

Commemoration ceremony in memory of fallen heroes

A Commemoration ceremony in memory of our heroes who perished defending the Homeland in the Artsakh war was held on November 22 in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

The memorial service at the open altar of St. Trdat was delivered by Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Karekin II.

The RA Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, the RA President Armen Sarkissian, other high-ranking officials were present at the ceremony. Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II called to put aside all ambitions in the face of a hard and



difficult reality. It is the duty of everyone to make every sacrifice to overcome the situation for the sake of the homeland's security and future. "The homeland must be protected from new shocks", said the Catholicos.

A few days ago, the Catholicos of All Armenians and the RA President had called for declaring November 22 a day of remembrance for the heroes who died defending the homeland in the Artsakh war. It was decided to hold a memorial service in all Armenian churches that day.

Pashinyan, Lavrov discuss humanitarian issues in Nagorno Karabakh

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov.

Welcoming the Russian Foreign Minister, Prime Minister Pashinyan said “the most important issue for us now is the situation in Nagorno Karabakh. We have to make decisions on many issues, the most important thing is the humanitarian side of the issue, we have to ensure the return of the people of Artsakh to their homes.”

Of course, he said, already now there is a rather good dynamic of the residents of Artsakh returning to their homes. And in fact, the Russian peacekeepers have been deployed in all the designated places and are provide security.

“This is a very important factor that ensures the security of the people of Nagorno Karabakh. But there are issues that have not been resolved and remain open: how will we ensure the exercise of the right of return of the residents of several regions in the future, who will ensure the security of our compatriots, how will it be imple-



mented? These, of course, are issues that are on our agenda. We must discuss and make decisions in that regard,” PM Pashinyan said.

Sergey Lavrov, in turn, thanked for the welcome and noted that the Russian delegation arrived in Yerevan within the framework of Nikol Pashinyan’s agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, in order to fully address all areas of cooperation, the allied, strategic relations.

“The November 9 statement provides an opportunity to resolve issues in Nagorno Karabakh on the basis of agreements

reached in a document signed by the three leaders. First of all, it refers to the return of refugees, the solution of all humanitarian issues of the current situation,” Lavrov said.

He thanked PM Pashinyan for his appreciation of the role played by the Russian peacekeepers, which is important not only in terms of security as a key component of their mandate, but also in terms of ongoing support for the returning people who need humanitarian assistance.

“And in addition to the role of peacekeepers, the interdepartmental center, which is being established by President Putin’s order, is already starting its work, and will also deal specifically with all these issues. We actively involve the international organizations of the UN system, we encourage them to use their opportunities in a more active, more proactive way for the people of that region. We actively support the International Committee of the Red Cross, which works, including in Karabakh,” the Russian Foreign Minister said.

Armenian, Russian defense ministers discuss situation around Nagorno Karabakh



The extended format meeting of the delegations of Armenia’s Defense Minister Vagharshak Harutyunyan and Defense Minister of Russia Sergei Shoigu was held at the Armenian defense ministry on November 21, the ministry told Noyan Tapan.

A broad range of issues relating to the cur-

rent situation around Nagorno Karabakh, the future actions and the Armenian-Russian military cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

Army General Sergei Shoigu congratulated Vagharshak Harutyunyan on appointment as Armenia’s Defense Minister.

The sides highly valued Russia’s role and efforts aimed at stabilizing the military-political situation in the region, as well as the process and effectiveness of the Russian peacekeeping mission in Artsakh in accordance with the November 10 statement signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia. The Russian defense minister reported on the actions done so far in this direction and the future plans.

The Armenian and Russian defense ministers stressed the importance of work on finding and exchanging killed servicemen, prisoners of war and missing persons, as well as the work of the inter-agency humanitarian response center created in the territory of Nagorno Karabakh aimed at organizing the works of the return of refugees, restoration of civilian infrastructure, etc.

At the end of the meeting the Armenian and Russian defense ministers signed a package of documents regulating the framework of the actions of the Russian peacekeeping troops in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

France, Russia and the US bear a special responsibility for Karabakh, French FM says



French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has emphasized the great responsibility that the Minsk Group countries bear in the settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. “France, Russia and the United States have a special responsibility. Because they were the ones who were entrusted by the UN to monitor compliance with the commitments assumed by the parties to the conflict. As co-chairmen of the Minsk Group, we made a lot of efforts to achieve a ceasefire. Three times in one week initiatives were undertaken to achieve a cessation of hostilities, in particular, by my Russian colleague Sergei Lavrov and by the United States, Michael Pompeo, but at that moment it did not work,” Le Drian said on Sunday during an interview with the French news channel LSI.

“We bear the responsibility that the international community has entrusted to us. And Armenia itself wants us to keep this responsi-

bility. All this requires us to adhere to a balanced position,” he said.

“Both the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaderships stressed the importance of preserving our role. But this does not prevent France from providing assistance to Armenia now – an airplane with humanitarian supplies arrives in Yerevan, another one will leave there next week,” the minister said. During the interview, he especially stressed that “Armenia is a friendly people for France.

“However, it should be admitted that there is uncertainty regarding the ceasefire reached – and we want the necessary clarifications to be made to us in this regard. They concern displaced persons, since there are many Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, and we strive to ensure that those Armenians, who were driven from their places of residence, return there,” the French minister said.

“It is also the issue of mercenaries – their withdrawal should be achieved, and all three countries – the co-chairs of the Minsk Group agree with the necessity of this,” he continued.

“There is also the issue of protecting religious and cultural heritage. In this regard, French President Emmanuel Macron took initiatives jointly with UNESCO, which I discussed on Saturday with my colleagues from Armenia and Azerbaijan,” Le Drian said.

“Only after the settlement of these problems can we move on to the issue of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. At the moment it is not possible to discuss this. And the Armenian leadership agrees with this,” Le Drian said.

The French Foreign Minister said that the topic of Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed by him during the recent visit of US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to Paris.

