



NEWS BULLETIN

Embassy of the Republic of Armenia

Bulletin #3, September 2004

Warsaw, 05-07 September. President Robert Kocharyan paid an official visit to Poland. He had meetings with the President of Poland, leadership of the Sejm and Senate and the Prime Minister. Bilateral agreements on military cooperation and joint struggle against organized crime, as well as a Memorandum on cooperation between the Polish Union of Small and Medium enterprises and the Armenian Ministry of Trade and Economic Development were signed in the framework of the visit.

Yerevan, 08-09 September. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seied Mohammed Khatami was in Armenia for a two-day official visit. In a private meeting the leaders of the two countries discussed a broad range of issues pertaining to the different areas of the Iranian-Armenian relations, current state and prospects of bilateral cooperation, and exchanged views on regional and international developments.

After the talks, Presidents of Iran and Armenia signed an Agreement on the Principles and Bases of Cooperation. Signed were also bilateral Agreements on Cooperation in the spheres of energy, culture, and customs.

The President of Iran spoke at the session of the National Assembly, and met with the Prime Minister of Armenia. At the Holy Chair of St. Echmiadzin the President of Iran was hosted by the Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II. The delegation of Iran headed by President Khatami visited the Genocide Memorial and laid a wreath at the monument of the victims of the Genocide of 1915.

**Speech of the President of the Republic of Armenia,
H.E. Mr. Robert Kocharyan on the Occasion of the 13th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Armenia**

September 21, 2004, Yerevan

**Your Holiness,
Dear compatriots,
Dear guests,**

I congratulate our people and all those present on the occasion of Independence Day. Today's Armenia is an established state with ever growing tendency of deepening market reforms, democratic transitions and international integration. The choice of our people brought us to a new domain.

As a result of the implemented systemic reforms our country has experienced obvious progress. Armenia today is defined in terms of sustainable economic growth and regular implementation of the state budget. It is visible that small and medium businesses are more active. Most of these results are directed at social sector and the main problem today is the elimination of poverty. Precise implementation of that program is the duty of all of us.

We prioritize balanced development of all our regions (marzes), evolvment of the middle class and deepening our democracy. The formula of the further advancement of Armenia is based on the pillars of the rule of law, effective governance, fair competition and extended employment opportunities. Those challenges are typical of the current stage of Armenia's development. They also represent the world processes currently underway.

In foreign policy our country has a precise strategy: to strengthen the

(Pres. Kocharyan's address...cont.d from p. 1)
credibility of our country abroad by furthering relations in all directions. Armenia brings its contribution to the international fight against terrorism, which nowadays has a most urgent meaning.

Protection of peace in our complex region is a vital issue. We consider that the key to it is in multilateral cooperation between all countries of the region. On the issue of Nagorno Karabagh we remain committed to the principle of peaceful settlement. Such settlement shall be based on the objective realities that came forth after the collapse of USSR. Particularly it shall be based on the unquestionable reality of existence of NKR.

The Armenian Armed forces are an important component of the security of the Armenian people and of the peace in the region. Formation of the Armed forces and the current level of combat preparedness are an historic achievement of our people. At the foundation of our Army are heroes, whose feat made our country a stable state and the motherland of all Armenians.

On the occasion of this important day I also congratulate Armenians from around the world. The Republic of Armenia is the herald of the feelings and goals of all segments of the Armenian people. It has already undertaken its mission of addressing the issues of pan-Armenian scale.

I once again congratulate all of us on the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Armenia. Establishment of free, prosperous and powerful Armenia has been a dream for many generations. Our generation got the opportunity to implement the most decisive phase of that dream. We fulfill that historic responsibility with honor for the glory of Armenia and our people. Thank you.

Beijing/ Shanghai, 26-30 September.
President Robert Kocharyan conducted a state visit to China.

In Beijing on September 27 President Kocharyan had a meeting with the President of PRC Hu Jintao. At the conclusion of the meeting the two Presidents signed a joint Memorandum. Signed were also intergovernmental agreements on technical and economic cooperation, as well as on cooperation in the sphere of seismological protection, and the 2005 program for cultural cooperation.

On September 28-29, President Kocharyan met with the Chairman of the State Council Wen Jiabao, and Chairman of the National People's Congress.

The President visited historic sights of Beijing. In Shanghai, President Kocharyan met with the leadership of the city and visited industrial outlets.

