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Towards the future

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Beforehand, thank you for the cooperation!

**Edition of "Heydar Aliyev's Heritage"
International On-line Library**

Dear readers!

The book that you hold is the first book published with series by "Heydar Aliyev's Heritage" International On-line Library. This book is the first part of our on-line project. "Heydar Aliyev's Heritage" International On-line Library functions in many languages on www.aliyevheritage.org. The first book of these series was published in some languages of our library. Here were included main program speeches being a part of works of Heydar Aliyev, the nationwide leader of Azerbaijan people, the distinguished political figure of our times.

The edition of Heydar Aliyev's works in many languages rouses great interest for political scientists, economists, journalists, generally, for everybody who is interested in modern history and development, the past and future of Azerbaijan.

Heydar Aliyev who has devoted all his life, talent and abilities to Azerbaijan which he loved more than his life, created an ideal base for guarantee of the safe future of our country. And Mister Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan counts fast approach of this future his sacred duty.

**Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev –
Nation-wide Leader of Azerbaijan People***



Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev was born on 10 May 1923 in the city of Nakhchivan of Azerbaijan. In 1939, after graduating from the Nakhchivan Pedagogical School he studied at the architectural department of the Azerbaijan Industrial Institute (now the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy). The incipient war impeded to complete his education.

Since 1941, Heydar Aliyev heads the department at the People Commissariat of Internal Affairs of Nakhchivan ASSR and in 1944 was sent to work at the state security bodies. Heydar Aliyev, working since that time in the security bodies, since 1964 held the post of deputy chairman, and since 1967 - chairman of the Committee of State Security under the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan Republic, and he was conferred the rank of lieutenant general. In these years, he received special higher education in Leningrad (now St Petersburg), and in 1957, he graduated from the history department of Azerbaijan State University.

Being elected at the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan in July 1969 as the First Secretary of the Central Committee of

* It was taken from www.president.az.

the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev headed the Republic. In December 1982, Heydar Aliyev was elected as Alternate member of Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and appointed at the post of the First Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR and became one of the leaders of the USSR. During twenty years, Heydar Aliyev was the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and for five years was Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In October 1987, Heydar Aliyev, as a sign of protest against the policy pursued by Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and personally the Secretary General Michael Gorbachev, resigned from his post.

In bound with the tragedy, committed on 20 January, 1990 in Baku by the soviet troops, appearing on the next day at the Azerbaijan Representation in Moscow with a statement, demanded to punish the organizers and executors of the crime, committed against the people of Azerbaijan. As a sign of protest against the hypocritical policy of leadership of the USSR, in connection with the critical conflict occurred in Nagorno-Karabakh, in July, 1991, he left the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

By return in July, 1990 to Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev lived at first in Baku, then in Nakhchivan, and in the same year he was elected as the Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan. In 1991-1993s, he held the post of Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet (Milli Mejlis) of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 1992, at the constituent congress of the

Yeni Azerbaijan Party in Nakhchivan, Heydar Aliyev, was elected as the Chairman of the Party.

In May-June, 1993, when, as the result of extreme tension of the governmental crisis, the country was at the verge of civil war and loss of independence, the people of Azerbaijan demanded to bring to power Heydar Aliyev. The then leaders of Azerbaijan were obliged to officially invite Heydar Aliyev to Baku. On 15 June, 1993, Heydar Aliyev was elected as the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, and on 24 July - on resolution of the Milli Mejlis, he managed to fulfill powers of the President of Azerbaijan Republic.

On October 3, 1993, as the result of nationwide voting, Heydar Aliyev was elected as the President of Azerbaijan Republic. On October 11, 1998, having garnered at the elections, held in conditions of full activity of the population, 76,1 percent of the votes, he was re-elected as the President of Azerbaijan Republic. Heydar Aliyev, giving his consent to be nominated as a candidate at the 15 October, 2003 presidential elections, relinquished to run at the elections in connection with his health problems.

Heydar Aliyev was conferred a number of international awards, the title of honorary doctor of numerous countries, and other high honors. He was conferred for four times with the Lenin Order, the Order of Krasnaya Zvezda and many medals, and twice Hero of Socialist Labor, was awarded by Orders and medals of many foreign states.

Historical destiny of Azerbaijan, covering the period of over the thirty latest years, was inseparably linked with the name of Heydar Aliyev. Revival of the people

during these years in all spheres of its socio-political, economic and cultural life is connected just with his name.

During the said period of his leadership, Heydar Aliyev helped his native land Azerbaijan, the progress that he persistently strived towards, the rich culture, great historical past which he was proud of, and the coming generations whom he was concerned about, to overcome as a state hard and terrible ordeals of time.

Being an outstanding politician and statesman, indisputable leader of the nation, he was a live legend, and therefore the Heydar Aliyev phenomenon always attracted attention, the admiration rapid political activity of this nationwide leader of the Azerbaijanis of world was widely covered both in the Republican and world press.

In June, 1993, when the people of Azerbaijan believed that the national statehood was menaced by a breakdown, when there began the hardest days, it insistently demanded change of the existing power, and since that time relied its destiny on Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev, seeing misfortune of his nation, accepted the invitation and returned to great politics in Azerbaijan. The people met the return of Heydar Aliyev with a hope and joy, and this day went down in history of the independent Azerbaijan as the Day of National Salvation.

**Speech by Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev,
Chairman of Supreme Soviet of the Republic
of Azerbaijan, at the Meeting of Milli Mejlis
(Parliament)
15 June, 1993**

Today I want to express my deep gratitude to the parliament members for giving me great confidence and to assure you that utilizing all available possibilities I will work hard to bear this burden, and make my all efforts to fulfill this responsibility with dignity. I like to notify that I am fully aware of the present situation of Azerbaijan Republic, which is complicated, hard and tense. Taking up my duties, I deeply realize my responsibility and being guided by them I will do my best in this post. Here, I am not going to make a broad speech but I should say a few words. As a chairman of Supreme Soviet, the protection, strengthening and development of state independence



being historical achievement of our nation, are my main duties. The state independence of Azerbaijan should be ensured on the basis of the traditions of Azerbaijan Democratic Republics founded in 1918 and provided with modern requests and processes happening in the world. I will work hard in this direction; everybody should know that I will devote the rest of my life for the development of the Azerbaijan independent state. Connecting with the issue, I would like to point out that, whatever happens in future, Azerbaijan Republic will never lose its independence, be under rule and be bondage of any state. There are some rumors and nonsense thoughts about the restoration of the post Soviet Union and probabilities that Azerbaijan can enter this Union again. It is just utopia. I reject these thoughts and invite our nation not to believe in such unreal dreams.