Armenian, French FM's discuss situation in Artsakh

Armenian Foreign Minister Ara Aivazyan had a telephone conversation with French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The French Foreign Minister congratulated Ara Aivazyan on his appointment and wished him every success in that important mission. Minister Aivazyan reaffirmed the readiness of the Armenian side to take joint steps towards further development of the privileged relations and multi-sectoral cooperation between the two countries.

The Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the developments in the region following



the November 9 ceasefire and deployment of peacekeepers in Artsakh. Reference was made to the humanitarian situation created in Artsakh due to the Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression and the steps taken to address it.

In this regard, Minister Aivazyan empha-

sized the importance of involvement of the international community in the work carried out on the spot to ensure the conditions for the restoration of the normal life of the Artsakh Armenians.

Both sides emphasized the priority of preserving the monuments of the Armenian historical and cultural heritage of Artsakh.

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and France, Ara Aivazyan and Jean-Yves Le Drian, attached importance to the cooperation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries to fully address the rights and interests of the Armenians of Artsakh.

Emmanuel Macron visits the Armenian Fund of France



French President Emmanuel Macron visited the headquarters of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's French affiliate to support the "Phoneton" which collects funds for the benefit of the populations in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, *AFP* reports.

"This humanitarian commitment is obviously what we owe to the 120,000 displaced persons from Nagorno Karabakh and the seven regions, as well as to at least

one million Armenians who today live in conditions which are unbearable," said the French President.

The first plane carrying aid from the French Government and the Fund will head for Yerevan on Sunday, November 22. The second plane is expected on November 27.

The humanitarian aid will be delivered to Armenia by French-Armenian football player, 1998 World Champion Youri Djorkaeff.

In addition to humanitarian aid, Emmanuel Macron explained that France was asking for "a cultural ceasefire" to avoid "destruction of Armenian cultural and religious heritage" in the region. The President also reiterated his wish for "international supervision" of the Russia-brokered agreement signed between Azerbaijan and Arme-

nia, which ended several weeks of fighting in Nagorno Karabakh, and "needs to be consolidated."

"There are still questions that cannot be settled only through a Turkish-Russian discussion," said Emmanuel Macron, who spoke on the subject November 19 with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.



Putin says war is the only alternative to the agreement on Karabakh

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that people who are trying to slow down the implementation of the agreement on Nagorno Karabakh must understand that war is the only alternative.

The Russian leader said this on Friday, November 20, at a meeting on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"People who are trying to slow down the implementation of the agreement must understand that there can be only one alternative to this – war. And if God forbid this



happens, then the blood of the victims will be on their hands – those who are trying to torpedo these agreements," Putin said at a

consultation of Russian peacekeeping mission in Nagorno Karabakh.

Putin said the work of the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh is clear and well-coordinated.

Also, according to the president, for the Russian Federation, the settlement of the conflict in Karabakh is important from the point of view of internal security and economy. He expressed hope for a reliable and long-term settlement of the situation in this region.

Azerbaijan's refusal to discuss the status of Artsakh removes any obstacles for other states to recognize its independence – FM

The latest public discussions on the status of the Republic of Artsakh, as well as the provocative statements by the leadership of Azerbaijan, reaffirm the need for international recognition of the independence of Artsakh as the most optimal and effective way out of the situation resulting from the armed aggression against our republic by Azerbaijan with the support of Turkey and Turkish-backed international terrorists, Artsakh's Foreign Minister Masis Mayilian said in a statement.

He noted that Azerbaijan's categorical refusal to discuss the issue of the status of Artsakh, voiced at the highest level, removes any obstacles for other states to recognize the independence of the Republic of Artsakh, which is the result of the exercise

by our people of their inalienable right to self-determination.

"If in the past states refrained from recognizing the independence of Artsakh out of concerns of hindering the process of peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict, then after the armed aggression against Artsakh, occupation of a significant part of its territory and Baku's public refusal to discuss the issue of the status, these concerns have lost their relevance," the Foreign Minister added.

"International recognition of the independence and acquisition of international legal personality by the Republic of Artsakh will create most important conditions for the restoration of its territorial integrity by political and diplomatic means. The world

community has no right to reconcile with a situation resulting from the armed aggression of an alliance of two authoritarian and genocidal states, as well as international terrorists whose actions do not fit into the legal and moral norms of the civilized world," Minister Mayilian stated.



Russia reaffirms support for fraternal Armenian people: Prime Minister receives the Russian government delegation

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received a Russian governmental delegation led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The delegation comprises Deputy Prime Ministers of the Russian Federation Alexei Overchuk and Alexei Novak, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko, Head of the 5th Service of the Federal Security Service Sergey Beseda, Head of the Federal Supervision Service for Consumer Protection Anna Popova, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Minister of Finance Timur Maximov, other officials.

Welcoming the Russian governmental delegation, Prime Minister Pashinyan noted. "Dear colleagues, I warmly welcome you to Yerevan. I would like to emphasize that we highly appreciate your presence in our country. It is very important for us not only to continue, but also taking into account the specificity of the current situation, to strengthen our ties, cooperation, to overcome the situation that has arisen in our country, in the region in general," the Prime Minister said.

He thanked the Russian colleagues for their support not only during the military crisis, but also during the coronavirus. "I think we have all felt the support of the Russian Federation during this period and the friendly and allied relations that tradi-



tionally exist between our countries, especially in recent months."

"We have a rather big agenda of discussion, I am sure that we will come to solve many issues – not only current, but also strategic ones, because the military-political situation in our region has changed, taking into account the known circumstances and events. I think we need to rethink our strategic vision in the context of the near strategic future. I think in this regard we have common views; programs and we need to clarify them during today's talks," he stated.

In his turn, Sergey Lavrov conveyed the warm greetings and best wishes of President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

"We are interested in considering the whole framework of our relations after as a result of extended talks the leaders of

Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan signed a statement on November 9, which put an end to the bloodshed and created an opportunity to stabilize the situation in all its contexts, including humanitarian," Lavrov stated.

