the world a very real threat...". Don't you think that attack on Iran could even more destabilize the Caucasus region which is already full of protracted conflicts?

- In the article, I argue that the United States should conduct a surgical strike against Iran's key nuclear facilities to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. With Iran's nuclear capability removed, I argue that Washington should be content to end the conflict. I don't advocate, therefore, for a broader war. Whether such a strike would have destabilizing effects on the region would depend entirely on Iran's response.

- Regions within the NKR security zone adjacent to Iran and some experts think that war with Iran will become a "green light"

for Azerbaijan to start a new war with Nagorno Karabakh. What do you think about such scenario?

- I understand Armenia's concern with this very important issue, but I do not see any reason why Azerbaijan's decision to fight over Nagorno Karabakh would be affected by a U.S. strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.



Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates (from left) and Matthew Kroenig

- There is a big Armenian community in Iran and if war starts, tens of thousands of them will immigrate to Armenia and it will create a serious humanitarian and economic crisis in the country. How would you suggest dealing with such consequences?

- I completely agree that a full-scale invasion of Iran would likely create a refugee problem, but the limited strike that I advocate would be highly unlikely to result in a significant outflow of refugees from Iran.

- Some war scenarios mention the Caucasus region as one of the possible launching areas into Iran.

Do you find it realistic that Azerbaijan, Georgia or Armenia could provide their territories for any action against Iran?

- The limited strike that I advocate could be staged from existing U.S. military bases and would not require the use of territory in Azerbaijan, Georgia, or Armenia.

- If there is an attack on Iran, what Turkey will do? It will support the U.S. actions or will continue to pursue its own role of "global regional player"?

- A nuclear-armed Iran would pose a grave threat to the region and the world. The United States would, therefore, work in advance to build international support before taking action. I would expect, therefore, that Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, and many other countries, would support U.S. action as these countries also have a strong national interest in keeping Iran from developing the world's most dangerous weapons.

US continues to encourage normalization between Turkey and Armenia

U.S. will continue to encourage normalization between Turkey and Armenia, said Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon delivering a speech at the Korber Foundation on Wednesday.

Gordon also stressed that joint efforts with the EU and other international partners have achieved progress, reported State Department's website.

"Our ongoing engagement with

and assistance to Georgia has furthered its democratic development, while we have strongly maintained our support for Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The U.S. and EU supported the Swiss-mediated agreement between Georgia and Russia that paved the way for Russia's invitation to the WTO in December.

Elsewhere in the region, we will continue to press for demo-

cratic reforms and an opening of the political space such that human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully respected; to encourage normalization between Turkey and Armenia; and to continue our high-level engagement through the Minsk Group to help Armenia and Azerbaijan find a lasting, peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," he said.

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Armenia: The results of this year (The internal political situation)

from page 1

progress in bilateral economic and humanitarian ties was made. Financially, Russia remains the major donor of Armenia. The overwhelming majority of Armenian migrant laborers work in Russia, they send remittances (totaling \$2 billion a year) to their families and friends in Armenia. It is noteworthy that not enough attention is given to humanitarian issues in bilateral Armenian-Russian relations. Some functionaries in Moscow oversimplify the existing problems, reducing the whole matter to the status of the Russian language and the rebroadcast of programs of Russian channels in Armenia. Unfortunately, the Armenian-Russian parliamentary ties are also at a low level.

Despite the extremely complex situation around Iran and the confrontation of the West with that country in connection with Tehran's nuclear program, the Armenian-Iranian relations remained stable and friendly last year. At the same time, the economic links between the two countries remain at a low level, while the implementation of large bilateral projects in the communication and energy sector is being procrastinated. Despite the existing problems, the latest visit of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Yerevan demonstrated the stability of bilateral relations and the circumstance that Yerevan and Tehran remain partners in the South Caucasian region. It is also obvious that in the future too, the two countries will "synchronize the watches" regarding all the regional problems in the South Caucasus. Armenia also demonstrated that it opposes Iran's isolation and persistently supports its right to implement peaceful nuclear programs.

The Armenian-Turkish relations – following the keen social and political interest in these relations in 2009-2010 in connection with the signing of the bilateral protocols in Zurich – were in a state of stagnation last year. Following the parliamentary elections in Turkey, the executive power of that country was expected to take some steps to advance the process of ratifying the documents, but these expectations were not fulfilled. Ankara returned to the traditional policy it has carried out in the South Caucasus in recent years: the policy of deepening

the strategic alliance with Azerbaijan and of a "geopolitical bypass" of Armenia through construction of a mainline railroad in the territory of Georgia. At the same time the leadership of official Yerevan made it clear that the door for a dialogue with Ankara has not been closed once and for all. The ruling administration of Serzh Sargsyan is always ready to "unfreeze" the Armenian-Turkish normalization process. Ankara continues to declare its commitment to the policy of "zero problems with neighbors", which in reality transformed for Ankara to a series of problems at various levels with all neighboring countries, expect perhaps Georgia. In our opinion, the main problem in this situation is that while speaking too often about the policy of "zero problems with neighbors", Ankara holds back its aspiration to take an active part in various political and geopolitical processes not only on the perimeter of its borders, but also in the Arab world (Ankara even began consistently backing Hamas and made an attempt to "poke its nose" into Libya) and the whole Mediterranean Basin. Naturally, these steps cause discontent of "the high and mighty" who gave Turkey a flick on the nose at the end of last year, also by using the issue of the Armenian Genocide committed in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. We assess the prospects of continuing the Armenian-Turkish normalization process in the next two years as extremely low. The point is that parliamentary and presidential elections will be held in Armenia; in addition, the point is that for the time being, this issue does not interest Ankara and societies of both countries. For the present, the external players – the U.S. and the EU are the most interested ones in this process and from time to time they throw grenades into the furnace of the dialogue between experts and NGOs of the two countries so as to keep that dialogue alive.

The relations of the administration of President Serzh Sargsyan with Western partners (the U.S., the EU, NATO, and the Council of Europe) were developing last year. We should point out the deepening of cooperation in all spheres, as well as the circumstance that those in Washington and Brussels were more than happy with S. Sargsyan,

first of all, concerning two issues of importance to them: the Armenian President signed and, as before, is willing to ratify the Armenian-Turkish protocols; the president, his administration, and the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) led by him heartily support the latest version of the Madrid Principles proposed by the Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno Karabakh. This version was also supported by the heads of Russia, the United States, and France. Thus, in response to the "proper behavior", Washington and Brussels temporarily "forgot" the killings of ten people as a result of the bloodbath in downtown Yerevan on 1 March 2008; without any serious reasons, preconditions are said to have been created in Armenia for holding fair parliamentary elections; the RPA has every prospect of getting an admission ticket to the European People's Party (EPP), with the EPP observer member status. A number of financial and donor aid programs, as well as the implementation of some programs of the Eastern Partnership Programme have been frozen, but it seems almost certain that those in Brussels will revert to the issue of their implementation after the parliamentary elections in Armenia.

The author believes that on the whole, some tendencies towards activation of the European vector and the Western vector in general, to the detriment of the Russian one, have taken shape in the foreign policy of Yerevan. In principle, this observation is debatable. Yet, such a discourse would be quite natural for countries implementing a complementary or multi-vectorial policy.

The relationship of official Yerevan with the Diaspora is in the doldrums. The Armenian-Turkish protocols remain undecided and do not promote Yerevan's relations with the Diaspora. The same is true of trips (which are in many respects incomprehensible) the Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian makes only to the countries with well-off and successful Armenian communities. This line of conduct of the ministry seems to be at least strange. The political potential of the Diaspora was also used inefficiently. The most high-profile event was the final blocking of Matthew Bryza's candidacy as U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan in the Senate

Committee. The Turkish origin (according to another source, Kurdish origin) of Bryza's wife, Zeyno Baran, was the real reason (and not the declared one) for blocking. The Armenian lobbying groups completely ignored the important circumstance that Matthew Bryza is one of the few American diplomats, who are thoroughly familiar with the South Caucasian region, understand many political processes, know numerous cobwebs of the conflicts, first of all the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, and are personally acquainted with many politicians and experts in the region. The author is not sure that in this case the actions of Armenian lobbyists will help enhance Armenia's positions in the region.

Last year the Diaspora showed their two faces in Armenia – a bad face and a good one.

Speaking about the bad face, we mean the trial of Serop Der-Boghossian, an advisor to the Prime Minister. He is a U.S. citizen of Armenian descent and the owner of Metal Prince Company. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of child molestation. The case and the trial were high-profile and cast an imputation on the Diaspora's image in Armenia.

As regards the good face, it is the statement made by the great French singer of Armenian descent Charles Aznavour about the situation in his historic homeland and the policy implemented by Armenia's ruling administration with respect to their own people. The statement bears evidence of the fact that among the Diaspora Armenians are intellectuals and men of honor who are ready to tell the truth to the face of Serzh Sargsyan and his administration. Charles Aznavour's words were of great importance to public opinion in Yerevan as many in Armenia still bear a grudge against the Diaspora and its structures for not having condemned the killings of ten people on 1 March 2008. Also important is the circumstance that Charles Aznavour serves as Armenian Ambassador to Switzerland, i.e. he holds an office under government and is a subordinate of President Serzh Sargsyan.

The author is convinced that after Armenia celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Independence, it is necessary to stop fundraising to the Hayastan Fund the way it has been done all these years. Among the rea-

sons is the low level of transparency of the activities of the Hayastan Fund and the discontinuance of audit data publication (if audits were conducted). The Diaspora has helped Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh for 20 years, and now is the time to give the Diaspora itself an opportunity to upgrade its structures.

Two important events related to the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide took place at the end of 2011. The matter concerns the adoption of the bill on criminalization of the denial of the fact of the Armenian Genocide by one of the chambers of the French Parliament and the discussion of this subject by a committee of the Israeli Parliament. In both cases we connect these actions not only with efficient activities of the Armenian lobby, but also with the respective decisions of political elites of those two countries. These decisions are a result of the policy of Turkey which, on its own initiative, strained its relations with Israel and in some regions of the Mediterranean became an obstacle to realization of interests of France and a number of its EU partners.

We will not dwell on problematics of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement as we repeatedly discussed this subject last year. The only thing we want to say is that we do not expect any progress in the settlement of this complex conflict in the next two years. The point is that all the three conflicting parties are entering a two-year pre-election cycle. Parliamentary elections will be held in Armenia in May 2012, and a presidential election in the unrecognized Nagorno Karabakh Republic is scheduled for the summer. Regular presidential elections will be held in Armenia in February 2013 and in Azerbaijan in October of the same year. Besides, presidential elections will be held in all the three countries - Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, namely Russia, France, and the U.S. at the end of the year. So we suppose that in the next two years the main aim of the countries – Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (unless force majeure circumstances occur, for example, missile and bomb attacks against Iran by the U.S. and its allies or something of this sort) will be maintaining the status quo and strengthening the ceasefire regime.

An article regarding the Movsesian case pending before the Ninth Circuit

Recently oral arguments were presented to the court and the plaintiffs' case was argued by Mark Geragos and Lee Boyd. Given the relatively short period of time allotted the attorneys did a very good job dealing with the complex issues.

The Circuit Judges, led by the Chief Judge Alex Kozinski showed great interest and knowledge of the background facts and applicable law. We are awaiting their ruling. We once again thank David Balabanian and his law firm Bingham for representing the ABA, as well as the ANC and others by filing the Amicus Brief and doing all the follow-up legal work.

We look forward to this weekend, where in Las Vegas we will have a superb legal panel, consisting of the legal team and the plaintiff (Prof. Taner Akcam) that won an



important legal victory before the European Court of Human Rights. It will take place on Saturday at the Tropicana Hotel followed by a luncheon honoring renowned attorney Garo Mardirossian, with the ABA Distinguished Lawyer Award. We will have distinguished guests and speakers. Danny Tarkanian will be joining us for dinner Saturday evening. Of course, the usual Armenian Bar spirit of camaraderie and fellowship will be present. Hope you will be joining us.

Following the Las Vegas Conference I will provide you with a full

annual report and discuss our schedule of events and projects for 2012.

