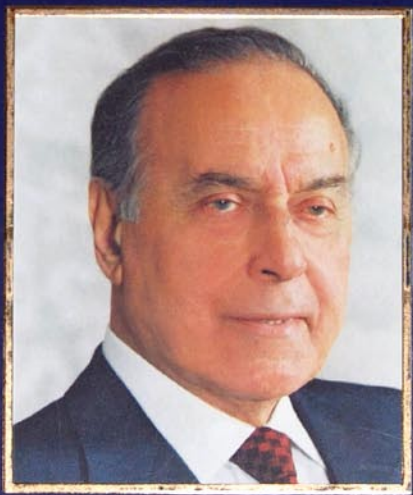


HEYDAR ALIYEV



When I analyse my whole life,

I see that, in any case, there is one main event, and it is that I was able to secure the independence of Azerbaijan and did not allow it to be destroyed in a blaze of internal feuding, devastation and blood

WORDS OF WISDOM

JUNE, 1993-1998, OCTOBER



HEYDAR ALIYEV FOUNDATION

HEYDAR
ALIYEV

WORDS OF WISDOM

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NATIONAL, UNIVERSAL THOUGHTS

A period of our people's history and fate is inseparably linked to the name of the great leader Heydar Aliyev. Throughout his life, he was always together with his people and did not spare even his life for their development as a nation and state. He ruled the republic for more than 30 years, first as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and then as president, and went down in history as the founder of new, independent Azerbaijan. As a great political leader and wise person, Heydar Aliyev was a skilful expert and great master in predetermining the course of historical events.

With these rare qualities, he demonstrated a true, civic position and leadership of genius in the adoption of decisions of great importance to the nation, history and statehood.

At our republic's most difficult time, he victoriously fulfilled once again his mission as president and national leader: he established stability in the country, created a new constitution, concluded important and momentous contracts and agreements with a number of foreign countries and signed decrees aimed at improving the living standards of children, old people, refugees and displaced persons.

We can confidently say now that it was Heydar Aliyev who put Azerbaijan on the path of democracy and independence.

There is no doubt that this path will remain in history linked to his name. Heydar Aliyev had a bright way of thinking, an adroit mind and a wise intellect. The quotations included in the collection

Heydar Aliyev. Words of Wisdom

have been selected from the great leader's official speeches, interviews and letters on various issues in 1993-2003.

Along with expanding on many years of life experience, this book also reflects the modern Azerbaijani reality and the cultural, spiritual and intellectual life of our people.

Though these opinions, which are distinctively concise, accurate and clear, were expressed on specific events at specific times, they are of national and universal importance.

Mehriban Aliyeva,
President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation

HEYDAR
ALIYEV

WORDS OF WISDOM

JUNE 1993-1998 OCTOBER

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON STATEHOOD,
INDEPENDENCE
AND DEMOCRACY**

**ON STATEHOOD,
INDEPENDENCE
AND DEMOCRACY**

The gaining of state independence is an historic event for the Azerbaijani people, and it is our duty and goal to strengthen our independence and international position in every way possible.

The Azerbaijani people have a long-standing history of statehood.

In establishing a democratic and independent republic and striving towards a civilized society in Azerbaijan, we must use all common, secular, human values.

Azerbaijan is an independent state and must never again be incorporated into any other state or become anyone's vassal or colony.

I see Azerbaijan in the future as a free and independent state.

The partition of Azerbaijan has been the worst intention, wish and desire of Azerbaijan's enemies at home and abroad for many years, maybe for many centuries.

Azerbaijan is an independent state and is pursuing its own independent domestic and foreign policy.

The fact that the Azerbaijan Republic is an independent state is an historic event. We, the current generation of Azerbaijan, must make effective use of these opportunities in every area.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan will be master of its own fate, land and rights and will establish its future life independently.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan must regard the protection of its citizens' rights as one of its main duties.

While our state independence and national freedom now resemble a toddler taking its first steps, in several years' time, our state, country and people should be moving forward with strong, resolute steps and be acting with great faith.

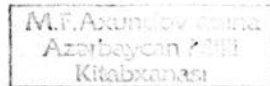
The Azerbaijani state is capable of defending itself and the republic.

Azerbaijan is an independent state and, first of all, we must secure our territorial integrity. An independent state must be master of its own territory.

The state system and domestic policy of Azerbaijan are typical of an independent state, that is to say, Azerbaijan is already an independent state.

The state system takes account of not only our historical and national traditions, but also world experience and democratic principles.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan prioritizes its interests while pursuing its domestic and foreign policy. Of course, account is taken of the national characteristics, history and national traditions of the Azerbaijani people, as well as of international experience of state-building.



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The fact that Azerbaijan is an independent state and its people have become free is an historic event, and we have to value this and immortalize our achievements. This is a strategic objective facing us and future generations.

Anyone who wishes to betray Azerbaijan's statehood and independence will receive their due punishment, God willing.

We will promote Azerbaijan as a developed state from the public, political and economic point of view, one based on democratic principles, and independent Azerbaijan will take its rightful place in the world community.

Everyone should prioritize the protection of the national interest, statehood and independence of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Determination to protect statehood is based on the invincible will of our people.

Our national ideology should without doubt be linked to our history and the traditions and specific features of our nation, and to the present and future of our people and state.

This state belongs to us and is the Azerbaijani people's own state and own state entity. Every

Azerbaijani should understand that we are establishing an independent Azerbaijani state and a long path lies ahead. In order to travel this path and achieve the highest goals, we must base everything on clean, pure spirituality.

Azerbaijan's state independence and national freedom are eternal.

Every citizen of Azerbaijan is dear to the state.

The Azerbaijan Republic has a good foundation as an independent state. Its foundation is the loyalty of the Azerbaijani state and those who run the state to state independence and national freedom.

The national state ideology of Azerbaijan is to ensure the independence of our country and establish a democratic state in Azerbaijan.

We will protect our state independence as the apple of our eye, strengthen it and make it eternal.

It is very important to us to establish strong and sincere, friendly relations with countries, and every such step proves that our state in-

dependence has been established, and that Azerbaijan's sovereignty is strengthening.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan has a wonderful future. We must all move towards that wonderful and happy future together. We must all try to achieve this future.

After gaining its state independence, the Azerbaijan Republic has been moving with determination towards the establishment of a democratic, law-governed and secular state.

The state independence of Azerbaijan is the dearest and most valuable achievement for us, and we should always uphold this achievement – our state independence.

Today independent Azerbaijan is a powerful state that is able to defend itself.

The work that was carried out in the 1970s, the great economic and industrial potential that was created and the work that was carried out in the oil industry are the basis of the state independence of the Azerbaijan Republic. Had all these not happened, we would not be able to hold state independence so tightly in our hands today.

The state independence of Azerbaijan is irreversible and eternal.

We must realize and understand that we have reached a stage of happiness; we have achieved national freedom, have an independent state and live in a free and independent country.

Our independent state will live for centuries.

The domestic and foreign policy of the Azerbaijani state serves to assert the will of our people in the international arena and to accomplish irreversibly the historic tasks facing us.

The main task and duty facing us is to maintain and develop the state independence of Azerbaijan.

The highest goal and duty of our state is to ensure the physical, mental and spiritual health of our people.

The state independence of Azerbaijan is a historic achievement, and this is a source of great happiness for every Azerbaijani.

The national duty of every Azerbaijani is to maintain the state independence of our republic and to develop Azerbaijan as a free and independent state.

I say categorically that throughout the years of independence, Azerbaijan has travelled a great path in order to form a sovereign state, has taken with determination the path of establishing a law-governed, democratic and civilized state, and has overcome and is overcoming great difficulties.

Our land will be liberated, the territorial integrity of our republic will be restored and the happy future of independent Azerbaijan will come.

State independence is a historic achievement of the Azerbaijani people, and we regard the preservation of this historic achievement as our highest duty.

Azerbaijan will be independent forever. The state independence and national freedom of Azerbaijan are unshakable and irreversible ... Azerbaijan will take the path of democracy and freedom. Azerbaijan's path – the path of

establishing a democratic, law-governed and secular state – is our path. We will never stray from this path. We will travel this path to the very end and will raise Azerbaijan to a worthy level in the world community.

The state independence of Azerbaijan is irreversible, invincible and unshakable. In the future too, we will protect and increase the state independence of Azerbaijan as the apple of our eye.

As an independent state, the free Azerbaijan Republic will live for centuries.

The state independence of the Azerbaijan Republic – the state independence we have today – has withstood great tests.

The process of state-building is being consistently implemented in Azerbaijan.

The establishment of state independence is a complicated process; it is not an easy process at all.

A democratic and law-governed state is being established in Azerbaijan, this state already exists, and this state, government and state system control the entire territory of Azerbai-

jan and wield all the authority granted by the Azerbaijani people.

We value our state independence highly and we are doing our utmost to strengthen and develop our state independence.

Azerbaijan is a secular state.

Every one of the attributes of the state that protects the independence of Azerbaijan is important to us, and every one of them entails great responsibility.

We are creating an independent Azerbaijani state and we must create it so that it lives forever, so that no force can ever make it bow down and no state can come and take away the national freedom and independence of the Azerbaijani people. To this end, everyone must be loyal in order to protect this independence and must put national interests above their personal interests.

The issue and duty of paramount importance is our national interest.

Azerbaijan is a completely independent state, and regards the protection of independence as

its main duty. No other country has armed forces or military bases on the territory of our state. Azerbaijan independently protects its own borders.

Azerbaijan is young as a state that has taken the path of independence and democracy.

Azerbaijan is following with resolve the path of state independence and henceforth will not give up its state independence.

The 21st century will be the century of Azerbaijan's revival.

The achievement of state independence is a great, historic event for the Azerbaijani people, and they are determined to protect their state independence, not to allow this independence to be violated and to ensure that Azerbaijan does not fall under the rule or jurisdiction of any other state.

We are a completely independent state. Azerbaijan has its own place in the world community as an independent state. The moral importance of this is higher than its material importance.

The attributes of Azerbaijan's independence should be well promoted in schools. Every child and teenager should hold dear the sanctity of the Azerbaijani flag which represents the state independence of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani flag is not just a flag. It is the symbol of our statehood and independence.

Every home should have the flag of the Azerbaijani state and every family should worship the Azerbaijani flag. This flag should not be just in official places, departments, streets, venues and schools, but should also be a dear part of every family's life.

Every independent state must have several factors in order to be independent – in order to live independently, it should have its own territory, economy, natural resources, an army that defends the independent state, forces that protect the domestic situation, weapons, money and currency. If these do not exist, there can be no independent state.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan is a state that firmly stands on its own two feet and protects its sovereignty, state independence and national freedom.

Every leader wants to ensure the independent life of their state and protect its national in-

terests. Every politician who has common sense and pursues these goals for their people cannot ignore this important factor.

Our path is to protect state independence in Azerbaijan as the apple of our eye, to strengthen it from day to day and make it irreversible, unshakable and eternal.

Unity and solidarity between the people and the Azerbaijani president form the basis of our state independence today and in the future.

Since Azerbaijan gained its state independence, it has been a great honour for every Azerbaijani to serve their own people.

The work that has been done and the results that have been achieved are purely the consequence of the state independence of Azerbaijan. They are the brilliant result of the right, correct and well thought-out domestic and foreign policy which the Azerbaijani state has been pursuing, benefiting from this independence and freedom.

The inviolability of Azerbaijan's borders and its territorial integrity are sacred to us.

Azerbaijan is an independent state, and our people are masters of their own state.

From now on, Azerbaijan will not depend on anyone and will not be anyone's vassal. It will decide its fate independently every day and will determine its future.

We and the Azerbaijani state have a wonderful future. We see this future on the path of independence. For Azerbaijan, state independence is a historic achievement and the greatest wealth.

The state border of Azerbaijan is a factor that demonstrates the independence and sovereignty of Azerbaijan.

Our children will live a happy life in free and independent Azerbaijan.

The independent Azerbaijan Republic is confidently moving along the path of independence.

The path Azerbaijan has taken leads towards the establishment of an Azerbaijan Republic and a democratic and law-governed society. We are and will be moving along this path. No-one will be able to force us from this path!

If in the early 20th century, our people took their first great step towards national freedom

and state independence, in the late 20th century they achieved complete national freedom and state independence.

The state independence of Azerbaijan is our historic achievement. At the same time, this is the logical result of the feelings that dwelt in the hearts of our people from the early to the late 20th century and the processes that took place in our people's hearts and minds.

The collapse of the Soviet Union is very good, because Azerbaijan gained its state independence as a result and became an independent state. This is a historic achievement for Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan regards its state independence as a historic achievement. This is the national freedom and independence for which our people had been longing for many years and centuries.

It is the sacred duty of each of us to value our independent state, protect it, nurture it and raise it to the level of the world's developed states.

We must defend our lands, recover our occupied territories, secure the territorial integrity

of Azerbaijan and uphold the independence of Azerbaijan.

No slogan or declaration about complete independence and real sovereignty can replace the real requirements of peoples, whether large or small.

Independence does not belong to anyone or any organization. Independence belongs to the people. This is the greatest blessing that history and fate have given the people.

From a political point of view, gaining independence does not mean that independence is complete and irreversible. Independence must be developed, protected and applied in all spheres.

Under conditions of independence, we must develop and build all spheres of our life according to the demands of our citizens.

Azerbaijan must not turn from the path of independence. Azerbaijan must not miss this opportunity, which it has obtained for the first time; it must uphold its independence at any price and develop as an independent state.

There should be one direction for everyone: to protect the independence of Azerbaijan, to protect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, to create political stability in the Azerbaijan Republic, to create law and order and comfortable living conditions for the citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic.

The independence of the Azerbaijan Republic is a historic event. This is the national wealth and national achievement of the Azerbaijani people.

Our people have travelled difficult paths in order to gain independence and to achieve complete independence. However, it is even more difficult to maintain independence, to strengthen it, to achieve the complete independence of a state and secure worthy living standards for all citizens in an independent state.

Independence is eternal for the Azerbaijani people and for the Azerbaijani state.

The main problem facing Azerbaijan is to maintain its independence, ensure its territorial integrity and oust the Armenian armed forces from the occupied land.

The Azerbaijani people will not turn from the path of independence and will never give up their independence.

It is not easy to maintain the independence of Azerbaijan. To this end, regardless of their political world outlook, our people, nation and the whole Azerbaijani people must serve one goal today – to maintain the independence of Azerbaijan.

The path of independence and national freedom is long.

We will travel the path of independence and not stray from it! Never again will our people lose their national freedom.

No-one can bring undue influence to bear upon us! We have protected the independence of the Azerbaijan Republic and will continue to protect it. We will protect our independence at any price.

...Our people have always striven for national freedom and independence.

...The sovereignty of Azerbaijan is the most sacred goal and duty of every Azerbaijani citizen.

We can maintain our independence only on the basis of national solidarity and civil unity.

...No-one can violate the independence of the Azerbaijani people, and our people are capable of protecting their independence and statehood.

Though it was difficult to gain independence, it is even more difficult to maintain it and ensure its permanence and perpetuity.

Independence exists in order to allow us to be masters of our own fate and to secure a better life for our people.

Nothing can be achieved without resolve. Nothing can be achieved without free thinking. Nothing can be achieved without independence. An independent policy is needed.

The independence of Azerbaijan is related to the place the Azerbaijan Republic takes in the world community.

Just as we are masters of our own fate, we ourselves must protect our fate and our independence, discover our own path by following the path that God has shown us and move forward along this path.

We should not lose our faith and give up our convictions or direction. The path we have taken is the independence of Azerbaijan, the national freedom and eternity of independent Azerbaijan as an independent state. The path we have taken is our loyalty to our spiritual values, traditions, language and history.

Regardless of whether it is big or small, no state will profit from putting pressure on the independence of Azerbaijan.

There is no other path as difficult as the path of independence.

Our people have achieved their national freedom. There is no doubt that all our people made their own contribution towards gaining independence.

From now on, we will live in a permanently free and independent Azerbaijan.

In order to maintain our independence, it is necessary to secure and maintain the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Our duty is to strengthen our independence and give future generations an independent and powerful Azerbaijani state.

We will never allow any attempt on our independence and national freedom.

The feeling of independence is especially close and dear to us. Borders are one of the factors that confirm the independence and sovereignty of a country.

Never again will Azerbaijan allow its independence to be restricted or any of its national-state rights to be taken away.

Nothing is dearer or better than to live freely, in national freedom, and independently – to be independent in an independent and free state.

The very fact of independence, the establishment of one's own national state, of a system of national state administration, and the reconstruction of the public, political and economic system are a great and historic event.

We must protect our independence, value it, strengthen it and never allow it to be lost.

Since we are independent and free, and are masters of our own country, we should always think about our country, land, homeland and the people who trust us. Only this! We should have no other thoughts.

Azerbaijan is seriously protecting its independence and sovereignty.

Azerbaijan's development on the path of independence and democracy is irreversible.

We all have one ideology: the independence of Azerbaijan and the eternity of independence.

The goal of all of us is to strengthen, protect and maintain the independence we have gained.

For the sake of independence, we must withstand everything. For the sake of independence, we must withstand any difficulty and any suffering.

Independence does not come with one statement. Independence comes with real deeds. The real deed is that we are masters of our own country, land, nation and fate.

Independence is a great blessing for us, it is great wealth that God has bestowed upon us, and we must protect and maintain it.

For centuries, our forefathers and Azerbaijani intellectuals have been longing and fighting for national freedom and independence, but failed

to achieve it. We have achieved it. Know that now every person will give up their life to protect and maintain it.

The path of independent Azerbaijan in the sphere of independence is a path of democracy and a path of human rights' protection.

We are establishing a law-governed, democratic and secular state in Azerbaijan. This is our strategic path. We are moving forward on this strategic path.

We want our state to be a completely democratic, law-governed and secular state. For this reason, our main duty is to establish and develop democracy and ensure the supremacy of the law in Azerbaijan.

A law-governed, democratic and secular state is being established in Azerbaijan, democratic principles are being established, human rights are being protected, freedom of the press, freedom of speech and political pluralism are being ensured and economic reforms are being carried out.

We must all know that a democratic and law-governed state and society also require discipline, respect and proper observance of state laws.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan has taken the path of establishing a law-governed state and a democratic society based on human values.

Our strategic path in the sphere of state building is to establish a democratic and law-governed state, to create a democratic society, to protect human rights, to protect democracy, to create broad conditions for political pluralism and to ensure human freedom, civil freedom and human rights.

...The policy being conducted within the republic – democracy, freedom, respect for human rights, liberty and political pluralism – all are principles aimed at creating a law-governed society in Azerbaijan.

State-building and the formation of society should be based on democratic principles.

Democracy must develop in independent Azerbaijan.

Political pluralism and democratic principles allow every person to take an active part in public and political life, regardless of political convictions, ethnicity and religious beliefs.

In observing democratic principles, we have not objected, nor do we object, to the appearance of any public or political movement.

While developing democracy, creating conditions for political pluralism and being determined to create a democratic state, we should also strengthen discipline in both society and the state.

Democracy is not anarchy, arbitrariness and chaos. Democracy is high culture, high discipline, civil solidarity, citizens' respect for each other, respect for government agencies and the state's respect and care for its citizens.

Our path is the path of democracy and we should not turn from the path of democracy.

Azerbaijan must build its state on the basis of democratic principles, and government agencies must guarantee the establishment of democratic principles in society.

In world experience, a referendum is the most democratic way to solve important issues at the state level and learn the opinion of the people.

Azerbaijan has taken the path of implementing principles such as political pluralism, free-

dom of thought, human freedom, freedom of conscience and freedom of speech as important principles both in the sphere of state policy and in the political and public sphere.

Azerbaijan's domestic life and policy are based on democracy, a multi-party system, the principles of political pluralism and all personal freedoms.

Our domestic policy is aimed at creating a law-governed and democratic state and a democratic society, at guaranteeing all conditions for the development of democracy in Azerbaijan, at establishing democratic principles, political pluralism and a multi-party system, at protecting human rights, personal freedom, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience and at ensuring the equality of the rights of all Azerbaijani citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs and political convictions.

The main thrust of our current domestic policy is to give strong guarantees on the protection of human rights by ensuring personal freedom, independent entrepreneurship and initiative, and to establish a democratic and law-governed state and a democratic society by ensuring political pluralism and a multi-party system.

Public opinion is, in general, objective.

Freedom of speech, freedom of thought and political pluralism should be expanded in Azerbaijan, and every citizen should feel free and independent. The path of political pluralism and freedom of speech is one of the main conditions for the creation of the democratic principles of the Azerbaijani state and of a democratic and law-governed society.

Values common to all mankind are spreading widely and becoming established in the world. Among them, freedom, democracy and human rights take a special place. The need to carry out democratic reforms in public and political life and in state-building, the economy and all spheres of life has become an important factor for many countries.

No-one will be able to turn us from the path of democracy.

Undoubtedly, there is and will be political pluralism in Azerbaijan.

By taking the path of democratizing all spheres of our life, we will lead Azerbaijan into the community of the world's civilized countries.

All democratic principles – a multi-party system, freedom of the press, human freedom, human rights, freedom of conscience and freedom of speech – have been established in Azerbaijan.

The protection of human rights is one of the basic principles of state activity. Regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs and political convictions, the equality of human rights, political pluralism and freedom of the press have all been ensured in Azerbaijan.

We are developing as a democratic state. This is our strategic path. Democracy, human freedom, political pluralism, a market economy, the protection of human rights, the country's openness to the world, freedom, independence and cooperation with foreign investors are all our strategic goals. We are accomplishing all this.

No-one has imposed democracy on us, no-one has given it to us. Democracy and a democratic system are a system that comes from within.

For us democracy is not a word, it is a deed. We have created democracy with our deeds and are creating this democracy.

Both today and in the future, there must be civil solidarity and civil unity in the Azerbaijani parliament, all government agencies, our society and people based on sound principles and on the full establishment of the diversity of opinions and political pluralism.

All opportunities have been created for democracy to be created and developed in Azerbaijan. Freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and political pluralism – all this has been ensured.

Man is free and independent in Azerbaijan, can express his independent opinion everywhere and no-one can prevent this.

We will raise Azerbaijan to the level of a completely democratic state; we are capable of this and will achieve this.

Azerbaijan has taken the path of building a democratic and law-governed state based on human values.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON BUILDING
THE ARMY**

**ON BUILDING
THE ARMY**

We are an independent state. An independent state should have its own forces. The basis of these forces are the people and the army which is part of the people.

If we want to create a powerful Azerbaijani army today, this army can be created only by experienced, knowledgeable, skilled and educated officers and servicemen. People who do not know the military business, have no military education and have not done their military service cannot create a powerful and worthy army.

As an independent state, the Azerbaijan Republic should have an army that is capable of defending it.

There can be only one armed unit in our society, and this is the armed forces of the state.

If our defence forces are to grow stronger, everyone should be concentrated in one centre – the Ministry of Defence and our army.

Our army must be comprised of people who have a healthy spirit.

Our heroic army has been the defender of the Azerbaijan Republic and will be so in the future.

The Azerbaijani people must maintain their independence and national freedom. To this end, Azerbaijan must have a strong army. This is necessary both to cleanse our occupied territories from the enemy and secure the reliable defence of independent Azerbaijan in the future. For this reason, it is the honourable duty of every citizen to pay attention to, and take care of, the army.

The army of every independent state is one of the main attributes of the state.

It is our sacred duty to create an army and turn it into a real and powerful army capable of defending our land.

We can boldly say that today Azerbaijan has strong armed forces, Azerbaijan has a heroic national army, Azerbaijan has valuable generals and officers and Azerbaijan has strong, heroic and well-trained soldiers.

The Azerbaijani armed forces must increase their military and professional level.

The creation, formation and strengthening of our army are needed only to ensure the independence of the Azerbaijan Republic, its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders.

Our army should always be ready to defend Azerbaijan, defend our territory and liberate our occupied land.

In order to create our army and develop and strengthen it in the future, it is very important that our young people engage in physical culture and sports and that sport be widely practised in our republic.

The army must exist not because we want to attack any other state and seize someone's land. No. We are a peace-loving state. We have not set our sights on anyone's land. We want to liberate our land and ensure the terri-

torial integrity of our country and the inviolability of our borders. This is the highest goal of the Azerbaijani people. This is the policy and activity carried out by the Azerbaijani state. In order to attain this goal and to maintain our state independence in the future, we should have a strong army. We are building an army.

Our duty is to liberate our land in a peaceful way. However, we must have a strong army in order to conduct the peace talks successfully.

In order to make the independence of Azerbaijan eternal, we must have a national army that is constantly improving and getting stronger. This is our sacred duty; it is the honourable duty of all.

Our national army has been set up, created and strengthened, and it is protecting Azerbaijani land and, at the same time, our statehood.

The army is the people's army.

The army should be a real national army and an army loyal to the constitution and statehood of the independent Azerbaijan Republic.