Issues related to the development and deepening of cooperation between Armenia and Russia in various spheres, in particular, energy, transport infrastructure, fight against coronavirus and other areas.

They also referred to the direct humanitarian assistance provided to Nagorno Karabakh, as well as the steps taken to exchange bodies and prisoners of war after the war and to preserve the Armenian cultural heritage. The importance of their consistency was emphasized.

Referring to Turkey's role in maintaining the ceasefire in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, Sergey Lavrov stressed that the Russian-Turkish monitoring center will operate exclusively remotely. They also exchanged views on the military-political situation in the region and cooperation on its stabilization.

Prime Minister Pashinyan attached importance to the resumption of normal life in Artsakh, the fact that the people of Artsakh are returning to their homes, and noted that the Armenian government will carry out joint programs with the Artsakh government to restore infrastructure and housing.

Turkey sends troops to Azerbaijan

Turkish troops will soon be sent to Azerbaijan, Turkey's defense minister Hulusi Akar said, RIA Novosti reports.

"The land troops have completed preparations", the minister said.

On November 17 the Turkish Parliament approved President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's decree on sending troops to Azerbaijan. According to the decree, they can stay in Azerbaijan up to a year.

Last week Erdogan announced that Ankara and Moscow have signed a memorandum on creating ceasefire control center in Azerbaijan, adding that Turkish servicemen will also participate in the joint peacekeeping mission in Nagorno Karabakh.

However, Moscow stated that Russia and Turkey will work on the NK issue through a monitoring center in Azerbaijan, adding that there has been no talk on joint peace-

keeping mission.

On November 9 Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a statement on a full ceasefire and cessation of all military actions in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone since 01:00 Yerevan Time on November 10. Russian peacekeepers are being deployed to Nagorno Karabakh.

Armenia Fund to Host Thanksgiving Day Telethon to Support People of Armenia and Artsakh

LOS ANGELES—Armenia Fund will host its 23rd annual International Thanksgiving Day Telethon on November 26 from 4 to 8 p.m. PST (7 to 11 p.m. EST), uniting the Armenian American community in a show of strength and devotion to help those back in the homeland who are going through their most difficult time in a generation.

For the safety of our volunteers, hosts and staff, all COVID-19 protocols will be followed and the event will be streaming for audiences around the world at armenianfund.org and broadcast nationwide via DirectTV (Ch. 325/91) and U-Verse (Ch. 198/429/1198/1429).

It will also be available over-the-air in the Greater Los Angeles area (KVMD Ch. 31 or 23), San Francisco and the Bay Area (KTSF Ch. 8 or 26), Fresno and Central California (KGMC Ch. 10 or 43), and the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area (WMBC Ch. 10 or 63). Additionally, our



phone bank will operate from an offsite location for safety reasons.

“In light of recent developments in Artsakh and Armenia, Telethon 2020 will focus on supporting 100,000 refugees and displaced individuals and the families of our fallen soldiers who lost their lives to protect the sovereignty of both republics,” said Armenia Fund Board Chair Maria Mehranian.

“The goal is to grant financial support to these families, supporting the education of displaced children, and housing and supplies for a year to all the people displaced

by the unprovoked aggression from Turkish-backed Azerbaijani forces.”

In the first month of the #ArtsakhStrong campaign, Armenia Fund in the United States has already raised nearly \$80 million from the community to help those displaced by the recent violence, most of whom were forced from their homes empty-handed right at the beginning of the winter season. The fund has provided temporary shelter, transitional housing, transport, food and medical care for those in need of help with every single dollar received allocated exclusively for humanitarian purposes.

While the situation on the ground is changing daily and the people of Armenia and Artsakh mourn and reflect, Armenia Fund is stepping up to help our people survive this period of great hardship. We are focused on helping our Armenian brothers and sisters rebuild and thrive and we stand united with them now more than ever to help them emerge even stronger.

German lawmakers propose to impose arms embargo on Turkey

The German Left Party and the Green Party have submitted a bill to the Bundestag, proposing to impose an arms embargo on Turkey for its militaristic policy and human rights violations in the Eastern Mediterranean, Nagorno Karabakh, Libya and Syria, Deutsche Welle reports.

The proposal has been sent to the Federal Council on November 20. It's expected to enter into the agenda of the Council for discussion in coming weeks. The bill proposes to suspend the export of all types of military equipment, weapons to Turkey, as well as to cancel the previously adopted contracts on export.



The parties stated that Ankara seeks to have modern weapons systems, aims at building a big and independence military industry. They noted that Turkey should not be provided with such an opportunity because it can lead to further destabilization

of the situation in the region and serious consequences for the European countries.

According to Deutsche Welle, in 2018-2019 33 exports of military equipment were carried out to Turkey. German companies have sold military equipment and materials to Turkey worth nearly 12 million 800 thousand Euros, as a result of which Ankara managed to create a large batch of UAVs.

The party also stated that Greece has already proposed the EU to impose an arms embargo on Turkey, but that proposal was vetoed by Hungary, Germany, Italy, Spain and Malta.

ECHR obliges Azerbaijan to provide information on 11 Armenian PoWs and 10 captured civilians

The European Court of Human Rights has applied an interim measure against Azerbaijan demanding to provide information on prisoners of war and to announce the terms of the exchange by November 27.

The Court also obliged Azerbaijan to provide information on the 10 civilians kidnapped after the establishment of ceasefire



by November 30.

On November 17 Armenia had requested to apply a new interim measure to prevent inhuman and degrading treatment as well as irreparable harm to lives of 10 civilians who were captured on their way from Goris to Shushi.

Russia provides samples of Sputnik-V vaccine to Armenia



During a meeting with Armenian Health Minister Arsen Torosyan, Russian Health

Minister Mikhail Murashko handed him samples of the Sputnik V vaccine, the Russian Ministry of Health reports.

The head of the Russian Ministry of Health assured his Armenian counterpart that relations between the two countries in the field of medicine, which have a long history, will continue to thrive.