The republic is faced with significant and difficult tasks. First of all, Azerbaijan should liberate its territories, which have been occupied by Armenian armed forces, in order to develop the independence and ensure the state sovereignty. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan Republic must be ensured, the war must be stopped and the peace must be established. Living in peace and welfare, the Azerbaijan citizens must build their state on the base as they like. That is why this is one of the most important issues. The issue will be the focus of attention of the Supreme Soviet. I fully assure of it.

The document declared yesterday, which was signed on the initiative of the USA, Russia and Turkey, is considered to be the first step for our gradual withdrawal from the war. I think more effective measures should be

taken in order Azerbaijan could be the master of its own country and withdraw our country from the war.

So, the state independence of Azerbaijan Republic is the most urgent issue. The democracy should be developed in the sovereign Azerbaijan. Political pluralism should be encouraged in every possible way. We must avoid violation of a law and the Constitution. The state construction and the society formation must be based on the democratic principles. The liberty, freedom, freedom of humanity, protection of human rights and free economy, free marketing principles should be prevailing in policy and economy of the country. This is the way that our republic should take the right tack. You must be sure that I will be loyal to this principle.

One of the main reasons which made, our country be in complicated condition is the incidents happened on June 4, in Ganja. They are terrible, because it was blood shed and perpetrated crime. All of these should be investigated and each person who broke a law and participated in the crime should be brought to punishment in what ever side they are. The deputy investigatory committee deals with this case. Our duty is to ease the tension as soon as possible. We conducted talks with President Abulfaz Elchibey yesterday. Besides, I held negotiations with some people together and in private. I consider that all our efforts will cause to reduce the tension and confrontation in the near future. But as I said before, I am not advocate the use of weapons. The tension, counteraction must be settled by peaceful means, mutual consent and understanding and negotiations. I think our national wisdom, joint efforts of authoritative men, intelligentsia,

elders and officials of Azerbaijan will ensure undoubtedly all above mentioned points.

Establishing democratic independent republic in Azerbaijan we should fight for the civil society and make use of the world and human values. Gaining the independence after a long period, we should display the historical achievements and national traditions of Azerbaijan to the world's attention. I suppose that concerning this issue Azerbaijan people have great either historical or modern potential. If we use all these recourses effectively, Azerbaijan will develop as an independent democratic state and the society will be built on the base of democratic, legal and universally shared values. Our science, culture, national traditions and at the same time our Islamic religion, create the basis for it. To use effectively all of these is our basic mission.

The tension in Azerbaijan is not connected only with the reasons of Karabakh conflict which has begun as a result of Armenian aggression to Azerbaijan. Recently, there happened Ganja incidents. Unfortunately, one of the reasons for the tension is disrupting of relations between nations and ethnic groups who have been living in these lands for centuries. Azerbaijan has been the motherland of people living here for ages and must be in future. In spite of their origin, religious, political orientation all citizens of Azerbaijan should have equal rights. If we are guided and act in accordance these concepts, we can ensure the consolidation of people and nations living in Azerbaijan. It is one of our urgent aim and I think we will achieve it.

For the past year in fact a lot of work has been done in the field of foreign policy. But there is a lot of

work to be done. I think that as a democratic country, Azerbaijan Republic must build equitable relations with all states. We should establish normal relationship with all countries in spite of their internal policy. First of all, there must be founded necessary cultural, economical, political links with our neighboring countries. From this point of view, the relationships with Turkey are approved by the population. The Relations with neighboring Iran must be enhanced and developed. Russia, our northern neighboring country, is absolutely vast state. Undoubtedly, the relationship basing on independent principles between Azerbaijan and Russia must be better, broader and more fruitful. The links with the newly formed as independent countries, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia, countries of Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Baltic states, Moldavia, which had been the members of the post Soviet Union, must be developed. This is very important for us. There have been ties of economy, culture, and humanity with those countries for ages. These links must not be broken off, on the contrary, must be enhanced. I have no doubts as to that only this policy will help Azerbaijan to be formed and developed as an independent state.

Azerbaijan is already on a world scale arena. Hot attitudes shown by the USA to Azerbaijan make all of us glad and to my view point these relations must be improved. The relations with all European countries especially, with England, France and Germany should be developed. At the same time we must extend the links with all Muslim, Arabic and Turkic speaking countries. I just want to notify my position in the foreign policy. I will act in this direction and do my best working together the

president, Supreme Soviet and government to make progress and success in our activities.

However, the above all is to eliminate the tension which is a result of the Ganja incidents. Today, in the meeting of Milli Mejlis (parliament), from this tribune, appealing to our brothers, sisters, children and all Azerbaijani citizens, I am declaring that our republic lives its difficult period and our principal goal is to liberate the occupied lands and to ensure the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan. Therefore, the internal unrests, bickering must be given up. Appealing to the all Azerbaijani people, Ganja population, parliament member Surat Huseynov and his comrades in arms, I invite you to wisdom and human relations. We have great need for it and each person should know that all of us must consolidate for this purpose. In the tragic period of Azerbaijan we faced the dancer. All forces, all political parties, all political structures, all political and social organizations and entire people should join in such hard situation. Everybody should put aside the malice and spite. Being a union we will lead Azerbaijan out of the complicated condition. I suppose that the population of Ganja and neighboring regions will hear my voice and support it. Surat Huseynov will hear my voice and acting as a wise person will help us to put an end to the trouble. I invite all of you to work hard and join in this field. I am asking for putting the gossips aside. We will have time for it but not now. The computation can be done in another time. It is not right time for it now.

In this connection, I would like to touch another point. There are some talks about me in such circles if Heydar Aliyev holds any high post again in Azerbaijan,

he will take revenge on somebody. Somebody has been against him or bad terms with him and he will do the same. I am declaring publicly with all my responsibility to you and all Azerbaijani people that I have no sense of revenge in my nature. It was artificially made up by separate persons in order not only to soil my reputation but also to part us. I pledge that I will never be absorbed in a sense of revenge. I have forgiven them who had been on bad terms with me for a long time. I have never been and will never be under the pressure of those feelings because of not been entrusted and elected to this post. As an ordinary citizen I have never wanted to feel animosity against somebody and take vengeance on somebody and I will never do it. But in the frame of duty and our position we all should keep order, obey the law, observe the laws and ensure the pre-eminence of the law. Of course, I will never renounce my point of view on this way.

I hope that, all together with Supreme Soviet, President Abulfaz Elchibay we can lead our state out of the situation. I invite all of you to unify for this goal.

Thank you!

