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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the discussion under agenda item 22 (I) entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe” that took place at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 21 November 2002. Taking into consideration your appeal to delegations to be concise, as well as the late hour of the meeting, I chose not to engage in a prolonged discussion initiated and intended by the Armenian delegate to mislead, as usual, the Member States.

Therefore, with regard to the misstatement by the Armenian delegate that the Republic of Armenia is not a party to the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I confined myself to referring to the basic document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) establishing Armenia as one of two main parties to the conflict. It should be recalled that this document was adopted in March 1992 by the Ministerial meeting of OSCE, an organization that is the main mediator in the negotiation process.

The responsibility of the Republic of Armenia for and its direct participation in the ongoing conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan is a well-established fact recognized by the international community as a whole, first of all in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993), and 884 (1993), as well as General Assembly resolution 49/13, a resolution that was adopted by consensus, which Armenia voluntarily joined.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the recent international recognition of the responsibility of the Republic of Armenia for the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan was reflected in the documents issued by the European Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in August 2002, regarding so-called “presidential elections” that had been conducted in the Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia (see annex I and II, respectively).

The two organizations joined a number of national Governments in condemning these illegitimate actions by the Armenian side, and once again reiterated their support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Turkey, Cyprus and Malta, as well as the member countries of the European Free Trade Association also aligned themselves with the above-mentioned statement issued by the European Union.

I would appreciate it if you could arrange for the present letter and its annexes to be circulated urgently as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 22 (1).

(Signed) Yashar T. **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English/French/Spanish]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on forthcoming “Presidential elections” in Nagorno Karabakh

The European Union confirms its support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and recalls that it does not recognize the independence of Nagorno Karabakh. The European Union has always emphasized the need to establish a stable political agreement concerning Nagorno Karabakh, which should be acceptable to both Armenia and Azerbaijan. The European Union cannot consider legitimate the “presidential elections” that are scheduled to take place on 11 August 2002 in Nagorno Karabakh. The European Union does not believe that these elections should have an impact on the peace process.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

Annex II to the letter dated 6 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic/English]

Press release

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is eyeing with deep concern the measures being taken by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in arranging for the 11 August 2002 presidential elections in the Nagorno-Karabakh area — a part of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia since 1992.

OIC emphasizes that such measures, illegal as they are, may further complicate this issue, thereby jeopardizing the future of peace in the region.

While backing the policy of self-restraint followed by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, OIC calls for abidance of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, OIC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe — all urging for the total withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azeri territories and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan so as to bring about security and stability in that important part of the world.