“We are ready to provide you with the help of our specialists of the highest level in neurosurgery, traumatology, and psychiatry. I think that such help will be definitely

useful,” Mikhail Murashko said.

He clarified that Russia can send specialists to the region or provide the necessary assistance in a remote format.

Arsen Torosyan, in turn, noted that Yerevan has already sent a letter to the Russian government with a request for specialists.

“Indeed, these are the specialties that we need now in order to exchange experience and, if possible, it would be desirable if they engaged in serving specific patients on the spot,” he said.

Armenian-made lung ventilator in the stage of testing

In April, 2020 the Ministry of High Tech Industry jointly with Engineering Association initiated lung ventilation machine research and development in the scope of Covid-19 pandemic prevention efforts in Armenia and worldwide.

The Ministry has presented the prototype of the lung ventilation machine made in Armenia, which is in the stage of testing. The



final product view has also been presented.

The project was implemented by YEA Engineering company using special license by NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Only 28 companies worldwide out of 330 were granted license by NASA JPL.

The final version of the machine will be ready in the second half of December, 2020.

Over 2,300 people return to Artsakh in a day

Over 2,300 people returned from Armenia to their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh in one day, Major General Igor Konashenkov, an official spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry, told reporters during a Monday briefing.

“During the day, 2,334 refugees, who had previously left their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh because of the hostilities, returned to Nagorno-Karabakh from the territory of Armenia,” Konashenkov said.

According to him, since November 14, more than 11,000 residents of Nagorno-Karabakh have returned to their homes with the assistance of Russian peacekeepers.

Also, Konashenkov said, with the coordination of the Russian peacekeepers and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the exchange of bodies of the dead continues.

On Sunday, the Russian Defense Minis-



try announced the return of 1,400 people to Stepanakert, accompanied by Russian peacekeepers. 1.1 thousand people returned on Saturday.

PM starts series of meetings with business community representatives

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has initiated a series of meetings with business community representatives to discuss issues related to economic activity and the restoration of the investment climate in Armenia.

Today the Prime Minister met with Chairman of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen Arsen Ghazaryan, Founder of SIL Concern Khachatur Sukiasyan, Founder of Alex Holding Samvel Alexanyan, Owner



of Sovrano Company Arman Sahakyan, Owner of Spayka David Ghazaryan, Menu-

am Company founder Vahan Kerobyan.

The discussion focused on the strengthening of interaction between the Government and the business community, the continuity of investment programs, as well as on the reinstatement of economic optimism. Specific agreements have been reached. Meetings with business community representatives of will be continued.

Armenian President hails Russia's efforts in stopping the war

President Armen Sarkissian received Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his delegation.

"You came to Armenia during a crisis period. There are big problems in the economic sphere, the post-war situation is difficult, our problems are also psychological, unfortunately, there is also the coronavirus and many other issues. In general, the situation in the field of foreign policy is also difficult," the Armenian President said.

President Sarkissian thanked the Russian Foreign Minister, first of all, for everything he has been doing for Armenia and the region during all these years. The President of Armenia asked to convey the gratitude of our people to the President of the Russian Federation, especially for his support during these difficult days.

"It does not matter where Armenians live, they know that if it were not for your efforts and Vladimir Vladimirovich, we would continue to lose young lives today," said President Sarkissian. "In the first days of the war we knew that all the efforts of the leadership of the Russian Federation, personally the President, were aimed at stopping them. Once again we got convinced that true friendship becomes apparent in



difficult times."

The President of Armenia said that today we have two problems, which must not only be solved. Besides, he said, we must be consistent so that they do not become a bigger problem. "First, it's important that according to the joint statement, the cessation of hostilities is not only implemented, but continues in the coming years," said the President.

"It is very important for Armenia; it is of vital importance. And the second, which worries me a lot, is connected with stability in our country. Despite the difficulties, the crisis situation, it is always possible to find solutions. Our children, friends and non-relatives will look back on how Armenia is coming out of this situation. If it comes out with dignity, united, then we can

say that we are a strong nation," the President added.

Expressing gratitude for the meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted: "The negotiations that are taking place here today allow us to consider all the spheres of our relations, to agree on the issue of how to deepen them, how to make them more effective, first of all, for our citizens."

We are grateful, and President Putin has asked to convey gratitude to you and the vast majority of ordinary citizens for the appreciation of the November 9 joint statement adopted by the Prime Minister of Armenia, the President of Azerbaijan and Russia. As you said, it made it possible to stop the war. For the first time, after so many agreements, the ceasefire really works, because there is a ceasefire monitoring mechanism," Lavrov said.

He noted that by Putin's order, an interdepartmental center for humanitarian response is being set up, which will help solve the humanitarian issues of the population as soon as possible. "We are actively involving international organizations in the issue; the Red Cross and the UN organizations have been working for a long time. "

4th report on Azerbaijani atrocities against Armenians to be submitted to international organizations

The Human Rights Defenders of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh have completed the 4th closed report on atrocities committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces against captured ethnic Armenians and corpses. It is the 4th report covering only torture and cruelty and refers to the period from November 4-18. They have already started preparation of the 5th report.

This report provides concrete evidence of all atrocities and war crimes committed



by the Azerbaijani armed forces. All these were committed only because of Armenian ethnicity. These are the result of the Azerbaijan's state-supported policy of hate

speech.

The report contains evidence and analysis confirming the Azerbaijani policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide through terroristic methods in Artsakh.

The Ombudsmen do not publish the content of the report given the severity of atrocities and torture committed by Azerbaijan. It will be submitted to international bodies, as well as to relevant state bodies of Armenia.

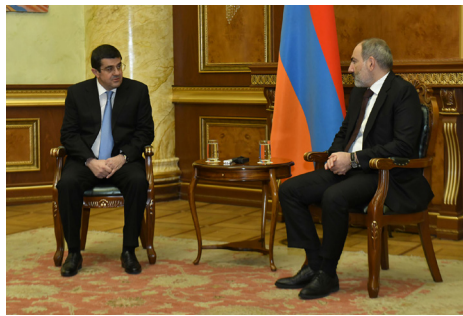
Leaders of Armenia, Artsakh Republic discuss ways to restore normal life in Artsakh

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted Artsakh Republic President Arayik Harutyunyan.

