



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Washington, D.C., September 27, 2001

Excellency,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the text of the statement delivered by the Head of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan Dr. Ilham ALIYEV at the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which was held in Strasbourg (France), on September 24, 2001.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulate among the Members of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Elmar MAMEDYAROV
Charge d'affaires

His Excellency
Ambassador Hernan R. CASTRO
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica
Chairman of the Permanent Council of the
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C.

Speech by Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Head of the delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All of us experienced a great shock in connection with the terrorist acts in the United States. On behalf of the Delegation of Azerbaijan, I'd like to express my sincere condolences to the Government of the United States and to all American people in connection with this terrorist acts which caused death and injuries of thousands of innocent people.

I would also like to reaffirm once again the full support of the Government of Azerbaijan to the United States in their activity to find and punish those who committed this terrible crime.

Terrorist acts against the United States show clearly how fragile is the world where we all live. No one can feel safe. Therefore all the international community must unite in its struggle against all forms of terrorism all over the world.

Now it is the moment of truth. It is not possible for some countries to seat on two chairs trying to have good relations with both the victims of terror and its organizers, and call it a balanced policy. In this case the policy cannot be called balanced, it is hypocritical. And any country or organization, which directly or indirectly supports terrorism, must be made responsible by the international community.

Azerbaijan suffered a lot from terrorism. Since the beginning of the Armenian aggression 32 terrorist acts have been committed in Azerbaijan by Armenian terrorist groups. As a result of these terrorist acts, 2,000 people were killed, tens of thousands injured.

The terrorist acts against the Azerbaijani people took place in trains, buses, ferryboats, underground, etc.

Acts of terror against the people of Azerbaijan committed by Armenian terrorists constitute one of the major elements of the large-scale aggression of Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijan. As a result of this aggression, tens of thousands Azerbaijanis were killed, one million people became refugees, 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan is occupied by Armenia. The Armenian terrorist organization ASALA played a very active role in the policy of terror and genocide conducted by Armenia against Azerbaijan for the last 15 years.

Now the territory of the self-proclaimed "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" along with other occupied regions of Azerbaijan is completely uncontrolled territory, lawless zone where authorities created terrorist camps to train terrorists not only from Armenia, but from other countries as well. The territory of Nagorno-Karabakh is used for drug-trafficking and large sums of money from drug production and trafficking are spent for terrorist purposes.

In the battle with terrorism Azerbaijan is in one alliance with the United States. We are together with the whole democratic world and are ready to make our contribution, to do whatever is necessary to put an end to terrorism in the world.

President of Azerbaijan, Mr Heydar Aliyev, in the statement, which he made after the attacks in the US, expressed the full support of Azerbaijan to the United States. Azerbaijan is ready to open its airspace to the United States whenever it is necessary.

International community lost a lot of time in its struggle against terrorism. But, it is better late than never.

It is high time to take very serious steps in the battle with terrorism not only against those, who were involved in terrible act of terror in the US, but also to launch wide-scale campaign against terrorism in all its forms all over the world.

Thank You!