**Inauguration Speech of the Azerbaijani
President Heydar Aliyev
Vow of Fidelity to the Country, State and People
October 10, 1993**

Dear compatriots!

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen!

I estimate highly being elected as the President of the independent Azerbaijan Republic and with it express my respect, consideration and deep gratitude to Azerbaijani people, to all citizens of the republic.

The Azerbaijani people experience the hardest, tragic period of their history. I deeply realize the degrees of matter put in my hands in the tense time and want you to be confident that with all my activity and with all my life I will try to justify the high confidence and expectations of the people. Taking up such a high and responsible post, I lean foremost on the Azerbaijan people's mind,



wisdom and support. In taking upon such a responsibility I base on the expectations of my people which they bound up with me. I assure you to spare no efforts to justify their hopes.

The end of the XX century is noted for with the political events radically changing the world.

The Azerbaijani people were not indifferent to these processes and at last realized its dream since earliest times gained the independence. The attainment of state independence by the Azerbaijan Republic was the logical result of socio-political processes going on in the world and former USSR. Independence of our republic is the historical event, national achievement of the Azerbaijani people and in no way we can think highly the role of any movement or force. Gaining the independence at the same time has created acute and knotty problems for the republic and its people. Strengthening the independence of the state, formation and development of the state, structures and attributes, security of the territorial integrity and full sovereignty and full sovereignty of Azerbaijan helping the republic in the war condition, improving the well-being of its citizens, creation the necessary conditions for their life and work the settlement of these problems will be basic in my activity on the post of the President and I will do my best for their implementations.

Azerbaijan has the ancient history, rich culture and enormous natural resources. The state independence creates all conditions to use this property effectively for the future development of Azerbaijan. It is our main task.

Azerbaijan Republic gained its independence in extremely hard conditions. The most difficult problem for us is the war experienced by Azerbaijan for five

years. It is also the aggression by the Armenian armed forces against our territories. At the result of this war Azerbaijan people faces with disasters. That's why, to help the republic in the war condition and to create the peaceful condition for the life of our citizens is the main task confronting us.

Azerbaijan faced with such a difficult situation as a result of serious mistakes made by the former leaders of the republic and the former Soviet Union at the beginning of the conflict. Unfortunately, they did not take the necessary measures in the past period to help the republic in this condition. The economic, social, socio-political and moral crises with which the republic faced recently have gone deeper and in 1993 have mounted to the crucial point. In June of this year the internal stability of republic completely collapsed. The withstanding of the separate political forces, the activities of some criminal groupings, separatists aimed at the breakdown of republic and some other reasons caused the intensification of tension to much extent. As a result of gross errors made by the state leaders of Azerbaijan, in June the republic was on the brink of the civil war and there arose a real danger for the detachment of some regions. Thank goodness that we could manage to stave off all these dangers, liquidate a number of criminal groupings, and create the conditions ensuring the socio-political stability in the republic.

The last four months have been very difficult for Azerbaijan. During this period the republic itself, its citizens underwent terrible ordeals and it proved again that the peoples' wisdom, national consent and solidarity, the civilian unity was capable to overcome any difficulties

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and create the conditions able to help the republic in the hard situation.

In spite of the gained relative stability throughout the republic, we are still in great disaster. As a result of continuing aggression for more than five years the Armenian paramilitary occupied a part of Azerbaijan lands. Now approximately 20 per cent of its territory is in the hands of the Armenian invaders. They occupied the former Nagorno-Karabakh province completely. It is already a year and half that the dear and holy for every Azerbaijani town Shusha is under occupation of aggressor. The Armenian armed forces captured Lachin, Kalbadjar, Agdam, Fizuli, Jabrail, Gubadli regions of Azerbaijan and at the result the hundreds of villages, towns, settlements turned into the ruins and the population of these settlements became refugees. Now they live in the hardest conditions. All of these caused the intensification of tension in the socio-political and spiritual life. Now to help the republic in the war condition, to return the lands under capture, to guarantee the territorial integrity and security of the borders of sovereign Azerbaijan, to get all displaced people come back to their native homes are the most important tasks for us.

I assure you as the President and consider it to be my main duty to mobilize all the efforts of Azerbaijan people, to do my entire utmost and spare no efforts to attain these objectives.

Of course, it is not so easy to break off the war lasting for five years and to restore the captured lands. There exist various opinions in our society concerning the way of achieving this goal. Standing in the peaceable disposition, we prefer to solve this problem firstly peace-

fully and by peace negotiations. For this purpose it is necessary effectively use the diplomatic means, to hold the peace negotiations by maintaining the interests of Azerbaijan and at last to attain the planned purposes. In the future, we shall also do our best to help Azerbaijan in the war condition. We shall also restore its captured territories by effectively using the efforts of United Nations, CECS, UN Security Council, major states and all international organizations taking part in the settlement of this conflict.

At the some time the Azerbaijan Republic as an independent state should have the efficient army. Unfortunately, since Azerbaijan gained independence, we have not carried our sufficient work in this direction. If our peace negotiations fail, the creation of the efficient army capable to ensure Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, the defense of republic will become one of the main tasks of our republic.

I want to note that during the five-year war the Azerbaijani people underwent many trials experienced the joy of victory and the bitterness of failure. This war is a great tragedy for us. At the same time, this war again demonstrated the power, heroism, wisdom of Azeri people on the world. Our people faced with great losses in this war. Defending our lands, the heroic sons of our people fell in the battles, became the martyrs (shahids). Today, at the solemn inauguration I ask you to stand in memory of martyrs (shahids) who have sacrificed their lives while defending the Azerbaijan lands, its sovereignty. Let the sacred memory bloodshed will notlive for ever Today, I announce it again that martyr's remain without revenge.

We shall ever keep their memories in our hearts. Our youth and the succeeding generation will ever follow their heroic exploits as a sample. Azeri people will cheer up, join their hands, create the modern army and henceforth will cherish their state independence and territory as the apple of their eye.

One of the main tasks confronting the independent Azerbaijan Republic is formation of statehood. Our way is clear and we have announced it many times to be the way of democracy. We must establish the legal democratic state in Azerbaijan functioning on the democratic basis. Azerbaijan will follow and develop the democratic statehood by using its historical, national traditions, leaning on the word experience and the values common to all humanity. This is our way and I promise you again to keep to this way.

This way requires to our historical background and at the same time creates the necessary conditions to the necessary conditions to join the independent republic with the world civilization. We created all conditions for it and we are going to continue it. Freedom of speech, of religion, of the press, of conscience all of these are the condition enabling us to create the democratic, civilized society in Azerbaijan and we shall do our best to get these values consolidated. Azerbaijan is changing into the society of multiparty system. There are functioning some parties and this process is still going on. Azerbaijan will create all conditions for their formation and development and, of course, multiparty society assuming the confirmation of democratic principles will help the development of Azerbaijan as an independent state.