Welcoming the President of Artsakh, the Prime Minister noted. “Mr. President, I welcome you to Yerevan, this is our first meeting after the cessation of hostilities. Of course, we lived through quite difficult times together, we made difficult decisions; now, as we agreed, we must concentrate our efforts to restore normal life in Artsakh, to ensure the return of our compatriots, to create the necessary conditions.”

“The Armenian government has already made a number of decisions regarding the financial assistance to our compatriots in Artsakh. Of course, these actions will continue. I have published a “road map” that you are familiar with, we have discussed it, and here our main task is to restore the normal life of Artsakh, to provide social guarantees for the families of killed servicemen and citizens, to find out the fate of the missing as soon as possible and provide social guarantees to their families, disabled soldiers and implement social-psychological work in general,” the Prime Minister said.

He said after the war, both Armenia and Artsakh need big investments, and “we



must work together to ensure those investments.”

In his speech, Arayik Harutyunyan noted. “Dear Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for the meeting. In fact, not only on a daily basis, but also during the war, we had the opportunity to present the situation in the post-war period. Today I want to note that the flow to Artsakh, the return of our compatriots is quite fast.

Arayik Harutyunyan noted, in turn, that 25,000 people have returned to Artsakh in the past five days, and the flow continues.

he thanked the Government of Armenia for responding to the social needs of the Artsakh Republic.

“In the coming days, several social programs will be implemented, in particular, financial assistance will be provided to each Artsakh citizen who has moved to the Republic of Armenia, and our compatriots

who have lost an apartment will be allocated 300,000 drams per capita,” he said, adding that other programs will also be implemented to relieve the social tensions.

“I would like to express special thanks to the Armenians, to all our compatriots in the Republic of Armenia, who have hosted the people of Artsakh during this month and a half, they have not seen or felt any kind of problem. But taking into account the fact that the weather is getting colder and the utility costs will increase, we are trying to reimburse some utility costs through the operative headquarters established in Yerevan, also for our compatriots in Armenia who have provided their property, hotels or facilities. We have a lot to do here,” Harutyunyan said.

“In the first stage, we plan to relocate our compatriots to Artsakh. Those who have deprived of their homes will be relocated in stages so that we can accommodate and solve social problems in the process. I am sure that in the near future there will be no social problems as a result of the investments; we will be able to implement the planned socio-economic programs together,” the Artsakh Republic President said.

Russian FM expects Minsk Group Co-Chairs to participate in solving humanitarian problems in Nagorno-Karabakh

Russia expects that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs will join in solving humanitarian problems in Nagorno-Karabakh, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

The Russian Foreign Minister noted the need to involve international organizations in solving the humanitarian problems of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“We, through our peacekeepers, together with our Azerbaijani colleagues, with the



participation of the Armenian side, are actively coordinating concrete ways of solving humanitarian problems in the interests of returning people. This refers both to the

arrangement of civil infrastructure and the establishment of everything necessary to unblock economic and transport communications,” the Foreign Minister said.

“And, of course, we expect that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, who together with Russia have been leading the political process for many years, will join in solving these problems, taking into account and on the basis of the agreements of November 9,” Lavrov stated.

Artsakh Ombudsman sends letter to UNICEF Executive Director on International Children's Day

On November 20, on the occasion of the International Children's Day Artsakh Human Rights Ombudsman Artak Beglaryan sent a letter to the Executive Director of UNICEF, Henrietta H. Fore.

The letter reads:

"Dear Ms. Fore,

November 20th is an important date for the civilized world as it is the date when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) and the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). These two documents are based on the important mission of humanity to unconditionally protect the rights of children in any situation, guaranteeing the necessary conditions for their development.

Unfortunately, today, when the whole world celebrates International Children's Day, the children of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) are deprived of their rights, including the inherent right of children to life, right to health, their right to be with family and community, right to the development of personality and to be nurtured and protected, right to education and other basic rights. They are deprived of their rights because of the aggression launched by Azerbaijan against the Republic of Art-



sakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) that lasted from September 27 to November 9.

During the aggression, Azerbaijan deliberately and indiscriminately attacked the civilian objects, residential buildings, and infrastructure in approximately 170 communities of Artsakh (around 70 %). At least 50 killed and 163 wounded civilians, including a child killed and 9 children wounded were registered.

The children of Artsakh were displaced together with their families, escaping the threat to their life and health, and sheltering in safer places in Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia.

Schools, kindergartens, and hospitals were also deliberately and indiscriminately targeted. According to preliminary data, 71 schools and 14 kindergartens were dam-

aged as a result of the Azerbaijani aggression in Artsakh, excluding the schools and kindergartens that are in the communities currently under Azerbaijani control. 23978 schoolchildren and 4036 pre-school children are deprived of the right to education.

As a result of the Azerbaijani occupation of many Artsakh communities and handover of other communities, already thousands of children have become homeless, continuously being deprived of a number of rights and their happy childhood. Much more children have lost their fathers and relatives; have witnessed shellings, getting heavy traumas, and other development-hindering effects.

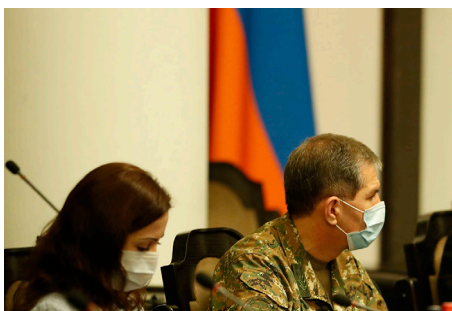
As the Human Rights Ombudsman of Artsakh, I have prepared an ad hoc report documenting and analyzing the rights of Artsakh children that have been grossly violated by Azerbaijan.