Edvin Minassian, Chairman of Armenian Bar Association

The Armenian Bar Association was formed in 1989 to provide an arena for lawyers of Armenian heritage to come together socially and professionally and to address the legal concerns of the Armenian community. With the creation of an independent Republic of Armenia, the Association undertook the task of helping to build and encourage the growth of democratic institutions in Armenia.

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- **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 70.000 USD
- **1498. Saryan Street, 5/3,** 67sq.m 2 rooms, newly capitally repaired, stone house, Stalin's project, covered with concrete, euro windows and doors, 2AC, heating system 3mit. Price: 100.000 USD
- **1503 Buzand Street, 11/6,** 74sq.m 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, furnished. Price: 155.000 USD

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
- **Tumanyan str. 5/3,** 170 sqm, 4 rooms, 2 garages for 3 cars, capitally repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, 3 balconies. Price: 1100 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 120000 USD
- **2348. Abovyan Street, 4/2,** 177.8 sq/m, euro repaired, conreted, laminate furniture in the bedroom, cupboards in the kitchen, tiled, Baxi system, Price: 175000 USD preliminary
- **2395. North Avenue.** 130 sq.m., newly built, h-3 m, a view to Abovyan street. Price: 1 sq.m.-1600 USD
- **2540 Deghatan Street, 8/7,** 137.5sq.m 4 rooms, newly capitally repaired, euro windows and doors, furnished kitchen, 3 bathrooms, laundry,1 open storage balcony, water, gas, Baxi heating system, 2AC, 2 satellites, Jacuzzi, alarm system, service fee - 5000 AMD. Price: 275.000 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. Hanrapetutyany 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 500000 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
- **Tumanyan str., 3/1,** 100 sqm, office space, not repaired, entrance from the street, windows looking at the yard. Price: 115.000 USD
- **1603. North avenue,** 159 sq.m., 1st floor. Entrance on ground floor also, construction is in process, suitable for a shop. Price: 1sq.m. 10000USD
- **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

- **2122. Davitashen,** 1800sqm, water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600sqm, 1200sqm. Price-150USD per sqm.
- **1869. Kaskade.** 720 sq.m. 1st line, permission for construction, suitable for a new building or a business. Price: negotiable
- **2121. Centre,** land-1338sqm, 1100sqm 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 2800USD
- **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
- **Avan, Ayntapi str., near Star Supermarket, 1st line,** 528 sqm, land attached to a house, water, canalization, front-25m. Price: 60.000 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
- **3063. Komitas A. Avetisyan street,** 3storied+cellar, total-500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 lavatories, capitally repaired, cabinet, possible to sell with furniture. Price-negotiable
- **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-negotiable.
- **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
- **3103. Ajapnyak community, Miraqyan street.** 1 storey, land -264.8 sq.m., building 110 sq.m., euro repair, euro windows, 5 rooms, 1 lavatory, Baxi system, kitchen, book, ramparted. Price: 90000 USD
- **3105. Kaskad, Antarain.** 4 stories, land 1800 sq.m., building 1000 sq.m., newly built, need of cosmetic repair, windows, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, 4 bedrooms, ramparted, solar lamps, security system, cameras, external lighting. Price: 1. 300.000 USD
- **3054. Blur, Kharkovyan street.** 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 800 000 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

- **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
- **90. Main avenue.** Newly built, 2 buildings, 14 stories. Ready for habitation at the end of 2013, at the beginning of 2014. Commercial areas on the 1st and on the 2nd floors, flats on the higher floors. Price: 1 sq.m.- 1150 USD 1 sq.m.- 1300 USD
- **91. Main Avenue, Park, near Malibu cafe,** 16 storied newly building, Capitally repaired, heating and security system, 2 lavatories. Price: 1 sq.m.- 2.000 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

- **1031. Byuzand street.** 1 room, 34 sq.m, capitally repair, newly built, furniture, techniques, heating, AC, cabin. Price 600 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
- **1057. Argisht str., 14/9,** 1 room, furnished, heating system, permanent hot and cold water, AC
- **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
- **1024. Amiryan street. 12/3,** 1turned into 2, 50 sq.m, euro repair, techniques. Price: 1 day 60 USD
- **853. Amiryan 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

- **1024. Amiryan street. 12/3.** 2 rooms, 50 sq.m, euro repaire, furniture, techniques. Price: 1 day -50 USD, a month: 700 USD
- **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
- **2022. Amiryan street, 4/3.** 74 sq.m., 2 turned into 3, newly repaired, Spanish tiles, jakoozi, permanent hot and cold water, furniture, techniques. Price 1500 USD, 1 day 100 USD
- **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
- **115. Buzand str. Building 7, /near Republic Square/, 9/4,** 75 sq.m, 2 rooms, newly built, capitally and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, permanent water, gas, heating system, AC, open balcony. Price: 1100 USD long-term, 1500 USD short-term.
- **2119. Argisht/,Glendale Hills /, 7th floor ,** 2 rooms, 46 sq.m, capitally repaired, new furniture, tiled bathroom, equipped, water, gas, Baxi heating system, refrigerator, TV, balcony for storage. Price: 450 USD , 50 USD per day
- **2108. Amiryan str. /City center/,** 2 rooms, AC, washing machine, TV, refrigerator, satellite, bed sheets, utensil, all the conveniences. Price: 600 USD , 60 USD per day
- **2099. Sayat-Nova Ave., 12/6,** 2 rooms, all the conveniences, repaired, furnished, water, gas, Baxi heating system, AC, washing machine. Price: 550 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- **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.
- **1856 Abovyan str. 5/4 floor** 3 rooms, 95 sqm, euro repaired, 2 bathrooms,heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, satellite. Price: 750USD, 70-75 USD per day.
- **1874 Amiryan str. 14/5 floor** 120 sqm, capitally repaired, 2 bathrooms, 2 AC, heating system, parking, looking at the boulevard Price: 2000USD
- **12 Northern Ave. 5/5,6 floor** 450sqm 8 rooms., capitally and euro repaired, furnished, equipped, AC, 3 bathrooms, Price: 1500USD, 300 USD per day
- **13 Orbeli Str. 5/5 floor** 100sqm 3rooms, capitally and euro repaired, newly furnished, equipped,heating system, AC Price: 700 USD, 70USD per day
- **1406. Sayat-Nova str., 7/3,** 110sqm, 2 bedrooms, euro repaired, gas, furnished, technique, permanent hot and cold water , baxi. Pric negotiable
- **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.

- **1810. North Avenue,** 2bedrooms, newly built, euro repaired, beautiful view, refrigerator, washing machine, permanent hot and cold water, heating system, garage, TV, lavatory, Price negotiable.
- **1787. Koghbaci 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, sattelite, modern furniture, techniques, garage. Price 1200 USD.
- **1720. Amirian Street.,** 3 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.
- **1780. Amiryan Str., Gri Ar, 13,** 82 sq.m, 3 rooms, newly built, euro repaire, furnished, equipped, heating system, AC, loggia balcony Price:1500 USD service fee included

PRIVATE HOUSES

- **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.
- **1808. Amiryan, 4/3,** 3 rooms, 64 sq.m, capitally repaired, Venetian style, furnished, equipped, Spanish tiles, permanent hot and cold water, gas, baxi, no balcony. Price: 800-900 USD, 50 USD per day



- **971. Norq-Marash community The gardens of Norq Ground** 620sq.m, basement +2f. con 733.15 sq.m, basement: the sport hall, sauna, room for summer, swimming pool, fireplace,1st floor: leaving room, bedroom, kitchen, office, corridor , bathroom, 2nd floor 4 bedrooms, 2 bathroom(Spanish), always running cold and hot water, natural gas, 2 conditioner, baxi. Price 1500\$
- **1096. Blur,** 4 storied building, each floor-160-sqm, 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
- **455. Norq,** 3 storied building-150sqm, total -600sqm, 3bedrooms, lavatory, capitally repaired, furnished, technique, gas, permanent hot and cold water. Price 2000USD
- **1135. Monument V. Papazyan street,** 2floors, total-375sqm, stone building-210sqm, cellar, euro repaired, baxi, AC, garage-14sqm. Price 2000 USD per month.
- **1164. Arabkir, Monument.** 1 storied, land-300 sq.m, building-150 sq.m., capitally repaired, 3 bedrooms, 2 lavatories, pool. Price: 1200 USD
- **211. Ajgedzor.** 2 storied, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, beutifull view. Price: 1300-1500 USD
- **721. Blur Qery street,** land 150 sq.m., 2 stories+ a cellar, 200 sq.m., newly built, telephone, 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
- **1121. Vahagni community.** 2 stories, building 402 sq.m.(including garage and cellar) euro repair, 3 bedrooms, hall, permanent hot and cold water, gas, heating system, heating floor, kitchen and dining room are furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- **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 street.** 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

- **1109. Blur,** 3 storied building, land 400 sq.m., building 450 sq.m., new, euro repair, ramparted, 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories inside, 2 lavatories outside, Baxi system. Price 3800 USD

- **662. Norq gardens, Amaranocayin street.** 2 storied stone building.Land 1000 sq.m., building 300 sq.m., ramparted, 3 lavatories, 3 bedrooms, hall, camin, gas, heating system, stained glasses. Price 3000USD negotiable
- **1071. Noy block. 2.5 storied,** land 400 sq.m., building 500 sq.m., garden 250sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 5 lavatories, 2 kitchen, a hall. Price 3000 USD preliminary
- **1085. Aygestan destrict.** 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. Norq 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
- **1019. Nork, 2 storied, separate structure,** 700 sq.m. land, 350 sq.m. construction, capital euro repaired, furnished, garage with remote control, pool, 3 bedrooms, one with bathroom, and 2 separate bathrooms. In the first floor sitting-room, gas, permanent hot and cold water, Baxi System, fireplace, view to town, walled. Price: Negotiable
- **211 Aygedzor,** 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, permanent water, capitally repaired, Price:1300-1500 USD

PREMISES

- **1869. Kaskade.** 720 sq.m., 1st line, building permission, suitable for new building or a business center. Price: negotiable
- **1461. Sayat - Nova str.,** 1st floor 95sqm, capitally repaired, 2 halls - 32sqm and 46sqm, kitchen, lavatory, 1 line, 2 entrances. Price 3000USD
- **1821. Argisht 14/7** 3rooms.,87sq.m repaired.- modern stile ,non populated ,2bathroom.heating furniture ,technique satellite, when renting for the long time also internet, b. looks to the country. Price 800\$, 1day 20.000AM dram
- **1438. Komitas, Hr. Qochar str.,** 6storied building + cellar + cockloft, total-960sqm, each floor-120sqm, needs to be repaired, plastered, permanent hot and cold water, gas, parking for 15 cars. Price negotiable.
- **1525. Hanrapetutyany 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
- **1113. Abovyan Koryun district,** 2 storied, 400 sq.m., 2 separate entrances, capital euro repair, convenient for restaurant or shop, has a possibility for open air café. Price: Negotiable
- **1408.Zarobyany 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
- **1429. Nalbandian St,** 2 stories - 78 sq. m, each story - 38 sq. m, hall, lavatory, 2 show windows, door, two-way entrance, 24-hour water, gas, suitable for any activity. Price: 2300USD
- **1461. Amiryan (down-town),** 1st circle, 5 stored building, 300sq.m is renovated, the rest is under renovation, central heating, climate-control, parking. (tax included) . The price is available for 5 and more years, 2500sq. Price: 1sqm - 40USD
- **1462. Teryan street,** 3 stored, capital repaired, AC, capital repaired, parking, 800sq. Price: 10.000USD

"The Fame of the Great Patriot will be Passed from Generation to Generation"...

The legendary undercover intelligence agent Gevork Vartanyan passes away



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief correspondent

...I was unexpectedly called by a retired Armenia's Security Service General who said: "I have bad news: 20 minutes ago in Moscow Gevork Andreyevich Vartanyan died..."