Our army should be a healthy army. It should be an army that is educated, strengthened,

trained and developed on the basis of the national and spiritual traditions of the Azerbaijani people.

What forms an army's power, military capability and will for victory is the feeling of patriotism among its fighters. Every soldier, officer and fighter should prioritize the feeling of patriotism and loyalty to our homeland, land, independent state and people. The fighter of the Azerbaijani army who has these qualities can strengthen our army and gain victory at any moment.

An independent state should have a strong army for a lasting and permanent peace.

Discipline is the basis of an army's power.

I am sure that our army is ready to give a worthy response to any attempt on the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's army is its pride. We are proud of our army.

A strong and powerful army is the main factor in perpetuating the state independence of Azerbaijan and ensuring the territorial in-

tegrity of our country, and it is the guarantor of peace and security for our republic.

In our country, weapons and munitions should belong to our state, army, law-enforcement agencies and government agencies.

Among the newly independent states, Azerbaijan is the only country where there are no foreign armed forces. We are determined to maintain our independence with our own forces and we are doing our utmost to achieve this.

The most important and greatest sphere in the independent Azerbaijan Republic is its armed forces and national army.

The symbol and guarantor of every state's independence is its armed forces.

The independence of a country cannot be reliable if it does not have reliable and strong armed forces capable of defending their homeland and land.

The military capability of a disciplined army must increase from day to day. The disciplined army of Azerbaijan – its national army – must be the full guarantor of the territorial integrity

of our republic, of the defence of its lands and of the independence of our state.

It is important for every independent state and country to have a strong army in order to live independently, and we must have such a strong army.

Our falcons are capable of protecting Azerbaijani skies, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the independence of Azerbaijan.

In order for Azerbaijan to live in peace all the time and as an independent state, it should have a powerful army.

The power of an army is not just in weapons and its might. The main power of an army is in the loyalty of every soldier to his people, land and homeland.

The greatest and most sacred duty is to protect our lands staunchly and to give a timely and necessary response to any force that encroaches upon our land.

The reinforcement and development of the Azerbaijani national army is one of the most important tasks facing us today.

Our national army is powerful, strong and well-organized.

In order to protect the independent Azerbaijan Republic today and in the future, to make its borders inviolable and to liberate our occupied lands, Azerbaijan should have a strong national army and armed forces and Azerbaijani young people should regard military service as their most important and honourable duty.

We don't want to fight a war. As an independent state, we simply want to have the right armed forces to ensure the reliable protection of our country's territory.

A disciplined and professional army has been created in our country.

Azerbaijan has a strong army that is capable of defending its sovereignty, statehood, independence and land.

The people must take care of our army.

Special care must be taken of every soldier's family.

Every soldier and every officer must be respected. The army is part of our people. Our

fighters are people who defend us, become martyrs and come under fire.

There is no other job more honourable than to serve in the army and defend one's homeland. The Azerbaijani people treat their army with great respect.

Care should be taken of every fighter and of our entire army.

Care and respect for the army are the honourable duty of society.

It is the duty of every ministry, every executive body, every government agency, every public organization and citizen to care about and assist the armed forces and the army.

The strengthening of our army is necessary both for Azerbaijan's protection today and for Azerbaijan to live as a sovereign state in the future.

The unity of the people and army increases both the power of the people and the power of the country and strengthens the army even more.

One of the main duties facing us is to ensure healthy spiritual unity between the people and the army.

The army should always be taken care of by the state and by the people.

The army is our own army. The army is an integral part of our people. The army is the pillar of the independence of our country, nation and state.

The army is part of the people. The unity of the people and the army always secures the power of the state, gives even greater strength to the army and allows the people to trust its army even more.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan are also part of the people.

Now we are protecting our own lands and the independent Azerbaijani state. For this reason, this feeling must now be stronger in everybody and every citizen regardless of their profession and position.

The defence of the motherland is the sacred duty of all.

Everyone should make their own contribution to defending the homeland and everyone should take their place.

Everyone should be an armed soldier. There is no duty higher than this.

The great power and potential of Azerbaijan and our people's rich traditions of heroism must all be united.

Military service has one untouchable law: a serviceman or conscript should serve wherever his homeland and command think he should serve.

The military profession, the profession of officer and the profession of defending the homeland are sacred.

A person can do many jobs in their life. But not everyone can dedicate their life to the military profession and the profession of defending their homeland. Only those who love their homeland and are loyal to their people can do so.

Military service is the honourable duty of every Azerbaijani. Young people who serve in the army and do their military duty are respected and valued amongst our people and society. Officers and servicemen who dedicate their lives to this honourable profession – defence of their country and homeland – will al-

ways gain the respect of the Azerbaijani people.

Military service is first of all based on discipline.

Every son of Azerbaijan should dream from childhood of serving in the army. He should try and hurry to do so, look forward to reaching the age of military service and fulfilling his honourable duty to his homeland and nation by serving in the army.

Every person who serves in the army, the Azerbaijani armed forces, should be the most respected and trustworthy member of our society.

Every state must have an army that meets modern requirements in order to live independently.

An army should be formed from youth.

Every citizen must respect the army and every young person must regard military service as an honour.

Azerbaijani youth, the young generation, the national army and young people serving in this

army should always think about the present and future of our country and faithfully serve our homeland and nation.

Young people must be brought up in a spirit of national and military patriotism especially.

In every country, service in the army of that country is the civil duty of a young man.

When a young man goes to serve in the army, this should be celebrated in his family.

Young men should go to serve in the army faithfully and everyone should do their civil duty – military service. The reinforcement and development of the army are the main guarantee of the independence of the Azerbaijani state.

Every young man must serve in the Azerbaijani national army, regardless of his family, his parents' position or financial situation.

Military service should be a great desire in the heart of every young man.

Young people are loyal to the Azerbaijani state and our native land. For this reason, I believe that our national army is loyal to our statehood and homeland.

Service in our national army is the honourable, civil duty of every young Azerbaijani. A young man who does not serve in the army cannot gain respect in society.

The duty of military service is every young man's own duty; it is his parents' duty and the duty of our youth organization.

Every young man should think that in order for him to live today and in the future and for his nation and independent state to live forever in the world community, his first duty should be to do his military service and increase the power of the army.

Desertion means hostility towards one's own people.

Desertion should be combated and prevented.

Deserters must understand that they are humiliating their own dignity. They avoid fulfilling their honourable duty to their homeland. Neither the homeland nor the people will ever forgive them. The state will not forgive them either.

Let deserters hear that it is the duty of every Azerbaijani to defend our land. If some people do not understand this, are afraid and can-

not withstand military service, they are betraying their own conscience, parents and homeland.

Every deserter should meet with hatred in the public and society, and he should know that if he deserts, he will betray his own people, nation, country and parents.

The more sports develop, the more young people are involved in physical training, the more physical training develops at schools, the healthier our young people who go to serve in the army will be and the higher physical qualities they will have.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON THE
NAGORNO-KARABAKH
CONFLICT AND REFUGEES**

**ON THE
NAGORNO-KARABAKH
CONFLICT AND REFUGEES**

The Karabakh issue is a complicated issue; however, this issue became complicated because it was not addressed properly and at the right time.

The historical period we are living in has great difficulties and some sad aspects. This is the reality of our life. We have to live through this period, overcome the difficulties and troubles and rescue ourselves from these troubles. These troubles are that Azerbaijan has been subjected to military aggression by forces that are hostile to our people, nation and religion – Armenia.

The document that was adopted at the Lisbon Summit is the first document in the history of

the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict aimed at protecting Azerbaijan's rights.

Unfortunately, the Armenians are most hostile to Turks, that's to say Turkey, Azerbaijan and all Turks in general.

In order to ensure independence and sovereignty, the Armenian-occupied land of the Azerbaijan Republic must be retaken.

Independence does not have only a political nature. Independence is not only recognition by international organizations. First of all, independence is the retaking of our occupied land. Everyone must be united in this cause. Everyone must rise up and mobilize.

We have to retake our occupied lands. As an independent state, we must protect the borders of our state and our independence.

The greatest hope and wish is that Azerbaijan should get out of the state of war.

Everything should be for the front and defence.

We have to ensure our victory together.

We have only one goal: to ensure the reliable protection of our republic and retake our occupied lands.

We are not in favour of bloodshed. We are not in favour of war. We want to liberate our land in a peaceful and negotiated way.

There is one thing that cannot be tolerated – the Armenian occupation of our land.

Azerbaijanis must protect their land themselves.

Everything has an end in the world – both pain and sorrow – including the war that has been thrust upon us.

We will never give our land to anyone.

Everyone's highest wish is to liberate our land from the Armenian aggressors, to ensure our territorial integrity and borders and to achieve the full independence of our republic.

The stronger side wins the war. Azerbaijan has great potential to be strong.

We don't want a war and have not set our sights on Armenian land. We are protecting our land, territory and homeland.

Our policy is a peace-loving policy. We want to put an end to the war and end the war peacefully. But the peace should be just.

We want to solve the issue not by fighting a war, but peacefully. At the same time, our territory should be defended staunchly. Our main purpose is to liberate our land and return the refugees to their homes.

Every war must have an end. The end of war is peace. But the peace should be just. For us peace means that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be ensured, the Armenian armed forces must be withdrawn from Azerbaijan's occupied territory and the sovereignty and inviolability of the borders of our republic must be ensured.

... The Armenian armed forces must withdraw from Azerbaijan's occupied territories, the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of our republic must be ensured and the Azerbaijani state must control every part of its territory.

Our solidarity is needed in order to defend our territory staunchly and liberate our occupied territories.

We have not set our sights on anyone else's territory; we are trying to ensure that there is

peace and stability in our region and that the world community demonstrates a fair attitude to the fate of the Azerbaijani people.

Ensuring completely the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the inviolability of its borders and the sovereignty of the independent Azerbaijan Republic is an important condition that will secure lasting peace in the region.

Azerbaijan does not want to fight a war. We have risen up to defend our land and are fighting against the military aggression of Armenia and for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our republic.

We will ensure the freedom of our lands and our territorial integrity and restore the borders of independent Azerbaijan.

In order to achieve complete peace, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored and ensured, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be recognized by everyone as an important principle of international law, the occupying troops must be withdrawn from the occupied territories, the residents of the occupied territories must return to their homes and a strong peace must be created between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Our cause is a just cause. We are protecting the independence of the Azerbaijan Republic. We are establishing a law-governed and democratic state in Azerbaijan. We are trying to restore the territory of independent Azerbaijan.

The Armenian-occupied territories of the Azerbaijan Republic must be liberated, the territorial integrity of our republic must be restored and, as an independent state, Azerbaijan must be master of its entire territory and have the right to control its entire territory and borders.

Azerbaijan is an independent state and, as an independent state, its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders must be restored, ensured and protected.

Every Azerbaijani should be ready, every Azerbaijani should know that if all our attempts fail, we must liberate our occupied lands and ensure the inviolability of Azerbaijan's borders and its territorial integrity at any price, even the price of our life and blood. This is our duty and we will fulfil it at any price.

The existence of freedom of thought, freedom of speech and differences in world outlook in Azerbaijan is natural. At the same time, everyone must unite around Azerbaijan's high

goals. What are these goals? To maintain the independence of Azerbaijan, to ensure its territorial integrity and to save Azerbaijan from Armenian aggression.

Our people should know that we have to protect ourselves and demonstrate our power and heroism.

We must strengthen the military might of our state. Every citizen of Azerbaijan must be ready to rise up and fight for the liberation of our occupied territories.

We will defend every inch of our territory and will be its master. If we do not achieve what we want within the framework of these conditions, we will liberate our occupied lands and ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan at any price – at the price of life, blood and power.

We will never be able to put up with the fact that our land remains under occupation. Even if we die, maybe even if we are all exterminated, we will not be able to tolerate the fact that our land is occupied by Armenian armed forces.

Every Azerbaijani citizen should know that we can tolerate anything, but we cannot and will not tolerate the fact that our land remains under occupation.

We will never cede either an inch or a metre of Azerbaijani land.

The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict should be solved only through the recognition of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Armenia and Azerbaijan should sign a peace agreement, create mutual trust, eliminate mutual hostility and disagreement, and restore their previous relations. No matter how deep our wounds, no matter how great our losses, no matter how difficult these losses are for us, we should be looking to the future. Permanently hostile relations cannot be maintained between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan and Armenia will always be enemies – this is impossible and this will not be the case. Time will pass, and we will achieve peace; our neighbourly relations and our ties in trade and the economy will be restored. This will happen for the benefit of both Armenian and Azerbaijani citizens and both the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples.

We don't want a war, we have been subjected to aggression.

We must be masters of our own land, territory and all our borders.

We have no claims on our neighbours. We do not support changing borders and will never do so. But at the same time, we can never allow our border to be violated and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan to be trampled upon.

We will never agree to give even an inch of our territory to anyone. We will liberate our occupied lands at any price, and the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic will be restored.

The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan will be ensured, and independent Azerbaijan will be master of all parts of its territory.

We cannot allow the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan to be violated in order for a second Armenian state to be established in Azerbaijani territory.

Azerbaijan wants peace, Azerbaijan wants peace in its country and region, and it wants peace in the whole world. Azerbaijan wants to put an end to the conflict with Armenia and wants a lasting and stable peace with Armenia.

Azerbaijan has not set its sights on anyone's land, nor will it cede an inch of its land to anyone.

We cannot allow the sovereign rights of Azerbaijan to be trampled upon and its territorial integrity to be violated.

The importance of the peace talks is that we are moving forward on a difficult, hard path, clearing all obstacles. The peace talks and the peace process are progressing and continuing. We will restore the integrity of our territory.

...All citizens of Azerbaijan and, first of all, Azerbaijani government agencies must regard it as their most sacred and honourable duty to take care of refugees and address their problems.

Everyone's duty is to take care of citizens – our sisters and brothers – who have lost their homes. We, Azerbaijanis, have been living like this: we have shared everything we have amongst ourselves.

Our most important duty is to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and to return Azerbaijani citizens ousted from their homes.

The Azerbaijani state and the Azerbaijani president regard it as their main duty to take care of refugees and people who have been ousted from their homes.

The just cause of our people will win. The day is not far off when the spirit of our martyred children will rejoice, the land of our country will be liberated from the reviled enemy and our countrymen who were fated to become refugees and displaced persons will return to their homes.

We want peace, not war. We want the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan to be ensured and refugees to return to their homes.

It is great endurance and heroism to lose your home, property and loved ones and to live in tents in hot summers and freezing winters.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON THE CONSTITUTION
AND LAWFULNESS**

**ON THE CONSTITUTION
AND LAWFULNESS**

All the citizens of the republic are under the guarantee of the Azerbaijani constitution and the Azerbaijani president.

The newly adopted constitution is a constitution that guarantees the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The new constitution has laid the ground and given every guarantee for the establishment of a democratic and law-governed state and for the creation of a democratic civil society in Azerbaijan.

Our constitution is the constitution of the people and every citizen.

The first democratic constitution of Azerbaijan will ensure that our people take the path of democracy and national statehood, and we will hand over to future generations a civilized and high-level independent Azerbaijani state which has its own place in world democracy.

A law-governed and democratic society is being established in Azerbaijan. All issues are resolved on the basis of democratic principles in our country. Power has been divided in Azerbaijan in a constitutional way.

The first democratic constitution of Azerbaijan, which has just gained its independence, has taken the path of market relations and is establishing a law-governed and democratic state, has granted extensive rights to citizens and ensured freedom of speech and conscience in our country.

We are capable of maintaining public and political stability in Azerbaijan and we will not allow anyone to break the laws and constitution of Azerbaijan.

The rights and security of Azerbaijani citizens will always be protected.

The laws that are adopted on the basis of the constitution are the main documents which secure the development of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Azerbaijani state today and in the future.

We should all follow discipline, we should all follow the law and we should all observe the law and ensure the supremacy of the law.

If something happens unjustly, justice cannot be restored through injustice. Justice should be restored through justice.

Human rights will continue to be protected in the Azerbaijan Republic.

Violations of the law and human rights violations are against democratic principles.

We protect the law and will act within its framework.

Regardless of their language, religion and race, all citizens of Azerbaijan have the same rights and these rights should be protected.

We have taken the path of establishing a law-governed and democratic state in our republic. This is our strategic path in state-building and in the political sphere.

If we are establishing a democratic state and have taken the path of democracy, this means that no-one has the right to break the law.

The greater the position someone holds, the more they have to observe, follow and love the law.

The issue of ensuring human rights and personal freedom and the opportunity for all Azerbaijani citizens to exercise their rights, regardless of ethnicity, language and faith, are the main principles for us.

The source of power in Azerbaijan is the people, and any power can be obtained on the basis of the people's will.

It is our duty to protect every citizen and every person and their rights.

Observance of the law is the same for everyone.

No unlawful or illegal situation can be supported or allowed to happen.

If law and order and discipline are established, it is possible to ensure achievements even in the most difficult situations.

Every citizen of Azerbaijan has equal rights and has the chance to exercise those rights in the way that they want.

No-one should unfairly face any deprivation, no-one's rights should be trampled upon, no-one's dignity should be encroached upon and everyone's civil dignity should be maintained. This is the duty of our society and state.

In our country, all personal and human rights and political pluralism have been secured, and parties, political and public organizations and movements function freely.

Our duty is to protect the rights of all citizens in Azerbaijan and ensure security for the free life of Azerbaijani citizens.

Human rights, which are regarded as one of the wisest discoveries of human civilization, are an irreplaceable achievement that everyone understands and must understand today.

Respect for human rights and the protection of human rights are the main way of joining the modern world.

Everybody's rights are protected in Azerbaijan and all the right conditions have been created for them to live a free and independent life.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

ON THE ECONOMY

ON THE ECONOMY

As an independent state, Azerbaijan is master of its own fate, of its underground and surface reserves.

The Azerbaijan Republic is rich in underground and surface reserves.

Azerbaijan will take the path of a market economy and free economy.

In the economic sphere, our path is the path of a free economy, a path that brings Azerbaijan closer to the economy of the world's developed countries through the conduct of economic reforms.

The Azerbaijani economy will take the path of a free economy and market economy, and this is the strategic path of the independent Azerbaijan Republic in the economic sphere.

The duty of the transitional period is to maintain the existing economy and to establish a new economic system based on the principles of a free economy, so that this system can be of greater benefit to us.

The economic potential and geopolitical and geographical situation of Azerbaijan guarantee a great, wonderful and happy future for our republic and people.

We have very fertile land, and this is the national wealth of our people.

We have to conduct economic reforms and change the management of agriculture and the form of property ownership. This is our strategic path in the economy overall, including in agriculture.

The strategic path we have taken meets the interests of the Azerbaijani people and is the path that links our people and our republic to the world community and the world economy.

We have to base our work on economic laws and principles so that we can make effective use of our wonderful land and existing economic potential.

Land and agricultural potential should be used effectively.

The economy is linked to production first of all.

The policy of the Azerbaijani state in the economic sphere is to establish the economy on the basis of a market economy and, in this way, to link the Azerbaijani economy to the world economy.

The property and economic potential of the state have been created through the hard work and assets of the people and belong to the people.

Azerbaijan has inexhaustible natural reserves, rich industrial, agrarian and social reserves, the necessary intellectual potential, major production resources and a large workforce. All these should be used effectively in order to strengthen the independence of the republic and improve the people's living standards.

It is a source of happiness for our republic and people that we have rich natural reserves, great economic and intellectual potential.

Our strategic path in the economic sphere is to conduct economic reforms in order to adopt a market economy in our republic and to gradually apply the forms of a free, market economy in all spheres in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has rich natural reserves, great industrial potential and strong intellectual potential.

In the future, Azerbaijan will be a developed, democratic state. Azerbaijan has never returned and will not return to the past. Azerbaijan will move forward on the path of a free economy and market economy and is integrating and will integrate its economy into the world economy.

Our country is open to the world economy and world investors.

The present and future of our economy are linked only to the conduct of economic reforms and to the conduct of economic reforms alone.

Azerbaijan is an open country and has democratic principles in the economic sphere.

Every economy is also linked to the national mentality and national and spiritual values.

The formation of the Azerbaijani economy on the basis of the principles of the world economy and of the experience of economically developed countries is the main path we have taken.

The socioeconomic future of Azerbaijan is wonderful.

The whole 21st century will be a century of rapid development of the Azerbaijani economy, first of all, of its oil and gas industry.

In order to make effective use of our natural reserves, modernize our economic potential and make effective use of it, we first need investment and, then, modern hardware and technology that meet top requirements.

Azerbaijan is developing its economy on the path of the market economy.

Our economic policy is aimed at establishing a market economy, opening Azerbaijan to the whole world and encouraging foreign investment in Azerbaijan.

We are trying to protect our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, increase the welfare of our citizens and people and develop the economy by using a variety of new methods in the current situation.

We are opening a path that has a great and good future both for Azerbaijan and for the world's major oil companies that have come to Azerbaijan and started working here. That is to say, we are the trailblazers, but we have to blaze this trail so that those who come after us do not have any difficulties and can move easily along this path.

The goal of the reforms that we are consistently implementing is to revive our national economy and to guarantee its dynamic development and a happy life for our people.

A planned policy is the most correct way of conducting reforms.

Our duty is to give people independence, create conditions for entrepreneurship and create conditions and opportunities for initiative. Azerbaijan is a state that has a very important geopolitical position.

Azerbaijan is a country that has rich natural reserves.

The economic development of the Azerbaijan Republic is very important for the establishment of peace and security in our region.

Azerbaijan is confidently moving along the path of maintaining and strengthening its independence, implementing democratic changes in our country and carrying out economic reforms.

Extensive opportunities have been created for foreign entrepreneurs to work freely in Azerbaijan.

While applying, creating and developing the market economy in our republic, we should never forget about its social direction either.

A socially oriented market economy has to be the main principle of our economy.

The Azerbaijani economy will take the path of a free economy. Azerbaijan will follow a tried and tested socioeconomic, public and political system that has already yielded positive results.

We have to take the path of reform, of establishing a market economy, of joining the world economy, of democracy, freedom and state independence.

A policy of open doors is being conducted in the Azerbaijani economy.

Azerbaijan's strategic policy of using its natural reserves is a policy that totally meets the national interests of Azerbaijan.

Our path is a path of reform. Our path is a path of developing the market economy. Our path is a path of developing entrepreneurship. Our path, in general, is a path of establishing a free economy and completing the process of privatization in Azerbaijan. We are moving along this path. This is not an easy path. Many countries, including economically developed countries, have been moving along this path for decades, sometimes centuries.

In every country, democratic development can be carried out on the basis of a healthy economy and a gradual increase in people's welfare.

Though the Great Silk Road begins in the past, it is a road that leads to the future.

Azerbaijan is establishing its economy in line with the world economy.

Azerbaijani oil played a great role in the development of the economy not only in Azerbaijan, the former Russia and the former Soviet Union, but also in many countries of the world.

The market economy forms the basis of our economy.

A free economy, the market economy, has brought and will bring great success to Azerbaijan.

Independence, liberty, human freedom, the protection of human rights and the principles of a free economy, the market economy, should be established in politics and in the economy.

The Azerbaijan Republic has taken the path of transition to democratic development and a free market economy.

We have to switch to a free economy.

The path of transition to a free economy is not smooth.

The greatest advantage of the market economy, a free economy, is that first it has a high-level of culture and, second, discipline and laws: no-one can do anything illegally.

The greatest features of a free economy, a market economy, are that people have been given independence and they can achieve a great deal through showing initiative.

Entrepreneurial activity is one of the most important factors for us.

In order to live in a society with a free economy and in a market economy, it is necessary to know the law.

Entrepreneurship should be honest entrepreneurship.

The word "entrepreneur" is a very respectable word. But in order to be a truly respectable entrepreneur, it is necessary to establish a good business first and, then, maintain your authority, name, respect and image as an entrepreneur.

Every entrepreneur and businessman should remember that they should be working for

their own interests and for the interests of our country and people.

All Azerbaijani entrepreneurs should regard themselves as part of the republic's economy and work hard for the economic progress of the country.

The Azerbaijani economy is being established and developed on the basis of the principles of a market economy.

Privatization should be carried out stage by stage.

The establishment of joint-stock ventures is one of the main ways of privatization.

By starting active privatization of property, we are creating conditions both for our own and foreign entrepreneurs, so that our potential can be used to develop the economy and to meet the social demand of the Azerbaijani population.

Privatization should be carried out sensibly and with self-restraint, but without delays and at a fast pace.

Privatization is the main way of reviving our economy.

The fact that Azerbaijan, which first started oil extraction in the Caspian Sea, opened this basin's rich energy reserves to the world at the end of the 20th century, undoubtedly, stems from its desire to integrate closely into the world community.

...It was in Baku, Azerbaijan, that the first oil fountain gushed in 1848. It was in Azerbaijan that the first offshore exploitation of oil fields in the world started. Since 1849, rich oil and gas reserves have been actively developed in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea. If we take all this together, we can say that Azerbaijan is a land of fire and a country of oil.

