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**General Assembly
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Agenda items 35 and 41****Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security
and development****The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan****Letter dated 27 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the comments by the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, dated 27 August 2019, in connection with the destructive remarks made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia earlier the same day in Yerevan, at a conference of heads of diplomatic and consular missions of his country (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 35 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 27 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Comments by the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

27 August 2019

On 27 August, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, addressing Ministry department chiefs and heads of that country's diplomatic and consular missions, took it upon himself to launch barbs at Azerbaijan that show a total disconnect from reality and in no way reflect the essence of ongoing negotiations.

In that regard, we wish to reaffirm that Nagorno-Karabakh was, is and always will be an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The entire international community recognizes that fact and unequivocally condemns the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia. There is no such thing as a "people of Nagorno-Karabakh". This region of Azerbaijan, rather, has Armenian and Azerbaijani communities. The internationally accepted model for settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is based on the norms and principles of international law and the applicable resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organizations, in particular the four well-known resolutions of the Security Council. The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have put forward specific steps for a peaceful settlement and raised them repeatedly, including in their most recent statement, made on 9 March this year.

Azerbaijan, as a multi-ethnic State with an internationally recognized multicultural society, is in no way comparable with mono-ethnic Armenia, which expelled its entire Azerbaijani population from their ancestral lands, where that State now stands, and, what is more, carried out a monstrous campaign of ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, culminating in the Khojaly tragedy.

Attempts by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia to in any way justify his country's aggressive intentions by referring to the right of the people to self-determination, which presupposes the free expression of their will, are completely incompatible with international law or common sense. One cannot advocate upholding the rights of one part of the population of any given territory while utterly disregarding those of the other part.

The rights of the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which today is occupied by the armed forces of Armenia, were violated on a massive scale by Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. Only when the people of the Azerbaijani community in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan see the restoration of their fundamental rights to return home safely and live there in dignity will it be possible to discuss in concrete terms how to ensure the right of the region's inhabitants to self-governance.

The latest statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Z. Mnatsakanyan, aimed at assuaging a domestic audience, risks sparking an escalation of the conflict rather than contributing to its peaceful settlement, for which he has so ardently appealed.

Armenia must make up its mind: do they want peace, or escalation? The current Armenian leadership seems to be bent on escalating the situation rather than resolving it. Regrettably, it has become clear that the position of the Yerevan administration is

fuelled by ideas of annexation rather than anchored in reality. Regardless, it goes without saying that Azerbaijan will never accept the present status quo, which is the fruit of occupation. There are limits to our patience.