...It was known that the great intelligence agent, the only Soviet intelligence operative to have received the highest Soviet military decoration, the Gold Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union, in peacetime and not posthumously, had been hospitalized, but even the last days of the legend of the foreign intelligence bore the "top secret" stamp – very few people knew that Vartanyan was diagnosed with an incurable disease...

And even if I knew about cancer, still, it would be difficult to me to realize at once that Gevork Vartanyan is no longer with us: only several weeks ago he with **Gohar Vartanyan-Pahleva-nyan**, his faithful friend for incredible 65 years (it was in 2011 that they celebrated 65 years of marriage) and comrade in arms, visited Yerevan for the wedding of Gohar Levonovna's great-niece **Margarita** and the Chess Olympics winner **Tigran Petrossian**.

...He was then in his 88th year and he was in high spirits, always ready to share a joke, receiving great honours at the Anania Shirakatsi Lyceum, feted by Prime Minister **Tigran Sargsyan**...

...Some forty minutes after the unexpected phone call, the saddest piece of news from Armenpress, attributed to your correspondent, was quoted not only by the Armenian and CIS media, but throughout the world. The most frequent headline by the BBC, Los Angeles Times, Daily Telegraph, Washington Post and even the Himalayan Times was "Gevork Vartanyan, a legend of Soviet intelligence, who derailed a Nazi plot against Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill in Tehran in 1943, dies at 87". Many hours spent with the great man for interviews, which later formed the basis of two books, "Touching the Legend: Undercover Agents Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan" (published in Russian, 2010) and "Heroes of Undercover Intelligence Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan: 'Touching the Legend' Part II" (in Armenian, 2011; the both publications were sponsored by the President of Armenia's Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen

Arsen Ghazaryan), have become for me an unprecedented lesson of morality, decency, self-discipline, kindness, and even of ... humour. One of the favorite jokes of Gevork Andreyevich was the following: "A venerable old gentleman is asked: 'What is better, sclerosis or senility?' He answers: 'Sclerosis

after Gevork Vartanyan explained in a few words the situations he and his wife got out of successfully, thanks to the unbelievable composure, achieved primarily because the Vartanyans were confident that at the critical moment the Motherland would not leave them at the mercy of fate...

ter of condolences addressed to Gohar Vartanyan, G.A. Vartanyan was "a legendary intelligence agent, a participant of brilliant special operations, which became part of the history of the national foreign intelligence service..." (And part of the world intelligence history...

ligence, but the American, is alive and well, he remains active even though he is nearly 89, publishing memoirs, participating in public events but, alas, chooses to ignore my repeated attempts to contact him for comments regarding his "old friends" Vartanyans...

According to President Medvedev, G.A. Vartanyan "was a brilliant and extraordinary personality, a true patriot of his country..."

Yes, Gevork Vartanyan was a patriot of the Soviet Union, but to no lesser extent he was a patriot of his historical homeland, Armenia.

"Living in Iran, all of us Armenians were always saying that even if in our Homeland, the lovely Armenia people only had black rye bread to eat, we still were willing to live there - even boots and warm clothes necessary for crossing the Arax river had been prepared", Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan told me. And even when they had a rare chance for a vacation during their long years of undercover work abroad, they did not contemplate any



The Vardanyan legendary undercover intelligence agents couple was formed on June 30, 1946 in Tehran



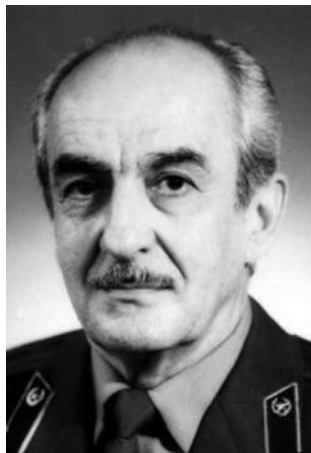
Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan at their home in Yerevan, April 2010



The Great Armenians with the President of Armenia, Yerevan, 21 September 2010



A Legend of intelligence replying question from a student of Anania Shirakatsi Lyceum "How to become an intelligence agent?" 18 Sept. 2010, Yerevan



Future CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner (right) and his "good friend", in Naples, Italy, in 1970s, a legendary Soviet intelligence agent Col. Gevork Vartanyan



Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan with another legendary Soviet agent, an Englishman George Blake



"Gentlemen live not exclusively in Britain!" Vartanyan with Celia Sandys, granddaughter of W. Churchill who was thanking him for saving her grandfather's life. Moscow, Nov. 2007

is better, because in that case you do not remember about senility". And, of course, his main quality, the greatest lesson he taught us, was patriotism. All of my numerous attempts to draw him on some

That is why the most reliable recruitment is the one based on beliefs rather than on money, Gevork Andreyevich was saying often...

As Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev** said in his let-

According to experts, Gevork Vartanyan is in the list of the hundred most successful intelligence agents of all time. Only during their stay in Italy in the 1970s, the Vartanyans found a number of secret

destination apart from Yerevan; Aghayan street, 3A is the address at which **Andrey Vartanyan**, Gevork's father as well as his first teacher on the "intelligence" subject bought a house (Andrey Vasilyevich Vartanyan worked for the Soviet intelligence for many years and in 1953 returned to the Homeland from Iran).

...Only today, after G.A. Vartanyan passed away, from a letter of condolences from President **Serzh Sargsyan** and Mrs **Rita Sargsyan** did the general public learn that G.A. Vartanyan, who "was a man of great personality, who dedicated his entire life to the faithful protection of and service to the Motherland... and the worthy son of the Armenian nation...", "throughout his life maintained relations with Armenia, stood by the independent Armenia in the difficult times of war, and with his assistance and advice promoted formation and strengthening of Armenia's foreign intelligence service". (Including Armenia's military intelligence; so it's not a coincidence that the RA Defence Minister **Seyran Ohanyan** has been always expressing his great respect to Mr and Mrs Vartanyan and in his telegram of condolence noted that "the Armenian people lost one of its most dedicated sons whose activity will serve a model of love and serving the Motherland..."). And, finally, as the RA President wrote: "The fame of the great patriot will be passed on from generation to generation..." It seems it is difficult to phrase it better...



Your correspondent touching the Legend, to write the books called ... "Gevork and Gohar Vartanyan: TOUCHING THE LEGEND..."



Russian PM, former Soviet intelligence agent Vladimir Putin paying homage to his legendary elder colleague

NATO bases in Europe; they even managed to win trust of Admiral **Stansfield Turner**, the then Commander-in-Chief of the NATO Southern Flank, who then served as Director of the CIA in 1977-81, and the Admiral helped the "Iranian businessman" Mr Vartanyan to establish important contacts during his "business trips" to the US. You may be interested to know that Admiral Turner who, alike Gevork Vartanyan, could be considered a legend of the Armed Forces / Navy and Intel-

Seyran Ohanyan: "The blood in the veins of an Armenian is a thousand – fold more valuable than oil flowing in any pipeline"

The RA Defence Minister accompanies the President of the Republic in a visit to the border check – points, in Armenia and Karabakh, meets the families of fallen heroes and addresses for Christmas and the New Year



By Gourgen
James Khazhakian
Chief correspondent

As is usual for the eve of the New Year and Christmas holidays, on December 31 the RA President, the Armed Forces' Supreme Commander-in-Chief **Serzh Sargsyan** visited Armenia's defence positions.

President Sargsyan was accompanied by the Minister of Defence **Seyran Ohanyan** and the Catholicos of All Armenians **Garegin II**. The President of Armenia witnessed the changing of the guard, became familiarised with the social conditions and amenities of the servicemen, and had an informal chat with them on their daily issues.

Serzh Sargsyan congratulated the troops of the Armenian Army for the forthcoming holidays, wished them all the best and thanked them for their dedicated service. "Your job is the most important one for our country. It is the most important because if you are not standing here like a rock, if you are not confident, our people will not feel confident. Your power, your confidence radiates from here, this border, because our country begins here," the President of Armenia said.

President Sargsyan noted that the Armenian troops have become a *straightjacket* for those on the other side of the border, because they know the abilities of the Armenian soldiers extremely well. According to Mr President, it is not only the parents who are proud of their soldier sons but everyone – children, young and older people. A group of servicemen, who have shown dedication and valour during their service, received gifts from the President.

President Serzh Sargsyan also met with the residents of the border villages Voskepar and Kirants and congratulated them on the upcoming holidays.

And on January 3-5 the RA President Serzh Sargsyan, accompanied by DM Seyran Ohanyan was in the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh on a working visit during which he, together with the President of the NKR **Bako Sahakyan**, visited regiments deployed in the Martuni region of Nagorno Karabakh, the Asparez military training center, where the trainees of the Center showed fire strike exercises, special troops, including snipers, demonstrated their skills and also advanced weaponry.

The Presidents of Armenia and Karabakh participated in the inauguration of a new Artsakh neighbourhood in Stepanakert. Dozens of families received apartments in this neighbourhood which have been provided to them by the state at no cost. New residents of these apartments are mainly the NK Armed Forces servicemen and families of those who participated in the Artsakh's War for Freedom. In the Ivanian community, Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Bako Sahakian participated in the official opening of the military hospital which has been totally renovated and fitted out with modern equipment.

The heads of the two Armenian

states participated in the meeting of the commanding officers of the NK Defence Army and also became familiarized with newly launched agricultural and industrial enterprises in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

And a few days before, on December 25, the RA Minister of Defence Seyran Ohanyan participated in a solemn event at the town of Ashtarak, RA Aragatsotn Marz, aimed at meeting members of the families of 143 Freedom Fighters (*azatamartiks*) of the Marz who

the 1st Degree Battle Cross Order of the RA, as well as that of NKR, 1st lieutenant of the RA Armed Forces **Vahagn Vardevanyan** on the occasion of the 45th birthday of the fallen Hero.

During the night of April 21'1994 Vardevanyan and 38 fighters of his assault squad took position in the nearby area of Karmiravan village, Martakert region, NKR. Seeing they could be encircled by the enemy forces, he and 13 fighters secured the retreat of the other members of

a decrease in the number of problems. In the past year the Armenian Army fulfilled its urgent tasks and created the conditions for our people's peaceful and secure development. Following the modernization of our armaments, the deepening of international military collaboration and reforms in the area of military education, the RA Armed Forces' efficiency has been increased even further in 2011. Our Armed Forces have expanded their mission, with actions aimed at providing international se-

cornerstone for the Army.

Dear comrades-in-arms, the success obtained thanks to your devotion and sacrifice today inspires and binds the soldiers defending the Motherland's borders.

Dear Compatriots!

2011 has also been a year of difficulties.

Unfortunately, the passing year saw cases of negligence, mistakes and accidents some of which cost human lives. Again, I want to ensure all of you that for us the life and the health of every soldier is invaluable.

At this very moment I extend my words of compassion to the parents of those soldiers who fell when doing their duty for The Motherland – I realize that no statistics showing the decrease in the number of fatal cases can console them.

I bow to the memory of each and every soldier who has sacrificed his life in the name of defending the

borders of The Motherland.

Keeping the Armed Forces efficient requires everyday work and the hardest service. Though we speak about the achievements of 2011, we can't fail to notice that we still have a lot of to do for our Army's, which provides our People with Pride and Victory, being enjoying the unconditional confidence of society.

As Defence Minister, I assure you that the reforms in the field of defence are and will remain the focus of my personal attention, and we will reach that benchmark which will provide our people's secure development within the coming decades. To achieve this, we should have confidence in our own strength and faith in our future.

Dear Compatriots!

I congratulate you wholeheartedly for the New Year and Christmas Holidays and wish you happiness and optimism.

My special congratulations to all servicemen who are on the New Year's night-watch, wishing steadfastness and peaceful service to them, and good health and well-being to their parents.

Happy New Year and Merry Christmas! "

So after we all enjoyed these holidays, on January 9, the first working day, the Central Administration of the Defence Ministry held a consultation at which the RA Defence Minister Seyran Ohanyan presented priority issues and objectives for the Armed Forces in 2012.

In particular, Seyran Ohanyan classified issues related to military education, military industry and the enforcement of discipline in the Armed Forces as priorities for 2012.