Opposition plays a great role in multiparty society. We should also be respectful towards the opposition in future. I want to express my confidence that the parties and political forces standing in the opposite position in Azerbaijan will keep to the constructive positions. This will open the new horizons for the future development of real democracy in Azerbaijan. In one word, we regard the existence of opposition in Azerbaijan as a natural process and at the same time I declare my readiness for the constructive co-operation with them.

The withstanding groups, independent political organizations should give up the illegal, abnormal ways and methods recently used by them that are contradicting the democracy. Political parties and movements can freely function in Azerbaijan. None of the political parties or movements, socio-political organizations must have the armed groupings and the armed forces! Today, I declare it resolutely in front of all Azerbaijan people. Unfortunately, the Popular Front once having a positive influence on the socio-political life of Azerbaijan Republic caused the formation and functioning of separate illegal armed units in Azerbaijan. We think that all parties, movements, socio-political life of Azerbaijan Republic caused the formation and functioning of separate illegal armed units in Azerbaijan. We think that all parties, movements, socio-political organizations will do away with their armed units. There should be only one armed unit that's the one belonging to the government. We must altogether do our best to liquidate the illegal armed units. It promotes the basic conditions for the internal socio-political stability in the republic.

Protection of human rights is one of the chief duties of the state in the civilized democratic society. I want you to be confident that during my holding this high position I shall ever keep it in the centre of my attention and guarantee the protection of human rights. In one word, we shall create all conditions in our society for the complete freedom of personality. From this view-point liberty of conscious assumes a special significance on the actual stage of our life. Our people returned to their religion. Islamic religion took up its historic place in the world. It had a great influence on the spiritual life, scientific thoughts of our people. Thanks to Islam, our national traditions, culture passed from one generation to another and as a national property reached to the existing generation. We have created all conditions for the religions freedom in Azerbaijan and in future we shall continue it. We hope that our religion will play a great role in formation of civic solidarity and civil unity in the hard period of republic.

Azerbaijan is a multinational republic. This is a characteristic feature of our republic. It has a rich history and we are proud of it. All the citizens of Azerbaijan have equal rights not depending on their national belongings. In future we shall also create all conditions favoring the citizens' equal participation in the socio-political life of Azerbaijan.

Today, the Head of Caucasian Moslems, the representatives of Christian and Jewish religions congratulated me on the occasion of entering upon my duties. I express my gratitude and want to assure them that we shall create all necessary conditions ensuring the equality of each nation and religion in Azerbaijan.

One of the main conditions the independence of republic is the correct competent foreign policy enabling Azerbaijan to uphold its interests on the international arena. Unfortunately, since after we gained the independence we have not done enough work in the field of foreign policy. We have to solve many questions. Our foreign policy must safeguard Azerbaijan's independence. The task is to create and develop the relations with all world countries on the bases of equality and benefit. We must use them effectively for consolidation of position of Azerbaijan Republic, as well as for the development of its economy, science and culture. Our foreign policy is peace loving and it does not aim at violating the sovereignty, territorial integrity of our republic. I think after having done much work, we shall create an opportunity where Azerbaijan will widely represent itself and the republic will occupy its worthy place in the world community.

With my election as the President, the leaders of many countries have sent congratulations. I accept them firstly as the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence, its place among the world community states. I express my thanks to the leaders of the states who sent congratulations, the representatives of foreign countries taking part in this ceremony. I want you to be confident that Azerbaijan Republic as independent state will also try in future to set up the fruitful relations with these and other countries. It will use the efforts of the foreign countries to help the republic in the critical situation in which it is existing now. Thank you very much I wish you and the leaders of your countries and our people success and happiness in all their affairs. We should have also to solve many problems in the socio-economic sphere, to help Azerbaijan in the diffi-

cult, hard situation. Although the attainment of independence is the historical event, the actual situation of our economy still creates many difficulties for us. Unfortunately, the crisis that the republic, has faced for the last years has had a negative influence on all branches of economy. We can say that it is already entirely misbalanced which consequently leads to the reduction of people's welfare. At the same time, I want to note that the republic possesses the enormous socio-economic and scientific-technical potentialities. The geopolitical location of Azerbaijan, its natural resources, the basic funds formed during many years enable our economy to get out of difficult crisis. From this viewpoint, in our activity we should use effectively to use the actual potency on the one hand, to carry out the economic reforms leading to the market economy on the other. This is a difficult and arduous way. To transfer from the socio-economic system experienced during dozens of ten years to the free marketing system will surely entail the great difficulties. The mistakes made in this sphere recently deepen it greatly. We have to follow this way, because we do not have another one. We must organize this work in conformity with economy of republic, with its traditions. Following this way, we have to use the existing economic potency and not to get it destroyed. We must also try to use it in future as a national property of Azerbaijan, to improve the welfare of our people at all levels.

Our turn is to carry out the democratic reforms on this sphere, take the thought-out steps and I want you to be confident that we shall keep to this way. With this, I want to emphasize the alliance of Azerbaijan Republic with the Commonwealth of the Independent States. There were going on the debates in Azerbaijan on this question and at

last Azerbaijan joined the CIS. We are confident that this step will create the favourable conditions for the development of economy in the republic and we must utterly seize these opportunities.

I want also to note that some circles try to present Azerbaijan's alliance with CIS as a dangerous event. This is not the correct opinion. Are being CIS member Azerbaijan will ever defend its independence. Its alliance with CIS can never prejudice the independence of republic. As an independent state Azerbaijan will keep to the democratic way, follow the international democratic norms. We shall never re-establish the communist ideology, communist regime in Azerbaijan.

I hope that the majority of people of the republic are of the republic are of the same opinion. Azerbaijan Republic henceforward will never be a part and fall under the dependence of the other state.

Our home and foreign policy will ever base on democratic principles. By the confirmation of the democratic principles in Azerbaijan we shall place foreign policy at the service of consolidation of Azerbaijan's independence. Well, as the President I declare it publicly in front of my people and want you to be confident that I will ever be faithful to these principles.

Dear, esteemed compatriots!

This day is a historical, significant day for me. I want again to express my inner gratitude, respect, love for the citizens of Azerbaijan, all Azerbaijan people for their trust. I want you to be confident that up to the end of my life I shall be faithful to my people and devote all my energy to the future development of Azerbaijan Republic.

