

[Excerpts] [Danielyan] The Armenian Supreme Soviet has begun its morning sittings by hearing disturbing news for the past 3 days. The delegates were informed on 9 January about the bloody incidents in Stepanakert. Yesterday they heard that the Azeris have taken the leaders of Shaumyanovskiy Rayon hostage. Today the chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium briefed the session about the four resolutions adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, two of which refer to Armenia and the other two to Azerbaijan. The leadership of the USSR continues to maintain its so-called balanced policy toward the two republics formulated since the start of the Karabakh movement. It has equated the legally adopted decisions of the Armenian parliament and the actions of those who devastated the 164-km-long state border and taken a negative stance toward both. We are no longer surprised by this; since the beginning, when they condemned in every way possible our peaceful meetings and demonstrations but not Sumgait, we have become used to this. Of course, this is past history, but unfortunately history is repeating itself. The incidents are recurring under a new form while the policy remains the same. We are no longer amazed at the misdemeanors of the soldiers in Stepanakert; after all the decisions adopted by the state have a similar intent.

Unlike the previous occasions, the deputies were not surprised when at today's morning session they heard about the the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolutions. They were prepared for them and knew that no decision favorable to the Armenian people could ever come from above. Therefore, the deputies decided to reply to this political act in kind; that is, they decided to reply with a political act. They proposed amending Article 75 of the Constitution. [passage omitted on interview conducted in Russian with Armenian Deputy Starovoytova criticizing the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolutions]

At its next sitting, the Armenian Supreme Soviet session announced its decision on amending Article 75 of the Constitution. Here is the (?announcement):

[Unidentified speaker] It is proposed to formulate Article 75 as follows: The laws and sub-legislative acts [yentaorenstrakan akteri] of the USSR and the Armenian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] are in force on the territory of the Armenian SSR. However, those laws and sub-legislative acts of the USSR which concern the republic's interests can enter into force on the territory of the Armenian SSR only after they are ratified by the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

[Danielyan] The decision was endorsed. With this decision in hand, our republic's representative to the next session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium will be able to provide a well-grounded defense of the joint decision of the Armenian Supreme Soviet and National Council of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

**Armenians in Azerbaijan Set Up National Council**  
*NC1201120290 Yerevan International Service  
in Armenian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 90*

[Text] Despite the fact that the Armenian villages in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon and Getashen Subrayon and the native residents of these lands and settlements displayed neutrality and restraint throughout the Karabakh developments, the predatory Azeri nationalists were not satisfied until they blockaded them as well. As a consequence of terrorism and armed attacks by brigands, dozens of Armenian villages were depopulated within a few days. All this occurred with the knowledge and tacit approval of the leaders of our federation, who speak in the name of law and the Constitution.

Azat, Kamo, Martunashen, and Getashen villages exhibit a heroic spirit under this exigency. They came together and defended the land where their ancestors have lived for thousands of years.

In order to muster the forces of Getashen Sub-Rayon and to solve general problems, a congress of plenipotentiary representatives of the villages recently convened. The congress, which was attended by more than 300 delegates, decided to set up a 21-man National Council for the Armenian population of Getashen, Martunashen, Azat, and Kamo villages and to recognize it as the sole administrative authority whose decisions are binding on the entire population of the sub-rayon.

**'Sharp Debates' Noted at Armenian Supreme Soviet**  
*LD1001174190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian  
1600 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[Text] We have just received a telegram from Yerevan.

The second day of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet session passed in an atmosphere of sharp debates around the situation in Nagorny-Karabakh and the question of the closure of the Nairit scientific-production association, one of the largest chemical enterprises in the republic. Certain amendments to the republic's constitution were also discussed. Deputies' opinions were divided and so it was decided to continue the session on 11 January.