...No doubt, those very priorities should be kept very closely, as it seems that those who are beyond the border have other plans than those mentioned by the Minister, i.e. on providing "secure development" for us, as, according to the NKR Defence Army infoservice chief Lt.-Col. **Senor Hasratyan**, within merely a week, from Dec.17 to Dec. 24, the frontline detachments of the Armed Forces of the Rep. of Azerbaijan have broken ceasefire regime for more than 185 times, with about 850 shots...



sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom for Armenia and Artsakh (NKR).

In his address Minister Ohanyan said in particular: "Unfortunately, we are enjoying these New Year holidays without our comrades-in-arms. We can't not be indebted to our comrades-in-arms and their families, as

squad.

When all the other soldiers were lost, Commander Vahagn Vardevanyan refused to surrender and blew himself up, together with four enemy soldiers.

In memory of the FALLEN HERO Yerevan school #173 was named after Vahagn Vardevanyan;

curity that have been highly appreciated by our partner states. The year 2011 has been very difficult, but at the same time it has been a year of dignity for the Armenian Army.

At the line of contact with the enemy, a permanent increase in tension has been observed. Success in keeping the state's borders impreg-



it is thanks to the Freedom Fighters that we have the Independent State and the regular Army today. And it is symbolic that this event is carried out in a school, as it is a kind of lesson of patriotism for our young generation.

I must note that the most important factor in any victory remains a man, a serviceman having the necessary knowledge. A man, a human being has always been the most important factor for the Armenian people. **The blood in the veins of an Armenian is a thousand-fold more valuable than oil flowing in any pipeline**".

Eight Freedom Fighters of the Aragatsotn Marz were awarded Defence Ministry medals by Minister Ohanyan, and Governor **Sargis Sahakyan** allocated financial aid to the families of the fallen heroes.

In turn, on December 26 the First Deputy Defence Minister **Davit Tonoyan** visited the family of the Hero of Artsakh (NKR), holder of

his bust was erected and a memorial room was opened at the school.

It is noteworthy that two sons of Vahagn Vardevanyan, **Vahram** and **Arsen**, are currently serving in the Armenian Army.

On December 30 the RA Defence Minister Seyran Ohanyan delivered a New Year and Christmas congratulatory

able has been achieved, thanks to the heroism of the soldiers, officers and contractual servicemen, as well as the effective work of the rear detachments.

I warmly greet all the soldiers keeping our country's borders impregnable, wishing them health and ever more victorious episodes.

I greet and express my deepest gratitude to the parents of all soldiers of the Armenian Army.

Dear parents, be proud of your sons as it is your brave sons who provide your and our society's security.

I also greet and thank the officers of the Armenian Army.

Dear officers,

you who have devoted your life to the defence of the Motherland, within the past year have fulfilled your service duties with honor...

Below you will find the essential extracts from the address.

"...For the RA Armed Forces the year 2011 has been a year of consolidation of the achievements and

My best wishes to the Freedom Fighters (*azatamartiks*, - militia - **G.Kh.**) who won the Artsakh (Karabakh) War and who have become a





ANNUAL HOROSCOPE 2012

Aries:



Mars, your ruling planet, is preparing to go through a retrograde cycle as the year begins. This happens roughly every 28 months, so you have experienced it many times. On this visit the slowdown is in your house of work and health. You may find it a challenge to move forward with your goals in either of these areas until the end of April. Do not give up or you will lose ground. This is a necessary plateau period. During March when Mercury turns retrograde in your sign you will likely change your mind and back out of a previously made plan. Overall important commitments to new activities are unlikely until the end of April. Use these months to think seriously about your next direction. You are probably already aware that you are becoming more and more charged with the zeitgeist of our times, independence versus oppression. It is probable that you will be embroiled in this battle in a major way by June, continuing on through October. The effects could be both personal and collective. Stay on the side of social justice and you will be doing the right thing. Aspects suggest a thoroughly challenging August. Personal relationship issues could explode. You may also be feeling angry and therefore subject to accident. Resources are subject to tighten in the fall. Overall this will be a challenging year, but when it is over you will know you are doing the right things for yourself and perhaps for others as well.

Taurus:



You will have over five more months of Jupiter in your sign before it moves on in mid-June. This placement represents expansion of your life through philosophy, travel or education. It oftentimes promotes the "flow" in your life so that things are easier than they have been in the past. This Jupiter transit began in June of 2011 and occurs for one full year out of every twelve. It represents a time of new beginnings that continue on forward, well after it has left your sign. Times that are particularly auspicious for you are in mid-Jan, mid-March and late Nov. Venus, your ruling planet turns retrograde in mid-May through June. Very probably you will be reviewing financial conditions during that time. Income may be less during those months or expenses greater than norm. You may withdraw from social activities and people during this period. This is probably not your best year for romance. I see challenges in relationships in Feb., Apr, June, Aug, Sep, and early Nov. Someone new enters your life in early Dec. who may become a teacher or point you in the next "right" direction. During the last quarter your attitude about partnership overall becomes clearly more serious. You will want to be in a relationship that is moving forward or you are prepared to let it go.

Gemini:



Whatever illusions you might have about your usual work in the world are beginning to crack. At the same time you have a growing need to give that which you consider valuable back to society. You seek a mission which will re-enthrall your everyday life and give you a sense of meaning. You will find it, but you may need to endure a transition time in which you don't know what that special contribution is or how to make it happen. Jan.-Feb. opens the year with your attention on shared resources. "Resources" include time, things of material value, energy and sexuality. The territory is wide, ranging from the mundane study of the budget and finances all the way to important discussions with partners over the need for greater intimacy. You may be organizing business issues related to an inheritance or your own legacy. Think very carefully in April about any relationship decisions, including contracts. The probability is strong you will feel the need to back out of commitments during May, June, to mid-July. During this period you will prefer to spend time in solitude. Fair warning to those in committed relationships: you will be prone to regress into old patterns of relating that you know are not productive. Avoid this if you possibly can or you will have apologies to make later. On June 11 the planet Jupiter moves into your sign and will remain there for a full year. Jupiter in your sign will lighten any load, renew your sense of optimism and reinforce your self esteem. Help and cooperation of others will be more available to you, especially if you make your requests in person. The spiritual dimension of your life will improve and travel or education becomes more prominent. The only difficulty with this transit is the tendency for weight gain

Cancer:



Let's look at the big picture since 2009. Pluto opposes your sign, challenging you to recognize your worth in some way and stand up for yourself. It is difficult, but you are making inroads. This press will continue for a decade. Uranus moved into your territory of career and social contributions. It is pres-

suring you to find ways to express your unique identity in the outer world, preferably while promoting social justice. It continues for 7 years. The Saturn voice is sending you words of caution and asking you to maintain your safety, security and the status quo. Sometimes the cosmos seems to have a sense of humor. How can you manage all these projects at once? No doubt you are, even though there might be a foul-up now and then. In Jan. it might all seem to be too much, but you will climb out of your shell in Feb to greet the world anew. Health issues may need attending during March. The eclipse season between mid-May and mid-June draws attention to your health once again. You will probably be choosing to begin healthful regimens anew. During June, Aug.-Sep, and Nov-Dec. there will be episodes related to the projects identified at the beginning of this paragraph. You are getting stronger all the time.

Leo:



Maintaining your health has become a priority in the last three years. You do not have much wiggle room there, so exercise and diet are a major part of your daily activities now. You realize more than most that this is the bottom line and nothing else in your life works without these basics. Special emphasis on this factor is present in Jan., Mar-Apr, late June, late Sep., and Dec. Travel and expansion of your territory is significant through June. This is related to career, education and social life. Aspects for this are favorably emphasized during late Jan, late Feb and May. Make note of the weeks surrounding the Mar. 21st equinox as this is a propitious time for you to begin new things, especially if they involve travel or communications. You may overdo during late June, early July. Ease up on the energy output and take rest breaks. Give special attention to investments and other shared resources. There are signs of loss there, slow and gradual, as though leaking. For the past two years you have had concerns about aging family members or property. The time is approaching for a change in both areas and will be apparent in late Oct through the end of the year. You may shift your attention almost entirely to one or both of these matters as this year ends and the next begins.

Virgo:



The first four months of this year could feel like you are trudging through molasses. In the outer world many accomplishments will be slow and tedious. Even your physical body may feel sluggish. Your primary focus is internal healing at this time. Anger which has been buried in the past may be surfacing now and you need to work toward letting it go. Resentment is bad for your health. If you have had illusions about your primary relationship(s), these are beginning to fade. On the other side you will find a far more realistic perspective. It may be painful, but you can then have a more solid basis on which to make good decisions about your relationship life. You will find the garlic you need to repel vampire types. Issues concerning financial resources will demand attention, particularly in the time frame of March and April. You will be concentrating upon paying off debt and reorganizing accounts. In July and August the inner critic may be hard at work. Most of what it says is a lie, so don't accept its chattering as truth. This may also be a time in which you are once again pondering the past. During mid-Sept. global affairs will be particularly a focus of attention, along with another round of evaluating your resources. In Nov. you may feel compelled to rearrange your home or to buy or sell property. Mercury is retrograde at that time and it would be best to make no permanent decisions until mid-Dec. By that time the impulse may have evaporated. From June '12 for the following year your career is a bright spot. During the last quarter you will be moving toward work that requires learning and practicing sharpened communication skills.

Libra:



Saturn has been in your sign since Nov. of '09. Since that time you have felt the need to grow yourself up, to mature, and to solidify your identity, probably in a new or additional field of work. Saturn will continue to be in your sign until Nov. of '12. You have a few more months to bring a sense of completion to these tasks. No doubt you have matured significantly over these years and through multiple

continued on page 12



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Hayastan All-Armenian Fund completes renovation of Nephrology and Dialysis departments at Yerevan's St. Gregory Hospital

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund recently completed an extensive renovation of the Nephrology and Dialysis departments of Yerevan's St. Gregory the Illuminator (Surb Grigor Lusavorich) Hospital. The refurbishment was made possible by the fund's Toronto affiliate (with sponsorship of a Toronto-based benefactor), within the framework of 2011 projects implemented through sponsor-specified grants.

The renovated premises, encompassing a total area of 1,120 square meters, include eight patient rooms, a cafeteria, two offices, and all restrooms. In addition, the power and water systems have been replaced and a central-heating sys-

tem was installed. Both upgraded departments have been fully operational since mid-

Dr. Razmik Pandunts, who heads the Nephrology and Dialysis departments, had high praise for the quality of the upgrade conveyed his gratitude to the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. "Without a doubt, our staff has been delighted to work in such beautifully renovated facilities," Dr. Pandunts said. "This new environment is also having a v

The Nephrology and Dialysis departments employ a staff of 36, including six doctors and 30 nurses. Today some 55 patients receive treatment at the two wings, which together have the capacity to serve

up to 80 patients at a time.

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund is currently carrying out two other projects sponsored by its Toronto affiliate: the complete renovation of the third and fourth floors of the Nork Retirement Home, in Yerevan; and the refurbishment of the Education and Cultural Centre of Shushi, Artsakh.

Commenting on the completion of the St. Gregory Hospital project and other initiatives sponsored by the Toronto affiliate, Mkrtich Mkrtichian, its chairman, said, "We are extremely gratified by the fact that the Armenian community of Toronto is doing its utmost to be of assistance to our sisters and brothers in the homeland."

Armenian Economy Rated 'Moderately Free'

Armenia has the 39th freest economy in the world thanks to a liberal regulatory environment and "competitive" tax rates, according to an annual survey released by two conservative U.S. institutions on Thursday.

"The Wall Street Journal" and the Heritage Foundation rated 179 countries on four criteria of economic freedom, including the rule of law, the size of government and market openness.

With a cumulative score of 68.8, Armenia was placed into a category of nations with "moderately free" economies. It was ranked 19th freest among 43 countries in Europe, ahead of France and Norway. Of all other former Soviet republics, only neighboring Georgia as well as Lithuania and Estonia occupy higher spots in the 2012 Index of Economic Freedom.