Putting my hand on the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, I swear to devote all my knowledge, experience,

efforts to the good deeds of Azerbaijan people, Azerbaijan Republic.

I swear that I perform the duties of President for the Highest purposes, high-principled ideas. I shall exert all my efforts to safeguard the full independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of Azerbaijan Republic.

I swear that I will be guarantor for the implementation of the Constitution and the laws of Azerbaijan Republic will protect the rights and freedom of Azerbaijan people not depending on their nationalities, religion and political convictions. I will be the guarantor of freedom, democratic changes and development of Azerbaijan Republic as a legal democratic state.

I swear to be properly worthy in my service for Azerbaijan Republic, Azerbaijan people. I shall try that our independent state will be able to occupy its worthy place among the civilized states, in the world community.

Putting my hand on the Holy Koran, I swear to be faithful to the national and spiritual traditions of Azerbaijan people, to ensure the guarantee that these traditions could be able to be confirmed, supported and developed in our independent state.



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Speech of the Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev on his Inauguration October 18, 1998

Dear compatriots!
Esteemed ladies and gentlemen!
Esteemed guests!

I cordially greet you and thank all of you for coming to the inauguration ceremony of the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I want to express my profound gratitude to the Azerbaijani people and citizens that they have reelected me the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Feeling pride to be reelected President of independent Azerbaijan, I estimate this trust put in me as a high estimation of my activity as President of Azerbaijan.

Just before you, before all citizens of Azerbaijan I



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have taken the oath on the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic, on the sacred book - the Koran. I declare, that I shall be always loyal to the oath and up to the end of the life I shall truly serve our Native land - to Azerbaijan, our nation, our people.

Heads of many states and governments, public and political figures, scientists and cultural workers congratulated me on the occasion of my electing the President of the Azerbaijan Republic. I express the gratitude for all these congratulations.

Heads and high ranked representatives of neighboring states have arrived in Azerbaijan to participate directly in the Inauguration ceremony of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic. Today they are together with us here, in this palace. The ambassadors of foreign countries in Azerbaijan and representatives of the international organizations are taking part in the inauguration ceremony. A lot of guests have arrived in Azerbaijan. To all visitors who have arrived in Azerbaijan I say: Welcome.

I appreciate all this as a striking example of our friendship and cooperation. Arrival in Azerbaijan and participation of the presidents, heads of governments, and delegations of the Caucasian republics in the inauguration ceremony assume great importance. It is an embodiment of the solidarity and unity of the Caucasian peoples and this displays the reality of the "Common Caucasian home", shows the Caucasian peoples and republics are able to make close cooperation. This also displays that the Caucasian peoples and republics want to have close relationship to each other. This expresses their desire for the peace in the Caucasus.

Peace building, being a peace region and settlement of the existing conflicts in the Caucasus are the principal desire and dream of the peoples and republics of the Caucasus.

Today being together of the Caucasian peoples, assembling of the presidents of the Caucasus in Azerbaijan once again testifies that we peoples and republics of Caucasus want peace and prosperity and to change the Caucasus into a region of the strongest peace and prosperity in the world. I am confident that we will attain it with our common efforts.

Dear friends!

On October 18, 1991, the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan Republic, expressing will of people, has passed the Constitutional Statement on the state independence and declared the independence of Azerbaijan to the world. Today it is the seventh anniversary of this historic event. It is a holiday of Azerbaijan. With all my heart I congratulate the people and all citizens of Azerbaijan on the occasion of this holiday and I wish them new and new successes on a way of independence.

In 1993, the nation has invited me to the power and in October, 1993 I was elected the President of Azerbaijan. For last five years Azerbaijan lived, the state independence of our country became stronger and developed. For last five years the Azerbaijan people has passed difficult, hard, complicated, but at the same time an honorable way. In 1993 in Azerbaijan civil war, a partition of Azerbaijan has been prevented. The attempts to coup d'etat, terrors and sabotages have been precluded.

In 1994 in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict the regime of cease-fire has been built up, and this regime

proceeds. As a result of it, the socio political stability has been provided in Azerbaijan. For this purpose we have passed a hard and difficult way. In those years in Azerbaijan the end has been put to chaos, anarchy, disorders, the illegal armed groups have been liquidated, and criminal groups have been neutralized. Now in conditions of political stability in our republic citizens of Azerbaijan have an opportunity to live easy, freely, quiet.

The internal and external policy of the Azerbaijan Republic is carried out considered, consecutive, be equitable to national interests of the people. In Azerbaijan process of construction of the democratic, low-based, secular state is conducted. All State Institutions based on section of independent state, authority and democratic principles have been established in Azerbaijan. Independent Azerbaijan has accepted the first democratic Constitution. On the basis of democratic elections the first parliament of independent Azerbaijan - Milli Mejlis which is legislature in Azerbaijan accepts numerous laws has been elected. All this shows to the world existence, development of the independent state in Azerbaijan.

The army foundation process was the most important issue for the last years. Today with feeling of pride it is possible to tell, that in our country the regular, professional army has been created, and the available strong army is capable to protect the sovereignty, statehood, independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Last years were years of creation, deepening and development of democracy in Azerbaijan. On the basis of the democratic principles the state and government have

undertaken their activities and the Azerbaijani society was established. The protection of human rights and ensuring of human freedom were the focus of attention in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani citizens have equal rights regardless of their religious, language and ethnic-origin and they can use these rights as they wish.

The pluralist society was formed In Azerbaijan. The freedoms of press, speech and conscience were completely guaranteed. The political parties, social organizations, different groups and Mass Media freely operate. Freedom and at the same time rights of citizens are protected and will be protected by the state. As a result of all above mentioned aspects, it was possible the adoption of the first democratic Constitution by means of the nationwide referendum and the election of the first Parliament-Milli Mejlis based on democratic principles.

The presidential elections held in 1998 once again have shown to all world, that independent Azerbaijan goes on a way of democracy. Execution of the authority of the president, who was elected in 1993, in the course of 5 years and holding new elections after this term confirms in itself the existing democracy and its development in our country.

It is known to everybody that the statehood of Azerbaijan after gaining its independence could not develop because of not existing socio-political stability and some other reasons. The last five years were the years of establishment and development of the statehood. The presidential elections have been held on the basis of democratic principles. In Azerbaijan free, independent, fair elections have been held.

Active participation of some parties and the organizations, presence of six candidates in these elections, carrying out of pre-election campaign in conditions of freedom, publicity, very serious competition between candidates, the presidential elections taking place as a result of it, activeness of voters which has never been in such level and the participation of the majority of electors in the presidential elections, at last, holding the presidential elections in time, all of these testifies that the democracy is existed and big steps made in a direction of development of democracy.