**Azeris Said Destroying Armenian Monuments**  
*NC1101110790 Yerevan ARMENPRES International  
Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 10 Jan 90*

[“The Cable by Vazgen I”—ARMENPRES headline]

[Text] To Yuriy Nikolayevich Khristoradnov, chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs attached to the USSR Council of Ministers, Moscow:

Esteemed Yuriy Nikolayevich, I consider it my duty to inform you of the recent destruction and desecration of Armenian historical monuments in the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

I inform you with deep sorrow that extremist Azeri nationalists set fire to the Armenian Church in Baku on 25 December, destroying valuable ecclesiastical books, holy paintings, and all ecclesiastical clothing.

In the name of the Armenian Church and believers, we protest against this sacrilege and request that you ask the pertinent bodies to take the necessary measures to bring the culprits to account.

With deepest respects.

[Signed] Vazgen I, catholicos of all Armenians

**Girenko, Nishanov Depart Stepanakert for Moscow**  
*NC1201084190 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri*  
0440 GMT 10 Jan 90

[From the Republican Press Review]

[Text] The republic's organization committee has begun its work. The newspapers report that Girenko, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Nishanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities, left Baku for Stepanakert on 9 January. The members of the republic's organization committee and the union monitoring and observation committee accompanied them to the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

Comrades Girenko and Nishanov left for Moscow on the same day.

#### Visit Called Failure

*NC1101104490 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian*  
0545 GMT 11 Jan 90

[From the review of KHORHRDAYIN HAYASTAN]

[Text] A letter from Stepanakert entitled "A Provocative Visit" and signed by Yegishe Sarkisyan discusses the visit paid by Girenko, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Nishanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities, to the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] on 9 January.

The letter underlines that this attempt to revive the stillborn USSR Supreme Soviet decision failed and the unwanted guests were forced to return to Baku. However, the people of Stepanakert again paid a heavy price. New bloodshed occurred when soldiers opened fire on unarmed people. Three Armenian (?demonstrators) were wounded and taken to the oblast hospital.

**Armenian Supreme Soviet Sets Up NKAO Committee**  
*NC1101123990 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian*  
0545 GMT 11 Jan 90

[From the review of KHORHRDAYIN HAYASTAN]

[Excerpts] According to an ARMENPRES report, the 11th session of the 11th convocation of the Armenian

Republic's Supreme Soviet continued its deliberations on 10 January. During the joint session of the Supreme Soviet and National Council of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO], there was a wide-ranging exchange of views on the developments that have taken place in last few days in the NKAO and the Armenian-inhabited regions in Azerbaijan, namely Getashen village and Shaumyanovskiy Rayon. The developments have created a dangerous situation for the Armenian population. [passage omitted]

The session decided to establish a committee to be headed by Deputy Movsisyan, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and instructed it to carry out a (?speedy) study of the issues raised and the proposals made at the session and the developments in the NKAO. The committee is to present its findings to the Supreme Soviet to enable the latter to formulate the appropriate measures.

#### Azerbaijani People's Front Occupies Buildings

*LD1101151590 Moscow TASS in English 1504 GMT*  
11 Jan 90

["Urgent—Lenkoran Government, Law-Enforcement Bodies Blocked"—TASS headline]

[Text] Baku January 11 AZERINFORM-TASS—People's Front representatives in the Azerbaijani city of Lenkoran carried out unlawful, unconstitutional actions to block local government and law-enforcement bodies at 6 am [0200 GMT] today.

The Azerbaijani Council of Ministers resolutely denounced the People's Front's attempt to disorganise work of local bodies of power and complicate the situation in the region.

According to the Azerbaijani government, these actions are contrary to the republican leadership's efforts to strengthen popular unity and consolidate actions with the People's Front and other public movements.

The premeditated actions by the irresponsible individuals are directed at thwarting the political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, the government believes.

The Council of Ministers called on Lenkoran residents to display restraint and prudence and not to fall for the provocations.

It stated that, if need be, all necessary measures to normalise the situation will be adopted.

#### 'Malicious' Activities in Lenkoran

*NC1101191590 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri*  
1700 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Members of the Popular Front in Lenkoran resorted to illegal and anticonstitutional activities with a view to obstructing the work of the local Soviet and law enforcing organs and seizing the city communications