Prioritizing the protection of children's rights in any circumstances, and expecting Your strong commitment to being the ombudsman for children around the world, I am sharing with You the Report and ask You to properly register the gross violations of the rights of Artsakh children and take practical steps to eliminate the consequences and restore the violated rights."

Armenian PM to hold meetings with families of missing servicemen and POWs

Nikol Pashinyan chaired a consultation over issues relating to the return of Armenian soldiers and civilians from the Azerbaijani captivity, clarifying the fate of missing soldiers, as well as the social guarantees to their families, the PM's Office told Armenpress.

In his remarks the PM stated that the 6th point of the roadmap released by him relates to all these issues. "In general, we should, of course, carry out a very intense work on this direction. We should inform the families what actions we are taking, and we should do everything for the citizens not to go and hold campaigns outside different agencies in order to get informed about those missing in action", the PM said, adding that there is a political agreement over the exchange of captives, and they need to understand through what mechanism and timetables their return must be implemented. Pashinyan said he is going to meet



with the representatives of families of missing persons and prisoners of war soon.

"Fortunately, there have been cases when some people, who were declared as missing, have been found alive, they didn't have an opportunity to inform about their location and have just returned. We must hope for having more and more such cases. Now we should get prepared in order to be able to provide more concrete and complete information to their relatives", Pashinyan

noted.

The PM was reported on the works being done for the return of the Armenian captives. The search operation mechanisms have been discussed. The consultation also touched upon the directions of social-psychological support to be provided to the affected families.

Pashinyan tasked to form an inter-agency working group which will deal with quickly solving all those issues.

He highlighted keeping constant touch with the families of the captives and missing soldiers and for that purpose a 24/7 operating center has been formed. "The most important is the daily communication with the people. The state agencies should visit, meet and talk to these families, understand their needs for providing medical, psychological and social assistance", PM Pashinyan said.

Congressman Devin Nunes calls on Trump Administration to block all military sales to Turkey

Devin Nunes (R-CA) – the Ranking Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence – has called on the Trump Administration to block all American arms sales to Turkey and suspend U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).



In a letter to Assistant Secretary of State R. Clarke Cooper – a Trump Administration appointee who oversees U.S. military aid, weapons sales, and arms export controls – Congressman Nunes asked the U.S. government to announce that it is “blocking any new, pending, or in-process requests for U.S. military or dual-use sales or transfers to Turkey or to any other country that may make third-party transfers of such equipment or technology to the government of Azerbaijan.”

“The State Department has been missing in action [MIA] when it comes to barring military sales to Turkey and Azerbaijan,”

said ANCA Chairman Raffi Hamparian, who met recently in Fresno, California with Congressman Nunes. “It is our intention to work with Congressman Nunes to make sure the State Department takes the appropriate action, without delay, related to the sale of U.S. military equipment to Turkey and Azerbaijan – including sophisticated drone parts,” he added.

The ANCA – in addition to backing calls by Congressman Nunes to halt arms sales to Ankara and military aid to Baku – is calling on the Administration to immediately withdraw its waiver of Section 907 of the

FREEDOM Support Act, and for Congress to roll back the authority it granted the White House to suspend full enforcement of this law. Consistent with sanctions adopted this week by the Netherlands, the ANCA is also encouraging the Administration to enforce Global Magnitsky sanctions against senior leaders of the Erdogan government in Turkey and the Aliyev government in Azerbaijan, based upon their responsibility for serious human rights abuses during Azerbaijan’s aggression against Artsakh.

As a result of a targeted ANCA advocacy campaign, a number of U.S. firms have publicly announced that they are stopping, suspending, and/or investigating the sale of their products, services, or technology to Turkey and Azerbaijan, in the wake of the discovery of their components in weapons that Azerbaijan has used to kill Armenians. Among these firms are Garmin, Xilinx, Trimble, Beringer, and ViaSat.

Russia to deploy additional forces on Armenian-Azerbaijani border

The border department of the Russian Federal Security Service has allocated 188 servicemen and the necessary amount of equipment for the deployment of additional forces on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, said the director of the federal service Alexander Bortnikov at a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, *RIA Novosti* reports.

“In accordance with the decision on ensuring the border security of the Republic of Armenia, measures to maintain peace in Nagorno-Karabakh and at the request of the



Armenian side, the Border Department of the Federal Security Service has allocated an additional 188 military personnel and the required amount of equipment. The border guards will deploy additional forces at the border between Armenia and Azer-

baijan, “Bortnikov said.

He specified that the Azerbaijani side was informed about this and in this regard, the necessary interaction was organized with all participants in the process.

“Necessary issues from the point of view of interaction between the special services of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the border departments, have been settled, there is a constant exchange of information,” the head of the FSB added.

Alexander Bortnikov stressed that all parties are in a round-the-clock exchange of information.

‘Statement’ on Artsakh War by Armenia, Azerbaijan & Russia Should be Rejected

By Harut Sassounian

The leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia signed an agreement, calling it a “Statement,” on November 9, 2020 to stop the 45-day war in Artsakh and return to Azerbaijan the territories previously belonging to Armenians.

This shocking announcement was made by Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan creating distress and despair among Armenians worldwide. There are four reasons why Armenians reacted with such pessimism and grief:

1. After 45 days of constantly hearing from Armenian officials that “We are winning,” all of a sudden we are told that we have in fact suffered a devastating defeat. Even the number of our dead soldiers was underreported, according to the latest announcement of the Armenian Health Ministry. Regrettably, the final toll is expected to be in the thousands.
2. This was probably the greatest loss since the Armenian Genocide of 105 years ago. Armenians are demoralized and deceived by their own leaders. It shook the very essence of their souls. This was a humiliating capitulation. The descendants of the Armenian Genocide, who still carry in their genes the trans-generational trauma of that greatest tragedy, are deeply affected by this enormous defeat, exposing their long unhealed wounds.
3. The thousands of young Armenian soldiers killed in the battle have deeply saddened all Armenians. Many are wondering if their sacrifice was in vain.
4. Armenians lost a large portion of their historic territories along with their homes, churches, monuments and cemeteries. Just like the effects of the Genocide a century ago are still raw in today’s generation, this latest disaster will have a lasting effect on the psyche of all Armenians.