The state bodies have strengthened struggle against criminality to provide political stability in Azerbaijan. Today with satisfaction I can tell, that this struggle has yielded the positive results. The groups of the organized criminals existed some years ago have been rendered harmless, abolished and the offenders have been punished and in such a way there have been offered necessary facilities for the Azerbaijani citizens to live and work quietly. At the same time, in last years we strengthened the statehood, introduced proper order, achieved observance of discipline, and on the other hand carried out a policy of humanism.

One of the main directions of our present day policy is the humanism. Just as a result of this policy for last two years 1856 people have been released from jails and exempted from punishment by my decrees. As a result of the amnesties which have been carried out under my initiative more than 40 thousand people have been liberated from jails and exempted from the punishment. We will continue this policy in future as well. I declare, that I will also issue decrees on pardon and realize the

new initiatives for the large-scale amnesties in the nearest future.

Process of state construction in Azerbaijan is carrying out side by side with the process of economic construction. The past of economy is known to everybody. During the period when Azerbaijan gained its independence the great economic potential of the Azerbaijan Republic fell into decay in some respect concerning with the collapse of the Soviet Union and as a result of military aggression launched by Armenia in 1988 against our country. From the end of 1980th years the economy in Azerbaijan began to fall into decay. Recession in economy in 1992-93 has made 20-25 percent.

As a result of the right economic policy we could make visible changes in the situation in this regard. The democratization of all spheres in a life of Azerbaijan is the principal aspect. Besides implementing reforms in the socio-political, state construction fields and applying democratic principles, we have carried out basic reforms in economic and social fields for democratization and liberalization of economy. These constitute the basis of our strategic way.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is establishing its economy in accordance with the world economy. Our country is reconstructing its economy on market principles. Our essential mission is the association of the experiences of the economically developed countries of the world with the realities of Azerbaijan and to build market economy in our republic. I declare with satisfaction that we got great achievements in this regard.

Azerbaijan has started carrying out the economic reforms considerably later than the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States because of the conflict with Armenia and the internal unrests. However, despite of it, for short term we have succeeded the implementation of the economic reforms and already we see their positive results.

These reforms, it is possible to tell, were carried out basically since the end 1995 - the beginnings of 1996, and are still being carried out. As a result of it, in 1996 we have prevented recession in economy of Azerbaijan and gradually achieved stabilization and development of the economy.

We established stability in 1996, and the years of 1997 and 1998 were the years of the increase and development in economy, in industry, in production of agricultural produces and gross domestic products.

As a result of it, in Azerbaijan during the last two years, principal activities have been provided for the improvement of the people's social welfare and the solution of their social problems and basis created for conducting them in the future. We could preclude the inflation in Azerbaijan. In 1994-95 the inflation was suppressing the economy of Azerbaijan. Carrying out economic reforms, liberalization of economy, measures taken in the financial field have enabled to prevent the inflation.

You know that in last months there happened a financial crisis in some regions of the world. This crisis was reflected in Russia and passed on to some other member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We build close relationship with Russia and the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Therefore this financial crisis, undoubtedly, could affect Azerbaijan as well. But, the measures which we took connecting with this issue prevented them. Today a financial position in Azerbaijan is stable, the national currency of Azerbaijan - manat - is absolutely stable

Among the measures taken in the economic field, our fruitful cooperation with many countries of the world in this regard assumes importance. We have opened our country to all world. Our country goes on way of open and free economy. Basing on this, Azerbaijan signed contracts, which have historical importance, with some large oil companies of the world on the joint exploitation of the oil and gas deposits of our country. These contracts are already carried out. We see their practical results. These and other activities conducted in the economic field guarantees the foreign capital to be invested rapidly.

Now a capital per person constitutes 160 US dollars In Azerbaijan. This is the highest indicator among the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We consider such work, which carried out with the large oil and companies of the world in the field of oil and gas, very significant not only for Azerbaijan but also at the same time for the all Caucasus, the Central Asia and the pool of the Caspian Sea.

On the basis of the contracts signed in the field of oil and gas, under the achieved projects to Azerbaijan within forthcoming 25-30 years it will be invested the capital approximately in size of 45-50 billion US dollars. The income of Azerbaijan from these contracts will make approximately 200 milliards dollars. The activities

provided by Azerbaijan, as I have noted, offers all necessary facilities for the construction of the Trans Caucasian oil and gas pipelines in the territory of Azerbaijan and the implementation of such big project.

All this represents very much great value for today and the future of Azerbaijan. However, our cooperation with other countries covers already all branches of the economy. Now in Azerbaijan operate more than 1300 companies of foreign countries.

On the basis of the program of privatization economic reforms are widely carried out. The implementation of the program of privatization yields its positive results. The privatization of small and middle enterprises was completed and there is a task of privatizations of the large enterprises before us.

Land reform is one of the major issues in the realization of economic reforms. At the end of 1995 we took very bold steps, adopted a radical law "About land reform" and for the past short period we have been realizing it. The law "About land reform" in Azerbaijan is carried out on the basis of a principle of land transfer to a private ownership principle. We have already implementing it into life. Today 80 percent of the land in Azerbaijan, which is going to be transferred, is already in a private ownership.

The cattle-breeding branch of an agrarian sector has been completely privatized. As a result, output of agricultural, food products has increased in Azerbaijan. I hope that Azerbaijan will be self-sufficient in food-stuffs in the near future.

Yesterday I listened to the information transmitted on the Moscow TV. It was about holding a referendum on

the issue of the land transfer to a private ownership in Kyrgyzstan. It pleases us. However, we have already carried it out due to the adopted law. Our people could understand it correctly and have been realizing it. It is well-known, that in the Commonwealth of Independent States member-countries, the question of land reform, the question of land transfer to a private ownership has a very acute character. But Azerbaijan has demonstrated that her people are really striving for creation of the property, entrepreneurship and free economy. Therefore, the adopted laws and taken measures are approved by people, citizens, and they will implement them successfully.

Thus, for the past five years Azerbaijan has overcome state, political and economic crises. In Azerbaijan socio-political stability has been ensured, and this process is going on. We have achieved macroeconomic stability in economy. All these have laid the foundation for the further successful development of the Azerbaijan state in the future.