Bucharest, 29 September: The 23rd Universal Postal Congress of the United Nations Universal Postal Union (UPU) held elections of its Council of Administration and other bodies. Armenia was elected to the Council, which is composed of 40 states and coordinates UPU operations.

UPU is a specialized agency within the United Nations system that establishes a universal framework for postal operations.

New York, 29 September. Foreign Minister V. Oskanian addressed the 59th General Assembly, focusing on such issues as UN reform, the millennium development goals, and the fight against terrorism. At the same time, he spoke about the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, and Armenia's position on prospects for its resolution.

The speech came at the conclusion of a three-day visit during which the Minister met with various UN officials, as well as foreign ministers. Among them was the meeting with the Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, during

(Foreign Minister Oskanian...cont.d from p.2)
which the two ministers explored bilateral issues as well as regional concerns

On Wednesday, the Minister met with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, with whom he discussed UN issues, as well as matters related to Armenia-UN cooperation. At the Secretary-General's request, the Minister briefed him on the Nagorno Karabakh peace process. Earlier in the day, Mr. Oskanian also met with Kofi Annan's Special Advisor on Prevention of Genocide, Juan Mendez.

Yerevan, 24 September. The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Contacts and Co-operation. The document which was signed by Mr. Serge Sargsyan, the Minister of Defence, and the British Ambassador to Armenia, at the Armenian Ministry of Defence in Yerevan, on Friday, 24 September 2004.

The aim of the Memorandum is to further strengthen the already existing relations between the two Ministries, and to serve as a basis for increased co-operation between them in the field of defence. It will put the existing co-operation programme on a formal footing, and enable Britain and Armenia to develop further contacts in areas such as the management of defence in democratic societies, language training, peace support in humanitarian operations and arms control.

Astana, 15 September. Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Vartan Oskanian attended the meeting of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers convened within the framework of the CIS Heads of States Summit held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

The CIS Ministerial Council adopted several documents including a decision, pursuant to CIS, OSCE and UN documents, on strengthening cooperation among CIS member

states to counter threats to security and stability in the region. Among other documents signed were an interstate agreement to combat crime, an appeal of CIS heads of state to Commonwealth peoples and international community on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War (WW II), a concept framework on sub-regional and trans-boundary cooperation, a statement on promoting cooperation in areas of culture, education.

Brussels, 14 September. Armenia's Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian led the Armenian delegation to the sixth meeting of the European Union – Armenia Cooperation Council. This annual meeting was the first official one to take place following Armenia's inclusion in the European Neighbourhood Policy last June.

Minister Oskanian confirmed Armenia's readiness to work with the EU to identify Armenia's needs and priorities and work together to benefit from the EU's experience and resources. The EU delegation noted Armenia's successful political and economic reforms, stressing the need for continuity in order for Armenia to fulfil its international commitments. Armenia reiterated its intention to obtain Market Economy Status from the EU.

Regional cooperation, conflict resolution and stability were also at the focus of the discussions. The Armenia-European Union Cooperation Council also addressed the Nagorno Karabakh resolution process, as well as the need to positively engage Turkey in regional processes.

Brussels, 13 September. During a two-day working visit to Brussels, Armenia's Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian met with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on Monday, September 13. The meeting took place at a time when Azerbaijan continued to reject Armenian officers' participation in NATO Best Effort Exercises to be held in Baku. The

(Oskanian's visit to Brussels...cont.d from p.3)
Secretary General stated NATO's decision to cancel the exercises if Azerbaijan continued to reject the participation of a member state. (It eventually did so and the exercise did not take place.) Minister Oskanian welcomed NATO's principled stance on the matter.

The Secretary General stated his satisfaction at Armenia's level of engagement in NATO's Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, as well as Armenia's recent decision to join NATO's Individual Partnership Action Plan.

Minister Oskanian said Armenia welcomes NATO's Istanbul declaration in June to place greater emphasis on cooperation with the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Minister also said that Armenia expects to continue its participation in KFOR. Armenia looks forward to hosting the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council's Seminar on Contribution to a More Favourable Security Environment through Public Information, to be held in Yerevan this October, as well as the Annual Session of the Atlantic Political Advisory Group of the EAPC, also in Yerevan, in April 2005.