Azerbaijan has been world famous as an oil country since the last century.

Oil is the biggest wealth of the Azerbaijani people and belongs to the whole people.

The oil and gas reserves of the Caspian will greatly help the world economy.

Azerbaijani scientists, oilmen and specialists have made a great contribution to the study of the mineral resources of the Caspian Sea and have always been at the forefront.

Azerbaijan has a big oil industry. Azerbaijan has great economic potential. Azerbaijan has natural resources. Azerbaijan has valuable and talented scientists, engineers and specialists.

Azerbaijan is an industrially developed country, and the oil industry is its basis. Oil extraction in Azerbaijan has a very rich and ancient history, and we are proud that Azerbaijan has made a great contribution to the development of the oil industry in the whole world. The first offshore development of oil and gas fields in the world started in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani oil has taken a prominent place in the history of mankind. Azerbaijani oil has done mankind a great service. Azerbaijani oil is doing a great service today both for our people and many countries of the world in the development of our republic's economy and in the establishment of economic relations with the peoples of the world.

In 1949, Azerbaijani oilmen and scientists discovered the first large oil field known as the Oil Rocks in the Caspian Sea and laid the foundations of oil extraction from the seabed. Had it not been for this work, research and

discoveries, the large-scale work now done jointly with the world's major oil companies in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea would have been impossible.

Azerbaijan is an ancient country of oil.

Azerbaijani scientists and oilmen were the first to discover oil and gas deposits in the Caspian Sea.

Oil production in Azerbaijan has a 200-year history.

All the oil deposits in our country belong to the Azerbaijani people and state.

Azerbaijan is the oldest oil country. The first oil in the world gushed in Azerbaijan in 1848.

If we take a look at history, we can say with great pride that Azerbaijan was the first country in the world to extract oil and to send its oil products to many other countries.

Azerbaijan was known as an oil academy in the former Soviet Union and in the whole world.

It is known worldwide that black gold was first extracted offshore as a result of the work of

Azerbaijani oilmen. After the first well gushed in Oil Rocks in 1949, the whole world used the experience of offshore oil extraction. History will never forget the work done abroad by Azerbaijani oilmen in this sphere.

Oil deposits are the richest underground resource.

Our oil reserves are being used, first of all, to develop the independent Azerbaijan Republic, improve the socioeconomic situation of our people and increase the material welfare of our citizens.

Oil is Azerbaijan's inexhaustible resource, but this does not mean that oil is inexhaustible.

If we are unable to make scientific, intelligent and economical use of oil deposits, future generations will not forgive us.

Oil and gas deposits are the great wealth of the Azerbaijani people. And they will serve it today and for a long period in history.

Oil is the greatest wealth of Azerbaijan and belongs to the people, and not just to the current generation, but also to the generations to come. As statesmen, our duty is to take extreme care of our national wealth.

The oil deposits of Azerbaijan are our people's greatest national resource, and it is necessary to use them carefully both today and in the future. It is necessary to think that our wealth is not only for the current generation, but also for our grandchildren and future generations.

Azerbaijan is a land of oil. The oil of Azerbaijan, Baku and Absheron has brought great fame to our republic, has made it famous worldwide and has raised the name of our people to a higher level.

Land is the highest and most valuable wealth of the country, nation and people.

Of the most important products that mankind needs, none is more wonderful or more common among our Azerbaijani people than tea.

In comparison with other republics, Azerbaijan's economic potential creates great conditions for the republic to develop as an independent state.

Azerbaijan's agricultural potential must be restored. Our land, air, water and territory should be used to rapidly increase agricultural output in Azerbaijan.

Of Azerbaijan's agricultural output, cotton is a product that can bring in foreign currency

and is the most expensive product on the world market. We have no other agricultural product that can be compared with it.

Cotton-growing is the biggest source of income for independent Azerbaijan, and it creates broad opportunities to develop the economy and increase the people's welfare.

The time will come when the Azerbaijan Republic will turn into a great vine-growing country again.

Agrarian reforms should be carried out solely in order to increase the efficiency of the agrarian sector and agricultural output and to make more effective use of land. These reforms should be carried out, not to destroy the potential that has been created over 70 years, but, conversely, to make more effective use of it.

Economic reform and land reform in the agrarian sector should be carried out fairly and correctly. The main thing is that it should be carried out on the basis of economic principles and laws, and the principles and laws of a free economy.

The tax system should be established in all spheres so that it plays the main role in the formation of the state budget.

Economic reforms in the agrarian sector, changes in the form of ownership, land reform, the extensive development of a free economy are a very important, significant and, at the same time, weighty and fateful issue in the life of our republic.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

Our country is rich in natural resources, and not only oil and gas. Azerbaijan has many other natural resources and strong economic potential, and we are trying to use these to strengthen our state and improve the people's welfare.

**ON THE
LANGUAGE**

The work we have done, our great projects, our oil contracts and the economic reforms we have carried out will strengthen the Azerbaijani economy in a short period of time, and the people's welfare will improve from day to day.

**ON THE
LANGUAGE**

Language and nation are philosophical concepts. According to the law of dialectics, these two concepts have always developed and changed.

Now we talk fluently in our language and are capable of expressing any complicated idea in our own language. This is a great achievement. This achievement is higher than economic achievements and we, as a nation, have our own language and it is so rich that we can describe any event in the world in our own language.

Language is the first confirmation of a nation's origin.

Whoever does not know and love their language cannot know their history very well.

It is necessary to learn the Azerbaijani language. It is necessary to speak this language well, it is necessary to feel this language as one's mother tongue and it is necessary to love this language.

I am proud that the Azerbaijani language, which is a Turkic language, is so rich and full of so many artistic expressions and that we can express our ideas about all spheres of life in our mother tongue.

The language maintains and develops the national spirit, spiritual values and culture of every people.

The mother tongue makes a people a people and a nation a nation.

Our first achievement should be to make our language dominant in Azerbaijan.

Every Azerbaijani should know their mother tongue, should be fluent in this language and should love this language.

If the Azerbaijani language did not exist, there would be no literature in this language. If the Azerbaijani language did not exist, there would be no songs and music in the Azerbaijani language. All this is interlinked.

We really have a beautiful language and I love the Azerbaijani language.

We can be proud of the rich Azerbaijani language and its large vocabulary.

As an independent state and a free people, we are proud of our mother tongue – the Azerbaijani language.

For centuries, our people came under various kinds of pressure. Pressure was also exerted on the development of our culture and science. However, our people of genius have always maintained the Azerbaijani language, the Azerbaijani nation, national consciousness and national thinking.

I express my respect for every language. But I think that we can all be proud of our own language – the Azerbaijani language, because this is a rich language that is already well-known in the world. The name of our people and the name of our republic are well-known, and the name of our language is also well-known.

Our state language and our mother tongue – the Azerbaijani language – is the dominant language in our country. Not only Azerbaijanis, but also foreign guests who visit our republic, our friends and colleagues also respect this language and want to learn and speak this language. This is very pleasing. This also shows the development of the Azerbaijani language – one of the main attributes of our independent republic.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

The state independence of Azerbaijan has made the Azerbaijani language eternal and today our Azerbaijani language thrives and will thrive. Let the Azerbaijani language be the language of all Azerbaijanis who live in independent Azerbaijan and worldwide.

ON EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

The Azerbaijani language is a very complete language, a very rich language, a very developed language and has a large vocabulary.

The more languages a person knows, the richer they will be.

Our unity of language and our membership of the group of Turkic countries and Turkic states place great responsibility on us.

Turkish and Azerbaijani are kindred languages, and this very fact predetermines the inevitability of rapprochement.

**ON EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE**

We should give special consideration to the student admissions process in order to establish pure and high spirituality in Azerbaijan and in our society.

Only people who have real higher education and real knowledge can develop and promote Azerbaijan's state, politics, economy, science and culture.

If we think about the present and future of independent Azerbaijan, if we pay serious attention to the upbringing of the younger generation, if we ensure that young people who deserve, and are able to receive, higher

education because of their knowledge, intellect and innate talent, are accepted into institutions of higher education, then we will have done great work for our future.

For every young person, it is a great event to study the profession and speciality they want and wish, and it is a delight to complete this education.

The future of modern life and the world requires more knowledge from people.

One of the blessings that our state independence has granted our people is that we are already establishing our education system according to the history, spirituality and traditions of our people and nation.

Education and upbringing in the independent Azerbaijan Republic are the main duty of the state, are under the special attention of the head of state and president and are one of his main duties.

Education is the most necessary and important sphere in our life.

Our education system should ensure the future development of independent Azerbaijan.

The world is a world of culture nowadays, and it is an intellectual world and a world of scientific and technical progress. In order to develop Azerbaijan to the level of scientific and technical progress, we have without doubt to achieve top quality in education and science.

The main duty of schools and teachers is to prepare valuable citizens for our society, people and country.

One of the greatest achievements of the Azerbaijani people in the 20th century is the elimination of illiteracy and the enlightenment of the people.

Centres of higher education, our universities, are the summit of Azerbaijani culture, science and national spirituality.

The duty of institutions of higher education is to prepare young people, educate them and raise them to a high spiritual level.

Educating our young people in institutions of higher education and in education centres in general and raising people who are healthy and pure from a spiritual point of view should take an important position.

Society must cut its expenses anywhere and on anything and spend on education, on the education of the younger generation and on assistance to teachers.

Baku State University is the national wealth and national pride of the Azerbaijani people and the Azerbaijan Republic.

A lot of work has been done in the auditoriums, classrooms and departments of Baku State University in order to develop the dignity, national consciousness and national spirit of the Azerbaijani people.

Baku State University has made a great contribution to the life of the Azerbaijani people, the development of its higher education and science.

We can say that Baku State University has been the leader in the creation of the system of higher education in Azerbaijan and has been, as it were, the parent of these education centres.

No matter how many new centres of education and private universities are established, Baku State University will be the highest level education centre of the Azerbaijani people and nation.

Baku State University is the first university of the 20th century in the East and the Muslim world.

Baku State University is the standard-bearer of higher education in Azerbaijan. Baku State University takes a prominent place in Azerbaijan's public and political life.

Nakhchivan State University has a special place and great merit in the development of science, education and culture in Azerbaijan.

...Our people have the right to be proud of their contribution to world science.

Science should develop no matter what the economy is like.

We must highly value the path of development covered by science, maintain it and not lose it.

Regardless of the enormous common difficulties, we must constantly take care of science and education and make more use of the existing opportunities in order to develop science.

People engaged in big-time politics and state service may not write special scientific articles

and books. However, their daily public and political activity, their engagement in matters of state and in the settlement of major issues of state importance always constitute scientific research, discovery and scientific invention.

People have always considered science to be society's most precious asset, and since time immemorial, they have highly valued science, and the geniuses who discovered science have created an opportunity for the development of human society.

There are various people in society, but people of science are exceptional people. With their hard work, self-sacrifice and all their other qualities, they give people the opportunity to take up positions in society. People of science should have talent, ability and special skill. Of course, these people deserve the highest respect.

People who have dedicated themselves to scientific research and science and study science, despite all the difficulties at this difficult time for our country, today deserve respect in our society.

Our science and culture should thrive and develop.

The independent Azerbaijan Republic has great scientific and intellectual potential.

The intellectual potential and economic potential we have created so far and the power and courage that people have created so far will promote independent Azerbaijan and move it from one generation to another.

We can be proud of our science and higher education.

If an Azerbaijani scientist, professor and teacher can go and teach in Turkish, American and German universities, we should be very proud.

We are proud that in ancient times and in the Middle Ages, Azerbaijan had prominent scientists of world renown. They enriched world science and human culture and, at the same time, they promoted and glorified the Azerbaijani people.

We value all people of science and the contribution and services of every scientist to our science.

Science developed at a very high pace in Azerbaijan in the 20th century.

Our people have great talent and scientific potential, and these achievements of ours have made their own contribution to world science.

The future of our science is in the hands of young people.

The academy is our highest scientific institution, and it is an organization that stands at the peak of all science.

The highest scientific institution of the Azerbaijani state is the Academy of Sciences of our republic. It belongs to the state.

The National Academy of Azerbaijan should serve the state independence of our republic.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON CULTURE,
LITERATURE
AND THE ARTS**

**ON CULTURE,
LITERATURE
AND THE ARTS**

All Azerbaijani culture is in fact a mirror that reflects woman's sensitive heart, woman's intellect and woman's unique wisdom.

The Manuscripts Institute, which holds books handed down to us over the centuries, is a rich resource for us.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan is undoubtedly proud of its history, traditions and works of culture that the people have created over the centuries.

Our people are an ancient people, a people with a great history and great culture.

We are loyal to our culture, religion, national morality, all our national traditions and history.

No matter how many difficulties there are, we should pay special attention to our culture, cultural heritage and spirituality and should not allow this sphere to lag behind.

It is necessary to treat our science, culture and spirituality very carefully and very attentively. This work cannot be left to the market economy.

Care and attention should always be paid to literature, science and culture.

A people are known for many of their features, are respected and stand out among the peoples of the world. The highest, greatest and biggest of these features is culture. A people with a high level of culture will always move forward, always thrive and always develop.

Both military chiefs and politicians have a great role in the history of a people. But people have always been known for their culture and science.

One of the greatest and most distinguishing features of our literature, arts and culture is that, from time to time, talented people open new roads and new paths in our culture and create new forms.

Our spiritual potential forms the basis of our literature, culture and intellectual potential.

We are proud that we have great composers, musicians, singers and cultural figures. It is their work that has encouraged the Azerbaijani people for centuries and raised them to new achievements and new skills.

There is a difference between criticism and insult, but criticism itself should also be fair.

Azerbaijani literature has lived through every stage in our life and history and is living through this stage too, fulfilling its historic mission.

The difficulties of different times can never suppress, kill or weaken literature.

Our literature is one of our great national resources.

In Azerbaijan, there is great respect for literature, poets and writers.

Our literature and culture are the great wealth and intellectual property of our people.

The greatest service of our literature to our people is that our poets and writers have always tried through their work to awaken national feelings in Azerbaijan, in our people and in our nation. National consciousness, national awakening and the process of revival come to our people first of all through literature.

Human rights are the basis of human existence and co-existence, are not alien to any culture and are typical of all nations.

Government agencies, our public organizations, cultural and scientific figures – we should all be trying to open Azerbaijan to the world and to promote it. We should be trying to bring the truth about Azerbaijan to every corner of the world.

The Azerbaijani people are one of the peoples that are distinctive in world culture because of their own style. The works of culture and literature they have created over the centuries have fostered such feelings as love of life, freedom and independence.

The Palace of the Shirvanshahs is a monument of architecture that the Azerbaijani people are proud of. It shows that our culture is at the highest level, and is a monument and complex that reflects the history of our statehood and it is, without doubt, world famous.

Nothing can have such a strong influence on people, that is to say, such a strong influence on people's spirituality, morality, upbringing and opinions, as poetry, literature and works of culture.

The architectural beauty of every building, part of the national architecture school, has turned the capital of our republic, the city of Baku, into a city with a special appearance. We are proud of Baku – a monument left by our forefathers.

Everyone has their own place in art. No-one's place is taken away. The people, the public and the state value artists for their place in culture.

The works of genius of our leading lights in literature and the arts, architecture, philosophy and the natural sciences have given a great impetus to the progress of all mankind and its spiritual life and material culture.

In the process of making our independence and national state irreversible and immortal, television and radio play an irreplaceable role at the current stage of the revival of the independent Azerbaijani state.

Innate, genetically inherited talent in people is the same. It makes no difference whether someone was born in a city or in the mountains. If someone has innate talent, this does not depend on whether they were born in a city, in the mountains or in between. However, it is necessary to create conditions for every innate talent to be discovered.

All peoples have made their own contribution to human culture. All these create human values.

Despite all the difficulties, the arts live. At all times, people have been living in contact with the arts, with song, music and dance.

Our culture, arts, music and songs have allowed our people to live with belief in the future and optimism at the most difficult times.

Our people have developed their arts, culture and literature and the independent Azerbaijan Republic is based on all these.

Meykhana (a form of poetry recited spontaneously) is one of the most beautiful genres of our people's folklore.

Azerbaijan's history is rich in culture, science, literature and architecture. We have centuries-old literature – Nizami, Khaqani, Fizuli, Nasimi, Vaqif and authors of genius who came after them. We have old architectural monuments. We have old paintings. The Azerbaijani people have made a great contribution to the treasure trove of world civilization.

Huseyn Javid's mausoleum constitutes a new page in the history of Nakhchivan's architecture.

Only rare talents have the innate gifts, capacity for selfless work and endless love of music that enable them to change the image of the world through the power of the arts.

Azerbaijani theatre, which played an exceptional role in developing our national culture, in fostering feelings of patriotism and in promoting high moral qualities and national and human values, made a great contribution to our people's struggle for freedom and independence. Its activity made it a rich, national resource of the people.

Azerbaijani theatre professionals have been at the forefront of our national liberation movement together with all progressive intellectuals and have given the people moral support at the most difficult times.

The play Vaqif was a revolution in the history of the Azerbaijani Drama Theatre.

Literature has a great influence on people. But it is one thing when one reads a piece oneself and another thing when one sees it live on stage. For this reason, theatre plays a great role in our life.

Those who work in the theatre and arts are self-sacrificing people. When one sees them on the stage, they look carefree and happy and are always joyful. However, many do not know what their life is like behind the scenes and cannot even imagine it. I know all about this. For this reason, I greatly value artists in our society.

Theatre has always played a great role in the spiritual formation of people.

Many generations of the Azerbaijani people have been brought up with cinema, and under the influence of cinema have formed, developed and acquired culture.

Azerbaijani cinema has made an irreplaceable contribution to the development of our people.

Even if everything changes, cinema will remain an important artistic genre and an important sphere of spiritual life for everyone.

The Azerbaijani school of painting is at a very high level. One of the achievements of our culture is the creation of a great school of painting in Azerbaijan, the appearance of many prominent painters, sculptors and architects and the works they have created.

The art of miniature painting is known around the world and is a highly valued school and style of painting.

Both the life and work of a painter, their canvases and cultural and spiritual legacy are a source and school of spirituality for the present and future of our people.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON PHYSICAL
TRAINING
AND SPORT**

**ON PHYSICAL
TRAINING
AND SPORT**

The physical and spiritual health of people and the development of their consciousness are closely related to sport and physical training.

Sport is also a factor that boosts patriotism in people and a factor that increases the fighting capability of our people.

World experience and history have shown for centuries that spiritual and physical health represents the general health and general purity of a people and the present and future of a nation.

A people and a country that are actively engaged in physical training are always healthy

from a physical and spiritual point of view. We should maintain the health of our people not only through the health system and our traditions, but also maintain it, strengthen it and hand it over to future generations with the help of physical training.

Sport is a means to ennoble people both from a physical and spiritual point of view.

Along with spiritual health, physical health and physical strength are specific features of the Azerbaijani people and nation.

Physical training and sport play a special role in securing physical and spiritual health.

Every physical movement of people is sport. However, using well-established types of sport and accepting them as an integral part of human life – this is sport at its best.

From century to century, Azerbaijani heroes have proved how much physical strength, might and willpower our people have.

Heroism requires high physical qualities, courage and determination.

...Sport should not consist only of achievements by individual champions, but should also be widespread.

Sport and physical training are an important part of the lifestyle of the Azerbaijani people and Azerbaijani citizens, as they are of every civilized people and country.

We should involve young people more actively in physical training and sport. Not only young people, but also the whole population should be engaged in physical training.

Physical training should penetrate the life of the Azerbaijani people and every cell of Azerbaijani society.

Physical training should be an integral part of every young person's life. In order to work effectively and serve the people and country, every young person in Azerbaijan should be healthy.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

ON ECOLOGY

ON ECOLOGY

When I arrived in Baku in 1993 and saw that some of the trees we had planted and cultivated had been chopped down, I thought that part of my body had been cut off. I thought I had been wounded. I have repeatedly said, and I say it again: if anyone cuts down a healthy tree, they should know that they have cut off my arms and fingers.

People are our planet's most valuable resource. Everything on Earth is there to enable people to live, to benefit from world resources and develop to a high level from both the material and spiritual point of view. Nature, underground and surface reserves and the state are there for mankind. All organizations are there for the present and future of mankind.

It has taken very hard work to create green zones in Baku. If someone has to chop down a tree, they should plant another one instead.

We should be very happy with our fate because we live in such a beautiful part of the world.

If we make effective use of our natural environment and climate, we can provide ourselves with all food produce.

We cannot use any force against nature.

If someone chops down a healthy tree, not only do they betray their people, nation and country, they also betray their own family and themselves.

Those who harm nature, chop down trees and pollute and spoil the environment are the enemies of our society and of all of us.

During the work to extract oil and gas in the Caspian Sea, the ecology of the Caspian Sea should certainly be prioritized. The most important duty of both Caspian littoral states and all companies involved in this work is to take the necessary measures to protect and maintain the natural reserves of the Caspian

Sea, to protect the purity of the Caspian and maintain the biological resources available in the sea, and even to develop them.

Since Azerbaijan gained its state independence, it has become master of its natural reserves for the first time in history and has started using these reserves as it wishes.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON SPIRITUAL
VALUES**

**ON SPIRITUAL
VALUES**

Destruction does not require great intelligence. Those who destroy have never been intelligent and have betrayed their own people. But creation requires serving one's people with effort, labour and loyalty.

Our society must be fostered on the basis of the principles of Azerbaijan's state independence, national freedom and national traditions.

Steadfastness in character, public life and creative work is a great characteristic. Maintaining one's own character is a great quality.

The fact that Azerbaijan is independent, that it has national freedom, that our people are masters of their own fate and have their own national, spiritual and religious values is a historic event.

Our spiritual and Islamic values have lived, have been handed down from one generation to another and have reached the present day. They are still the great spiritual wealth of our people and nation.

High spirituality should be the highest factor for every person.

If someone takes a path which runs counter to our morality, spirituality and national traditions and lives that lifestyle, they have no right to live in Azerbaijan.

We live in order to be loyal to our land, religion and national traditions. We should all be united in this way.

Spirituality and morality are higher than everything.

Everyone should live and work on the basis of the principles of our national ideology, national morality and spirituality.

Moral upbringing should be continuous and our young people should be brought up in a spirit of high spirituality.

There can be nothing in a place where there is no spirituality.

Experience shows that anyone who works responsibly and understands their responsibility benefits their people, country and themselves and, first of all, they benefit greatly from a moral point of view.

People should believe that anything can be achieved – society can be corrected, people can be saved from negative aspects of their morality and can become perfect.

If someone is not true to their thoughts, does not believe their own ideas, does not struggle to implement their ideas and does not fight, they cannot win.

Man should make his living honestly. Dishonest earnings can never yield any benefits. There should be honesty in everything.

Our civil duty is to be loyal to our national and spiritual values, our land, our mother tongue, our great and rich history and nation.

People should protect themselves, their state and spirituality. We should struggle for cleanliness and spiritual purity. In this way alone can we improve and develop our society from day to day and move our independent state forward.

It is necessary to help valuable people, it is necessary to promote them and create the right conditions for them to develop.

Everyone has inner spiritual values and potential as a result of family upbringing and this can never be killed. They live through and survive all difficulties. Maybe one factor that helps people to withstand those difficulties and skilfully overcome them is that people do not part with their national values.

No wealth and money can replace spirituality.

The spiritual values that Azerbaijan has created for centuries have supported the Azerbaijani people for centuries and saved them from great troubles and disasters.

It is necessary to try to ensure that people always take the right path and the path of pure spirituality.

Spiritual cleanliness and purity have always ennobled people and have always brought respect to people.

Everything in the world requires honesty, purity and truthfulness.

The truth can never be hidden and covered up.

Our traditions, spiritual, national and religious values are immortal and will live forever.

The purpose of all our national and religious traditions is to call people to purity, honesty and cleanliness and to foster this spirit in people.

The duty of each of us is to respect all religions, all convictions and all people regardless of ethnicity.

We are all people of the Earth and, regardless of our faith and ethnicity, we should respect each other and value each other.

Man must be a builder and creator.

People, the state and society should always have great concern for those who have encountered physical and mental deprivation.

The Islamic religion has had a great influence on the spirituality, science, power and intellect of our people. In many cases, our national traditions and culture were handed down from one generation to another through the Islamic religion, and have now reached the present generation as our great national resource.

The Islamic religion is a religion that we have professed for centuries.

The role of religions which call people to humane values, compassion, nobility and high spiritual values is irreplaceable in the history of humanity.

Our world is in great need of the words of Holy God, which foster patience, mercy and mutual respect in people at a time when weapons are talking and the innocent servants of the Most High are encountering bitter deprivations.

The path through which mankind can achieve peace and calm is to take refuge in the light of God and achieve spiritual and mental perfection.

God's greatest recommendation to people living on Earth is that they should have good intentions towards one another and live in peace and in an atmosphere of mutual respect for one another. For this reason, the initiatives of religious figures to appeal to people's consciences and to ensure patience and peace follow the path shown by God and greatly help people to live in peace on Earth.