Alongside with these achievements, we see also mistakes and shortcomings in all spheres of life. We know these problems very well. We are fully aware of the harm done to our country. Unfortunately, there are some persons in authorities, state and executive bodies of Azerbaijan who are still unable to exercise their duties properly. There are also such ones who abuse their office in their own interest, break laws and are engaged in bribery and corruption. There are still hostile elements creating obstacles to the implementation of free economy in Azerbaijan. On the one hand, we are trying to develop entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan, we want to form a section of entrepreneurs, to inculcate in people businessman's qualities, to create such

conditions that each person has a job. Thus, we want to develop free market economy.

Unfortunately, there are some persons in authorities hampering the progress of this business. Lawlessness and shortcomings in local executive bodies, separate ministries and law enforcement bodies raise obstacles to the realization of our policy and measures.

It is well-known that the performance of economic policy and reforms alongside with economical growth on the whole negatively affect the low-income groups of the population. Therefore, we pay special attention to social orientation of our reforms, and further it will be also in the focus of our attention. We shall take efficient measures towards the improvement of living conditions of those people. Taking into account the development of economy, increasing our incomes, developing the budget for the next period we shall achieve increase in wages, pensions and allowances. Thus, we shall pay special attention to low-income category of our citizens. It is one of our primary tasks.

In this respect in the center of our attention, in particular, there will be and in future a position of our citizens violently expelled from the occupied lands by the Armenian armed forces, those who became refugees, their living and material conditions. Today, I have to admit that in spite of our efforts most of our countrymen live in tent camps, in unbearable conditions. On the one hand, everyone who sees people living in these tents is horrified. On the other hand, we think how tolerant people we are.

Before I met those people expelled from the occupied territories and refugees living in camps. I have met them recently. I can say, I have been to most of the

small tent towns. I visited tents, talked to people and once again I saw their situation with my own eyes. Really, they display great endurance and heroism. They lost their homes, relatives and belongings. Now they live in tents in hot summer and in severe frost winter.

Therefore, I stated and I repeat today, that we should take additional measures to improve, facilitate the situation of this category of the population before we have liberated the occupied lands. But, alongside with all these, each person, each official working in authorities, each citizen having possibilities should take care of them. It is our national duty. It is our civic duty.

Today I declare, that further we shall take serious measures towards the elimination of existing shortcomings in different spheres of life and perfection of activity of authorities. Activity of the Cabinet should be improved. Work of ministers should be improved, too. However, I want to point out again that during the last two years there have been great changes in the structure of executive bodies. A number of ministries, state committees and central administrative boards have been liquidated. The enterprises, the organizations belonging to them are privatized or at a stage of privatization. These our actions will be continued further, changes in the structure of the ministries will be made, and activity of the Cabinet will be improved, as well.

In the field of economy we carry on work by using the world experience. From this point of view we very closely cooperate with the International monetary fund, the World bank, and the Economic commission of the European Union. We use their recommendations effectively. Today I state, it yields the big benefit to us. I

am satisfied that the work which has been carried out by us in this area, the positive changes which have occurred in economy, realization of economic reforms and their results are estimated by the International monetary fund and the World bank. I express gratitude for this cooperation, and today I declare, that we shall pursue the way to the market economy and economic reforms. We shall cooperate with world economy more closely. We shall use the world economic experience more effectively.

I declare as the President re-elected by people, we estimate the present situation objectively, correctly and fairly in Azerbaijan. We can see the achievements, but at the same time we can see shortcomings, mistakes and miscalculations, as well. Therefore, as the President of Azerbaijan in my activity I shall try to achieve development of positive tendencies and elimination of existing problems. I think we shall achieve it.

For the last five years Azerbaijan has proved and demonstrated to the world that we have built a democratic, legal and civil state in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is following the course of democracy. Today I state again, that it is our strategic way and we shall pursue it consistently. We shall never divert from the chosen road.

Way of democratic development and democratic construction in any country, including Azerbaijan, is authority opposition relations. It is natural while we are creating, building and developing democracy, we realize the presence of opposition. Therefore, I wish regulation of authority opposition relations in my future activity. I wish this to be raised to a healthier level by using the world experience. As authority, we realize the existence of

opposition and reality of this factor in Azerbaijan now and in future.

Therefore, doors of authority are always open for the establishment of mutual understanding with all oppositional forces and holding necessary negotiations with them. I hope, that now, having passed a five years' stage, having strengthened principles of statehood in Azerbaijan and finally having held fair presidential elections on October, 11, we have more opportunities for regulation of authority opposition relations. The president of Azerbaijan and authority of Azerbaijan are ready for any negotiations and dialogues. I think the forces of opposition camp should place national interests of Azerbaijan above all, the state independence, existence and development of Azerbaijan as an independent state. Afterwards, we can cooperate guided by these principles. During the last five years Azerbaijan has been pursuing a consistent and elaborate foreign policy. It was successful and has yielded positive results. For this reason during the last five years there has been established cooperation between Azerbaijan and many other countries of the world, including advanced countries. Numerous official visits from Azerbaijan to these countries have been organized. Heads of the states, governments, parliaments and high-ranking delegations from many countries of the world have arrived in Azerbaijan. Numerous interstate agreements, contracts have been signed. For the past years Azerbaijan has been represented in all international organizations and participated in them fruitfully.

As a result of all it, Azerbaijan has taken a worthy place in the world community. As an independent and democratic state pursuing the way to free economy, it is

recognized in the world. Many countries show great interest in it and launch initiatives of establishment of closer relations with Azerbaijan.

The conducted foreign policy of Azerbaijan also has served the Caucasian region. As a result of done work with realization of TRASEKA program, the International conference on restoration of the historical Great silk way was held on September, 7-8 this year in Baku. Representatives of 32 countries took part in it. 9 countries were represented by presidents and heads of the governments. Representatives of 13 international organizations also participated in it. After interrupting activity of the Great silk way in the Middle Ages and up today, for the first time historical decisions were made at the international conference in Baku. In connection with the restoration of the Great silk way the Baku declaration and agreements were signed. This is a historical event for us. At the same time it testifies the significances of that Azerbaijan connects the East and the West, Europe and Asia. It shows fruitful activity of Azerbaijan in this direction.

We are entering into the European continent. But at the same time, on a joint of Europe and Asia, our country in a history of its people, its national culture, historical roots and mentality makes synthesis of the East with the West, Europe with Asia. Therefore, we realize our historical mission and we have done necessary work for its performance. I think the Baku international conference is worthy a high estimation in this area.

Further we shall continue our activity in this direction. We shall follow the way which we have stepped in foreign policy. Azerbaijan is a peaceful country. We want peace in the world, in the Caucasus, in the region and

in the country. We are trying to achieve it. The military aggression started by Armenia against Azerbaijan 10 years ago, became the reason of military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. At the same time it has led to breach of peace in the Caucasus.