"The overall regulatory framework remains efficient, facilitated by streamlined business procedures and competitive tax rates," said the WSJ/Heritage survey. "Policies that support open markets are firmly in place, making the country's investment and trade regimes competitive."

Still, Armenia's overall score decreased by 0.9 point from last year because of what authors of the survey see as negative trends in corruption, government spending and monetary freedom.

"That should be a subject of serious analysis because in the absence of other competitive advantages economic freedom is our main trump card," said Gagik Minasyan, the pro-government chairman of the Armenian parliament's committee on finance and budgetary affairs.

"We should not be satisfied with the fact that other CIS countries are below 100th place," Minasyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

Armenian analysts and opposition politicians have treated the largely positive WSJ/Heritage findings with a degree of skepticism. They argue that the global surveys focus on the content of business-related laws and regulations, rather than their enforcement by the government.

"Based on the indicators used in the survey, Armenia's position should have been worse," said Vahagn Khachatryan, an economist and senior member of the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK).

Khachatryan pointed to the existence of de facto economic monopolies and the importance of government connections for doing business in the country.

The U.S. survey did acknowledge problems with the Armenian business environment. "Although the country performs relatively well in many of the four pillars of economic freedom, the foundations of economic freedom are not strongly sustained by a strong and independent judiciary," it said. "Lingering corruption further undermines opportunities for more vibrant and lasting economic development."

In a recent interview with RFE/RL's Armenian service, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said his government will step up its efforts to improve the investment climate in 2012. He said reforms carried out by the government have already produced "encouraging" results.

"There was no change in the business environment in 2011," insisted Khachatryan. He downplayed a recent World Bank report which concluded that doing business in Armenia has become somewhat easier over the past year.

Euroterm company invests \$3.5 million in Armenian food and vegetable processing factory

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan visited on Friday food and vegetable processing factory which is under construction in Armenia's Armavir region.

Eduard Ghazaryan, director of the Euroterm company investing in the factory, told journalists that

the project will attract credit funds amounting at \$3.5 million. The factory opening this summer will employ 50 people.

The plant will produce concentrates for baby fruit puree, tomato and red pepper paste. Annual volume of production will reach

765,000 tons, most of which will be exported.

Euroterm company is producing fruit and vegetable products under Noyan brand. Investments in the company's production made approximately \$6.6 million in 1998-2005.

Rating of 9 eurozone countries is lowered - Standard & Poor's

The American Standard & Poor's (S&P) rating agency carried out its warning, which was made in the end of 2011, and on Friday it lowered the rating of nine eurozone countries.

The AAA rating of France and Austria was lowered up to AA+, dpa informs. Also, the rating of

Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Cyprus was lowered by two points, whereas that of Malta, Slovakia, and Slovenia, by one point.

S&P has a negative forecast for fourteen eurozone countries, but it confirmed Germany's AAA rating.

The agency's actions were harshly criticized in Europe. Olli

Rehn, the European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro, stated that the agency's given decisions are not substantiated, Reuters News Agency informs. He also announced that the European mechanism for financial stability will be put into effect in July.

Garo Ghazarian appointed to Glendale Civil Service Commission

The City Council of Glendale, California has unanimously confirmed the nomination of law school dean and professor Garo Ghazarian to the City's Civil Service Commission.

In making the nomination, Glendale City Council Member and two-time former mayor of Glendale, Rafi Manoukian, referred his Council colleagues to Mr. Ghazarian's vast array of relevant legal experience and to his significant community involvement. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Frank Quintero, who had this to say about Ghazarian, "He's a great nominee and he's going to do a very good job on the Civil Service Commission."

ing his tenure.

Besides his commitment to the City of Glendale for the next four years as one of its five Civil Service Commissioners, Mr. Ghazarian continues to serve as the Dean of the Peoples College of Law in Los Angeles, where for the past 17 years he has been a professor of criminal law. In addition, he is the Vice-Chair of the Armenian Bar Association, Co-Chair of its pro-bono committee, a board member of MABA-PAC (Mexican-American Bar Association, Political Action Committee), a board member of Yerevan-based think tank A.C.N.I.S. (Armenian Center for National & International Studies), and a regular legal



Council Member Ara Najarian, a past Glendale mayor, added "I support Mr. Ghazarian. I've known him for many years. He is a very active member of the community, the law enforcement community and the local bar associations. Garo Ghazarian is not afraid to speak his mind, and does so with due respect." Laura Friedman, Glendale's presiding mayor, remarked that though she does not personally know Mr. Ghazarian, "Looking at his resume, I thought to myself, wow, what a catch!" With that, the mayor concluded by saying, "I am very happy to support the nomination."

Newly-appointed Commissioner Ghazarian, having taken the oath of office, attended his first Civil Service Commission hearing on December 14, 2011. From the dais, he thanked Council Member Manoukian for the nomination, and the City Council for the appointment. He also congratulated his predecessor, Mr. Ara Hatamian, for a job well done dur-

commentator on national and international news networks, including CNN, Headline News, and Al Jazeera English TV.

"Garo Ghazarian is an indispensable member of the Armenian Bar Association," said Armenian Bar Chairman Edwin Minassian. "His service to the community is vital and well documented. His appointment to the Glendale Civil Service Commission confirms his great commitment to serving his community."

The Civil Service Commission establishes the rules and policies under which Glendale's merit system operates, ensuring continuation of Glendale's reputation as a city whose employees attain and keep their positions on the basis of ability, training and experience, rather than on unwarranted considerations and affiliations. It also serves as a quasi-judicial body in hearing employee appeals against disciplinary actions such as suspension, reduction or removal.



VivaCell-MTS Supports Modernization Program of the Qanaqer-Zeytun Medical Center's Ophthalmology Clinic... ...and Announces the Commercial Launch of Armenia's First 4G/LTE Network

By Andy Barsamian

On December 29 VivaCell-MTS announced that Armenia's leading mobile operator has supported the modernization program of the Qanaqer-Zeytun Medical Center's ophthalmology clinic initiated by the Yerevan municipality.

One of the most important preconditions for improving the quality of medical services is the availability of modern equipment. The Qanaqer-Zeytun Medical Center's ophthalmology clinic serves people not only in Yerevan but also the population of the whole country: the majority of visitors are pensioners and the socially disadvantaged class.

"VivaCell-MTS continues to support the social groups who are most in need of attention. Believing that all people have the right to equal access to quality health care, our company gladly stood next to this initiative of the municipality. This hospital serves mainly pensioners and our compatriots living in difficult socio-economic conditions, and happily now they can be examined and treated with the help of modern equipment", said VivaCell-MTS

General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**.

This year, during 6 months, 1758 patients have been treated in the Center. However, the insufficient level of medical equipment had always been a serious obstacle for the staff for fully realizing its professional potential.

Due to VivaCell-MTS support, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, necessary check-ups and operations have become more effective. Significant progress has been registered in terms of the professional knowledge of the medical personnel and improving the quality of services. The financial assistance of Armenia's leading mobile operator was AMD 50 million.

And a day before, on December 28 VivaCell-MTS has announced the commercial launch of the first 4G/Long Term Evolution network

(LTE). Reportedly, VivaCell-MTS' 4G/LTE network offers downlink and uplink peak data rates up to 150 Mbp/s and 50 Mbp/s correspondingly. The actual speed provided by the 4G/LTE network is approximately 10 times higher than that of any currently operating 3G networks. As

pansion to Gyumri and Vanadzor and other regional centers of Armenia.

The 4G/LTE devices (dongles) offered to subscribers provided theoretical speeds of up to 100 Mbps downlinks and 50 Mbp/s uplinks. The devices also are compatible with the traditional GSM network.

As proven by the 4G/LTE commercial trial in selected countries, in the future it is expected to be the dominating and the most effective next generation mobile broadband network technology.

Prior to the full-scale launch of this super high-speed commercial service, VivaCell-MTS has launched its 4G/LTE network in test mode in December 2010, in order to verify the LTE network system for speed, latency, smooth inter-cell handover and other essential conditions required for the commercial operation.

"VivaCell-MTS has launched the first commercial 4G/LTE network in Armenia – to create better modern infrastructure for business, by positioning Armenia as one of the top technologically-advanced countries of the world. As proven by the 4G/LTE trial, our decision to introduce this most innovative technology platform to the Armenian market has been justified. Both businesses users and individuals can benefit from VivaCell-MTS' 4G/LTE network. The network will give subscribers the ability to work at significantly faster speeds and increased work efficiency. 4G/LTE is the technology of the future made available in Armenia today," VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian commented.

VivaCell-MTS is the first Armenian company that was granted the permission by Armenia's Public Services Regulatory Commission to build 4G mobile network through LTE technology using sections of radio-frequencies in the range of 40 MHz till November 4, 2019, in Yerevan - 2500-2520 MHz and 2620-2640 MHz and 2600-2640 MHz – in the regions.



Armenia's leading mobile operator providing cutting-edge mobile products and services, VivaCell-MTS is the pioneer of providing 4G commercial services as well.

Initially, 4G/LTE will be in the center of Yerevan, with further ex-

Armenia 2011- Without Illusions: the Civiltas Fourth Annual Report

The guest speakers evaluates the year

By George Chakhalian

The Civiltas Foundation (founded and headed by **Vartan Oskanian**, who set a record for an appointed RA state official by being posted as FM for 10 years, 1998-2008) held its traditional end-of-the-year meeting with a presentation of Armenia 2011: Without Illusions, its fourth annual report on December 29, 2011. The program, moderated by Civiltas analyst Tatul Hakobyan, featured guest speakers **Lilit Galstyan**, Member, National Assembly, **Hranush Kharatyan**, Ethnographer and **Andranik Tevanyan**, Director of the Politeconomia Institute. Hakobyan asked panelists about the 20 years of independence and missed opportunities in regional, domestic and economic areas. He also focused on the recurring miss when it comes to holding credible and fair elections. Tevanyan stressed the importance of the most successful achievement of the 20 years – the Karabakh victory. He said, however, that as with other areas, we have not succeeded in taking ownership of that victory. Kharatyan said that although this country belongs to Armenians, Armenians do not feel themselves the owners of this land. Nor have Armenia's citizens

come to defend their right to property, their right to the country's resources, to the right to write law, to the right to have their rightful representation. In general, "We have not managed to become rightful owners," she said. Galstyan said that to speak of successes during the last year would be to speak in the spirit of Don Quixote, that the year was one of missed opportunities, when the failures of the country's leadership deepened. Every Armenian feels him/herself alienated from the values of the system of governance. Tevanyan stressed the importance of economic fundamentals for democratic development. He said the ruling system is self-destructing, it's cracking from within, is more fragmented than ever, and that in the next parliamentary election, for the first time, the ruling pyramid will not be unified. For him, the order is clear: We must seek to impose economic democracy, and only after that will we have political democracy," he said.

As the say in the Report preface,

"...If each of these Civiltas end-of-the-year summaries had been intended to serve as a window to the policies, events and trends of the last year, this year's report is almost a guide to opportunities lost and opportunities that still lie ahead. If there was a single unify-ing theme to 2011, it was confusion, frustration and anxiety,



all around the globe. This was coupled with the loss of any lingering illusions, as the world marked the 20th anniversary of the collapse of the Soviet Union". And so they went on by saying:

"Further, in 2011, there was a new imperative to review and rethink the economic and political assumptions that form the foundation of some of the Western world's greatest powers.

While still in the midst of a deep economic crisis, US public and po-

litical circles began to angst over the tenets of the American economic and political institutions. The European Union, too, will continue for months and years to agonize about the essence and nature of that union, and the new fiscal and political creed that will be required to sustain it. The deliberations extended beyond the West and even beyond liberation. In the Arab world, anger and hope combined to bring an awakening and a search for a democratic future. In Asia, political and economic uncertainties were given voice. Even in Russia, the end of 2011 saw the beginnings of a public search for a shared vision of a 21st century Russia. But in the 20-year-old Republic of Armenia, the historic anniversary came and went with no search for new political answers to society's economic ills, no urge to move forward with additional reforms, no talk of austerity and debt, no compulsion to compete with the neighbors.