The difference of religion from all the spiritual wealth of the people is that religion has always called people to friendship, solidarity and unity, regardless of their religious affiliation.

For centuries, the Azerbaijani land has been home to people who profess different faiths.

Azerbaijanis have protected their religion and have held it in their hearts from generation to generation. After Azerbaijan gained its independence, we restored our national traditions, and the Islamic religion also took its place.

Religion is one of our sources of spirituality.

Islam always calls those who profess this religion to spiritual purity, justice, honesty and all positive qualities.

Our religious figures and our people who have performed the Hajj should bring up our people, especially our youth, in a spirit of loyalty to their homeland and patriotism, and should prepare them to defend their homeland.

Religions should be used only for charity, to help people out of difficult situations and to direct them towards spiritual purity.

Our happiness is that after many years of deprivation, we have returned to our religion – the Islamic religion. The Islamic religion overcame all bans and deprivation and became a source that creates and establishes the spirituality of every Azerbaijani Muslim as they wish.

The Islamic religion is our holy religion. The Koran is our holy book. The spiritual values that the Islamic religion and the Koran have bestowed on the Azerbaijani people are dear to us and are very important for the upbringing of our people and youth today and in the future.

Since Azerbaijan gained its state independence, the spiritual values of our people have been revived and restored and have become the main law of the lifestyle of every Azerbaijani

Muslim. This is a very great historic event for us, and we should value this highly. We should bring up our people, nation, younger generation and all our society on the basis of Islam's high spiritual values and should establish our life on the basis of these spiritual values.

Religion is a rich national resource for every people.

Religions cannot be divided into categories.

We are against any form of fundamentalism.

Every religion has the right to live and they do live.

We are establishing a democratic, law-governed and secular state in Azerbaijan. This is the bottom line of Azerbaijan's future, to put it in present-day language, this is our strategic path. We have chosen this path and are moving along this path. However, while establishing a democratic, secular and civilized state, using human values and selecting and applying the aspects of human values that are relevant to our people and national mentality and spirituality, we can never part with or give up our religion and religious traditions.

Religious values form spiritual qualities that create strong foundations for the political, economic, social and cultural development of every society.

The Islamic religion is a religion of high spiritual values.

The contribution of the Islamic religion to human culture and civilization and, especially, its spiritual values is irreplaceable.

We, Muslims, are proud that the Islamic religion, to which we belong, covers a great part of the world and throughout human history has always served to elevate people from a spiritual point of view and to create development, peace and security in the world.

Democracy means great culture. Democracy means great spirituality. The spiritual values of the Islamic religion are necessary in order to create this high spirituality and high culture in every Azerbaijani citizen and bring up and raise the younger generation on this basis.

Religion has always been the protector of our spiritual values and has given life to our spiritual values. Most of our spiritual values were created in the past on the basis of the values

of the Islamic religion and the ayats and suras of our holy book – the Koran. For this reason, returning to our religion, taking the path shown by our holy book and His Holiness Prophet Muhammad and observing the requirements of the Koran, undoubtedly, always lead to purity, cleanliness, pure spirituality and the right path.

We will continue to move on the path of the Koran and His Holiness Prophet Muhammad and will never forget the heroism and martyrdom of His Holiness Imam Huseyn and his companions who became martyrs for justice, land and homeland.

The Islamic religion has formed the basis of our spirituality for centuries and has allowed Muslims to take their rightful place in the world. All the sayings of the Koran are still a torch that leads us on the path of God today.

The Islamic religion has always called people to purity, cleanliness and high spirituality. The Koran educates people in a spirit of honesty and spiritual purity.

We should try to ensure that, regardless of ethnic affiliation, all citizens of Azerbaijan have the same rights and to secure everyone's unity. This is the path that God has shown us.

Historically, world religions have co-existed and respected each other in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani state is still loyal to its traditions. Freedom of conscience and freedom of faith are the spiritual wealth of our society.

The Azerbaijani people have never forgotten that they belong to Islam.

The recommendations and lessons that the Koran has given us and the paths it has shown us are requirements and recommendations that call people to purity, honesty, loyalty, heroism, courage and bravery. Being loyal to their holy religion, Muslims have suffered, but have achieved great happiness, and everyone has always felt how great a blessing their religion and faith are and has benefited from that.

In the independent Azerbaijan Republic, in our country, our religion – the Islamic religion – closely unites our people, tries to strengthen our state and helps our people to save themselves from troubles and suffering.

Islam has always called people to peace and calm.

We are faithful to all the laws of our religion.

The return to progressive Islamic values and the revival of national religious traditions are factors that play an unprecedented role in the moral and spiritual elevation of our society and in the integrity and unity of our people.

Fasting is for God and is a spiritual duty of our holy religion.

Religion plays an important role in spiritual renewal and purity and in the establishment of moral values, friendship and humane principles in society.

There is not only freedom of religion in Azerbaijan, but different religions also work together.

Since the appearance of the Islamic religion, it has directed most of the people on Earth to the right path, to justice, purity and high spirituality, and it is a holy religion that has ensured this life for people.

The Islamic religion has unprecedented merit in human history, has ensured that people and Muslims achieve high spiritual and moral values and has helped people who profess this religion to survive every kind of suffering in the world and all trials and tribulations.

The Azerbaijani people, who have a centuries-long history, rich spiritual and material heritage, have formed part of the Islamic world since the 7th century AD. Situated in an important geopolitical location between Europe and Asia and between the Caucasus and the Middle East, Azerbaijan has always been the focus of attention of many states and has served as a bridge between different civilizations.

In order to maintain our religion, spirituality and spiritual and religious values, Muslims have made so many sacrifices and been martyred for centuries. However, none of this has managed to turn us from the path started by His Holiness Prophet Muhammad.

No force can destroy and disrupt the spiritual values of Islam. Temporary difficulties and deprivation are a short period in centuries-long history.

Islam is our native religion. The national and spiritual values of our people, the traditions of our religion and religious values are all our national wealth.

Freedom of conscience and religious faith, which have been established today in the independent Azerbaijan Republic, as was the case historically, still operate on the basis of the principles of faith and respect for other world religions.

The Ramadan holiday is a holiday in the heart of every Muslim and every person who observes our traditions.

Qurban Bayram (Feast of the Sacrifice) has usually been a wonderful occasion to eliminate resentment and grudges between people, to remember loved ones and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and brotherhood in society.

As well as being a spring holiday, Novruz is a symbol of Azerbaijan's independence and statehood.

For centuries, Novruz has been a holiday of peace and pure intentions for the Azerbaijani people.

Novruz is a holiday that is dear to every Azerbaijani. This is a holiday for every person and every citizen and a holiday that our forefathers handed down to us. This holiday is an or-

dinary human holiday and a national, people's and state holiday. This is the feature that distinguishes this holiday from other holidays.

The festive month of Ramadan when our holy book, the Koran, was bestowed upon us is a month of good intentions, spiritual richness, physical and spiritual wholeness and moral purity. This holiday is a holiday which celebrates the triumph of good over evil and of spiritual eminence over passion.

Every Novruz time increases faith in the triumph of our principles of independence and statehood even more.

Novruz is our most ancient national holiday. It is a people's holiday.

The Novruz holiday has always made our people happy and created a mood of optimism at the most difficult moments and on the most difficult days. For this reason, this holiday is dear to every Azerbaijani. At the same time, this is a holiday in everyone's heart and in every family.

The Novruz holiday has always been a holiday that united our people and reconciled people. That's why people love this holiday.

The Novruz holiday always creates a good atmosphere, elevates the national spirit, strengthens the feeling of patriotism and encourages everyone to be even more loyal to their homeland, nation, country and state.

Novruz is a day when nature awakens and pure feelings, high intentions and good wishes come true.

The Novruz holiday is an ancient, national holiday of our people. The Novruz holiday is a holiday of the heart of every Azerbaijani, it is a holiday for every person and family, and it is a holiday for our independent Azerbaijani land and the Azerbaijan Republic.

Novruz is a holiday of friendship, spirituality and culture, and it is a holiday that demonstrates the heroism, valour and courage of our people. The Novruz holiday has always brought our people even closer, created bonds of friendship between our people and has made people friendly towards one another.

The Novruz holiday is a holiday that makes our people united and mature at a time when public, political and socioeconomic processes are unfolding in the life of independent Azerbaijan today.

Qurban Bayram (Feast of the Sacrifice) is not just a day when we celebrate, sacrifice a lamb and congratulate one another. On this day, people rethink their life, return to spirituality again, realize the price of spiritual values and become purer and cleaner.

Easter is a holiday of joy and mercy, truth and justice.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON THE
AZERBAIJANI PEOPLE**

**ON THE
AZERBAIJANI PEOPLE**

The Azerbaijani people are not that helpless, they have a past full of heroism.

For centuries, our people have overcome all their troubles through their power, courage and heroism.

The Azerbaijani people have a centuries-old, ancient and rich history, great culture and specific national and spiritual traditions.

The Azerbaijani people have been struggling for their national freedom and have lived with this desire for centuries. They have wanted to have their own independent state and state independence.

At the beginning of the century – in 1918 – state independence was declared in Azerbaijan for the first time and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established. This republic laid the way to the awakening, revival and development of the national consciousness of the people of Azerbaijan.

Now the Azerbaijani people are a people that have great culture, science and knowledge, and the unity and synthesis of our national and spiritual values with values common to all mankind form the image of our people. For this reason, Azerbaijan is a national and, at the same time, a secular and civilized country.

One of the positive features of the Azerbaijani people is that they have always paid attention to and respected culture and literature.

Our people really are a very talented people, especially in literature and culture.

In order to save the Azerbaijani people from suffering and trouble, it is necessary to unite and take one path – the path of justice! In order to achieve the main goals – our people's highest goals – everyone should take each other by the hand!

The Azerbaijani people are a wise people.

We are all Azerbaijanis, we all have our own language and we are all born Azerbaijanis.

For centuries, the riches of Azerbaijan were violently and mercilessly devastated by foreign states, and the Azerbaijani people did not gain anything from these riches.

No weapon can ever break the will of a people.

No force can stand up to the power of a people.

The Azerbaijani people have both power and potential.

In their history, the Azerbaijani people have lived through very difficult times. However, they have withstood all tests and not lost, nor will they ever lose, their dignity, national character, Azerbaijani and Muslim nature.

As a people, not only should the Azerbaijani people live and become stronger, they should develop even more.

The Azerbaijani people now have a chance to establish their life within the framework of an

independent state and on the basis of their wishes and intentions.

The Azerbaijan Republic and the Azerbaijani people do not engage in aggression and do not set their sights on or attack the land of other republics, peoples or states, they only defend themselves.

The Azerbaijani people must retake their land and restore their territorial integrity. Our people are a people capable of maintaining their sovereignty and independence.

No-one can be offended by the people.

In order to live as an independent state on a global scale and take a worthy place in the international arena, the Azerbaijani people should make use of their present potential and think about their future.

The Azerbaijani people's optimism about the future has allowed them to live and reach the present day.

The idea of freedom and independence is the idea of our people.

The Azerbaijani people are a heroic people. Traditions of heroism have always been strong in their history.

Our people have always been proud of their heroes.

Protecting our land and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and protecting its sovereignty and independence should be the most important, highest and main duty of every citizen and every Azerbaijani.

Our people are a patient people.

The Azerbaijani people have one origin.

The Azerbaijani people are capable of protecting their land.

The Azerbaijani people have always had strength.

Over the centuries, there have been times when some of the Azerbaijani people were hostile to one another.

The Azerbaijani people are capable of protecting their independence and lands.

The Azerbaijani people have remained loyal to their history, national spirit and national traditions and have cherished these feelings in their hearts.

To strengthen independence and not to allow anyone to take this independence away – this is the will of the Azerbaijani people.

Our national and spiritual values, which have passed through centuries in Azerbaijan, will strengthen, take deeper root and develop and the Azerbaijani people will rise to a worthy level among the peoples of the world.

Our people should be vigilant, the people should know that as an independent state, we are masters of our own fate and state and we should protect ourselves, our people and society.

The people have always made sacrifices in fighting for their freedom. This was the case in the past, this is the case today and this will be the case in the future.

The Azerbaijani people are capable of protecting their dignity. The Azerbaijani people are capable of protecting their independence.

In their centuries-long history, the Azerbaijani people have gained great victories in life, reached high peaks and enriched world culture.

The Azerbaijani people should always live in an independent state, be master of their own fate and decide their fate themselves.

If a people retreats into itself, does not see the world and has no contact with the world, it cannot develop very much.

Azerbaijanis are not a helpless nation or a helpless and powerless people.

For centuries, our people have withstood great tests and difficulties, but have not lost their dignity, nationality and language.

The Azerbaijani people are now masters of their fate and can live by establishing an independent state. At this time our people have reached the highest level in centuries.

Our people are independent and free, have gained state independence and, as an independent state, we live as a state that has equal rights with all the states of the world.

Every Azerbaijani should understand and know this. We can no longer be a colony and we can no longer be slaves. We are free, and the Azerbaijani people should live a free life.

The sooner our people unite, the more united the Azerbaijani people are, the more unanimous everyone is, the sooner we will retake and liberate our land and ensure our territorial integrity.

A happy future awaits the Azerbaijani people.

Now the Azerbaijani people are masters of their own fate, wealth and nature.

Our people need unity.

We are all Azerbaijanis and we are all one nation. We all have one language – the Azerbaijani language – we all belong to one religion and we are all children of one nation.

The Azerbaijani people are a people with a high level of science, knowledge and literacy.

Our people have sustained losses, made sacrifices and given martyrs, but they have never been broken, have never given up or lost their will. Our people are a proud people.

Our life and the building in which we are now have a strong foundation, and there are people who laid this foundation – people who lived, created and built before us – the self-sacrificing people of Azerbaijan.

We are not a people that attach themselves to anyone's tail. We are a great and independent people, we have our own language, literature, music and country. For this reason, the duty of all of us is to promote and develop these ideas and raise the Azerbaijani language to greater heights everywhere.

Our people have created unity and now no-one can break this unity and no-one can violate it. The duty of all of us is to raise this unity and solidarity to greater heights and elevate our country even more.

The Azerbaijani people are a talented people, they have a rich culture, they have their own independent state and national freedom today and the Azerbaijani people have an even greater future.

The Azerbaijani people have always had an abundance of talented and prominent people.

Our people have always tried to strengthen friendship, brotherhood and kindness and to establish, peace, security and friendly relations between people regardless of their faith.

Even though we, Azerbaijanis, have shortcomings in other areas, we have no shortcomings in expanding our families.

We have to develop and promote the specific features of our nation, the Azerbaijani people, and to protect, support and help each other.

Our people love poetry and literature.

One of the highest characteristics of the Azerbaijani people is their patience, steadfastness and willpower.

The Azerbaijani people are a peace-loving people.

The Azerbaijani people are a patient people. This is a characteristic of our people.

The Azerbaijanis are very patriotic and hospitable.

The Azerbaijani people are a talented people. Our people have a centuries-long, honourable history.

Our people have very great, potential talent.

If you put an Azerbaijani and an Armenian face to face in the ring, the Azerbaijani will never allow himself to be thrown down – never.

We have to be sincere, friendly and kind amongst ourselves, help one another and take care of one another. This is the advice that the Koran has given us, this is the centuries-long

and historical tradition of our people and nation and the highest quality and characteristic of the Azerbaijanis.

The Azerbaijani people are a talented people. From one century to another, our people have nurtured talent. These talents have promoted and developed the spirituality, science, literature and art of the Azerbaijani people.

As part of the whole Turkic world, the Azerbaijani people have a great, rich history of science and culture.

Our people have wonderful characteristics and traditions and an ancient history. But they also have faults. One of them is that we are unable to maintain close links with each other.

Our people have withstood many tests and trials throughout the centuries. The patience of our people and their ability to overcome difficulties skilfully made this possible.

For centuries, our people have protected and fought for their land and independence and have given martyrs. Sometimes they fell under oppression, but endured it. Patience is a specific characteristic and great spiritual resource of our people.

Our people have always been proud.

...The spirit of national freedom and independence has always lived in the heart of the Azerbaijani people.

Genetically, the Azerbaijani people are beautiful and healthy from a physical and spiritual point of view. Historical, national and religious traditions have always prompted our people to lead a healthy way of life from a physical and spiritual point of view.

We are not a poor people. I mean we are not poor in terms of intellect. Yes, the intellect of our people is very rich.

The Azerbaijani people are a people that have always trusted in God and have held faith and belief in their hearts. The high civil honour of the brave sons and daughters of our people, who are loyal to their historical roots and national and religious past, their attachment to their homeland and their unbreakable determination to fight for our national independence stem from such high, spiritual values.

The Azerbaijani people are a heroic and courageous people.

The Azerbaijani people live with great patriotism.

I believe in the wisdom and intellect of our people.

The potential of the Azerbaijani people – their heroism, martial spirit and intellectual potential – is great.

An atmosphere of optimism and the ability to summon all their strength and power when the need arises have always led the Azerbaijani people out of difficult situations.

Our Azerbaijani people have historically had high, spiritual qualities.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON PATRIOTISM
AND MARTYRDOM**

**ON PATRIOTISM
AND MARTYRDOM**

Defence of the land, the homeland, is the highest and most sacred duty of each one of us.

The names of people who became martyrs defending our country are always in our hearts, their memory is dear to us and we will not forget them.

It is a great honour to be a citizen of Azerbaijan.

If you live somewhere, have a home and your own space, you have to defend it. If you can defend it, this means that you are a person of honour and a real patriot. If you cannot defend it, you don't even have the right to live.

Now everyone has to make their own contribution and do their duty to their homeland, land and sense of honour. No-one can say that this is not their duty. If the children of the people are born in this land and if the spirit of our fathers and forefathers is holy and dear to us, we have to do our duty. This is everyone's duty.

Every citizen should be patriotic.

Defence of the homeland should be in the spirit of everyone in Azerbaijan.

The biggest potential is our people's attachment to their homeland and to their land, their love of their homeland and desire to defend it.

We have no other homeland than Azerbaijan.

We ourselves have to defend and protect Azerbaijani land.

Our cause is a just cause, and every person who loves their homeland should join this cause and perform their civil duty to the state and the people.

I speak to all parents: give a better upbringing to your children. Raise them in a spirit of

patriotism. Influence your children as their parents and tell them that the defence of the motherland is the highest and most honourable duty. In order to perform this duty, every Azerbaijani citizen has to be ready to give up their life.

The motherland of every nation and person is their homeland.

Throughout history, our people have given many martyrs.

The population of a country which is at war should understand that if the republic is waging a war and this war serves to defend the sovereignty and independence of the country, then everyone should be united and know that life in war time is different from life in peace time.

For every person, the land and homeland are holier and higher than anything else.

We call our homeland and land our Motherland. Everyone holds their Mother sacred. The biggest wealth of the Azerbaijani people is that they have nurtured heroic, long-suffering, forbearing mothers.

We are waging a patriotic war! Everyone should join the patriotic war. The patriotic war is being waged to defend the honour and dignity of the whole people and every citizen.

We must all realize that we have gained independence, our people are free and have a chance to decide their fate, and Azerbaijan should live and develop as an independent state. To this end, everyone should have a high sense of citizenship and hold dear the fate of the homeland.

Everyone should think every day what they are doing for victory, in order to liberate our land and to ensure the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic. We have to put this question to ourselves every day. If this does not happen, we will not be able to gain the victory.

If anyone living in this land avoids defending their homeland, they do not have the right to live here.

The duty of all of us is to defend our land staunchly.

Azerbaijan is home to all of us. Everyone and every citizen should defend their homeland. If

a soldier or officer defends their homeland and dies in action, a citizen who is unable to go to the front should work at their workplace and send their children, relatives and brothers who are capable of fighting to the frontline and military service. There is no other way! There can be no other way!

Regardless of their village, city or district, every citizen of Azerbaijan bears the same responsibility for defending our land and is required to perform their civil duty at the same level.

We shall never break and our will shall never change.

If every citizen and every Azerbaijani realizes that the life of independent Azerbaijan, its victory and successful progress in the future depend on their small steps, they will take these steps.

Some of the defenders of Azerbaijan were crippled by the wounds they received fighting during the war. They are the most respected people in society. Everyone's duty is to take care of these people and solve their problems.

Every honourable citizen of Azerbaijan should spare no effort to defend our homeland and re-take our occupied territories.

Every citizen and every young person who is trying to defend their homeland is dear, precious and valuable to us.

Children who are born and grow up at a difficult time will be courageous, steadfast and patriotic.

Azerbaijani peasants and everyone who is attached to their land have always been honourable. Within our people, the people linked to the land have always been more loyal to their homeland. They are more attached to their homeland, because they are attached to their land.

The unity and solidarity of our people are the main prerequisite if we are to eliminate all obstacles and achieve our goals.

We should always think that every Azerbaijani citizen should be ready to protect our independence, state, lands and homeland.

For centuries, our people have been struggling in order to live and create, have been fighting for national freedom, have been making sacri-

lices and have wanted to establish an independent state in their land on the basis of their national traditions, historical roots, religion and spirituality.

We have to ensure civil solidarity, national solidarity and solidarity between all strata of the population for one purpose – to maintain the independence of Azerbaijan and to get our republic out of this difficult situation.

Life is always developing. For this reason, no matter how heavy our losses and how numerous our difficulties, we should always be optimistic, keep our heads, look to the future with faith and live with hope.

No citizen should remain indifferent to public and political life. There are people involved in state service and there are ordinary citizens, and ordinary citizens, if they really are citizens and children of their homeland, cannot remain indifferent to their homeland and state.

The greater a person's attachment to their homeland, nation, religion and language, the higher their spirituality.

The independent Azerbaijan Republic is home for every Azerbaijani.

Every Azerbaijani citizen and every Azerbaijani patriot should think about the future of Azerbaijan.

Loyalty to the homeland, love for the homeland and attachment to the land – all this is patriotism.

Love for Azerbaijan means having a sense of Azerbaijanism.

We should love every part of Azerbaijan as our homeland. We should get over the idea of "loving the place that you come from". The homeland is everyone's homeland. Every place and every spot in the homeland is our homeland.

I am sure that every Azerbaijani citizen knows very well that protecting the homeland, the state and independent Azerbaijan means protecting your own parents and home. Heroism requires high physical qualities, courage and willpower.

At a time when a new independent state, a new economic and political system and a completely new democratic and legal state are being established in our republic and our country, people's patriotism is more important than anything else.

The duty of every citizen is to be loyal to the state independence of Azerbaijan, to their country, homeland and people.

Heroes of the patriotic war have always been the most reliable and respected people in society.

Regardless of their place of residence, no Azerbaijani should forget their homeland, forefathers and language. You can live wherever you want, but your heart must beat with your homeland and land whether you live well or not. Your pulse must beat with the pulse of your homeland. This feeling of patriotism should be in all of us.

The national interests of people cannot be sacrificed for the personal interests of individuals regardless of their origin. Our national interests and the fate of the people are dearer and more important than anything else to us.

Worshipping the homeland is everyone's sacred duty, always.

A businessman should do business, make money and develop their business. But they should never lose their national origin or sacrifice national interests, and should not allow their national interests to be damaged.

I am sure that our current and future generations will be even more heroic and loyal than our forefathers who lived, created, built, struggled and fought before us, and will serve their homeland, people and independent Azerbaijan body and soul.

Long live those who build and create! The people and future generations will be grateful to them. People who destroy have always been hated and will be hated from now on. Their present and future will be damned. For this reason, it is necessary to build and create.

The propaganda of national patriotism in Azerbaijan must be expanded and feelings of national patriotism in our people developed.

Everyone should try to increase our country's respect on the global stage.

Those who regard themselves as serious people should be thinking about national issues.

Every Azerbaijani should be proud that, at last, the Azerbaijani people have an independent state that has joined the world community. This is a source of pride for every Azerbaijani.

The meaning and substance of Azerbaijan's state independence and freedom should be

broadly taught in our schools. This is very important, because feelings of patriotism should be fostered in people from childhood. A natural feature of our people is that our people are patriotic. They garner feelings of patriotism in their mothers' womb.

We should foster more patriotism in our youth.

Our duty is to establish our state firmly, protect our country and make every citizen loyal to their homeland.

Azerbaijan's happy future is related to its eternal state independence. The happy future of Azerbaijan is linked to Azerbaijani citizens' love of their homeland, their patriotism and the power of our nation.

Azerbaijan's greatest wealth is its self-sacrificing people.

Just as people protect their home, children, parents, property and things, every young person, every Azerbaijani and every citizen of Azerbaijan should protect their native Azerbaijani land and the Azerbaijan Republic as the apple of their eye.

Our nation is a talented nation, beautiful nation and heroic nation. We are proud of this.

Every person's homeland is their home, village, land and country.

Loyalty to the homeland and the people, and spiritual purity – these are the foundations of our success.