London 13-24 September. Mrs. Larissa Alaverdyan, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Armenia, paid a visit to London to participate in the two-week courses *When citizens complain: The Role of the Ombudsman in Improving Public Services*, organised by *Public Administration International*. In the framework of the program Mrs. Alaverdyan met the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Local Government Ombudsman, the Police Complaints Authority, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, the Independent Housing Ombudsman, the Financial Ombudsman Service and the House of Commons Public Administration Select Committee members. Mrs. Larissa Alaverdyan also had a meeting at the UK Department for International Development.

London 16 September. *Development scenarios for Armenia until 2020*, a presentation event took place in London on 16th of September. It was organised by the *Armenia 2020* Coordination Board and presented by Mr. Pierre Gurdjian, Mr. Ruben Vardanian and Mr. Artashes Kazakhetsian. *Armenia 2020* is a scenario-building exercise that focuses on the identification of alternative development models for the Republic of Armenia until the year 2020 and the elaboration of development scenarios for the country. The project aims at mixing of participants with diverse viewpoints and to bringing together committed and accomplished Armenians from Armenia and all over the world.

London, September, 22. HE Ambassador Vahe Gabrielyan attended the opening of an exhibition of Armenian works of art, *Art of Armenians*, at the Sam Fogg gallery in London. The displayed collection comprised rare items of manuscript painting and bookbinding, woodcarving and icons, dating from the 12th to the 18th centuries and was to be on display at the gallery till 15th October.

Yerevan, September 18-19. The visit of Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, to Armenia on September 18 and 19, was a clear signal that Armenia-EU relations have moved to a whole new level. The discussions between Armenian authorities and the President of the European Commission made clear that in light of Armenia's inclusion in the European Neighborhood Policy, Armenia's and EU's expectations of each other are different and will become more specific.

Yerevan 15 September. The ensemble of young musicians *New Names of Armenia* performed in a Celebration concert in Yerevan, dedicated to the 70th Anniversary of British Council. The event, which has

(*Young Musicians... cont.d from p.4*) received an enthusiastic welcome from the present guests, members of international organisations and diplomatic missions in Armenia, was organised under the auspices of the Armenian Branch of the English-Speaking Union of UK.

London, 21 September. A reception to celebrate the thirteenth anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia was organised by the Embassy of Armenia at *Nevart Gulbekian Hall* in Kensington on the 21st of September. Members of London's diplomatic corps, politicians, peers and members of Armenian community joined in to congratulate HE Ambassador and Mrs. Gabrielyan on this occasion.

The Armenian community of UK commemorated the Independence Day at an evening organised by the Armenian Community and Church Council of Great Britain, together with the Armenian Embassy, at London's St Yeghiche Church on Saturday, **18th of September**. After the official speeches of HE Ambassador Mr. Vahe Gabrielyan and Mr. Ara Palamoudian, Chairman of the ACCC, the audience was entertained by the *Sayat-Nova* Ensemble of the Armenian ashughs.

The evening of Armenian dance organised by *Hayastan* All-Armenian Fund of Great Britain, under the auspices of the Armenian Embassy, on **Saturday 25th September**, was also dedicated to the Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia. The Yerevan State Dance Troupe *Barekamoutyun* received standing ovations of those gathered at *Logan Hall* on that evening.

Cambridge, 16-18 September.

As a year ago, this year also HE Ambassador Vahe Gabrielyan participated in the Conference on the *Economic Development and Geopolitics in the Caspian Region*, hosted by Eurasia Programme and Judge Institute of Management, University of Cambridge. Among the key speakers were Mr. Vahram Nercissiantz, Chief Economic Advisor to the President of Armenia, Mrs. Nino Burjanadze, Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia, Ambassador Steven Mann, Senior Advisor for Eurasia and Special Negotiator for Nagorno-Karabakh and Eurasian Conflicts, US State Department.

A new staff member. Mr Stepan Kartashyan joined our Embassy as a Third Secretary in September. Mr. Kartashyan takes over the consular responsibilities after Mr. Gagik Hovhannesyan relinquished his duties and returned to Armenia.



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Mayors of Kensington & Chelsea and Ealing and their spouses



Armenian Ambassador and spouse welcoming the Georgian Ambassador



Welcoming the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait



Welcoming the Ambassador of Uzbekistan



Welcoming the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium



Welcoming the Vice-Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps and Head of the FCO Protocol Service



With HM Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps and his



With the Ambassador of Belarus and his spouse

spouse	
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