Instead there was silence. Not only was there no mood for revolution, there was not even a concerted

push for political evolution. Those who voiced dissatisfaction with the status quo and the need for change did not have, or did not believe they had, the means to make change possible.

In a Civiltas poll, conducted in the fall, two-thirds of those queried across the country said they would vote again to leave the Soviet Union. For them, and even for the one-third whose disappointments clearly approach regret, some things are assumed to be irreversible. Those are personal freedoms: the right to free movement, the hope for gender equality, the right to speech and to worship, the right to a minimal standard of living and to basic health and education. These are the ideals taken for granted by the independence generation. They still do not know how to strategize, organize, make change or make policy, but they do know they have rights and have no fears about exercising those rights. Possibly best of all, they have no illusions. They have seen difficult years. In that same Civiltas poll, it was the 20 to 40 year olds, and the 60+ year olds who were most optimistic. Perhaps the promises, the realities, the uncertainties of the last several years will give way to a new year, without illusions, but with hope"...

The Pedagogical University News: the Concluding Meeting of the ASPU Council, the Website Presentation and a New Year Concert



By **Gourgen James Khazhakian**
Chief correspondent

On 29 December 2011 concluding meeting of the Council was held at the Armenian State Pedagogical University after Khachatur Abovyan (ASPU). The agenda of the meeting included election of the Head of the newly established Chair of Chess and Sports as well other Chairs, awarding of scientific titles and some other issues.

At the beginning of the meeting on behalf of the ASPU Council the University Rector Professor **Ruben Mirzakhanyan** thanked ASPU Pro-rector **Mejlum Yeritsyan** for his long time services and awarded him with the "Pedagogical University" Medal.

When presenting Council's new members, Rector Mirzakhanyan

proudly mentioned the name of the Academician, Dr. of Science, Professor, world known philosopher **Georg Brutyan** as a new member.

The Council members voted "yes" granting scientific titles those who was recommended by the Selection Committee under the Council.

All the members of the Council voted "yes" also for a world known chess player GM **Smbat Lputyan** as the Head of the ASPU Chess and Sports Chair.

And after a report on the activities done in 2011 was presented by the ASPU Rector Professor Ruben Mirzakhanyan.

Mr Mirzakhanyan qualified the

passing year as a "satisfactory" one and informed that a 40% increase of the salaries was implemented at the University, ensuring the Council members that in 2012 the ASPU staff



salaries will be raised at another 40%.

Coming back to the issues of the educational system, the ASPU Rector said in particular. "We should realize that the university education is aimed, first of all, at receiving the knowledge,

but not a diploma only". He also added that the profound knowledge is one of the main challenges in nowadays rapidly changing world. Emphasizing the human resource police was

held at ASPU within last years, Professor Ruben Mirzakhanyan stressed that the team of lecturers and the supporting staff members of the ASPU have been compiled on the basis of "fair contest principle". During the ASPU Council meeting the official website of the University (www.armspu.am) was presented.

At the end of the Council meeting Rector Ruben Mirzakhanyan congratulated the attendees for New Year and Christmas holidays and hoped that

forthcoming 90th anniversary of the ASPU establishment is a "wonderful occasion to once again attract attention on the University to show that the ASPU is the largest educational institution and really has its unique national importance".

And the next day, on December 30, they enjoyed a New Year concert by the "ASPU Gary Qyosayan Jazz Quartet" which performed compositions by George Gershwin, Michel Legrand, other composers and **Gary Qyosayan** himself. Finalizing the passing year, internationally recognized jazzman, composer and pianist Gary Qyosayan appreciated his cooperation with the ASPU. In the foreseeable future master classes by Maestro Gary Qyosayan are to be held at the Pedagogical University.

Acknowledgement:
Diana Markosyan,
ASPU PR Manager

Sassounian: Azerbaijan, Obama Suffer Setbacks as Bryza's Service Cut Short



**By Harut
Sassounian**
*Publisher, The
California Courier*

As a result of successive political blunders by the Obama administration, Matthew Bryza was forced to abandon his ambassadorial post in Azerbaijan last week.

Pres. Obama ignored repeated warnings that the candidate he was nominating as Ambassador to Azerbaijan in May 2010 had serious flaws. Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee accused Bryza of having a pro-Azerbaijani bias and questionable ties to Azeri officials. The Senators were troubled by reports that foreign officials had given Bryza lavish gifts at his Istanbul wedding, during which the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan had served as a groomsman. In addition, the nominee's Turkish-born wife Zeyno Baran was accused of conflicts of interest while working on Caspian energy issues at a Washington think tank. She had also antagonized the Armenian-American community by testifying

against recognition of the Armenian Genocide at a Senate Subcommittee hearing.

When Pres. Obama failed to take these concerns seriously, Senators Barbara Boxer (Dem.-CA) and Robert Menendez (Dem.-New Jersey) had no choice but to place a hold on Bryza's nomination, effectively blocking his confirmation. Obama then compounded his error by appointing Bryza as Ambassador to Azerbaijan in late 2010 without Senate approval. The President seemed oblivious to the potential damage to his own reputation, the prestige of the United States, and U.S.-Azeri relations, should the Senate not confirm Bryza's nomination, forcing him to leave his post and return to Washington upon expiration of his 12-month appointment.

As Amb. Bryza's temporary assignment was ending in December 2011, Obama administration officials pressured Senators Boxer and Menendez to allow him to continue serving in Azerbaijan by confirming his nomination. The two Senators remained steadfast in opposing Bryza, even though it is not easy for these Democratic politi-

cians to turn down a request from the President of the United States, who also happens to be the nominal leader of their own party.

The Senators were also pressured by the government of Azerbaijan and its powerful lobbying firms which went into overdrive to justify their exorbitant fees. Through their special connections they were able to get the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post to publish editorials attacking the Senators and the Armenian National Committee of America which had spearheaded a public campaign against this unqualified Ambassadorial nominee.

Not surprisingly, the Wall Street Journal heaped lavish praise on Bryza, calling him a "respected career foreign service officer," and accused the two Senators of "kissing up to the Armenian-American lobby."

The Washington Post was even nastier. Its editorial could be described as outright racist and anti-Armenian. Contrary to its claim of defending "the larger U.S. national interest," the newspaper was actually advocating the confirmation of an Ambassador with questionable credentials who would weaken,

rather than strengthen America's interests.

The Washington Post concluded its shameful editorial by accusing "oil-poor" and "isolated" Armenia as being the biggest loser in the Bryza controversy. We beg to disagree. This is an American issue and Armenia had no role in it. In fact, the biggest losers are those who lobbied long and hard for the confirmation of an ill-qualified Ambassador who was more intent on serving the interests of Baku in Washington than those of America in Azerbaijan.

In my opinion, the real losers are:

1) Pres. Obama who picked a poorly qualified nominee and stubbornly pushed for his confirmation when it was crystal clear from day one that Bryza did not have the chance of a snowball in hell to get confirmed.

2) The government of Azerbaijan which spent a fortune on lobbyists who miserably failed to get the job done.

3) Azeri and Turkish organizations, such as the Azerbaijani-American Council, Azerbaijan Society of America, Pax Turcica Institute, US Azeris Network, and Assembly of

Turkish-American Associations, which issued countless press releases and sent thousands of e-mails to the Senate — to no avail. By supporting Bryza, they confirmed that in fact he was "their man," and not an unbiased diplomat.

4) The Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post which compromised their journalistic integrity to please their "petro-friends."

5) The 36 former U.S. officials who signed a joint letter urging the Senate to confirm Bryza. It is no mere coincidence that most of these signatories are currently associated with think tanks and lobbying firms that are funded by Azerbaijan or expect such funding in the future.

There are, however, two clear winners:

1) The Armenian-American community which has sent a loud and clear message to Baku, Ankara, and Washington that it represents a powerful political force to be reckoned with.

2) Matthew Bryza and his wife, who as lobbyists for Azerbaijan and Turkey, can be expected to make millions by cashing in on their high-level connections in Baku and Ankara.

Rethinking the Growth Imperative

By Kenneth Rogoff

CAMBRIDGE — Modern macroeconomics often seems to treat rapid and stable economic growth as the be-all and end-all of policy. That message is echoed in political debates, central-bank boardrooms, and front-page headlines. But does it really make sense to take growth as the main social objective in perpetuity, as economics textbooks implicitly assume?

Certainly, many critiques of standard economic statistics have argued for broader measures of national welfare, such as life expectancy at birth, literacy, etc. Such appraisals include the United Nations Human Development Report, and, more recently, the French-sponsored Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, led by the economists Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen, and Jean-Paul Fitoussi.

But there might be a problem even deeper than statistical narrowness: the failure of modern growth theory to emphasize adequately that people are fundamentally social creatures. They evaluate their welfare based on what they see around them, not just on some absolute standard.

The economist Richard Easterlin famously observed that surveys of "happiness" show surprisingly little evolution in the decades after World War II, despite significant trend income growth. Needless to say, Easterlin's result seems less plausible for very poor countries, where rapidly rising incomes often allow societies to enjoy large life improvements, which presumably strongly correlate with any reasonable measure of overall well-being.

In advanced economies, however, benchmarking behavior is almost

surely an important factor in how people assess their own well-being. If so, generalized income growth might well raise such assessments at a much slower pace than one might expect from looking at how a rise in an individual's income relative to others affects her welfare. And, on a related note, benchmarking behavior may well imply a different calculus of the tradeoffs between growth and other economic challenges, such as environmental degradation, than conventional growth models suggest.

To be fair, a small but significant literature recognizes that individuals draw heavily on historical or social benchmarks in their economic choices and thinking. Unfortunately, these models tend to be difficult to manipulate, estimate, or interpret. As a result, they tend to be employed mainly in very specialized contexts, such as efforts to explain the so-called "equity premium puzzle" (the empirical observation that over long periods, equities yield a higher return than bonds).

There is a certain absurdity to the obsession with maximizing long-term average income growth in perpetuity, to the neglect of other risks and considerations. Consider a simple thought experiment. Imagine that per capita national income (or some broader measure of welfare) is set to rise by 1% per year over the next couple of centuries. This is roughly the trend per capita growth rate in the advanced world in recent years. With annual income growth of 1%, a generation born 70 years from now will enjoy roughly double today's average income. Over two centuries, income will grow eight-fold.

Now suppose that we lived in a much faster-growing economy, with per capita income rising at 2% annu-

ally. In that case, per capita income would double after only 35 years, and an eight-fold increase would take only a century.

Finally, ask yourself how much you really care if it takes 100, 200, or even 1,000 years for welfare to increase eight-fold. Wouldn't it make more sense to worry about the long-term sustainability and durability of global growth? Wouldn't it make more sense to worry whether conflict or global warming might produce a catastrophe that derails society for centuries or more?

Even if one thinks narrowly about one's own descendants, presumably one hopes that they will be thriving in, and making a positive contribution to, their future society. Assuming that they are significantly better off than one's own generation, how important is their absolute level of income?

Perhaps a deeper rationale underlying the growth imperative in many countries stems from concerns about national prestige and national security. In his influential 1989 book *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, the historian Paul Kennedy concluded that, over the long run, a country's wealth and productive power, relative to that of its contemporaries, is the essential determinant of its global status.

Kennedy focused particularly on military power, but, in today's world, successful economies enjoy status along many dimensions, and policymakers everywhere are legitimately concerned about national economic ranking. An economic race for global power is certainly an understandable rationale for focusing on long-term growth, but if such competition is really a central justification for this focus, then we need to re-examine standard macroeconomic models,

which ignore this issue entirely.

Of course, in the real world, countries rightly consider long-term growth to be integral to their national security and global status. Highly indebted countries, a group that nowadays includes most of the advanced economies, need growth to help them to dig themselves out. But, as a long-term proposition, the case for focusing on trend growth is not as encompassing as many policymakers and economic theorists would have one believe.

In a period of great economic uncertainty, it may seem inappropriate to question the growth imperative. But, then again, perhaps a crisis is exactly the occasion to rethink the longer-term goals of global economic policy.