Our first martyrs are buried here in the place which is now called Martyrs' Avenue (in the past we called this place the Mountain Park). They are martyrs of the January tragedy. This is a holy place, a shrine for all of us and will remain in our history as a holy place.

Every citizen should be ready to sacrifice themselves for their land.

Our people have given many martyrs throughout history.

We should all be ready to sacrifice ourselves for our homeland and for the sake of our people's future.

The defence of the motherland requires martyrdom and sacrifice.

Every Azerbaijani citizen should regard Azerbaijani land as their own land, protect it, fight

for it and, if necessary, give up their lives and become martyrs.

The word "citizen" is a great and holy word. The word "citizen" means that every citizen must be loyal to their homeland, protect it as the apple of their eye and be ready to become a martyr for their homeland, land, mother and father.

We will never forget the courage and heroism of every person who died for their homeland and became a martyr. We have given many martyrs for the independence of Azerbaijan.

The death of a person who fights and becomes a martyr is a death for the land and the people.

We have given martyrs and they are all in paradise by the will of God. All those martyrs are in the heart of our people. We will never forget them.

Martyrs' Avenue in Baku, the graves of martyrs in our cities, settlements and villages are a demonstration of the heroism of our youth and are monuments that indicate that they died for their homeland, people and independent Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani people have been fighting and struggling for their national freedom and independence for centuries and have given sacrifices and martyrs.

The memory of those who became martyrs for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Azerbaijan Republic and for the national freedom of our people will always live in our hearts. May they rest in peace! Martyrs' families should feel that we are all taking care of them.

The memory of martyrs will always live in the heart of the Azerbaijani people.

Martyrs' children are our own children. The state has always taken and will take care of martyrs' families and martyrs' children.

We will never abandon martyrs' families and children.

The blood of every martyr secured Azerbaijan's independence.

Every person should be ready to become a martyr so that our people can always be free and independent.

The Azerbaijani people have been subjected to oppression by foreign invaders for many centuries and have written their honourable history in the red blood of their martyrs.

We are proud that the Azerbaijani people are ready to die and become martyrs in order to protect their national dignity and national freedom.

We will always maintain the memory of Azerbaijani children who gave up their lives for the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and in order to defend our lands. At the same time, we should use those examples of heroism and raise the spirit of heroism in our people. This is the main condition and the main factor for protecting our independence and territorial integrity.

When we remember 20 January, we all experience a feeling of pride because, in the face of that aggression, our people showed their resilience and stamina to the whole world.

The historical examples of Azerbaijani children's loyalty to their homeland, nation, state and people, their heroism and martyrdom show that our people are ready to defend their land and homeland today and in the future and

to become martyrs for their homeland, land and independence.

The memory of people who have given up their lives for their homeland and land will always live in our hearts.

With their heroism and martyrdom, the martyrs raised the spirituality of our people.

A people that have martyrs are a heroic people. We mourn our martyrs and are proud of their martyrdom, because they died for their homeland, land, nation and Azerbaijan.

Even if the Azerbaijani people have been subjected to military, political and spiritual aggression, they have shown to the whole world their loyalty to their historical traditions of heroism and their determination to become martyrs in order to protect the independence of their homeland.

The lives and heroism of Azerbaijan's national heroes who gave up their lives and became martyrs for their homeland are an example and lesson to all our people, especially our youth.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

ON ETHNIC RELATIONS

**ON ETHNIC
RELATIONS**

You cannot live within the confines of an ethnic framework.

All people have equal rights, regardless of ethnicity, language and religion.

All civilized countries are multi-ethnic.

The world has developed states which have great democratic traditions – European states and states on the American continent. So many ethnicities live together there. There is no doubt that people from different ethnic traditions live there, but they are all citizens of one state. For this reason, in those countries

and states, the idea of national solidarity and common citizenship is very strong, there is security and calm, the living standards and culture are high, and democratic principles are at a high level.

Our most important duty is to stop and prevent nationalism, separatism and chauvinism.

Azerbaijan has been a homeland for people who have been living in this land for decades and centuries, and must be their homeland in the future.

Every citizen in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic should have equal rights regardless of ethnicity, religion and political affiliation.

Russians have been living here for centuries, and they are Azerbaijani citizens. This is a homeland for a Russian who lives here, who was born here and whose father and grandfather were born and buried here.

Azerbaijan's multi-racial nature makes it distinctive.

The presence of the Russian-speaking population is a very important factor for Azerbaijan and its future.

Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic republic and country. Many nations have been living here for centuries and will do so in future.

Azerbaijan is the homeland of all people living in its territory.

Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic state and all its citizens have equal rights, regardless of their ethnic affiliation.

The multi-ethnic composition of the Azerbaijani population is our rich resource and advantage.

Our republic is a multi-ethnic republic. Anyone who lives in our country and belongs to any ethnicity is a citizen of Azerbaijan with equal rights.

The Azerbaijan Republic should record its ethnic composition as an achievement and maintain this ethnic composition and ethnic relations.

Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic, democratic state. Every person and every Azerbaijani citizen has equal rights. Azerbaijan is a motherland for every one of our citizens, regardless of their ethnicity!

The Azerbaijan Republic is a multi-ethnic republic. All peoples living in Azerbaijan have equal rights, regardless of their ethnic affiliation, religion, language and political outlook, and are equally involved in Azerbaijan's government agencies and public organizations.

Azerbaijan is the homeland of all races living in Azerbaijan.

When we say Azerbaijani citizens and Azerbaijani people, we understand the unity of all nations living in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has rich traditions of internationalism. Representatives of many ethnic groups have always lived and still live here. We regard this as Azerbaijan's wealth, we value this and we want to maintain this. Azerbaijan has always been a multi-ethnic country and it still is a multi-ethnic country.

Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic state. Regardless of their ethnic affiliation, all people have always been assured freedom of faith, freedom of conscience and equal rights in our country.

Azerbaijan is a democratic state and has taken and will take the path of democracy. The protection of human rights in our country is one

of the main purposes of the Azerbaijani state, and political pluralism and freedom of the press, faith and conscience have been ensured. Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic state, and in our country all citizens have equal rights and live and work with equal rights, regardless of their race, religion and language.

For many centuries, Azerbaijan has been a homeland and place of residence for Jews. Jews have been living in Azerbaijan together with Azerbaijanis in an atmosphere of friendship and kindness for centuries. Today the Jews are full citizens of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan is their homeland.

After Azerbaijan gained its state independence, we announced that our republic is the homeland of all citizens living in Azerbaijan, regardless of ethnicity, religion and race.

There are no minority or majority peoples. Every people is a people. For this reason, all the peoples living in Azerbaijan are peoples, and we do not consider anyone a minority, everyone is a full citizen of Azerbaijan and they are all a single Azerbaijani people.

The fact that the Jews have been living comfortably and freely for centuries together with

Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan shows that as a people, we are very kind and peace-loving. The current and historically friendly relations between Azerbaijanis and Jews in Azerbaijan are graphic proof of this. Everyone who lives in our country – independent Azerbaijan – is a full citizen of Azerbaijan, regardless of their language, religion and ethnicity. The Jews who live in Azerbaijan have always benefited from these historical traditions of the Azerbaijani people and are now being cared for by the Azerbaijani state.

Along with Azerbaijanis, we have Russians, Ukrainians and Jews living here. We regard this as a virtue of our republic.

The Jewish people have enriched human culture and have made a great mark in human history. History proved that it is impossible to destroy this people.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON TERRORISM,
SEPARATISM,
BRIBERY AND CRIME**

**ON TERRORISM,
SEPARATISM,
BRIBERY AND CRIME**

It is our sacred duty to protect the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of all countries, to wage a serious fight against separatism and terrorism, which have become widespread in many regions of the world of late, and to observe and actively implement the UN Charter and the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The problems that trouble countries and people in many parts of the world are the problems of separatism, terrorism and military conflicts. We are against separatism throughout the world and in any region of the world.

States should not interfere in each other's internal affairs, nothing can be solved by force, the territorial integrity of every state must be protected and maintained, and separatism, fundamentalism and terrorism should be prevented.

Crime, bribery and corruption are the main issues that worry and dissatisfy the public and people. Such cases are a stain on the work we have carried out at this important stage in the life of the independent Azerbaijan Republic.

The strengthening of independent Azerbaijani statehood first of all depends on the inviolability and supremacy of the law in the republic. It is possible to overcome totalitarianism completely, only if democracy develops consistently and there is political pluralism and human freedom.

Those who betray the incoming humanitarian aid, lay their hands on it and use it for their own purposes are committing a great crime. There can be no greater or uglier crime than this.

As a civilized, democratic and law-governed state, Azerbaijan should rid itself of crime completely.

The use of narcotics is not characteristic of our historical past and our people.

Control over drugs and the fight against drug addiction and the drugs trade have turned into a common problem in the final years of our century. This fight is a fight for the physical and mental health of every country, people and nation.

Every country should organize its work to prevent drug addiction very seriously; it should carry out the necessary publicity work, health and public information bodies should comprehensively explain how dangerous and tragic drug addiction is for people, mankind and society and prevent people from catching this disease.

The secret and illegal production of narcotic substances, their illegal turnover, sale and secret and illegal transit from manufacturing countries to other countries are factors that spread narcotics and drug addiction.

Every country should wage a serious fight against the production and illegal use of narcotics.

The Azerbaijani law-enforcement agencies should wage a serious fight against drug addiction and, especially, the drugs trade, including the transportation of narcotics

through Azerbaijani territory, and should consider this a duty of paramount importance.

It is bribery that has violated our spirituality.

There is an independent state in Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan has a strong state. If anyone wants to serve their people and state with loyalty, there is room for them here and there is room for everyone here. There is room for everyone in Azerbaijan. But if anyone betrays their people, engages in bribery, abuses power, takes various dishonest paths, unites with individual mafia groups and fights for the good jobs again, there is no room for them in our society.

It does not matter where there is more bribery and where there is less of it. Bribery is one of the biggest troubles for every state, nation and people.

Abuse of power, bribery and prioritizing personal interests in economic relations – amongst ourselves or in contacts with foreign companies – are damaging and are against our spirituality and life and should be prevented.

...Bribery, abuse of power and corruption, which are an obstacle to people in every aspect of our life, should be fought with the help of the law and our state principles.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

ON WOMEN AND FAMILY

**ON WOMEN
AND FAMILY**

Woman is the most respected member of society. Everyone should bow down to woman and everyone should respect woman.

Women grace and beautify society. There can be no society without women. For their intellect, knowledge and talent and at the same time, for their beauty, Azerbaijani women enjoy a special, high position among the women of the world. For this reason, we are proud of our women.

Women have always favoured peace and kindness.

Azerbaijani women also beautify our society and create feelings of joy, love and optimism in people.

Azerbaijani women were the first to be liberated and granted equal rights with men in the oriental world in the early 1920s. The liberation of Azerbaijani women from the veil was a historic event in the life of our people.

The women's holiday is a holiday for all our people, society and country.

Women are dear to all of us. Women play a very important role in our country and society.

The history of Azerbaijani woman is great and rich. However, the path and achievements of Azerbaijani woman in the 20th century have really become a great source of pride for us on a global scale.

The female characters of The Book of Dada Qorqud are still considered to be a graphic symbol of stamina, great will and courage.

Woman is a very high idea. Respect for woman shows every person's high spiritual qualities. Everyone is indebted to their mother

for their life and existence. The word "Mother" is holy. It is no accident that we call our homeland and land "Motherland". There is nothing dearer to anyone than the homeland. These ideas equate with the idea of mother. We call our homeland "Motherland". We note once again how dear, precious and holy our homeland is. Respect for one's mother and fulfilment of one's duty towards her are supreme duties.

Respect for women is the pride of every nation. The historical traditions of our people have always called for respect for women. We have to hold women in esteem in our country and society, both now and in the future. Mother and woman should be a holy idea for every son of Azerbaijan.

Families in Azerbaijan have always had many children, and this is a national feature of our people.

Women poets, rulers and fighters, who had innate talent, deep intellect and strong willpower, have been active in all stages of Azerbaijani history.

The Momina Khatun Tomb is not just a great monument of architecture, it is also a graphic

demonstration of our people's respect for woman.

Throughout history, Azerbaijani women have been known for their intellect, honour, reputation, self-sacrifice, diligence, courage, patriotism and beauty, endless love for their nation and land and for the specific characteristics of the Azerbaijani people.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**ON CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Azerbaijani young people and children are the national wealth, future and hope of our country and people. For this reason, it is the duty of every citizen to take care of children.

We should bring up our children well and ensure that they live in good conditions. We should prepare them for the future.

The more peace and security there are, the better and happier will be the lives of our future generation, the better the education and upbringing they will get and the better prepared they will be for the future.

My dear children, you should study, get an education and prepare yourselves to work in society and serve the people, and should think that you will move Azerbaijan's independence forward in the future and ensure Azerbaijan's future.

Our hope and future are our children.

Children are our joy, the meaning of our life and our future.

The biggest joy and love are our children and youth.

Taking care of children's homes is one of our main duties.

Special care should be taken of the life, upbringing and education of children who have no parents.

Today's children are the future of independent Azerbaijan.

Every kind and wealthy person should take care of and help children's homes and consider it their honourable duty to alleviate the situation of children who study and live there.

Taking care of children and thinking about them all the time are signs of high spirituality and culture.

Children should be taken care of, and should be protected, defended, raised and turned into active members of human society.

One of the national traditions of the Azerbaijani people is that taking care of children has been the main duty of every family and person and the main part of our spirituality.

Children are our future. The future of our country, nation and state will depend on how we raise and bring up our future. For this reason, this is our sacred duty.

Taking care of and paying attention to children and young people are the most important duty of the Azerbaijani state, government and president.

Taking care of and paying attention to children is the sacred duty of every Azerbaijani citizen.

Children bring the greatest happiness to every person. Everyone wants to have children. Everyone loves their children, brings them up.

gives them an education and prepares them for the future. Such people and families are happy.

The young people of every race, nation and country are its present, future and hope.

Making the most of our historical traditions in science, education, literature and culture and in religion – the Islamic religion – which is our spiritual source, it is necessary to open a broad path to the whole world for our young people.

Young people are Azerbaijan's gene pool. We should protect them comprehensively.

The duty of our young people is to ensure that Azerbaijan is always independent, that the Azerbaijani people can take their place in the world as a nation and can move to the future with greater success, that they do not have a low standing among the world's nations and peoples but achieve global standing.

The national liberation movement is widespread in Azerbaijan and young people have been its driving force.

Defending the homeland and land should be the sacred duty of every young person.

Young people, who shed their blood and display heroism in battles, are fighting and becoming martyrs for the progress and development of Azerbaijan.

Dealing with young people seriously implies thinking about the future of Azerbaijan and working for its future.

Leaving school and entering an institution of higher education is a great event for any young person, and we can say with absolute certainty that this constitutes happiness.

Dear young people, as an independent state we should be masters of every inch of our land and liberate our occupied territories. Every young person and every citizen should display self-sacrifice on this path. I invite you, young people, to this path. I urge you to protect the independence of Azerbaijan and to be ready to fight for the liberation of our land.

The future of independent Azerbaijan is in the hands of the young and will be passed to young people. For this reason, the better and more comprehensively our young people are educated at school, the more successful and brilliant the future of Azerbaijan will be.

Schools and teachers bear great responsibility for the future of Azerbaijan. I am sure that this is how our large army of teachers and schools see their duty, this is how they think about their duties and this is how they will act.

Young people who enter institutions of higher education are part of the new generation who will develop the science, culture, economy and public and social life of Azerbaijan.

We should bring up our young people in a spirit of purity, high morality and high spirituality.

The future of our republic depends on the quality of the education of young people.

Every young Azerbaijani should see their path in life as the future path of the independent Azerbaijan Republic.

The main duty of our young people should be to dedicate themselves to the development of the independent Azerbaijan Republic and to the life and eternity of the independent Azerbaijan Republic.

Human values and the national and spiritual values of the Azerbaijani people should be learnt by every young person.

Our young people should be brought up in a national spirit and on the basis of our national and spiritual values.

Our young people should know our history, past, language and national values very well.

A young person who does not know our national values, national traditions and history very well cannot be a patriot.

I am sure that the future of Azerbaijan is in reliable hands, because our present-day youth are thoughtful and patriotic and love their people and nation.

In order to secure the future of independent Azerbaijan, every young person should love their homeland, country, land, people, nation, language, religion and national traditions.

It is necessary to create a feeling of Azerbaijanism in young people.

Young people are our present and future.

Young people should carry the future of Azerbaijan on their shoulders into the future.

You, young people, are now establishing the structure – the great structure – of Azerbai-

jan's future by developing your talent in your lives and education.

Our young people who form the future of our republic, their physical preparedness and the work they are doing for the future are of great importance.

An encounter with young people always brings happiness and creates a pleasant atmosphere.

Azerbaijani young people have always been active and have expressed their position at the most difficult times of our life.

Youth is happiness.

The overwhelming majority of young Azerbaijanis have a spirit of national patriotism and have expressed their position.

Young people have made an irreplaceable contribution to the development of our republic and its achievement at this level.

A day spent idly and uselessly in one's youth brings great losses later.

Every day and every minute should be used effectively so that our younger generation ac-

quire good knowledge and education, study the experience available in all spheres of science and life and be useful to themselves, the country and society.

Our young people still constitute the majority of the population of the Azerbaijan Republic, and in establishing a law-governed and democratic state in Azerbaijan and taking the necessary action to maintain the independence of our republic, we always rely on youth.

The duties facing our young people are great. However, one of the main duties is that young people should be educated despite the difficulties of life.

In considering the concept of national ideology, young people must first of all be raised in a spirit of loyalty to the principles of Azerbaijan's independence.

Every young person should try to strengthen, develop and promote the state independence of Azerbaijan and should make their own contribution to this.

Young people should be brought up on the basis of national traditions and the national and spiritual values of our people.

All the national, spiritual and human values together should form the spiritual code of all our citizens and especially of young people.

Azerbaijani young people should take an active part in establishing and developing democratic principles in our society.

I believe that Azerbaijan's current young generation will rise even higher than previous generations, because you live in independent Azerbaijan, your free homeland.

Our sacred duty is to restore and maintain the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. We are fulfilling and will fulfil this duty with you – young people – and with the will of the whole Azerbaijani people.

Loyalty to one's origins is the main factor for every young person to live a successful life.

What is extremely pleasing to me is that Azerbaijan has young people who can hold the future of Azerbaijan in strong hands, protect Azerbaijan from troubles all the time and protect the state independence and democratic state of Azerbaijan.

My special recommendation to young people who leave Azerbaijan to get their education in

other countries is that, regardless of the country you are in, your first duty is to acquire proper education, make the most of that education centre and become a rounded, well-educated citizen. At the same time, you will be young people who will represent our republic abroad. You should not restrict yourselves to education, you should also represent Azerbaijan with credit and spread and promote the truth about our country at the universities and institutions of education where you will be studying. There is a great need for that.

All young Azerbaijanis have one duty – to serve their people, state and country with loyalty, to be active in life and to maintain the state independence of Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani people are a talented people, and their talent in the military sphere can be at the highest level. The talent and ability of an Azerbaijani in conquering the air and the sky can also be at the highest level. I am sure that this will be the case, because I know very well that our Azerbaijani youth have high genetic qualities from a physical point of view and a courageous character. Many Azerbaijanis have repeatedly proved this to the world with their courage throughout history. I am totally confident that our young people will demonstrate this today and in the future.

Whatever happens, loyalty to the homeland, people, country and state will immortalize every young person and allow them to find a worthy and desired place in society.

I hope that our young people today will be able to get better education than the youth of the past and will be more knowledgeable and at a higher level for the future.

Today's young people in Azerbaijan are creators of the 21st century.

Young people must know that in order to live a successful life, it is necessary to be loyal to the national and spiritual values of our people and nation and to lead a modern way of life by merging these national and spiritual values with values common to all mankind.

Our young people must be healthy from a spiritual, physical and mental point of view. We must create a healthy society for today and for the future.

Our young people should prepare to ensure the development of Azerbaijan in the 21st century. To this end, it is necessary to acquire knowledge and education, lead a healthy way of life, always rely on our spiritual and national val-

ues and make effective use of values common to all mankind. I am sure that our young people will secure Azerbaijan's future better than we did, because we have very intelligent, skilful and talented young people. I hope that the young people will make the best of today's experience and ensure Azerbaijan's future.

We want to create a happier life for future generations. We are trying to make effective use of Azerbaijan's opportunities, to develop the economy and increase the wellbeing of the Azerbaijani people. Next we will continue trying to take and maintain our special place in the world community. Next we will continue cooperating with the progressive states and unions of the world. As a free, independent and democratic country, Azerbaijan will develop and will perform its historical role at the junction of Europe and Asia.

We, the current generation of Azerbaijan, are laying good foundations and creating a good basis for the future generations of Azerbaijan. The most important factor is that an independent Azerbaijani state has been established, is getting stronger and is developing. The state independence of Azerbaijan is unbreakable and eternal.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON INTELLECTUALS
AND HISTORICAL FIGURES**

**ON INTELLECTUALS
AND HISTORICAL FIGURES**

The archives of all our scientists and prominent personalities are an asset of state importance.

A meeting with intellectuals always makes a big festive impression. I have thought this all my life.

In order to establish and introduce the principles of democracy in Azerbaijan, our republic and government agencies have a great need for intellectuals.

Every leading personality has their own place in our history.

If we want to develop spiritual values in our people, the spirituality of our intellectuals should be high first of all, and they should set an example to other strata of the population.

In the 20th century, Azerbaijan made a great contribution to world culture and world science, our great scientists, writers, poets, architects, painters, composers and musicians enriched the science, culture and education of the Azerbaijani people and made a great contribution to the culture and science of the whole world.

We are proud that with the help of their prominent personalities, our people have always maintained and enriched the national and spiritual values of Azerbaijan and have now become of value to all mankind.

The Azerbaijani people have their own national dignity. This national dignity should be expressed and represented by those of the people who are most progressive. If the people rise up to national dignity with a national spirit and their leaders oppress them for the sake of their personal interests, then this is the greatest tragedy for the people.

It is necessary to boost respect for intellectuals, cultural figures and scientists in society,

because a people are always known for their intellectuals, culture and science.

There have been many personalities in our literature and culture. But there are also personalities who take a special place and are unique, and whom no-one can replace.

In previous centuries and in the 20th century, Azerbaijan had great people. However, the memory of these great people should be perpetuated. Future generations should always know about their lives, activities, work and what they created.

Wisdom is innate talent. Wisdom is when someone understands life, accurately assesses what is going on and benefits appropriately from this.

Talented people are always strange. They are not ordinary people, and if they were ordinary people, they would not be talented. Every talented person has special features.

People who create literature, artistic works and great works of art are always self-sacrificing. If, along with their talent, they are not self-sacrificing, they cannot be great artists.

If someone has inborn, innate talent and if God has given them a rare, innate talent, they will shine anyway. However, if someone develops their talent with education, labour and hard work and if they hone and expand it, then this person becomes a great personality.

We should always try to ensure that the Azerbaijani people are better known in the world. They should know that our people have centuries-old, rich history and culture.

Owing to the endless love of the founder of the Turkish Republic and one of the greatest geniuses of the 20th century, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, for the ideals of freedom and democracy, and to his military leadership and talent for statehood, the Turkish people withstood difficult tests of history and achieved salvation. The world had to recognize a free and proud country called the Turkish Republic.

The domestic and foreign policy, socio-economic and cultural progress of the modern Turkish state, which is moving towards the light of Ataturk's famous idea "Peace at home, peace in the world", are of great importance as a subject of academic and theoretical research.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is a historic figure of the whole Turkic world.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is the irreplaceable and immortal leader of the whole Turkic world.

One of the greatest services of the great leader, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, was that he made the Turkish soldier a hero through his own heroism.

Ihsan Dogramaci is a great figure of world renown, someone who showed the world the heights that the Turk and the Turkish people can reach and the great intellect they have and work they do.

Samad Vurgun belongs to all our people and nation.

At the time of independence, the works of Samad Vurgun are a great asset for all of us and especially, the future generation and today's younger generation.

Samad Vurgun is someone who made our nation proud in history. Our duty is to preserve his work and hand it down to new generations. By creating this tradition, we open the path to

the generations to come so that they take this path, too.

The works of Samad Vurgun are an ocean.

Samad Vurgun's poetry has enriched and developed the Azerbaijani language. He made the Azerbaijani language beloved and sweet for every Azerbaijani. This is one of Samad Vurgun's greatest services to the Azerbaijani people.

The greatness and, at the same time, beauty of Samad Vurgun's poetry are that his every word and line touched the heart of every Azerbaijani, won their mind and influenced them. Samad Vurgun's poetry still inspires our contemporaries and younger generation, excites them, makes them even more patriotic and teaches them to love their homeland, nation and land.