A huge controversy has been raging in Armenia and the Diaspora after the release of this problematic “Statement.” The Armenian people, who were united like one person throughout the war, all of a sudden have been divided and at each other’s throats. There have been many ugly incidents in Yerevan which will hopefully not spill into the Diaspora. No Armenian should commit an act of violence against any other Armenian or destroy any property. Even though we have a very serious problem, attacking each

other will not solve anything. At the same time, those who are engaged in peaceful protests in Yerevan should be allowed to do so without any harassment by the government. People’s right to free speech should be respected especially by a leader who came to power touting democratic rights and values.

The next controversy is identifying those responsible for this debacle. Here again we have two opposing camps. Prime Minister Pashinyan and his supporters acknowledge that he had no choice but to sign the tripartite “Statement” in order to avoid the loss of more territories to Azerbaijan and save thousands of Armenian soldiers who may have been captured or killed. Those supporting this point of view have blamed the previous presidents for enriching themselves at the expense of the nation and not strengthening the military. Pashinyan said that if he had refused to sign the “Statement,” the consequence would have been much worse for the Armenian nation. Azerbaijan would have taken over the rest of Artsakh.

Those opposed to Pashinyan’s position state that the Prime Minister is merely dumping responsibility for the defeat on his predecessors. They point out that Pashinyan made the decision to sign the “Statement” unilaterally, consulting only with the President of Artsakh and the military leaders. Pashinyan did not inform the President of Armenia, the Foreign Minister who just resigned or the Armenian Parliament. They all found out about this ill-fated announcement from the media. This was not expected from a Prime Minister who came to power as a defender of democracy and transparency. Not even France and the United States, the two other mediating members of the Minsk Group, were consulted. Pashinyan also did not respect the promise he had made on August 17, 2018, in front of the 300,000 people at the Republic Square, announcing that he “will not sign secretly any paper on Artsakh.” He added that “if there is such a situation, I will come and stand here, present to you all the details, and you will decide if we are going to accept that option or not.” Pashinyan now claims that this “Statement” is merely a ceasefire, not an agreement on the Artsakh conflict. Obviously, the signed “Statement” is much more than a ceasefire. It is the return of the seven regions in addition to giving up a large por-

tion of Artsakh. As a result, Pashinyan’s opponents seek his resignation.

In my view, there is a much simpler explanation. Ever since the 1994 ceasefire, Armenians in and out of Armenia were totally opposed to returning the liberated territories to Azerbaijan, as were the leaders of Armenia and Artsakh. The only exception was Pres. Levon Ter-Petrosyan who wanted to make territorial concessions to Azerbaijan, as a result of which he was forced out of office. The subsequent Presidents of Armenia knew well that the Armenian people would not accept any kind of territorial concessions regarding Artsakh. Ever since the 1994 ceasefire, there have been dozens of fruitless meetings between the foreign ministers and heads of Armenia and Azerbaijan, mediated by the Minsk Group of France, Russia and the United States. The Armenian position was that we will consider returning some of the territories around Artsakh, if Azerbaijan recognized Artsakh’s independence. Armenians wanted a package deal rather than a step-by-step solution. The reason was that should Armenians give up the surrounding territories first, Azerbaijan would then be in a position to take over Artsakh itself.

In the meantime, Armenians and the rest of the world repeatedly stated that there is no military solution to the Artsakh conflict which should be resolved through peaceful negotiations. However, Pres. Aliyev kept threatening to use military force to recover the lost territories. Using its huge oil income, Azerbaijan bought billions of dollars of sophisticated weapons from Israel, Russia and others. Armenia also bought some weapons, but did not have the resources to match Azerbaijan’s military buildup. Armenians did not take Aliyev’s threats seriously. Finally, Azerbaijan secured the support and participation of the powerful Turkish military and recruited several thousand Islamist terrorist mercenaries to fight on its side. The highly technological war with remote control drones and missiles devastated the Armenian military and conquered what Armenia and Artsakh was not willing to give up, despite the heroic efforts of the Armenian soldiers.

Therefore, rather than asking who is to blame for this fiasco, Armenians need to acknowledge that we paid the price for being unable to counter the powerful weapons of Azerbaijan and Tur-

 page 13

Russia sends engineering equipment to Artsakh



The IL-76 aircraft of the Military Transport Aviation of the Russian Aerospace Forces has transported a group of ser-

vicemen of the engineering troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, as well as engineering equipment to assist in the cleaning of public roads and social infrastructure in the areas of the peacekeeping operation, the Russian Ministry of Defense reports.

The plane delivered military engineers, a bulldozer and a heavy-duty off-road vehicle to the Zvartnots airport.

The engineering equipment will be used by Russian military personnel when cleaning roads and infrastructure in settlements.

Russian peacekeepers provide maximum assistance to local authorities in restoring peaceful life.

Engineering units of the peacekeeping forces help restore traffic, electricity, water and heat supply to social facilities and residential buildings.

Russian peacekeepers' patrols ensured the safe delivery of food and essential items to remote settlements.

page 13

key which has the second most powerful military in NATO. As Prime Minister Pashinyan acknowledged, if he had conceded some of the territories around Artsakh earlier, there would not have been this capitulation. However, if we had given up these areas without an agreement on the final status of Artsakh, Azerbaijan would have then attacked and captured Artsakh itself.

There are two basic facts that we must all admit:

1. The powerful side always wins in a war, no matter how just the weaker side's cause is. Armenians did not use the last 26 years to turn Artsakh into an impenetrable fortress. They should have had a defense system to shield Artsakh from drone attacks.
2. When you are weak and rely on others to save you, you would be disappointed and defeated. Armenians kept saying that we were left alone. This is not surprising. All countries make decisions based on their own national interests.