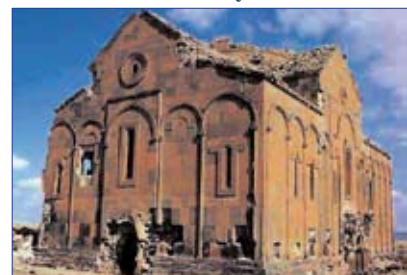
Kenneth Rogoff is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University, and was formerly chief economist at the IMF.

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15-days tour to Western Armenia (Ani, Kars, Van, Tigranakert), Cilicia (Hromkla, Mount Nemrut, Ayntap, Mousaler, Adana, Sis, Anarzaba, Korikos, Kharberd, Erzurum), Cyprus.

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ANNUAL HOROSCOPE 2012

from page 8

circumstances have come to know yourself from a deeper, more conscious core. Starting last spring changes have come into your life through relationships with others. This will continue for another six years. Many of these relationships will be with those who have minds of their own and they will teach you to set boundaries, claim your independence in a relationship and learn more about taking care of yourself. They may come and go suddenly. Times of potential upheaval occur in Feb., Aug., Sep., and early Nov. Times of restoration are Jan., Oct., and latter Nov. through Dec. During the months of May and June you may back off from relationships altogether for R&R. Beginning in Nov. you will have fewer discretionary resources. This may be due to a decision to decrease debt, or increase savings and investments. Gather clarity about how your taxes will work out for 2012 by year end if possible, to prevent the unexpected during the spring.

Scorpio:



The flow of 2012 will begin in slow motion for the first four months. It may feel to you as though you are repeatedly treading old ground. You are looking for somewhere to connect and put down roots. In May you might encounter a physical or emotional blockage that demands healing before you move forward. In June through Sep. you will be heavily involved in the drama of our time: justice versus oppression. This will certainly develop in your personal life and you may also become involved in the collective struggle. Note your frame of mind in July and take responsibility for it. If you do not realize you are angry, a situation may drop in from the sky that will remind you of circumstances of the past. You will be prone to overreact if you aren't clearly in touch with yourself. Drive and handle tools very carefully at that time. In the big picture you are nearly at the end of a 28 year cycle concerning your work in the world. As the fall begins you are likely to leave behind

an old and worn out way of life. You may be choosing to be alone for a while rather than continue in a dead situation. Even those in committed relationships may choose to withdraw while you concentrate upon reinventing yourself during the next few years.

Sagittarius:



Beginning last July your opportunities related to work have begun to open. You are able to make more income than before. In addition your physical and emotional health have improved. This good fortune continues through the month of March, 2012. The window does not close, but after March it will be your responsibility to maintain the opportunities you've been given. In mid-June your ruling planet, Jupiter, moves into the sign of Gemini for the following year. This brings improvements in partnerships of any kind. In particular, note the time frame during the second half of July to bring positive changes in this area. Perhaps you will find someone new or will be adding new spirit to an ongoing relationship. In the last quarter your leverage and assistance from behind closed doors will somehow vaporize. Maybe a supportive supervising person will retire or leave the scene or perhaps it will be your choice to depart. Throughout the year you will feel restless concerning your sense of home and security base. You may be searching for the truth of your history. At any time during the next few years you may discover that some facts about your past were never true at all. Previously unknown factors may alter the picture entirely. Many of you will be yearning to seek a dream that takes you to distant places. The theme of water is prominent, suggesting that you need to create a home literally nearby a body of water or maybe add the soothing of water sounds to your environment.

Capricorn:

This is the first year of four which bring major transition and change to your life. For 2012 the summer and fall are particularly



notable. On the mundane level you likely will see significant changes among those in your family. As this happens, your own attitudes about how families should be will open to the unusual, even eccentric. You will struggle inside yourself on the subject of control versus freedom. You may become bored, tired of being in charge and ready to pass on the baton. One part of you is looking for escape from the crucible of your own rules. If this does not come from the inside, you will be challenged from the outside to crack a firm belief and allow the rush of a great gulp of fresh air to open your mind. The freedom will be exhilarating, once you let go of the struggle. Since last summer you have been given fresh inspiration through a creative work, the birth of a child, or another new love in your life. This energy is prominent through April. Between May and August an issue requiring healing of the body or spirit will come to the surface and require attention. It is possible that it is someone near to you who requires your assistance, rather than yourself. During the last quarter of the year you will feel a need to take responsibility for your niche in life and clarify the role you want to play in the world.

Aquarius:



As Neptune departs your sign in Feb., it may carry away the last vestiges of an illusion you have had about yourself or your direction in life. It has been with you for 14 years, so the change may be startling. Perhaps a long held spiritual belief is dissolving or becoming much less a priority. It was good for many years but if we are to grow, we must allow some things to be left behind, lest they turn to concrete. A new vision for your life will take its place as the year moves forward, but be patient. There is likely to be a period of vagueness between the beginning and the end of the year. During the summer you could be attending to the health of yourself or that of someone who depends upon you. Your career or work

in the world is moving toward an important turning point. The short version is that you will be promoted or you will depart. You can predict this now by understanding yourself and your attitude toward your occupation. If you are participating in work that fulfills you, then in late 2012 and through 2013 you will be given a boost, along with more recognition and responsibility. If instead, you are bored and ready to depart then the transition away from this situation will be at your front door by the end of this year. You may choose it yourself or it may occur as happenstance. The point is that it is time to find purpose in the world that makes sense for you. If it is not already there, then it will be time to seek out another adventure.

Pisces:



During 2011 you began to wake up to your mission in life. Your entire history has prepared you for what is beginning to happen now. The Piscean, who often feels like a bystander in the world, is coming into a true calling. For quite a long time

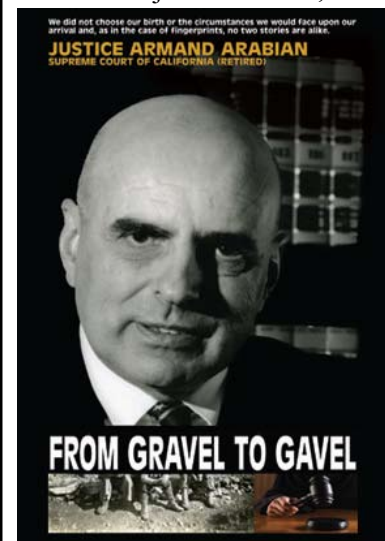
you have been prepared for bringing your voice of inspiration and healing to the world. Warnings! Do not allow your ego to take control of this mission or it will go dark. You are not the only one, but your natural gifts are called forth by the collective now. It is important that you recognize you are becoming a messenger. You are not the message. You must take care of your body. Whatever might be amiss in your physical system will show its symptoms now. Addictions of whatever type are already taking their toll. Carefully consider your lifestyle and recognize that not all addictions are chemical. Between July of last summer and the end of April 2012, a perfect path has opened up which will show your first few steps on this journey. Teaching, short distance travels, or communication of your ideas is prominent and must happen now. During late Feb. and Mar. it will be time to back up and review, to insure you are a clear vehicle for the message. Overcome your natural tendency to shyness and speak up while you have the opportunity. Other possibilities for reaching people develop in the fall. Do not give into fear. The world is ready for you at last.

Armand Arabian to present his new book "From Gravel To Gavel" at Ararat-Eskijian Museum

Judge Armand Arabian is scheduled to speak on his new book "From Gravel to Gavel" at Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Sun-

day January 15th 2012, at 4pm From Gravel to Gavel chronicles Judge Arabians life and his Armenian background.

Justice Arabian was raised in New York; he was the first born son of Armenian immigrants who came to America after surviving the Armenian Genocide of 1915. He received a Juris Doctor Degree in 1961 from Boston University's School of Law and became a deputy district attorney of Los Angeles County. In 1972, Governor Ronald Reagan appointed him judge of the Municipal Court, and then in 1973, he was appointed to the Superior Court in 1983.



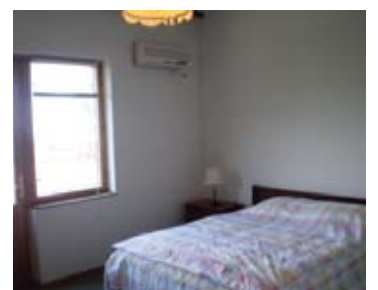
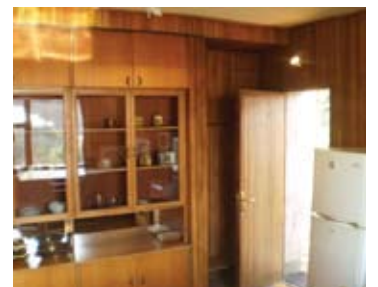
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DID YOU KNOW?



Heading by
Marina Harutiunyan
marina@nt.am
Comments are
welcomed!

First competition of 'unmanned aircrafts' to take place in Armenia

The Union of Information Technology Enterprises announces 2012 as competition year of 'unmanned aircrafts' in the framework of Armenian open tournament of robots (ArmRobotics). The participants must design and create devices that will be able to survey the area during the flight, to understand signs of positioning, to send online images, to find special target, to throw a load of 300 grams at the target and to return to the starting point.

The robot can be constructed in any way: VTOL (vertical take-off and landing), CTOL (conventional take-off and landing), STVOL (short vertical take-off and landing). The take-off and landing of the robot can be controlled automatically as well as remote.

Applicants can register on the website and must present the robot's thorough design and plan ten days after the registration.

The competition is organized by The

Union of Information Technology Enterprises. It is sponsored by VivaCell-MTS, the technical sponsor is 'ArtinVaruzhan'

company. Armenian MOD and Microsoft innovation center support the competition as well.



Throat spray to help detect cancer

A fluorescent "throat spray" that pinpoints abnormal cells could help doctors spot early oesophagus cancer, research has shown.

The disease, which killed Inspector Morse star John Thaw, can easily be missed or wrongly diagnosed in its early stages. Often patients are given unnecessary invasive treatment, including removal of the oesophagus - the "food pipe" that connects the throat to the stomach.

The new technique involves spraying a fluorescent dye into the oesophagus that attaches to normal, healthy cells. The dye cannot stick to cancer cells or those turning malignant.

Abnormal cells stand out from healthy cells that glow green under light of a specific wave length, so they can then be seen with an endoscope - a flexible optical device - passed down the oesophagus.

Affected areas can be treated with radiofrequency ablation, a minimally invasive method of killing cancer cells using electrical current.

Dr Rebecca Fitzgerald, from the Med-

ical Research Council Cancer Cell Unit in Cambridge, who led the study published in the journal Nature Medicine, said: "Current methods to screen for oesophageal cancer are controversial - they are costly, uncomfortable for the patient and are not completely accurate.

"Our technique highlights the exact position of a developing oesophageal cancer, and how advanced it is, giving a more accurate picture. This could spare patients radical surgery to remove the oesophagus that can result in having to eat much smaller more regular meals and worse acid-reflux."

After pilot studies on large numbers of tissue samples, the spray was tested on four patients in the process of having early cancer removed. In two cases, the spray revealed hidden pre-cancerous areas that had evaded detection by conventional imaging. Another patient whose entire oe-

sophagus had been removed was shown to have undergone unnecessary treatment. The cancer only affected a small area and could have been treated less drastically.

Co-author Professor Kevin Brindle, from Cancer Research UK's Cambridge Research Institute, said: "The benefit of using this dye is that it is specific, relatively cheap and is found in our normal diets so unlikely to cause any unwanted effects at the levels we use. We now need to test our technique in newly diagnosed patients, but it has great potential to be used with current imaging techniques to help improve treatment for oesophageal cancer."

Oesophageal cancer is the ninth most common cancer in the UK. Each year around 8,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with oesophageal cancer and rates of the disease in men have risen by more half in a generation. Risk factors for the disease include alcohol use and smoking.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Vahan Teryan

Translated by Diana Der Hovanesian.

