



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

News Release

Armenian Plane crash

03 May, 2006

Early in the morning of May 3rd an “*Armavia*” airlines A-320 aircraft *en route* from Yerevan, Armenia, to Sochi, Russian Federation, crashed off Black Sea coast, as it headed for landing, killing all 113 passengers and the crew. On board the plane were 86 citizens of the Republic of Armenia, 26 citizens of the Russian Federation and one Ukrainian citizen.

By a Presidential Decree, a special Commission has been set up to assist in the search and return of the remains of the victims and in providing necessary support to their families. An Armenian governmental delegation has arrived in Sochi to coordinate the search with Russian counterparts. Experts and special technology have been flown in from other parts of Russia and from Yerevan. Official reason for the crash cannot be given until the ‘black box’ is recovered, which has not been yet done because of the deep seas and bad weather, however terrorism and technical problems have been ruled out at this point. Bad weather has been named as the most likely cause for the tragedy. Hotlines are operating in Yerevan, Moscow and Sochi on the following numbers:

Yerevan: (+37410) 28-63-56

Moscow: (+7495) 6243 745

Sochi: (+8622) 44-00-88 & 44-12-32

May 5th and 6th have been announced official Days of Mourning. The Armenian National Flag will be at half-mast in Armenia and at the Armenian Representations world-wide. A Book of Condolences will be opened at the Armenian Embassy in London at 25a Cheniston Gardens, Kensington, London W8 6TG from 11 am to 5 pm on Friday, May 5th, and from 11 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 6th.