Samad Vurgun improved and developed our mother tongue – the Azerbaijani language. This is one of Samad Vurgun's greatest services.

Our contemporary language – the Azerbaijani language which belongs to the group of Turkic languages and the Azerbaijani language which originates from Turkic languages – has be-

come so beautiful, clear and sweet thanks to the works and poems of people like Samad Vurgun. We are proud of our language.

Today's Azerbaijan is a magnificent and great building. Those who built this building brick by brick are the generations that lived and created before. Everyone has made their own contribution to this building – some more and some less. However, the overwhelming majority of these people have been trying to establish, create and develop Azerbaijan. The most prominent of them is our great poet Samad Vurgun.

Huseyn Javid is one of the greats who raised the Azerbaijani people, their culture, literature and science to considerable heights. The works created by Huseyn Javid are a national asset of the Azerbaijani people. They are a textbook for today's and future generations.

Huseyn Javid is really dear to us. He is a great personality in our history and has left a great legacy. Huseyn Javid's legacy will live and our people will use it as long as our people and history exist.

Two hundred years after Vaqif's death, we erected a great monument on his grave in Shusha. This was our attitude to Vaqif's

works and, in general, to literature, poetry and culture.

Molla Panah Vaqif is the pride of the Azerbaijani people and our great poet.

Aliaga Vahid is a great treasure trove.

Nizami Ganjavi's works are irreplaceable not only from a literary point of view, but also from a philosophical point of view.

When we talk about Nizami and Fizuli, we should promote them not only as poets and great philosophers, but also as thinkers who made a great contribution to the world and world culture and science. Presenting a rare person like Nasimi, who belongs to the Azerbaijani people, to the world public, science and culture undoubtedly increases respect for our people.

A people that have a figure like Muhammad Fizuli can be proud. A people should always remember their origins, study their history and never part with their national culture and science.

Fizuli is an Azerbaijani and is of Azerbaijani descent. His works are the fruit of Azerbaijani literature and culture.

As a poet of genius, Fizuli is always in everyone's heart in Azerbaijan. The reason is that Fizuli really is Azerbaijani and belongs to Azerbaijan.

Fizuli is a great thinker not only of Azerbaijan and the East, but also of all mankind.

Fizuli was also important as someone who united the Turks in the past.

The works of Muhammad Fizuli will bring up and prepare the generations to come in a spirit of loyalty to the people, nation, land and homeland.

The life and work of Fizuli represent high spirituality, high philosophy and a great source of spiritual and aesthetic food for the people.

As well as being a great national artist of Azerbaijan, Fizuli is a poet of the soul of the whole Muslim world.

Fizuli's creative work, which contains humanism and human values, provides great spiritual food for all mankind.

The spiritual monument that Fizuli created for himself is in all our hearts.

As a great poet, scientist and philosopher of Azerbaijan, Fizuli also belongs to all Turkic-speaking people and to the whole Turkic and Islamic world.

Sattar Bahlulzada is an important person whose name is inscribed in the history of the Azerbaijani people in golden letters.

Sattar Bahlulzada's work has its own special characteristics. These characteristics can be clearly seen in his work. This singularity is linked to his inner philosophical world, world outlook and innate talent. Someone who could create such works, go beyond the classical style of the time to take his own path and create his own school of painting is without doubt exceptional in terms of his personality, art and activity. He was a highly exceptional person, exceptional painter and cultural figure. For this reason, in our diverse culture, including in our school of painting, Sattar Bahlulzada's creative work started a new page, a new path and a new style.

Sattar Bahlulzada's creative work is a source of spirituality for us. Our people show the whole world how high the professional level of our culture and school of painting is. At the same time, it proves that our people are capa-

ble of creating a new school of painting and new original works. This is our pride. This is a great basis for the future of our people and for the development of our culture.

With his original and unique activity and work, Sattar Bahlulzada enriched the culture of the Azerbaijani people, raised it up and won it international fame.

Sattar Bahlulzada created a new school in Azerbaijani painting. His works and artistic and painting style are very original and special.

The culture of the Azerbaijani people has a great history. The art of painting, the art of miniatures which our people created in ancient times, Sultan Muhammad's school of miniatures and the work which Azerbaijani painters and architects created are the cultural and spiritual legacy of our people.

Azerbaijan's great artist Sultan Muhammad created a great school of miniatures 500 years ago, and that school continued and had its own influence.

Jalil Mammadquluzada is a genius, writer, publicist, philosopher and thinker who took a

prominent place in the history of Azerbaijan and an important person who enriched the culture of our people.

Jalil Mammadquluzada's creative work is such an ocean that it is impossible to reach the bottom of that ocean and cover it all.

Jalil Mammadquluzada's creative work is a great asset which demonstrated Azerbaijan's spirituality, culture and literature to the world and showed what our people are capable of.

The Molla Nasraddin magazine and Mirza Jalil's work played an unprecedented role in the formation of the national consciousness of our people.

With his creative work, Jalil Mammadquluzada played a great role in the development of Azerbaijan's public and political life and in increasing its national spirit. This is not only literature and spirituality, this is also a great service in politics and in our public life.

The composition of a high-level, professional piece of music and art definitely requires a great talent. Arif Malikov is a person who has such an innate talent.

Arif Malikov represents great national wealth for Azerbaijan.

It is difficult to imagine the poetry of Mammad Araz separately from the Azerbaijani land, history and people; he fosters high artistry and real civil honour with his words, loves his motherland with great affection and loyally serves our people with his powerful pen.

With his supernatural innate talent, great sacrifice, perfect education, science and patriotism and public and political activity, Uzeyir Hajibayov was one of the greatest of our people, a prominent figure who stands in the vanguard of the world's leading lights, representing Azerbaijan.

All the works of Uzeyir Hajibayov are immortal.

One of the main specific features of Uzeyir Hajibayov's activity is that not only did he compose music, he also discovered and created all the subjects of his works. He pondered their meaning and content, and the subjects he selected, the music and dramatic works he created on the basis of these subjects were not made by accident.

Every day that Uzeyir Hajibayov lived is dear to us. Every work and every sheet of notes by Uzeyir Hajibayov is precious to us. Uzeyir Hajibayov's public and political activities are precious to us from beginning to end, because they all served to revive the Azerbaijani people, develop culture and help our people to know themselves. These services can never be forgotten. These services are irreplaceable.

Uzeyir Hajibayov created a beautiful and great state anthem. Every time I hear the anthem created on the basis of Uzeyir Hajibayov's music in various countries, I feel proud. Not least because the state anthem of independent Azerbaijan is played and the state flag of Azerbaijan is raised in many countries of the world, but also because the music of the anthem is really very attractive and beautiful.

Uzeyir Hajibayov created his masterpiece Koroglu in 1937 – in the years of repression. The overture of the Koroglu opera is tantamount to an anthem.

Uzeyir Hajibayov's dramatic activity was also an important stage in the history of our national culture. The works he created in 1909-13, both as a composer and dramatist, brought the musical comedy genre to Azerbaijani theatre.

Mustafa bay Topchubashov's contribution to the public sphere was as great as his contribution to science, education and health. Among the Azerbaijani public, Mustafa Topchubashov was always famed for his wide-ranging public activity.

The life and activity of Mustafa bay Topchubashov and the legacy he left to us and future generations are our national wealth and pride.

Mustafa bay Topchubashov was a unique person. Protecting public health, saving the public from disease and bringing up a healthy generation were important to society in the past, are now and will be future. It is no accident that Mustafa bay Topchubashov dedicated his work to this sphere. This is linked to his inner spirituality. All his life and work show that he started this profession deliberately. But as he lived and created, his sphere of activity expanded and he became a great scientist and public and political figure. He made a great contribution to the formation of the Azerbaijani people, the development of national thinking, the salvation of our people from serious diseases and the development of our science and education.

Sometimes it seems to me that this is true – Mustafa bay Topchubashov was born an intellectual, because he was a real intellectual. His intellect displayed itself not only in his science, but also in his character, behaviour and attitude to people – his intellect and nobility graphically manifested themselves.

Our people are known for personalities like Yusif Mammadaliyev and are proud of this, because such people and personalities demonstrate the intellect, science, culture and inner spirituality of the Azerbaijani people.

Yusif Mammadaliyev went down in the history of our people as a great scientist, enlightener, organizer and prominent public and political figure. He gave a great impetus to the development of Azerbaijani science with his scientific activity, scientific works and inventions and made prominent contributions to world science, especially world chemistry.

Yusif Mammadaliyev's life, activity and work and his great scientific legacy are a large chapter, part and parcel of the Azerbaijani people.

Shah Ismayil is a prominent statesman, political figure and the person who united Azer-

baijan. Azerbaijan's ancient statehood is related to Shah Ismayil's name.

The activities and poetry of Qabil contain great spirituality, and I say again that they reflect his civil position and have a political nature.

People's Poet Qabil is also one of those artists in whom special and subtle feelings of humour are very strong.

Ziya Bunyadov was one of the most prominent scientists, historians and individuals that our people produced in the 20th century. He was such a rare person, his great, honourable path in life earned him an exalted reputation and, no matter how much we talk about him, we will still be unable to appreciate him fully. A child of our people in the 20th century, he had special, innate talent and, at the same time, took a special place in society through his courage, valour, intellect, self-sacrifice, hard work and efficiency. He encompassed typical personal qualities and sometimes the qualities of unique people.

A special characteristic of Ziya Bunyadov is that alongside his qualities as a serviceman, hero and fighter, he also dedicated himself to scholarship after the Second World War.

Ziya Bunyadov helped to develop our sense of national awakening and national revival in his works, on the one hand, and in his public and political activity, on the other.

Ziya Bunyadov had his own style, path, independent thought and great merit in Azerbaijani scholarship. He stood out among scholars, academicians and professors, in terms of his scholarship, academic work and position and adherence to principle in scholarship. This should be known and understood. All our people should know this. Books and works should be written on his scholarly work and his services to Azerbaijan and to the development of Azerbaijani scholarship.

Ziya Bunyadov was not an ordinary historian or an ordinary history researcher. He was a fighting historian. His fight was linked to the protection of Azerbaijan's national interests.

As a scholar, Ziya Bunyadov was not afraid of anything or anyone and expressed his scholarly point of view.

Ziya Bunyadov had a special character. He had special characteristics that I have never seen repeated in our society and, probably, they never will be repeated.

Ziya Bunyadov was someone who made speeches and spoke out in protest at Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, protested at the unfair claims of the Armenian occupiers and was in the vanguard in this sphere. It is exactly because of the words of respected people like Ziya Bunyadov and the actions of reliable people like Ziya Bunyadov that thousands and tens of thousands of our people and youngsters joined these movements and trends. They expressed their protest at the aggression against Azerbaijan's national freedom, independence and territorial integrity and joined the fight for national freedom and independence.

Ziya Bunyadov was someone who correctly and truthfully researched the developments in the run-up to the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and that period. One of his great services was that he brought out into the open the repression that was carried out in Azerbaijan as a result of the Bolshevik terror in the 1920s and 1930s, revealed the names of victims of repression, rehabilitated them, restored their names in history and, thus, covered that period correctly and truthfully.

Many loved Ziya Bunyadov, and I loved him too. I had special respect for him. Sometimes

he could say a bitter word to someone, but it is necessary to understand that inside that bitter word was kindness, there was citizenship behind it, there was love for the Azerbaijani people behind it and there was a great person behind it.

After Armenia started its aggression against Azerbaijan, Ziya Bunyadov mobilized the people to fight Armenia and defend our land and was always in the vanguard; he fought and spoke, and he was never afraid, never stood aloof and never hid away.

Ziya Bunyadov was someone who represented the Azerbaijani people in the most wonderful way and was a most distinguished individual amongst those prominent personalities.

Ziya Bunyadov was a prominent figure at the forefront of our struggle. Ziya Bunyadov became a victim of this struggle.

Through his activity and great path in life, Ziya Bunyadov put up a great statue to himself. He erected a great monument to himself.

Muslim Magomayev is a rare and matchless singer, he is a gift from God and, at the same time, he is a talent honed by his strenuous and

tireless work. Another distinguishing feature is his comprehensive talent. He has a beautiful voice and a perfect performance technique. He sings well, plays musical instruments well and has composed many wonderful songs. As for his painting and sculptural skills, they are also well-known. See what comprehensive and great talent one person has. We are pleased that Azerbaijan has such a child and that the Azerbaijani arts have such a worthy representative who has glorified himself and our culture, music and people in all the countries of the world he has visited so far.

Muslim Magomayev ... has made a prominent contribution to the development of Azerbaijani music and culture with his art, talent and wonderful voice; he has been trying to spread the glory of the Azerbaijani people around the world and has wonderful achievements in this sphere.

The sculptures created by Omar Eldarov are the cultural and spiritual wealth of the Azerbaijani people and have enriched the culture of the Azerbaijani people.

Spiritually clean and pure people have always reached high peaks. Omar Eldarov is one such person.

If Bakhtiyar Vahabzada had not been a dissident, he would not have been able to influence the consciousness of the Azerbaijani people and youth.

Every work by Bakhtiyar Vahabzada is valuable and precious. His every work develops our culture, art and literature.

Bulbul's art has played an important role in the development of Azerbaijan's musical culture. He is the founder of Azerbaijan's professional vocal arts. His broad, rich creativity harmoniously unites the best traditions of Azerbaijani mugham and the achievements of the world's vocal school.

Bulbul's great, innate talent and his qualities as a teacher, music expert, scholar and public figure earned him the eternal love of the Azerbaijani people.

We will all depart this world. However, songs and music will always live on. Tofiq Quliyev's songs and music will always live on.

People like Suleyman Rustam are rare. Such people have been able to reach great heights by combining the innate talent that God gave them with self-sacrifice and loyalty to their people and nation.

Suleyman Rustam's poems and artistic work are quite diverse and have had a great influence on the education, spirituality and formation of many generations.

The guiding line in Suleyman Rustam's works is patriotism and loyalty to our homeland, nation and people.

Suleyman Rustam's poems, works and all his creativity first of all created and developed love for the motherland, loyalty to the motherland and patriotism in our people and created feelings of pride in our people and nation. One of the factors that turned people into human beings and citizens and elevated them to high spirituality is our culture, literature and poetry. Suleyman Rustam's poems and works enriched our literature and culture, supported our people, moved them forward and elevated them on the great, complicated and difficult path which they travelled in the 20th century.

Mirvarid khanim Dilbazi is the most graphic and beautiful example of the Azerbaijani woman and mother.

Our great patriotic poet and philosopher Mohammadhuseyn Shahriyar was an artist linked

to classical heritage and modern literary life. He was a great artist, maintained the artistic link between progressive traditions and classical, romantic poetry, played an exceptional role in the development of modern poetry as an innovative artist of his time and secured the establishment of a new literary school.

I am happy that I met respected Suleyman Demirel for the first time 25 years ago. We established friendly and brotherly relations. During the recent past, these relations have not been broken off or disrupted. Finally, after Azerbaijan gained its independence, great opportunities opened up for these friendly and brotherly relations to expand even more.

Suleyman Demirel is a great personality of the Turkic world and someone who has won recognition and respect among all the politicians of the world.

Suleyman Demirel has done great services for the Turkish Republic and the Turkish people and has gained great influence. At the same time, he has gained the respect of Azerbaijani citizens. He has done great services for the promotion of the independence of the Azerbaijan Republic worldwide. The Azerbaijani people will never forget this, and this has al-

ready been engraved in the history of Azerbaijan and the independent Azerbaijani state.

Rostropovich is not only a great musician, composer and conductor. He is also a person who is famed for his civil actions and his fight for freedom, justice, truth and democracy.

The world has now changed and has become what freedom-loving people and Mstislav Rostropovich wanted it to be.

Sheikh Shamil who fought for freedom for more than 25 years proved once again that it is impossible to break and destroy people's ideals of independence and their will and resolve. I wish every Caucasian to have Sheikh Shamil's wisdom, resolve and self-sacrifice on the path of protecting freedom, peace and security.

Sheikh Shamil has always lived in the hearts of the Caucasian peoples. His image will always live in the hearts of the people as a symbol of heroism, independence and the fight for national liberation.

One of the most valuable aspects of Sheikh Shamil's fight is that his fight united the peoples of the Caucasus.

Niyazi has performed irreplaceable services for the Azerbaijani people. He put great effort into creating and developing Azerbaijani professional music and our people will never forget these services.

Nariman Narimanov is a prominent figure and a great politician who grew up in his time and environment. But you should also know that Nariman Narimanov was someone who protected all the figures of an independent, democratic state.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

ON VARIOUS POSTS AND PROFESSIONS

**ON VARIOUS POSTS
AND PROFESSIONS**

Someone who takes up a profession should first of all love this profession, dedicate themselves to this profession and work in the realization that this profession suits their inner spirituality.

People do not choose their profession for no particular reason. In most cases, they take account of their inner skills, wishes and desires when choosing a profession.

There are very talented people in all spheres in Azerbaijan.

Every sphere should have its own specialists. A specialist in any sphere should be someone with professional experience.

The current high level of the education, science and culture of the Azerbaijani people and their level of consciousness – all these are thanks to teachers and schools and are a result of their services.

The title of teacher is a high title. In Azerbaijan, there has always been great respect for the teacher. The teacher is a well-known, distinguished and respected person in society.

There has always been respect for the teacher, and there should be respect today and in the future.

Each one of us is indebted first of all to our school and teachers for our achievements, regardless of our scientific degree, knowledge, level of education and position.

The title of teacher is an honourable title. The title of teacher is a high title.

Any grateful person who is attached to their homeland and people always keeps their

teacher in their heart and always remembers them with respect.

A teacher should try to discharge their sacred duty with merit all the days of their life.

In every society, an educated person should respect the teachers and always value the teachers' role in the life of society.

In our society and among Azerbaijani intellectuals, teachers take a special place, deserve respect and should be taken special care of.

A teacher's job is honourable because they prepare the most valuable, knowledgeable, intelligent, well-bred and patriotic citizens for society.

The title of teacher is the highest title in the world.

Personally, I do not know a title higher than that of teacher, because it is schools and teachers working there that give each of us education and knowledge and raise us to this level.

...Bringing up our people, nation and youth with a feeling of patriotism is the main direc-

tion of education and the duty of our schools and teachers. You should give children comprehensive education. Children should learn all subjects at secondary schools. Along with all this, it is the sacred duty of our teachers to teach the rich history, culture, spirituality and spiritual values of our people and to bring up children in the spirit of those values. I want teachers never to forget it.

The people I have loved most of all in my life are my teachers.

The role Azerbaijani teachers are playing in our society's life is of exceptional importance.

Teaching is a profession that our people respect and hold dearest of all.

Azerbaijani teachers must have one goal and one ideal: to bring up a generation with a healthy intellect and national spirit who are capable of turning our Azerbaijan into a prosperous, developing, happy and powerful state, who are loyal to the ideas of independence, are always ready to sacrifice themselves for the freedom of their homeland, learn new ways of thinking and meet modern standards.

People who dedicate their life to teaching are really self-sacrificing people who are loyal to their people and nation and display heroism.

A real teacher has always served spirituality, not money and wealth.

Anyone who bears the title of a real teacher has always been resilient and patient at the most difficult times of history and has always prioritized their spirituality.

Writers have always promoted our language, culture and national values at all stages.

Writers have always been greatly respected in Azerbaijan. This is our historical tradition and a wonderful feature that we have inherited from our ancestors.

If you look at any century and any page of our history, you will see the marks and works of poets, writers and cultural figures there.

If a poet describes Azerbaijan and shows in their poems what a beautiful, powerful country Azerbaijan is, that it is a country to be proud of, this means that they inculcate in every Azerbaijani a feeling of love for Azerbaijan, their homeland and country.

It is important for poets to be in the army all the time, to meet and talk to soldiers and explain to them what the homeland, land and independence are.

Guarding the border is a great and romantic profession.

If any young person or anyone dedicates themselves to the border guard's profession, they should do so to the very end. In this case, they take a worthy place in society. In this case, every border guard becomes a highly respected person in society.

A border guard should know that theirs is a beautiful profession.

The titles of doctor and nurse are honourable titles. It is necessary to uphold these titles and their spiritual content.

Independent Azerbaijan has everything: it has its own independent state, strong economic potential, great science, brilliant culture, a wonderful health system, great scientists and doctors and young people who want to be wonderful doctors.

Health care is one of the most sacred spheres in our society. People who work in health care and dedicate their lives to medicine are very honourable people.

Medicine and health are very important for every person. People who dedicate themselves

to medicine, health and protecting people's health really deserve great respect.

Doctors and medical scientists in Azerbaijan have always formed a prominent group of our intellectuals.

A doctor needs every quality. But the main quality is high spirituality.

Along with its economic, scientific, cultural and intellectual potential, Azerbaijan also has great potential in the Interior Ministry system.

In order to ensure Azerbaijan's independence, to implement the principles of an independent state in Azerbaijan and to ensure that citizens of the republic benefit from all the possibilities of an independent state, much depends on the work of the Interior Ministry and the police.

There are several state attributes to ensure independence. One of them is the army, another is an independent foreign policy, and another is the Interior Ministry and the police.

The police should be a force respected by the people.

In state affairs, each government agency has its own place, but the Interior Ministry and the police have a special place and much depends on them.

A police officer should be loved by the people, the masses and the public.

The Interior Ministry and the police cannot interfere in politics. They are a government agency, they should defend the state and implement its instructions and policy.

Alongside their other duties, an important duty of the Interior Ministry, the Prosecutor's Office and the courts is to prevent crime and bribery which are a heavy burden for our society.

Being a policeman is a special profession. People do not have this profession from birth, i.e., no-one is born a policeman. To this end, it is necessary to get special education and gain experience step by step. It is necessary to end up in various situations at work, find ways out of these situations and gain experience.

If the activities of the police forces depend on the knowledge, skills and professional level of police officers and the personnel of the Inte-

rior Ministry on the one hand, on the other hand there should be strong and iron discipline in these forces.

Every employee of the police should be an example of high spirituality.

On the one hand, working in the Interior Ministry and being its employee and officer is an honour and, on the other, it is very responsible and difficult.

The personnel of the Interior Ministry – officers, police employees – also fought courageously to defend our land and demonstrated great heroism. Many of them became martyrs and gave up their lives for the happiness of our people and homeland.

The overwhelming majority of Interior Ministry employees are loyal to their people, land, homeland and the independent Azerbaijani state and are professional, experienced staff members.

A policeman's job is tough and difficult. Anyone who dedicates their life to the police should have a number of special characteristics. A police officer should be totally loyal to the state, its constitution and laws. A police

officer should be knowledgeable, well-educated, experienced, strong-willed, courageous and fearless. A police officer should operate only within the framework of the law, should prioritize the supremacy of the law and should always respect the law. A police officer should be endlessly loyal to their homeland and even give up their life in the course of duty.

Every employee who works in law enforcement should understand the importance of their work to the state and people and should work only for the interests of the country.

The law-enforcement agencies are one of the main pillars of the independent Azerbaijani state.

Bribery, abuse of power, illegal pressure on people, use of force or other instances should be completely excluded from the working practice, that's to say, from the activities, of the police.

Azerbaijani oilmen have won recognition worldwide with their labour, skills and loyalty to their profession.

The oil industry is the pride of the Azerbaijani people. Oilmen have always been the most reliable representatives of our people.

The word "oilman" is an honourable word in Azerbaijan, people have always bowed down to oilmen in Azerbaijan and oilmen are respected and well-known people.

Azerbaijani oilmen and scientists have made a great contribution to world experience in oil extraction from the depths of the sea.

Oil is the biggest national asset of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Azerbaijani people.

I have always highly valued and still value the work of Azerbaijani oilmen. Oilmen have made an irreplaceable contribution to Azerbaijan's history and have been raising Azerbaijan's glory and fame since the beginning of the century. The development of the whole economy of the republic is connected to the oil industry, that's to say, to the work of Azerbaijani oilmen.

If a tax inspector works seriously and if there is a healthy organization, they can do a lot of work.

An official should be able to protect the interests of their people and be fair and fearless in protecting the interests of their people.

Whoever rules the republic should know everyone's language and talk to everyone in their own language. They should try to ensure good and friendly relations.

The establishment of a real customs service, customs work and a customs organization in Azerbaijan is connected to the state independence of the Azerbaijan Republic.

In order to ensure, protect and develop Azerbaijan's state independence from both a political and economic point of view, the customs service is a very important and necessary organization.

A customs service is one of the attributes of every state's independence. The customs service plays a great role in the state's economy and in statehood in general.

There are two main conditions for organizing customs work. First, a customs officer should be knowledgeable, study their profession very well, be spiritually clean, loyal to their job, their homeland and country, and loyal to the strengthening of the economy of independent Azerbaijan. Second, alongside experience and knowledge, they should also have a material and technical base, modern hardware and accessories.

The profession of diplomat has been a most respected and honourable profession since time immemorial. What do we think of when we say "diplomat"? We think of people who are distinguished in society because of their high education, high culture, fine appearance, good clothes and good upbringing and behaviour.