THE GIRL WHO WORKED MIRACLES

*Circe, siren, queen of the night,
one touch and you changed all my life,
burned down the past with eyes of fire,
goddess of miracles, miracle of light.
Sorcerous as the full moon's rays,
you smiled with pity and with care,
chained my free heart in golden snares,
conqueror with guileless ways.
Your songs dispensed or dispelled hurts.
Your selfless smile and your eyes
were lit with artless sweet surprise.
You had the gift of piquant words.
Violet, bred in an unknown land,
like Artemis, brightening my dark night,
you came like death's soft sting, the light
touch of fate's unrelenting hand.*

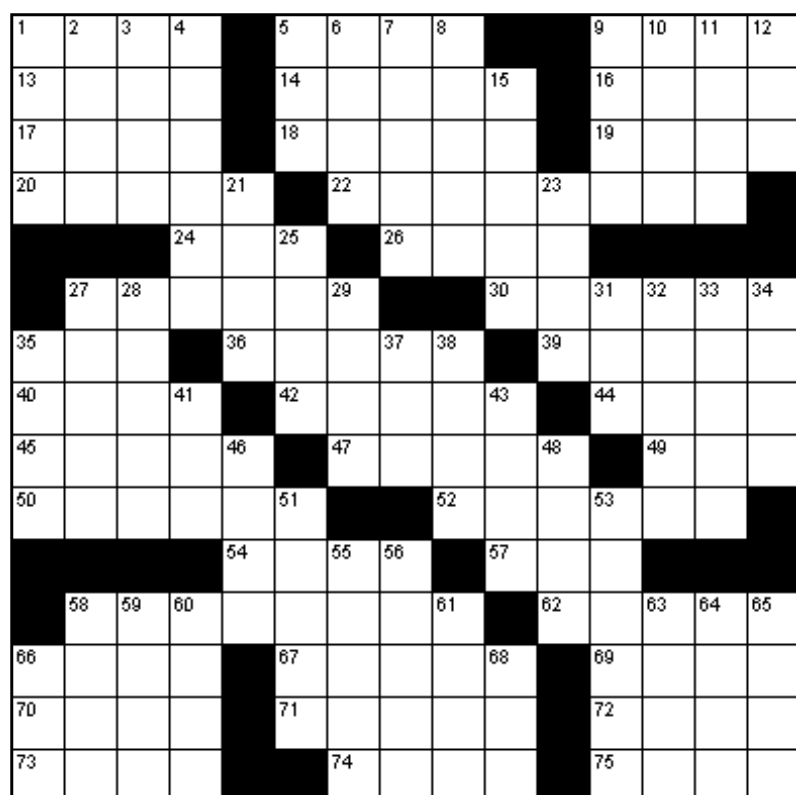
WITHOUT JUDGMENT

*I won't judge inferior or choice
in this indifferent, bitter world.
Let me list only what I loved—
your soft words, your eyes, your voice.
I loved the gold-filled autumn fields,
meadows adrift in shifting light,
the echo of words implied, unsaid
when you left and did not speak.
I love the fading light here where
I sit alone, never bored
but grateful for the dreams we shared.
Loving is its own reward.*

WORDS AT FAREWELL

*Without tears, without sobs, though you mourn,
let it go, let it flow to the past.
Leave my road and its night unshared dark.
Mine alone from now on. Here we part.
Do not reach out with pity, or stare.
Don't remain. Don't recall. Don't evoke.
Leave the fog, hopeless, stark, and my work.
No sisterly compassionate look.
Let me be without light or false hope.
Let the sun not burn yellow gold.
Only fears, only tears. Close your heart.
Pluck the sun from the sky and depart.
A tenacious nostalgia grips my aching heart
and does not allow the past to depart.*

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Kind of star
5. Group of cattle or sheep
9. To a greater extent
13. Heroic poem
14. Make a great effort
16. Iniquity
17. Direction
18. Mansion
19. Narrow projecting strip of land
20. Gastropod
22. Beauty treatment
24. Pinch
26. Facial expression
27. Body of water
30. Field event
35. Tender
36. Necessities
39. Carried in a certain way
40. Molecule
42. Greyish
44. Step
45. Mouselike mammal
47. Hunt illegally
49. Take liquid a little at a time
50. Boil vigorously
52. A need to drink
54. Apiece
57. Metal-bearing mineral
58. Linguist
62. Unit of geological time
66. Gag
67. Ashen
69. Having the means to do something
70. Halo
71. Foe
72. Scorch
73. Enfold
74. Mirth
75. A specific kind

Down

1. Reported information
2. Overt
3. Passport endorsement
4. Pretending
5. Lap
6. Test
7. Relating to the kidneys
8. Stingless male bee
9. Bill of fare
10. Finished
11. Food grain
12. Moose
15. Attempted
21. Predatory feline
23. Cot
25. Bard
27. Supple
28. Worship
29. Form of tide
31. Soak through
32. Unrefined
33. Complete or full-length
34. Ooze
35. Freshwater fish
37. Singing couple
38. Squabble
41. Encountered
43. Reverberation
46. Dairy product
48. Charter
51. Bird of prey
53. Meal
55. Hold on tightly
56. Small crude shelter
58. Rain heavily
59. Gumbo
60. Jump
61. Measure the duration of something
63. Comply
64. Applaud
65. This place
66. Mandible
68. Staining substance

Answer of previous crossword

S	M	A	L	L	P	A	S	S	G	A	S	H
P	I	X	I	E	A	R	C	H	A	L	T	O
A	L	I	A	S	L	I	A	R	S	T	I	R
R	E	S	I	S	T	D	R	I	P	E	N	D
		S	E	R	A	E	N	L	A	R	G	E
A	M	M	O	N	I	T	E	K	E	N		
J	O	I	N	E	L	A	N	A	D	O	P	T
A	L	L	D	A	V	I	T	P	R	O		
R	E	L	I	C	S	E	E	R	R	E	I	N
		M	A	R	S	C	A	V	E	N	G	E
L	A	M	P	R	E	Y	E	P	I	C		
O	W	E	T	H	U	S	S	T	I	C	K	Y
G	A	L	A	A	C	H	E	A	T	O	N	E
I	R	O	N	S	C	O	W	L	A	P	E	L
C	E	N	T	H	A	T	E	S	L	E	E	P

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19):



New Year's resolutions concerning health and fitness are going well. Keep it up! Your reflexes are on target, too. You will prevail in almost any competition. This is a good time to make adjustments in your life routines so that they will reflect what you really want to accomplish. You can easily stay on target with your goals now.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19):



Social and romantic life is favored this week. You may be mixing business and pleasure in a pleasant combination. 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.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20):



You are experiencing a major change in the areas of shared resources, investments, alimony, or inheritance. At this time you are mentally quarreling with yourself or with others over finding a solution to the problem. You want things as they were and that is not possible. Ask your Supervising Self for a perspective change.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21):



It is possible you will feel a sense of fatigue this week. Maybe something has caused you to be disappointed with yourself. Don't take the blues seriously or worry about yourself. In a few days you will feel much better. It is a temporary mood swing. Get some extra rest. Stay in touch with good friends.

Leo (July 21 - Aug 22):



You have a sense of physical strength at this time that will be especially beneficial if you are exercising or in any type of competition. This is also a particularly good time to organize your desk, closets, drawers or files. Eliminating waste of any kind will give you a sense of refreshment.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sep. 22):



You want answers and you may insist on having them right now, in spite of the fact that you are irritating the person who has the answer. Alternatively, you may be brooding over a child or a lover. There is an element of obsession here that may be beyond the norm. Do not let it take over your good sense.

Libra (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22):



You are bringing a creative work to a favorable conclusion now. It may be symbolic of all the work you have done on yourself in the last three years. For some Libras, this may be a time of positive culmination for one of your children. You have several aspects that favor romance, the arts, and things of beauty.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):



It is of paramount importance that you control your mouth this week. Although you have an opinion about whatever is happening, let it go and say nothing unless asked for it. Being "right" is not as important as maintaining human relations. Later you can take action to correct what you perceive is wrong, but now you will be challenged to a fight.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20):



You are in an especially cordial frame of mind at this time, and likely to invite people to your home, or to share whatever you have to offer. Your spirits are high and you have a need to be social. You are interested in whatever feels luxurious, looks beautiful, or tickles the senses. Going overboard would be all too easy!

Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19):



Mercury travels rapidly through your sign until Jan 27. During this period there likely will be greater emphasis on communications, errands, and other short distance travels. Your mind will be quick and your attitude persuasive. Your mind is loaded to the brim with intensity of purpose.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17):



That which has been a joy in the past is coming to a close during this period. You recognize that it's time is over and you are accepting about it, but a bit sad. This could be a person departing your life, or a last fling with an artistic pursuit. It might even be a special treasure which you feel the need to give away.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 19):



Your attitude about yourself is not altogether accurate right now. You may think way too much of your ideas, or alternately, you may see yourself as lower than scum. Neither is accurate and you should probably not make decisions of any importance this week. Spiritual pursuits are given a "go" signal.

Cafesjian Center for the Arts

Music Cascade

The concerts start at 8 p.m.

Date	Band
24.12.11	Christmas Jazz with Armenian Jazz Band

Admission: 2,000 AMD
Tel.: 567262, 541932



WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

Alexander Spendaryan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre

January 18 at 7 p.m.

"Anush" A. Tigranyan, Opera in 3 acts

H. Tumanyan Yerevan State Puppet Theater

January 21 and 22 at 7 p.m.

Cherchez la femme. Premiere

Mezzo Classic House Club

January 16 at 9:30 p.m.

"Nuance" EthnoJazz

January 17 at 9:30 p.m.

"Imagine" Band

January 18 at 9:30 p.m.

"Art Voices" Band

Club 12

January 16 at 9:30 p.m.

Jazz from Vahagn Hayrapetyan & Armen Hyustunts

January 17 at 9:30 p.m.

Chanson from Ruben Eghoyan
January 18 at 9:30 p.m.

Art-voices & Shushan Petrosyan

January 19 at 9:30 p.m.

Soul music from Common ground

January 20 at 9:30 p.m.

Latino party from Fiesta Caliente

January 21 and 22 at 9:30 p.m.

Retro disco party

Malkhas Jazz Club

January 16 at 9 p.m.

Artois group and Shushan Petrosyan

January 17 at 9 p.m.

Jazz Trio and singer Aghvan

January 18 at 9 p.m.

A Series of quintet: Saxophone, gitar, instrumental program

January 19 at 9 p.m.

"Time report"

January 20 at 9 p.m.

Concert Group

January 21 at 9 p.m.

Latino-American Jazz

The Council of Europe Office in Armenia announces a tender for the sale of a vehicle.

The technical specifications of the car are:

Car model – **Mitsubishi Pajero**
Engine – **2.8 l turbo diesel**
Mileage – **119000 km**
Transmission - **manual**
Date of production – **2004**
Date of purchase – **2005**

The car is sold with 4 additional tyres.

Specifications of 2 sets of tyres:

4 "Bridgestone all season", mileage – 51500 km
4 "Bridgestone winter", mileage - 4500km

Those who wish to participate in the tender are requested to submit their bids in a closed envelope mentioning the names of the participants as well as two telephone numbers.

For additional information, to see the car and to submit your bids, please address the Council of Europe Office in Armenia, Ms. Nazik Hambaryan, at the following address:

Yerevan, Erebuni Plaza Business Center, 6th floor, Vazgen Sargsyan str. 26/1
Tel: 54 63 22

Please submit your bids by noon (12.00) December 12, 2011.

Bids submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Council of Europe Office in Armenia

A PARIS

A LOUER
QUARTIER CHAMPS-ELYSEES
STUDIOS MEUBLES

Location par mois

écrire YEZEGUELIAN - 34 avenue des
Champs-Élysées - Paris 75008
mail: Gerancia34@wanadoo.fr Tel.: 00-331-43596519



Quote of the week



Don't let your victories go to your head, or your failures go to your heart.



President of the Noyan Tapan Media Holding:
Tigran Haroutunian

Editor-in-Chief of the Noyan Tapan:

Gayaneh Arakelian

Editor-in-Chief of the Weekly:

Haroutiun Khachatrian

Chief Correspondent:

Gourgen Khazhakian

Director of the Weekly:
Marina Harutunyan

Proofreader:
Susanna Mkrtchian

Layout:
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