The "Statement" signed by Pashinyan is devastating. We need to find a way to minimize our losses. Besides losing the territories in and around Artsakh, we should not have agreed to provide a corridor through Armenia to Azerbaijan to connect with Nakhichevan. This would allow Turkey to cross Armenia by land and link with Azerbaijan and beyond to other Turkic republics. This is the realization of Turkey's Pan-Turanian dream which we should not permit at all cost.

Finally, the text of the "Statement", which is the equivalent of a treaty according to Armenia's constitution, should be submitted to Armenia's Constitutional Court and

the Parliament for ratification. Otherwise, it would have no legal value. Armenia should also involve France and the United States, the other two Minsk Group of mediators, in the negotiation process to get a better deal.

Even though Pashinyan acknowledged that as Commander-in-Chief he is responsible for Armenia's defeat, he refuses to resign. Therefore, a referendum should be held to see if the Armenian public approves or rejects the "Statement." If they reject it, Pashinyan would have no choice but to resign. The elected new leader, hopefully not one from the discredited previous regimes, would then try to negotiate a revised agreement considering the one signed by the ousted Pashinyan to be null and void. This option, however, carries the risk of a fresh attack on Artsakh by Azerbaijan.

I hope Armenia's new leaders will go through this traumatic experience with sound judgment and concentrate their energies on building a powerful military so they can counter any future attacks by Azerbaijan and Turkey. Finally, this is the right time for Armenia to recognize Artsakh's independence or its unification with Armenia, thereby introducing an unexpected new factor in the negotiations with Azerbaijan. an impenetrable fortress. They should have had a defense system to shield Artsakh from drone attacks.

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Aurora confirms 14 projects with a total budget of \$110,000 for people of Artsakh affected by war

The global Aurora Humanitarian Initiative continues implementing the humanitarian assistance program for the people of Artsakh affected by the war. At this stage, 14 projects with a total budget of \$116,600 have already been confirmed. Humanitarian assistance proposals can be submitted to Aurora at info@auroraprize.com.

The program was launched on November 18. The selection and support criteria for the projects are currently being revised and will be made public on Monday, November 23. On November 24, a preliminary report on the implementation of the confirmed projects will be presented; and on November 25, next projects to be supported will be announced.

The updated list of confirmed projects as of November 20 can be found below:

Urgent humanitarian aid to families and children

1. Providing urgent humanitarian assistance to the population of 7 villages in Martakert Province (Nor Maraga, Nor Aygestan, Nor Seysulan, Nor Karmra-van, Nor Haykajur, Nor Jraber, Hov-tashen) – \$10,000
2. Providing 1,000 bedding sets to the temporarily displaced people from Artsakh relocated to Armenia – \$12,000



3. Making 500 warm jackets for the people of Artsakh at the Stepanakert Clothing Factory – \$12,000
4. Humanitarian aid program assistance for 600 Artsakh families affected by the war (in cooperation with the Bari Mama Foundation) – \$10,000
5. Purchasing 200 heaters for temporarily displaced Artsakh families – \$2,800

Healthcare services

6. Contributing to the acquisition of ambulances for Artsakh (in cooperation with the Support Our Heroes Foundation) – \$20,000
7. Purchasing vital medication for senior citizens residing in Artsakh (in cooperation with the Miasin Foundation) – \$2,000
8. Purchasing 55 folding beds for the forcibly displaced people from Art-

sakh (in cooperation with the VIVA Foundation) – \$3,000

Restoration; equipment

9. Contributing to the fitting out of temporary shelters in Stepanakert for the displaced people from Artsakh – \$10,000
10. Assisting the Stepanakert City Administration in restoring local civil infrastructure – \$10,000

Food

11. Contributing to providing meals for 166 people currently housed in Sevan, Dilijan, Yerevan for 15 days (in cooperation with the Victory-2020 Foundation) – \$10,000
12. Contributing to providing meals for 65 children and adults from Artsakh currently housed in the “Holy Mother of Armenia” Catholic Center (Gyumri) for 30 days – \$9,750

Essentials

13. Purchasing essentials for 200 Artsakh families temporarily relocated to Armenia (in cooperation with the “House of Hope” Foundation) – \$3,000
14. Providing 50 kits with essentials to the children forced to relocate from Artsakh to Armenia (in cooperation with Global Shapers) – \$2,050.

UNESCO ready to support preservation of cultural goods in Nagorno Karabakh

The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, received the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan to the Organization on November 18.

The Director General recalled the statements made by the United Nations Secretary-General, who had expressed his relief and welcomed the agreement on a total ceasefire and cessation of hostilities in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. This accord had been announced in a joint statement on 9 November by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the President of the Russian Federation.

The Director-General also reaffirmed the universal dimension of cultural heritage, as a witness to history and as inseparable from the identity of peoples, which the international community has a duty to protect and preserve for future generations, beyond the

conflicts of the moment.

The Director-General would like to recall the provisions of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, to which both Armenia and Azerbaijan are parties, and which are based on the States Parties’ conviction that “damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind”.

She also recalls UN Security Council resolution 2347 (2017), which stresses that “the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, looting and smuggling of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, including by terrorist groups, and attempts to deny historical roots and cultural diversity in this context, can fuel and exacerbate conflicts and impede post-conflict national reconciliation, thus undermining the security, stability, governance and social, eco-

nomic and cultural development of affected States”.

The Director-General of UNESCO reiterates her appeal of 9 October for the protection of heritage in this region and the absolute necessity of preventing any further damage.

During these meetings, the Director-General formally proposed the technical support of UNESCO, who have been unable to visit these zones to date despite past attempts, and who could, with the agreement of all concerned parties, carry out a preliminary field mission, in order to draw up an inventory of the most significant cultural assets, as a prerequisite for effective protection of the region’s heritage.

With this in mind, UNESCO will work with all interested partners to create the conditions for such a mission. High-level consultations have begun with the States co-chairing the Minsk Group.

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