The security or intelligence body of a state gains a victory and fulfils its duties with credit when there is a professional atmosphere, professional staff and working style there. There is no limit to the development of one's professional level.

Anyone who does not know literature, spirituality, culture, music and history cannot be a professional security agent.

A security agent should be a highly cultured, top quality agent – an agent who can talk to a poet, a composer, a writer, a scientist and a rank-and-file citizen. That's to say, this should be their level. If this is not the case, they will not be able to differentiate between black and white, good and evil, a crime and a mistake and a mistake and a crime.

The national security service is a very significant, strong and important organization for every state.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON THE CITIES
AND REGIONS OF
AZERBAIJAN**

**ON THE CITIES
AND REGIONS OF
AZERBAIJAN**

As soon as oil extraction and development began in Azerbaijan, Baku attracted the attention of numerous oil companies from the developed countries of the world.

Alongside its other worthy qualities, Baku has always been a most independent city in the highest meaning of the word.

Baku is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Those who built and created Baku for centuries built a beautiful city for today and for future generations.

We are proud of Baku – the capital of our country.

The great monuments of architecture in Baku are our national pride.

Nakhchivan is Azerbaijan's ancient land and has been an integral part of Azerbaijan since ancient times.

Nakhchivan is a region with a concentration of monuments that reflect the history of the Azerbaijani people.

The holy land of Nakhchivan is dear to me.

Shusha is the pearl of Azerbaijan and the treasure of Karabakh. It is a city of our ancient monuments and ancient statehood.

Shusha is a city that is not only dear to residents of Shusha, to all Azerbaijanis and every citizen who loves their homeland and nation, it is also a dear land, a dear fortress and a dear monument.

Shusha fortress has always been a proud fortress. Its palaces, every stone, fortified fence and wall have been proud as well. Our ancestors who created and protected Shusha for centuries were proud, invincible, heroic people. Unfortunately, in the course of time, the fortress of Shusha fell into the hands of ignorant people.

Shusha is the dearest part of Azerbaijan which has the greatest history. It is a great monument created by the Azerbaijani people and our ancestors, it is not just a city, it is a great historical monument. In and around this city, the great culture, cultural heritage and examples of heroism which have a history of several centuries were created.

Shusha is known, loved and respected in many parts of the world.

We can say that Shusha is a great historical monument of Azerbaijan and, at the same time, it is Azerbaijan's pearl, if we put it in the language of poetry.

Shusha is a real city and at the same time, a museum which reflects a great part of the history, culture and science of Azerbaijan.

Shusha District is Azerbaijan's historical and cultural centre and it has rare monuments of the architecture and arts of the Azerbaijani people. Shusha is a dear idea not only for Shusha residents, but also for every Azerbaijani, and I can say that it is Azerbaijan's treasure and a source of pride for every Azerbaijani. For this reason, Shusha is not just a place of residence. Shusha is our national symbol – a symbol of our culture and history.

Zangilan is of great strategic importance for the Azerbaijani state and for the Azerbaijani Republic.

Zangilan's strategic importance to Azerbaijan is not simply that Zangilan is situated on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but that it is also a support for Azerbaijanis living in Kafan and Mehri districts, which border Zangilan, that's to say, Azerbaijan. It is a region that linked Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis living there.

Zangilan is a valuable region and part of Azerbaijan because of its nature, because of what people living on the land built and created and because of the legacy that they have handed down to the present generation.

Kalbajar District is a beautiful part of Azerbaijan. It has rich history and historical monuments. Kalbajar is a territory that has held the history of Azerbaijan in its heart since ancient times.

Kalbajar has always been greatly respected in our republic for its riches, the beauty of its climate and the self-sacrifice of people living there.

People living in Kalbajar have become courageous, heroic and valiant under the influence of this beautiful scenery, these proud rocks and mountains. At the same time, they are intelligent and have a great interest in science, knowledge and culture. For this reason, there has always been high culture and high spirituality in Kalbajar – a remote and mountainous district of Azerbaijan.

Kalbajar, which has a large territory, is one of the most beautiful and valuable parts of Azerbaijan. As well as being a remote district of our republic, Kalbajar is also a district of strategic importance to our country. God has given all sorts of blessings, beautiful scenery and great riches to Kalbajar. Kalbajar is a part of our homeland that has proud mountains, beautiful forests, pastures, plains, hamlets and springs and reflects the beauty and richness of our homeland. The underground and surface riches of Kalbajar are part of Azerbaijan's national wealth.

The city of Sumqayit represents the whole of Azerbaijan. You cannot find a part of Azerbaijan which is not represented by our sisters and brothers – our citizens – who live in this city. This is a specific feature and importance of Sumqayit. For this reason, Sumqayit is a

city of the Azerbaijani people's knowledge and solidarity, the support of our country and a beautiful place.

Sumqayit is a beautiful city of Azerbaijan which has great economic and industrial potential, and it is also a city of beautiful people.

Lahij is a monument of Azerbaijan.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON POLITICAL PARTIES
AND THE OPPOSITION**

**ON POLITICAL PARTIES
AND THE OPPOSITION**

Our path is the path of political pluralism, and we should not stray from this path.

Political parties should reflect the interests of wide strata and ensure the strategy and substance of their tactics, at least in the short-term.

We should create the right conditions for a multi-party system and a multi-party society in Azerbaijan.

No cultured and civilized political party and society should justify or patronize a criminal.

Political parties are independent, each of them carries out their activities openly and the national security agencies should not interfere in their activities.

Those who consider themselves to be in opposition and are engaged in crime are not opposition. The opposition should be political opposition.

If the goal of all opposition forces is the independence of Azerbaijan, we can ensure this despite the great pressure that we encounter. I have repeatedly said that independence is eternal for us. If the forces that are in opposition really regard themselves as democratic and the bearers of democracy, then we are enforcing democracy not in words, but in deeds.

There is no doubt that every democratic society should have an opposition. However, it is necessary to explain what the principles of opposition to the government and the authorities should be. If there is really a difference in these principles, let them be in opposition because they do not agree with these principles. However, if all this is for power and posts at any price, this cannot be regarded as healthy opposition.

Political activity can never go together with weapons, force and violence. Political activity should be carried out on the basis of international norms, the constitution and Azerbaijani law.

There should be opposition wherever there is democracy. The opposition should express its opinion against the government. However, this should be right, correct and fair, not slanderous! This should not be slander, lies, falsehood or falsification!

The whole people – both the opposition and the government – should unite for national values and national interests.

The Azerbaijani president and the Azerbaijani government are ready for any talks and any dialogue. I think that the forces of the opposition camp should prioritize Azerbaijan's national interests. They should prioritize Azerbaijan's independence and development, and we can cooperate in the future on the basis of these principles.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON THE
MASS MEDIA**

**ON THE
MASS MEDIA**

The work of journalists is extraordinary, extremely great and hard; it requires great effort and even courage, bravery and self-sacrifice and love of the profession.

Democracy, freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of information are well-developed in Azerbaijan.

Political pluralism and freedom of speech are totally ensured in Azerbaijan.

We have created the right conditions for freedom of the press, freedom of the individual and political pluralism.

The Azerbaijan newspaper, which was set up as an organ of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918, has been in the vanguard of the national liberation movement since the very beginning, has turned into a mouthpiece for the long-standing wishes and desires of our people and has made an important contribution to the formation of their spiritual values and public and political ideas.

The stages of the development of our national press are an integral part of the fight of the Azerbaijani people for freedom and independence. Since the time of Akinchi, we have been learning the lessons of the struggle for freedom, democracy and independence from the pages of our national press.

The Azerbaijani press has travelled a very rich and honourable path of development, has always reflected on its pages every sphere of our people's life and has given a strong impetus to the formation and development of national consciousness, spirituality and culture.

The Azerbaijan newspaper, which continues the progressive press traditions of our country, plays an exceptional role in ensuring today's democracy, political pluralism and openness.

Azerbaijani national television is a national asset of our people.

Television has played a great role in the spiritual upbringing and development of people.

Radio and television are media that it is almost impossible to live without.

Radio and television influence people and help them improve and develop spiritually.

In our time, television and radio play an unprecedented and exceptional role in comparison with other mass media.

Information and, especially, television information plays a very important role in the modern public and political life of any country and of the whole world.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON AZERBAIJANIS
WORLDWIDE**

**ON AZERBAIJANIS
WORLDWIDE**

There is a great idea for all of us: the Azerbaijan Republic and the Azerbaijani people. Everyone should unite closely around this idea.

Let Azerbaijanis live anywhere. When Azerbaijanis are everywhere, the Azerbaijan Republic has even more support.

If people who live in a foreign land do not forget their homeland, land, people, nation, religion, language and traditions, it does not really matter where they live.

It is not a bad thing that we, Azerbaijanis, are scattered in many countries. I do not think

that the whole nation should gather and live in one country and in one place.

Azerbaijan is home to all Azerbaijanis: luckily, the name of our nation is Azerbaijani and the name of our country is Azerbaijan.

Wherever Azerbaijanis live, they should take care of their motherland, help it as they can, should not forget about it and should live with the concerns of their motherland.

Azerbaijan is the historical homeland of Azerbaijanis worldwide and the land of their forefathers.

I have only one piece of advice for Azerbaijanis living outside Azerbaijan – never forget Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijanis living throughout the world should organize themselves.

Wherever you are and wherever you live, you should think only about Azerbaijan, the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the present and future of the Azerbaijani people.

Our compatriots who live in every country, city, corner and village of the world are citi-

zens, compatriots and countrymen who are dear to our independent state and to me as president of Azerbaijan.

Regardless of where they live, every one of our countrymen should regard themselves as Azerbaijani and should not forget their homeland, land, nation and language.

Unity is the key to our present and future, and it is important for our countrymen to be united around the world.

Azerbaijanis should come together, become closer and foster their relations from day to day.

Azerbaijanis live in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, America and Britain. Wherever they feel good and wherever they feel comfortable, let them live there. But they should not forget their Azerbaijani origin, language, religion, traditions, ancestors, forefathers and roots.

Whatever the country and place they live in, every Azerbaijani should feel that they have a homeland that is Azerbaijan.

The land of every nation and every person is their motherland. The motherland of Azerbaijanis is Azerbaijan.

The duty of our countrymen and compatriots who live outside Azerbaijan is to help Azerbaijan.

The independent Azerbaijan Republic is the homeland of all Azerbaijanis living throughout the world.

Every Azerbaijani should be proud to have a homeland like Azerbaijan which has a great history and rich, ancient culture. Every Azerbaijani should know that an independent state like the Azerbaijan Republic is behind them.

The hearts of our countrymen who live outside their homeland should always beat with the pulse of Azerbaijan. Wherever they live and whatever the hardship of their situation, everyone should think about their motherland.

Azerbaijanis already know and should know better that we now have an independent state – the Azerbaijan Republic – and that Azerbaijanis have a motherland. This is sacred Azerbaijani land.

Wherever they live our patriotic countrymen, who remain loyal to their traditions and are attached to their national and spiritual roots, perform with merit their sacred duty to their historical homeland – Azerbaijan.

An Azerbaijani can live anywhere, but they should not forget their Azerbaijani roots, language, religion and national traditions. Their hearts should always beat with their native, independent Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijanis worldwide should be thinking about our independent republic, wherever they live.

In Azerbaijan, which is now an independent state, we regard Azerbaijanis living throughout the world as our own people and regard it as our duty to take care of them.

One of the main results of Azerbaijan's independence is that we can express our attitude directly to Azerbaijanis living in the whole world, can value them as our countrymen and maintain contacts with them everywhere.

One of the greatest boons and one of the most positive results that independence has given us is that we now have a chance to take care of Azerbaijanis living throughout the world as our countrymen, to establish contacts with them, think about protecting their rights and meet them frequently.

As Azerbaijan's head of state and president, I regard Azerbaijanis living anywhere in the world as my own people. I think that I should do my best to take care of and help Azerbaijanis living anywhere in the world.

Let Azerbaijanis live wherever they want, but they should not forget their feelings of Azerbaijanism and their land. We are now establishing an independent state in Azerbaijan. We are establishing and creating a state, and you can rest assured that Azerbaijan's independence is eternal and irreversible.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON INTERSTATE
RELATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

**ON INTERSTATE
RELATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

As a member of the United Nations, the ideal and goal of the Azerbaijan Republic is to protect and perpetuate its independence.

We should try to ensure that, after gaining its independence for the first time in many years and centuries, Azerbaijan demonstrates its historical achievements and national traditions to the whole world.

Azerbaijan is a peace-loving country. Intentions to create peace form the basis of our republic's foreign policy.

Azerbaijan is a peace-loving country, our people are a peace-loving people, and we do not want a war or conflict.

We thought and still think that international norms and UN principles on the inviolability of the borders of every state and on the impossibility of redrawing borders by force are inevitable, guiding principles for everyone.

Norms of international law, international and interstate relations, the sovereignty, inviolability and territorial integrity of every country – all these are related to the borders of countries.

Our peace-loving policy is aimed at today and the future.

The inviolability of the borders of every state is one of the main principles of the country and the norms of international law.

It is necessary to respect and protect the territorial integrity of every state.

If any independent state pursues an independent policy and wants to pursue an independent foreign policy, it should certainly establish relations with all the countries in the world. At the same time, it should also join various blocs and groups. Membership of various blocs and groups does not harm the independence of a state at all.

Regardless of the direction of the internal structure and internal policy of any state, we should establish normal relations.

Azerbaijan has found its place in the international community, and not only is it recognized everywhere, it also has its say everywhere and pursues its own policy. Our foreign policy is welcomed on the global scale, and we will continue this policy.

We are a peace-loving country, and the Azerbaijani people are a peace-loving people. We want to live in an atmosphere of friendship, neighbourliness and mutual understanding with all peoples, especially our neighbours and the countries and peoples with which we have maintained traditional relations historically. At the same time, everyone should know that we will not give an inch of our land to anyone. If the world really recognizes the norms of international law and if human rights are really being protected in the world, then no-one should agree with the situation in which Azerbaijan has found itself today.

One of the factors that ensure the state independence of Azerbaijan is that our republic has established and is establishing mutually beneficial relations with all the countries of the world and is trying to develop these relations.

We take the position of peace, not because aggression and attacks scare us. No. But because we are not in favour of bloodshed.

Azerbaijan's foreign policy is to establish mutually beneficial relations based on equal rights with all states.

The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is untouchable. This is an unshakable principle of international law. One state cannot be allowed to encroach upon the territorial integrity of another. The inviolability of borders is also an unshakable principle, and any attempt to change the borders by force is unacceptable.

Azerbaijan's foreign policy is free and independent.

Azerbaijan has taken the path of establishing bilateral and mutually beneficial relations with all states and will continue along this path.

Knowledge and experience are needed to conduct great policy. You have to understand, analyse and draw conclusions from world politics.

Our wish is to establish peace and security in the world and in every corner of the world.

Our policy is that we should try to establish mutually beneficial cooperation and mutually beneficial relations with all the countries of the world and to strengthen peace and stability in the whole world.

Azerbaijan's foreign policy is a peace-loving policy and a policy aimed at establishing mutually beneficial relations with all the countries of the world, protecting peace and security, living in friendship, security and peace with our neighbours, establishing friendly relations with all other countries and cooperating actively in all spheres.

We want justice in international and interstate relations. We are against any great power using its influence in order to put pressure on any small state.

Any state that is able to control its domestic situation and maintain stability can establish mutually beneficial relations with other states and benefit from this.

As an independent state, the Azerbaijan Republic is trying to establish relations with all countries on a mutually beneficial basis.

The territorial integrity of every country and the inviolability of its borders are unshakable

principles of international law, confirmed by documents of the United Nations.

No-one in the world can force their principles and will on anyone, and no state should violate the rights and interests of other countries.

With the Trans-Caucasus corridor, we laid the foundations of a great future in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eastern and Western Europe.

Relations between states should not be established on the basis of subjective feelings and cannot depend on one leader's personal attitude towards another.

We are in favour of ensuring the territorial integrity of every state in the whole world and in our region. This is a requirement of the norms of international law. We demand that all states and countries observe these norms of international law.

We want to live in peace, security and friendship with neighbouring countries.

Our main goal is to create and develop in Azerbaijan the human values adopted and promoted by the Council of Europe.

As an independent state, Azerbaijan conducts a peace-loving policy and will always be loyal to this policy. We want peace and security in our country. We want to establish peace and security in our region. We want to establish peace and security in the Caucasus. We want to develop relations of friendship and cooperation in peace and security with all our neighbouring states.

Azerbaijan is linked to Turkey and Iran by ancient history.

Turkey is our friend and brother. Relations of friendship and brotherhood between Azerbaijan and Turkey take a special place today and in the future.

Turkey is Azerbaijan's closest friendly, fraternal state. This is also the way in which Turkey regards Azerbaijan and its people.

After Azerbaijan gained its independence, it established equal and mutually beneficial relations with the Turkish Republic, and these are based on principles of friendship and brotherhood and our historical roots. At a time of independence, these relations are of great help to the Azerbaijani people and are very important to us.

All the achievements of the Turkish Republic – the development of the economy, the improvement of people's wellbeing, the development of democracy and freedom of speech and the protection of human rights – are the highest peak and the greatest achievement in the centuries-old history of the great Turkish people.

Friendly and brotherly relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan have a great history. We have been together throughout history and for centuries, have been living together, have been walking hand in hand and have been loyal to the national traditions and spirituality created by our ancestors. Our historical roots unite us, and the fight that we have been waging for our national dignity, national freedom and national independence for centuries has united us even more.

The friendly relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan have a great history. These relations have taken shape, developed and reached today's happy state over the centuries. The fact that our people have the same roots, the same religion and the same language, the fact that our traditions are similar or the same and the similarity of our national feelings – all this has united and brought our peoples together

and has created brotherly relations from one century to another. For this reason, we often use one wonderful phrase – "one nation, two states".

Turkish-Azerbaijani friendship and brotherhood are unshakable and eternal.

Turks are our first supporters, that's to say, supporters of Azerbaijanis, in the world.

Azerbaijani-Turkish friendship and brotherhood are eternal and unshakable. We will try to strengthen and increase this friendship and brotherhood from day to day.

The generations who lived before us also always longed for Turkey and longed to join, see and take Turkey by the hand and shake Turkey's hand. We achieved this at last in the early 1990s. This is a source of great happiness in the life of every Azerbaijani citizen, including me.

Turkey is a valuable country and dear land to every Azerbaijani and to all of us. The Turkish people are our brother and friend.

As soon as we gained independence, the borders opened and mutual relations became eas-

ier, our friendship and brotherhood erupted like a big fountain and showed the whole world that Turkey and Azerbaijan have been together in the past, are still together and will be together in the future.

Present-day Turkey gives us a great feeling of pride. The Turkish Republic, which was founded by the great leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk ... is rapidly making progress, has become one of the developed states of the world and has taken a worthy place.

The democratic and law-governed state, the democratic state, human freedom, freedom of conscience, religion and speech which have been established in Turkey are all at the level of the world's most modern and developed societies and are an example to us.

The road which Turkey travelled during the republican period is an historic road.

We want joy and happiness in Turkey, because this means that Azerbaijan will also be joyful and happy.

An Azerbaijani who lives in Turkey is Turkish and Azerbaijani. A Turk who lives in Azerbaijan is Turkish and Azerbaijani.

It is necessary to learn from the Turkish people, army and soldiers how to love the homeland, to be loyal to the homeland and love the nation. I say this because one of the greatest achievements of the Turkish Republic is that it has a very strong and powerful army, not only because it has strong weapons and a large army, but also because the Turkish soldier is deeply spiritual and patriotic and is loyal to his homeland, nation, republic and the path founded by Atatürk. This is the power and strength of the Turkish people.

I bow down to the spirit of the Turkish soldier who defends the power, land, state and independence of the Turkish Republic and becomes a martyr. Turkey's existence as a republic and a democratic and secular state is an example to all other Turkic-speaking states.

Turkish-Azerbaijani relations are getting stronger and developing day by day, and they will continue to develop even more rapidly in the future. Since we have historical roots, national unity, the same language and religion, the same traditions and the same spiritual values, our friendship will get stronger and develop day by day.

With every brick laid by our people who put up and created the common Turkish-Azerbaijani monument, we will create a wonderful monument for future generations. The name of that monument is eternal and unshakable Turkish-Azerbaijani friendship.

The friendship and brotherhood of the Turkish and Azerbaijani people is so deep, strong and steady. The history of this friendship and brotherhood is great. If we look at history, our history, past, language, religion, ideas, traditions, music and culture are the same.

Turkish-Azerbaijani friendship and brotherhood are eternal and are our blood, life, faith and language.

Azerbaijan gained a lot at the time it maintained close relations with Russia.

We accessed world culture and world science through Russia, the Russian language and Russian culture.

Our cooperation with a great power like Russia is very important from an economic point of view and in the sphere of trade, culture, science and technology.

Azerbaijan and Russia are linked by bonds of friendship which have a very rich history. This history is counted not in years, but in decades and centuries. At that time, our peoples established close brotherly relations and strong friendly ties in all spheres of our peoples' life. We highly value everything that has been brought to Azerbaijan from Russia in the sphere of culture, science, education, industry, agriculture, construction and elsewhere because our people joined the world and Western civilization with the help of Russia and the Russian people and rose to a great level in education and science.

The Russian Federation is Azerbaijan's northern neighbour and close friend. Relations that have been linked by strong bonds for many years form the basis of friendship between the Russian Federation and the Azerbaijan Republic.

The feelings of friendship and respect which have been created between the Russian and Azerbaijani peoples for many years, decades and centuries cannot be destroyed. These feelings in Azerbaijanis are a good, friendly and brotherly attitude towards Russia and the Russian people.

The friendly relations between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan have good prospects, and these relations are eternal and unshakable.

The friendly relations between Russia and Azerbaijan have a great history.

Relations between Azerbaijan and Iran have deep roots. Our peoples have been together for centuries. We have the same historical and spiritual values.

The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its borders are the main principle, and should definitely form the basis, of all our work. Work will continue on ways to solve these issues. However, the main content of our negotiations is that we should not allow the cease-fire to be broken and should definitely achieve a great peace. The United States of America can play a great and decisive role here.

Just as the United States of America has accumulated great experience in democracy, human freedom, political pluralism, free entrepreneurship and the market economy throughout its history, it is also creating great experience and performing great services in

the sphere of cooperation between states, countries and nations on the basis of democratic principles. All this generates a great feeling of respect and sympathy in peoples of the world, including the Azerbaijani people and Azerbaijani citizens, for the United States of America, its state structure, way of life and policy.

The young and independent Azerbaijan Republic has established equal relations with the world's biggest, powerful state – the United States of America. These relations are developing and yielding positive results for both countries.

I regard my first official visit to the United States of America as an historic event in American-Azerbaijani relations.

America's great history and present life and achievements are a wonderful example to all peoples, especially Azerbaijan.

Italy is one of the greatest countries in the world. It is one of the seven most developed states and has a rich history and national traditions. Italy has always attracted the attention of all people on the planet, including in Azerbaijan.

They say that throughout its history, mankind created seven wonders on Earth, and one of them is Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. However, I want to add something to this. In my opinion, there are plenty of wonders here – the whole of Rome is one of the wonders of humankind. It is difficult to single out a monument, building or statue here. They are all beautiful and great, and what is more important, they are an example of high artistry, art and culture. This is convincing evidence of the talent of the Italian people and of all the generations of people who lived and created in such a beautiful land.

One of the most wonderful features of Georgian-Azerbaijani friendship is that Azerbaijanis living in Georgia are living in their own homeland and are equal citizens of Georgia.

The Red Bridge is a graphic symbol of Georgian-Azerbaijani friendship.

Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan – such close friendly and brotherly relations between the three biggest countries of strategic importance in the Caucasus are a very important factor for ensuring peace and security in the whole of the Caucasus and neighbouring regions.

A free and independent Georgia, a free and independent Azerbaijan and the policy that our states are pursuing serve to establish peace and security in the Caucasus and in the whole region.

The Azerbaijanis and the Georgians, the most ancient peoples of the Caucasus, have always had a sincerely friendly and neighbourly attitude towards one another.

...Kyrgyzstan is a fascinating country, and its people are a fraternal and friendly people towards Azerbaijan. This shows that it is necessary to be a friend of this country and strengthen and expand relations with it.

The roots of friendship between the peoples of Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan go back centuries. We have the same historical roots, belong to the same language group and religion, our national and spiritual traditions have much in common. Our peoples have been friends for centuries, have supported one another and have helped one another.

Manas is a great son of the Kyrgyz people, and at the same time, he belongs to all of us. Manas belongs to all Turkic-speaking peoples to the same degree, and to the same degree he belongs to the Azerbaijani people.

