

Prime Minister Pashinyan's speech at the autumn session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Saturday, November 18th, 2023

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the autumn session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and delivered a speech at the Karen Demirchyan Sports Concert Complex in Yerevan.



In his speech, the Prime Minister, in particular, noted: "Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Dear Chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Madam Secretary General, Dear Members of Parliament, Dear attendees,



I welcome the holding of the autumn session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the Republic of Armenia. It takes place at an extremely difficult time, when the world order that has existed in recent decades is showing cracks, showing sure signs of disintegration.



It is obvious that the world will not be the same after the crises in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Gaza, ethnic cleansing in

Nagorno-Karabakh. no one doubts this anymore. But no one knows what the world will be like tomorrow.

And especially for this reason, it is extremely important that in the time-

consuming process of today's easing of tensions, managing crises, discussing conflicts, we do not forget to plan for the future, because if the future is not planned, crises and conflicts will not find an obstacle to unfold on their way.

Yesterday we were unable to build dams to prevent today's floods, therefore, no matter how hard it may be, we must try to build those dams today to calm the possible floods of tomorrow.

The Republic of Armenia is not a global country, but we try to adopt the above-mentioned practices in relation to the issues that are part of our daily agenda and for the solution of which we have a significant share of responsibility.

First of all, we are talking about the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process. We have both good news and bad news here.



The good news is that the main principles of peace with Azerbaijan have been agreed upon. This happened through the mediation of the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, as a result of the meetings between the President of Azerbaijan and myself in Brussels. Those agreements were recorded as a result of the tripartite meetings in Charles Michel's statements of May 14 and July 15.



The first principle of peace is: Armenia and Azerbaijan recognize each other's territorial integrity, with the understanding that the territory of Armenia is 29 thousand 800 square kilometers, the territory of Azerbaijan is 86 thousand 600 square kilometers.



The second principle is to make the first principle concrete, which is as follows. The political basis of border delimitation between Armenia and Azerbaijan is the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration.



The Alma-Ata Declaration was signed by the 12 republics of the Soviet Union on December 21, 1991. The following two important records were made with that declaration.

- 1. The Soviet Union ceases to exist.**
- 2. The 12 Soviet republics, including Armenia and Azerbaijan, recognize each other's territorial integrity, sovereignty, the inviolability of the existing, that is, administrative borders, and therefore the existing administrative borders between the republics of the Soviet Union become state borders.**

On this basis, there is a certain understanding between Armenia and Azerbaijan that the maps of the General Staff of the former USSR Armed Forces from 1974 to 1990 should be used for border delimitation.



There is also an understanding that Armenia and Azerbaijan have no territorial claims against each other and are ready to undertake a legal obligation not to advance such claims in the future.



This understanding is also the reason why we propose to Azerbaijan not to have troops on either side of the administrative border of the Soviet Union, as well as to address the issues of the exclave/enclaves. For example, the exclave Artsvashen, which is part of the sovereign territory of Armenia, has been under Azerbaijani occupation for more than 30

years.

The next principle of peace with Azerbaijan is as follows. regional communications should be reopened based on the principles of sovereignty, jurisdiction, reciprocity, and equality of countries.



This is extremely important, because as the President of the National Assembly mentioned, peace in our view is a state when all the countries of the region live with open borders, are connected by active economic, political, cultural ties, and have accumulated experience and tradition of solving all issues diplomatically and through dialogue. Such a thing is at least very difficult to have without having active road, rail, air communications. But that's not all, the countries of the region should be connected with each other by cables, pipelines, power lines.

And here, in order to ensure its share of all this, the Government of the Republic of Armenia presents the "Crossroads of Peace" project, the brochure about which is provided to you, and today we published the video that gives a complete picture of the "Crossroads of Peace".



Here, dear attendees, these were the good news regarding the peace process with Azerbaijan. And what's the bad news? The most important bad news is that we still speak different diplomatic languages and very often do not understand each other.

Of course, there are also objective reasons for this. the long-standing conflict with a certain historical context, the thousands of victims whose relatives are very difficult to look in the eyes, the dozens of prisoners whose family members have no answers to their questions, the atmosphere of hatred that has prevailed for decades and suspicions that bad intentions are hidden under constructive statements. Moreover, what I am saying applies to both Armenia and Azerbaijan to a greater or lesser extent. But Azerbaijan, for example, has never made a public reference to the three principles mentioned above, has not reaffirmed its commitment to those principles, which deepens the atmosphere of mistrust.

It also seems extremely suspicious that under the highest patronage in Azerbaijan, and in fact, at the official level, the Republic of Armenia has started to be called "Western Azerbaijan". And this concept is taught in schools, universities, state media. This seems to us a preparation for

organizing a new war, a new military aggression against Armenia, and is one of the main obstacles to the progress of the peace process.

We also do not understand Azerbaijan's approach of consistently not returning dozens of captives, despite the fact that we have long proposed to resolve this issue with a resolution appropriate to the peace agenda. all for all.

However, dear attendees, the Republic of Armenia is dedicated to the peace agenda, the peace process, and the previous day in my speech at the National Assembly of Armenia, I announced that I intend to intensify diplomatic efforts on our part to achieve the signing of a peace treaty with Azerbaijan.

Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia,

Honorable Chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

Madam Secretary General, dear MPs,

Dear attendees,

We are also in dialogue with Turkey. In any case, we have never had such an active dialogue before, although we have not yet had any success in terms of establishing diplomatic relations. But the settlement of Armenia's relations with Turkey is an important factor for the strategic vision of a peaceful, developing and safe environment in our region, the South Caucasus. In the near future, we hope to hear the news of opening the Armenia-Turkey border to citizens of third countries and holders of diplomatic passports, and this will be a big symbolic step.



We hope to make the South Caucasus a region that delivers good news to the world, and the Republic of Armenia, I am personally ready to bear our share of responsibility for achieving this goal.

I wish success to the OSCE Yerevan Parliamentary Assembly.

Thank you for your attention. »