The Romanian people are known worldwide for their beautiful works, history of heroism and fight for independence. Azerbaijan knows Romania and the Romanian people very well and is well-versed in its history, ancient culture, literature and arts. Romania is especially well-known for its oil. As an ancient oil-rich country, Azerbaijan has always been linked to the world's oil-producing countries. This fact links us to Romania as well. Many Azerbaijani oilmen, scientists, engineers, technicians and specialists participated in the development of Romanian oil fields in the Pitesti region in the 1950s and 1960s and rendered their friendly assistance to the Romanian people in developing their country.

The Azerbaijani and German peoples have great historical relations. In the past, many Germans lived in Azerbaijan. They played a role in the life of our people. The traces of the German presence in Azerbaijan in the past can still be felt. We have maintained these traces and some monuments.

The Ukrainian people have an ancient history and rich civilization, and have made a great contribution to human civilization.

The French state, government and society are really a great example of democracy.

French traditions, including traditions in the sphere of state building, deserve a high assessment. I saw how people are respected in France: Francois Mitterrand, who was the country's president for 14 years, and the new president, Jacques Chirac, were together and marked the festivities together. The French people sincerely congratulated both Mr Francois Mitterrand and Mr Jacques Chirac and expressed their respect for them. This is really the most graphic demonstration of democracy. This should be an example to us.

China is a great country. The Chinese people are a great people. The Chinese people have an ancient and rich history. The services of the Chinese people to mankind have always been highly valued.

There are many similarities in the historical past and traditions of the Pakistani and Azerbaijani peoples, and our shared religion has always brought our peoples closer to one another. On the basis of all this, there are friendly relations and close cooperation between the Republic of Pakistan and the Azerbaijan Republic.

Turkic peoples have made an irreplaceable and historical contribution to the civilization

that mankind has created over the centuries. Democracy, endless belief in justice, implacability against national, religious and racial discrimination, patriotism and love of peace are characteristics of our peoples. We rely on such human values in the freedom we gained on the difficult path of struggle and with the endless blood of martyrs, in making our independence eternal and in making our national state-building irreversible.

The Turkic peoples who have faced difficult tests in history have maintained their mutual scientific, cultural, economic and political relations and have always taken an important place in human history.

The Turkic world has a great history. This history is magnificent, glorious and dignified.

The modern Turkic world is experiencing a new stage of revival. The confident steps of the young Turkic republics, that have gained their sovereignty, today show the happy future of the Turkic world.

Since the Turkic peoples who have the same historical past and national and cultural traditions appeared on the stage of history, they have been playing for centuries an unprece-

dent role as a bearer of human cultures from the East to the West and from the West to the East and have written indelible and honourable pages in human civilization.

The Caucasus is a unique region of the world. With its historical and present position, it has attracted the attention of many countries.

The Caucasus is our home. It is our duty to turn it into a peaceful and progressive region for people who are proud of their history and who look to the future with confidence.

We want peace in our region, in the whole of the Caucasus and everywhere in the world. The Trans-Caucasus, of which Azerbaijan is part, is a region distinguished by its specific features.

The Caucasus should be a region of peace, and stability should be ensured here. There should be friendly mutual relations between countries, states and peoples in the Caucasus and we should do our utmost to achieve this.

Our wish to turn the Caucasus into a region of peace and achieve security and peace in the Trans-Caucasus is a wish related to the fate of millions of people living in the region.

We are Caucasians. The situation in the Caucasus concerns us. We think about the present and future of our peoples and countries. At the same time, we think about all the peoples and nations living in the Caucasus. The Caucasus is our native land and we cannot remain indifferent to events in the Caucasus.

The Caucasus and Trans-Caucasus are of special importance to Russia. Peace and security in the Caucasus and Trans-Caucasus will be of importance to stability and peace in the whole of the Russian Federation.

If there are good relations between Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia which are independent and sovereign states, this will be of benefit not only to the Trans-Caucasus, but also to the whole of the Caucasus.

The Caucasus is a very complex region of the world. Historically, many complicated political developments have always happened here.

The Caucasus is a very important region of the world. Countries of the world have great interests in the Caucasus. Peace is needed in order to turn all this to the advantage of the countries interested in the Caucasus and of the peoples, countries and states situated in the Caucasus.

The Caucasus and the region surrounding the Caucasus are a region that harbours many potential conflicts today and in the future. For this reason, our duty and, personally, my duty are to ensure peace and security in our region and in Azerbaijan.

We want peace in our region and trade, mutual trust and neighbourly relations for the sake of the progress of our peoples.

Russia has always had its own interests in the Caucasus.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

**ON HISTORY
AND HISTORICAL
FIGURES**

**ON HISTORY
AND HISTORICAL
FIGURES**

Personally, I greatly respect history in general and the history of my people and other peoples.

History itself will assess everyone.

The establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on 28 May 1918 is a great political and public event in the history of Azerbaijan.

When Mahammad Amin Rasulzada and other great figures of the Azerbaijan Republic established the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in the early 20th century, especially in 1918,

they displayed great courage and did a great job. There is no doubt about this.

The establishment of the first democratic republic in Azerbaijan was an expression of the wish and desire of our people for national freedom and independence and an attempt to achieve it.

The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and its government were short-lived... The greatest achievement, the page of our history inscribed in golden letters, was that for the first time in centuries the Azerbaijani people had gained their state independence, felt and experienced the spirit of independence, experienced independent life and become masters of their own fate.

The first Azerbaijan Democratic Republic which was set up in 1918 is our national asset and a brilliant page in our history.

The establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was the implementation of the ideas, wishes and desires for independence and national freedom which awoke in the Azerbaijani people and its thinkers at the beginning of the century.

We should always analyse our history objectively and hand it over to the present and future generations properly.

If we want to promote Azerbaijan as an independent state in the world, we should promote the ancient history of Azerbaijan and the path it travelled over the centuries among our own citizens, world scholars and people who are interested in our republic.

There is no need to idolize and idealize one person. It is necessary to get rid of this disease and write every period of history the way it is. This is the main duty of our historians.

You cannot distort history. Those who distort history betray their own people and confuse them.

It is easy to destroy, but it is very difficult to create. History and people always value those who build and create. Those who destroy have always been wiped from history.

We should use the spiritual assets we have obtained from our national history and learn the spiritual values created by mankind.

The Azerbaijan Republic has an ancient history, rich culture and great natural reserves. We are proud of our history.

If we look at history, we will see that Armenia has a lot to return to Azerbaijan.

The processes in the former Soviet Union during the period called perestroika ... were very complicated and contradictory processes and did not yield the expected result. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the establishment of new independent states are a natural result of the public and political processes that unfolded in the former USSR and in the whole world in the past decade.

Without knowing our history and historical roots very well and without respecting them, we will not be able to establish our independent state well in the future.

Azerbaijan is a country with an ancient and rich history. Our people have given valuable pearls to human culture.

Every point and every day in our history are dear to us.

Azerbaijan has a great future as it had a great historical past. Azerbaijan will have as many happy days in the future as difficult stages and times it had in the past and in recent years.

History always puts everything in its place.

We should never forget or disrespect our history. History is history and life is life.

Those who distort history should learn a lesson from our past history. No-one should distort history. No-one should try to change history. History is as it is. Things have happened in life. No-one should remember those shining pages of history diffidently.

Every page of our history, whether it is the most ancient period, the Middle Ages, the 19th century or the 20th century, is valuable to us.

The historical path Azerbaijan travelled before it gained its independence is an honourable and great path.

Our duty and the duty of future generations are to respect and maintain our historical past, traditions and national achievements.

We should value our past, analyse our achievements correctly and justly and look to the future. Azerbaijan has a great future.

One cannot blacken history.

Whatever becomes history now should be objectively assessed and evaluated by everyone.

One cannot remain indifferent to the history of our people and the events that happened in their life.

Our past is rich and we have to use it. But we cannot take the former administrative system, methods and rules as a basis and repeat them.

The great history of the Azerbaijani people has not been applied properly yet.

The 20th century is a very contradictory and complex period in human history.

Having gained our national freedom, state independence and the chance to talk openly and with dignity about our nation, people, history and past and to be proud of this, we should certainly be united and together.

The Azerbaijani people lived under the Soviet socialist system for 70 years. This was a great part of our people's life in the 20th century. We were deprived of state independence then, but as a republic, we had an opportunity to do

a lot of independent work. For this reason, it is necessary to assess this period properly, because in this period, our people lived, created and built and finally, when Azerbaijan again proclaimed its state independence in 1991, the Azerbaijan Republic was already a big country.

All empires in the world fell as a result of wars. The Soviet Union was the only empire that collapsed on its own.

Whatever happened in the past is undoubtedly valuable. Each of us should respect our history, past and roots.

Azerbaijan is an ancient country that has ancient history, a distinctive, ancient culture and great, ancient scientists.

We should always assess objectively both the distant and recent past. We should value everything that was valuable and good in the past. Many good things happened in our recent past.

While drawing conclusions from our past, we should also seriously think about people around us and people who lived and worked among our people.

Azerbaijan is one of the ancient countries of the world. The Azerbaijani people have a very ancient, rich history and culture. The Azerbaijani people have made many contributions to world civilization and culture with their works of literature, culture, architecture and science.

Azerbaijan has an ancient, rich history. During its centuries-old history, the Azerbaijani people made an extremely great contribution to world civilization.

Succession has always entailed great responsibility. Every successor should hold the principle of succession dear and, as a successor to a period and event, should raise that period and system even higher.

Even though the Azerbaijani people faced the ruthless tests of history from time to time and lived under foreign regimes and heavy oppression, they maintained their sacred existence, national and spiritual integrity, mother tongue and religion and proved to the whole world with unshakable faith and determination their right to a free and independent life.

The Azerbaijan Republic played a great role, performed great services during the Second World War-Great Patriotic War.

The whole Azerbaijani public and the whole Azerbaijani people should know that veterans of the Second World War-Great Patriotic War are our dearest and most trustworthy people. It is the duty of our state, every government agency and every honourable Azerbaijani citizen to take care of them, respect them and solve all their problems.

The Azerbaijani people displayed great valour and heroism during the Second World War-Great Patriotic War. They fought and worked both on the front and on the home front, became martyrs and made their contribution to victory.

The heroic sons of Azerbaijan displayed courage during the Great Patriotic War and demonstrated to the world our people's heroism, and the Azerbaijani people made their own contribution to the victory over German fascism.

Rescuing mankind from fascism is an historic example of heroism.

Everyone who participated in the Second World War-Great Patriotic War against fascism is highly respected by us.

The Second World War is the toughest war in human history. The Great Patriotic War was against fascism, ignorance and aggression.

In order to apply our national ideology everywhere, we must pay serious attention to the teaching of the history of the Azerbaijani people in schools.

The history of Azerbaijan should be well taught to our young people in school. Our young people should know their history, historical roots and past very well, because our spirituality and our young people's present and future spirituality are related to this.

A young person who goes to school should read and learn Azerbaijani history. But they cannot learn it from the old textbooks. People cannot write textbooks any way they want. The history of our people must be written up, so that history textbooks can be written on this basis for our young people and institutions of secondary and higher education.

Our young people today should learn the lessons and draw the conclusions of history, follow the examples of heroism demonstrated historically and try to be like them. Just like them, every child and youngster of Azerbaijan

should be ready to become a martyr and give up their lives for their homeland and the future of the independent Azerbaijan Republic.

The collapse of the Soviet Union is a natural result of historical processes. This had to happen and it did. I am pleased with this. I welcomed the collapse of the Soviet Union and I am now against its restoration in any form.

We have many martyrs; however, martyrs of every period have their own place in history, and events which happened in every period have their own importance. The tragedy of 20 January 1990 is of special importance.

If on the one hand, it was the leadership of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union led by Gorbachev that attacked Azerbaijan, on the other hand and most of all, it was the leadership of the Azerbaijani Communist Party and the Azerbaijani government, and the latter are probably even guiltier.

We are defending our homeland and protecting our lands. But the martyrs of the 20 January tragedy have a special place in Azerbaijani history.

The 20 January 1990 was a turning point in the life of the Azerbaijani people.

The events of January 1990, towards the end of our century, cannot be compared with anything that went before, because this period was for the Azerbaijani people a stage of national awakening, a test of national dignity and a demonstration of national freedom.

It is not enough to present the 20 January events as a tragedy. The 20 January is an example of the Azerbaijani people's heroism in defending their national freedom and dignity.

The Martyrs' Avenue and the graves of our martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the national freedom of the Azerbaijani people at the end of the 20th century are a sacred place and a precious monument.

Using so much force and so many weapons against our people – no such event ever happened in any place, any region or any country in the history of the Soviet Union.

On 20 January 1990, the leaders of the Soviet Union and, at the same time, the people who ruled Azerbaijan committed terrible military aggression against our people. They committed this aggression together.

The 20 January 1990 is both a great tragedy for our people and a black page in the history

of our people. It is also a page of heroism in the history of our people and a magnificent page in the fight of our people for national freedom.

The 20 January tragedy is one of the most tragic pages of our history.

The Khojaly genocide, which was carried out against the Azerbaijani people as a whole, was an unprecedented act of violence in human history with its unthinkable brutality and inhumane punitive measures. This genocide is also a crime against all humanity.

The Khojaly genocide showed the true colours of Armenian fascism and was a crime not just against the Azerbaijani people, but also against all humanity.

The Khojaly genocide, the Armenian aggression and atrocities against our people and the use of the meanest methods against people have gone down and will go down in human history.

The Khojaly martyrs are also our citizens who became martyrs for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Azerbaijan.

The Khojaly tragedy is our pain, sorrow and grief. But at the same time, it is the path of struggle, national freedom and a glorious and successful path that the Azerbaijani people have travelled for centuries.

The repression that was carried out against the Azerbaijani people in 1937-38 was harsher than the repression in other republics and caused more losses. This is true. But the Azerbaijani people were subjected to deportation again in 1948-49, which means that they were again subjected to repression. This is an injustice against our people.

The genocide that was carried out against the Azerbaijani people by Armenians in March 1918 dealt great blows to our people.

HEYDAR ALIYEV: WORDS OF WISDOM

ON HIMSELF

ON HIMSELF

I see a happy future for the republic, and you can be sure that we will achieve it.

I am proud of all my activities in the past.

It is a great honour for us to be in the holy city of Mecca, to touch the holy Kaaba and to pray at the Kaaba. I express my thanks to God and to my fate for giving me this honour and for fulfilling my intentions and wishes.

As a Muslim, I feel happy to have visited the holy city of Medina, the holy monuments of Islam and the grave of Prophet Muhammad. I thank God for allowing me to attain the wish and intention that lived in my heart for many

years. This historic event generated a great feeling of excitement and comfort in my heart. I realized once again what human, philosophical and scientific foundations the source of Islam has. I realized the greatness of Great God.

I had a chance to see the Kaaba, to kiss, touch and visit the holy Black Stone, to enter the Kaaba and pray there. In my prayers all that I asked of God was to make the independence of Azerbaijan permanent, to save our republic from today's troubles and help us to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

I regard my visit to Mecca, Medina and the Kaaba, which are the holiest places for all Muslims, as one of the happiest pages in my life.

If people need me and if they hope in me, this means that my duty is to act.

I have no other wish than happiness and security for my people. I have dedicated all my existence, power and skill to this ideal.

I have said and I say it again: I have given all that remains of my life to the people.

At the most difficult times of my life, even though I was far away, I felt the positive attitude and respect of the Azerbaijani people for me. These bonds have never been broken and have led me out of tests, suffering and even the difficult times when I was persecuted.

I rely on the wisdom, reason and intellect of the Azerbaijani people.

There is no other prize for me than the people's trust and confidence in me.

I believe in the people and I rely on the people.

I have repeatedly said and I say it today: I see the meaning of my life only in serving the people loyally.

The highest prize for me is to live up to the people's trust.

I have been loyal to the Azerbaijani people all my life and I will be loyal until the last minute of my life.

I think about every single Azerbaijani.

Throughout my life and work, I have thought only about the people and I have lived only for the people.

The goal of my life is the Azerbaijani, the Azerbaijani people, the Azerbaijani Republic and the Azerbaijani citizen.

What kept me alive and allowed me to work with such resolve was always the people's trust. The people's trust and support and the people's unity with me gave me inspiration and power and always prompted me to work so intensively, tirelessly and passionately.

I am someone who loves his nation, and I loved it then and I love it now.

My greatest power and weapon is the people's trust, confidence and support for me.

A person who is not healthy from a spiritual point of view cannot engage in great state work. A person who is engaged in big-time politics and runs a state should always feel the people's support and respect the people's opinion. The people's support always inspires me.

My life has always been subordinate to the will of the Azerbaijani people.

I am not afraid of a coup or forces who prepare a terrorist attack on me. I am not afraid of anything.

I am a person who has withstood many tests during his life. I say with full determination today that no weapon can withstand the power of the people.

I can do what many people consider impossible.

I am not interested in anything else in life: my life is all right, I have a lot of work to do, I get tired and I don't get tired, I take trouble and I don't take trouble. I have to take trouble. I was born to take trouble. Every person has a fate, and this is my fate. And I am pleased with my fate.

There is no feeling of revenge in my nature.

Nature itself gave me some power. My character forces me to mobilize my power and skills.

I am not a rancorous person.

I cannot stay aloof when people encounter catastrophe.

I built a lot of good things in my life. But what I knocked down was what created an obstacle to people... People have not forgotten this.

My conscience is clear.

I have been fighting bribery all my life.

I have been ruthless against bribe-takers.

I have never sought my personal interest.

I have always been loyal to friendship.

I want love to exist all the time and treason never to exist.

I have never tried or attempted to get a post in my life. I have been valued for my work and promoted from time to time in my life. And I have always lived up to trust placed in me. I make demands of myself, and I make demands of the departments and people under my jurisdiction just as I make demands of myself.

Not only am I not ashamed, I also talk about anything that happened in the past – about myself and my personal life – and I remember it with a great sense of pleasure and pride, and I am proud of my biography.

A person in power cannot be liberal.

I belong to my people, and there are many national feelings in my character, and I am proud of this.

The independence and statehood of Azerbaijan and the integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic are much higher than any person's life and my life.

I am ready to sacrifice my life in order to protect the statehood, sovereignty and integrity of independent Azerbaijan.

If the Azerbaijani people and republic need me, I cannot step back.

I have been loyal to the Azerbaijani people, nation and land and I will be loyal for all my life.

I am in favour of democracy. I have travelled this path and will do so again.

I have served my people since my youth. Under the socialist system, I did a lot for my people.

I am the guarantor of Azerbaijani statehood.

I have borne this brunt at the difficult times of the Azerbaijan Republic, not because I need this post. Some aspire to this. I bore it in order to serve my sisters and brothers, my homeland, citizens and land.

I have said repeatedly: I will serve until the last minute of my life. Nothing scares me and nothing frightens me. I stand up and will stand up to all provocations and terror. I have protected and will protect the independence of Azerbaijan.

Even if the bullet of a traitor or a terrorist claims my life, I and my children are ready to sacrifice ourselves for independent Azerbaijan.

The 20 January tragedy terrified me and deeply upset me. Despite all that pressure and persecution against me and despite the threat to my life and my family, I engaged in political activities – not because I wanted to take a political position or a post, but simply not to hold back, and not because it would have been bad if I had held back, but because I felt that at this difficult period, the Azerbaijani people desperately needed my words and thoughts. For this reason alone, not for any other.

When I flew from Nakhchivan and landed in Baku, I regarded myself as a martyr at that minute and moment. I came here not for posts, but in order to address people's problems.

Azerbaijan is living and will live as an independent state. Azerbaijan's independence is a

great achievement for us. We have to maintain this independence as the apple of our eye, and we are doing so. As president, I see this as my most important and highest duty.

Love for my homeland, nation and people – endless love for the independent Azerbaijani state and the Azerbaijan Republic – is the meaning and substance of my life.

I love my land and people most of all. I love my Azerbaijan Republic.

I have assumed great responsibility. My responsibility is to strengthen my state, ensure its independence and unite the Azerbaijani people. If anyone loves Azerbaijan, wants Azerbaijan to be an independent state, wants Azerbaijan's occupied territories to be liberated and wants Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, they should unite under this flag, this slogan, these words and this idea.

Azerbaijan is the meaning of my life.

The path we have taken is the right and fair path. We will travel this path, strengthen and develop the statehood of independent Azerbaijan and if anyone is together with us on this path, they will have served their own people.

Our wish is to establish peace, security and stability in our country.

The Azerbaijani people invited me in 1993.

In 1993 when civil war began, when a crisis of power occurred in Azerbaijan, when each of the people who ruled Azerbaijan ran away and people killed each other, the best representatives of our nation invited me to Baku. When I felt that my country and people were in a disastrous situation, I accepted the invitation and came to Baku.

My wish is that our countrymen should not forget their sense of Azerbaijanism and always live with this sense.

I have been striving and working for many years, and I have only one purpose: to promote our people.

I regard serving the Azerbaijan Republic as my most honourable duty and my highest goal.

I have assumed responsibility for the whole Azerbaijani people. This is my inner spirituality and my life. I see the goal of my life in this, not in anything else.

I have also had very difficult days in my life. I have had very tragic years. But still, I am very pleased with my fate. This is my fate. Today is also my fate. But today there is nothing other than hard work and difficulty. I consider it to be great happiness for me to have an opportunity to serve my people on such a great scale.

The protection of every citizen's rights is the main duty of our state and my main duty as president.

I very much wish that our top officials serve their people, nation and homeland sincerely and body and soul.

I am ready to help every Azerbaijani who needs my help and our state's help, because they are Azerbaijani.

Taking care of Azerbaijani young people, students – students of our republic's institutions of higher education – is my duty and the duty of the Azerbaijani state, and we will fulfil our duty.

Anyone who is doing sound work in Azerbaijan is dear to me.

I am responsible for the lives of all Azerbaijani citizens.

I regard it as my most honourable duty to serve my people and homeland.

Regardless of where Azerbaijanis live, I always think about them and try to take care of them all the time as Azerbaijani president.

Regardless of how great my services were in the past, I consider my service to independent Azerbaijan as the most meaningful and important part of my life.

Protecting, maintaining and perpetuating Azerbaijan's independence is dearer to me than my own life.

I believe and I am sure that we will take the wide path of independence, and Azerbaijan will live as an independent state, Azerbaijan's state independence will be eternal and irreversible and no-one will ever be able to undermine our independence and national freedom in any way.

The duty of every citizen is to serve their homeland and people. No-one can reproach their country, homeland and people for this. However, gaining trust for one's service and living up to this trust are a great honour. I am happy that for all my life I have served my

homeland, country and people. I have always regarded this as the meaning of my life. Today the meaning of my life is to serve the people loyally to the very end. However, everyone who serves wants their service to be appreciated. I too have always wanted this.

Azerbaijan is my heart. Azerbaijan is my breath. Azerbaijan is my life. Every citizen can say warm words about Azerbaijan. My heart has always been linked to my homeland, Azerbaijan, and been full of feelings for Azerbaijan. It is impossible to express these feelings in words.

I believe in our victory.

I once had an intention – for the Azerbaijan Republic to be an independent state, for our people to be free and for independence to be gained. Thank God, we have already achieved this. Our republic is an independent state and is recognized by the world. Our people are free and are masters of their own fate and will be free in the future. It seems to me that all this was the intention of every patriotic Azerbaijani who loves their homeland and people. Since I have been engaged in state affairs and political activity for many years, these thoughts are probably dearer to me. We achieved our intention.

I have never lived and worked thinking only about today.

Regardless of where Azerbaijanis live, I want them to be represented in the high stratum of the population and society, not in low or middle strata. This is my wish and desire.

I fully believe in Azerbaijan's happy future.

I see a very beautiful future for Azerbaijan.

I am sure that Azerbaijan's state independence will get stronger day by day. Azerbaijan's independent policy has already earned our country great respect worldwide.

I believe in the wonderful future of Azerbaijan and believe that our people will live happily in the future.

I regard myself as a spiritually secure person. This is more important than anything.

I have always loved theatre and have benefited greatly from it. I maintained my respect for our theatre at the difficult times of my life, and I have never lost it.

Our duty and the duty of future generations are to respect and to maintain our historical past, traditions and national achievements.

Literature and culture have played a great role in my formation as a person, in my education, morality and spirituality.

I can say with a feeling of pride today: since 1969 when I became leader of Azerbaijan, not a single poet and writer have had their work rejected.

I have dedicated my life to bringing happiness to people. I have dedicated my life to the freedom of the people. I have dedicated my life to improving the wellbeing of my nation and people. I have dedicated my life to construction and creation in Azerbaijani land.

The liberation of our land, the restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the protection of Azerbaijan's sovereignty and independence are my goals. I want to attain this goal and leave a powerful, strong and developed Azerbaijan for future generations. This is my goal.

When I analyse my whole life, I see that, in any case, there is one main event, and it is that I was able to secure the independence of Azerbaijan and did not allow it to be destroyed in a blaze of internal feuding, devastation and blood.

HEYDAR
ALIYEV

WORDS OF WISDOM

JUNE 1993-1998 OCTOBER

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