It is known, that as a result of aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan for the certain reasons 20 percent of its territory is occupied by the Armenian armed forces. More than one million of our compatriots have been violently expelled from the occupied lands. Now they live in the hardest conditions.

Historical monuments, religious holy places, mosques, wealth and all economy of our country have been destroyed on our occupied territories. A great damage has been done to Azerbaijan. Ten thousands people became martyrs, sacrificed themselves, blood was shed. As a result of the war ten thousands people became invalids. A large group of martyrs' families was formed in Azerbaijan. All the mentioned facts are the result of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan people have not encroached and attacked any country. It defended its sovereignty and lands. Brave sons of Azerbaijan became martyrs defending their Motherland. There was also bloodshed as a result of the aggression undertaken by the Soviet power in 1990. Innocent Azerbaijani people became martyrs as a result of this aggression.

Today, at the ceremony of the oath, I pay tribute to the memory of all martyrs perished in the name of independence, sovereignty and defence of Azerbaijan lands. I ask to observe a minute of silence in their memory.

God rest their soul. (Allah rahmat elasin)

Despite all these losses, the Azerbaijan state is seeking to solve the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict peacefully. In May, 1994 we signed an agreement of the ceasefire regime. During the past four years we have preserved the ceasefire regime and have been holding peaceful negotiations. The negotiations which have been held for the past period and all done work create a basis for settling the problem by peaceful means. It inspires us with hopes. The OSCE and its Minsk Group is involved in the solution of this conflict. At the present time, OSCE has three co-chairmen. They are the Russian Federation, the United States of America and France. Today I estimate the work done by the Minsk group of the OSCE. In particular, I highly appreciate resolutions and statements accepted both at the OSCE's Budapest summit meeting in 1994 and the OSCE's Lisbon summit meeting in 1996. We also accepted proposals made by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen both in 1997 and at the beginning of 1998. And on their basis we are ready to cooperate further.

Everyone, the OSCE and its Minsk Group, the whole world should know that the peaceful solution of this conflict must be based on the principle of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. We have never encroached and we are not going to encroach on the territory of a neighboring country. When we declared Azerbaijan as an independent state we were recognized by the United Nations Organization. We defend and shall defend full integrity of Azerbaijan within the framework of frontiers of Azerbaijan.

The solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict can take place in these frameworks. We can never give a country a part of our land. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijani borders is holy

for us. We further shall try to achieve these sacred goals. We shall do our best to achieve restoration of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by all means.

Dear friends! Dear compatriots!

We are entering a new stage of the development of the independent Azerbaijan. We are facing a number of problems. We are moving to XXI century XX century takes a special place in the history of Azerbaijan people. In XX century Azerbaijan experienced big difficulties. It gained a state independence and then lost it. During 70 years we lived under totalitarian and communist regime.

After we gained a state independence, the life of Azerbaijan has undergone the hardships. Started Armenia's military aggression ten years ago has aggravated it, created difficulties for the development of Azerbaijan. However, despite it, we look ahead optimistically. I can see perfectly the future of our country. Our activities and taken measures will ensure its consistent development.

The future of Azerbaijan belongs to young people. We have laid firm foundation and reliable basis for modern young generations and for future generation of Azerbaijan. The most important factor is that the independent state of Azerbaijan has been built and strengthened. It is developing. The state independence of Azerbaijan is unshakable and eternal.

We want Azerbaijan to enter into XXI century as a powerful and independent state. We want to create a happier life for future generations. We are trying to use opportunities of Azerbaijan effectively, to develop economy and improve well-being of Azerbaijan people. In future we shall also try to take a worthy place in the world community. We shall also cooperate with the world

progressive state associations. Azerbaijan will develop as a free democratic country, and that place where Europe merges with Asia will play its historical role.

Dear compatriots, you can be sure that I realize this hard and responsible task. I want to express my gratitude for showing confidence in me. With a sense of high responsibility I approach this trust. I assure you, with all my essence I shall do my best to justify your confidence. I shall achieve the intensive development of Azerbaijan in forthcoming years.

Long live Azerbaijan people!

Long live a democratic, mighty, independent Azerbaijan!



Address to the People of Azerbaijan October 01, 2003

Dear country fellows, dear citizens of Azerbaijan.

34 years have passed since my leadership in the Republic of Azerbaijan, and 10 years since my leadership in the independent Azerbaijani state. In these years, as both an Azerbaijani and citizen of Azerbaijan, and as its leader and President, my vital purpose was only to serve You, the people of Azerbaijan that I loved more than myself, our statehood, economic, political, and moral development of our country. In this way, I have derived all my strength and will only from my wise and thankful people. In the most difficult times and complicated situations, I relied on my people. This ensured my tolerance, will and all successes.

The people of Azerbaijan hold a worthy place among the leading world nations. The world is already aware of its rich moral, peculiar contributions it made to the world cultural treasury, its ability to be united with civil world values. Azerbaijan, by its labor and talent, is quickly integrating to the family of the world peoples and nobody is surprised at this.

Benefited from the leading experience and values of the world countries, our independent state develops. With the respect for democratic society, legal state, supremacy of human and civil rights, principles of political pluralism, Azerbaijan today is marching side by side with the European and world leading countries. Our country holds a worthy place in the international arena. Now, none of the key strategic and global issues of the world and re-

gion are solved without our opinion and interest. We are recognized, accepted and reckoned.

Economic life of Azerbaijan is being reconstructed and it revives and develops dynamically. Internal and foreign capital investment to the Country's economy increases year by year, while the agrarian field, food and light industry becomes modern, share of the non-oil sector in the economy raises, stability of the national currency is preserved, currency reserves in crease, new working places with high wages are opened. All these are the results of the new oil and economic development strategy implemented since 1994. I am sure that in such stable conditions, in the coming years there will be neither an unemployed nor a poor in Azerbaijan. Wages, pensions and profits of the citizens will considerably increase. State of Azerbaijan, our businessmen will have an opportunity to participate in the perspective and profitable projects, acquire chance and might to invest in both the country and abroad.

Our state gradually strengthens defense capability of the state and its military power. Our National Army masters leading experience and technology, and the youth willingly go to serve in the army.

All these were not easily achieved. In the passed years, we jointly prevented many internal and external dangerous aggressions, provocations and other anti-Azerbaijan actions, overcame many ordeals. You know this very well.

The adventures nationalist separatism launched by the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh was not timely prevented for the reason of disability of Azerbaijani leadership of that time. In 1990- 1993s, taking the advantage of political and power crisis in the Republic, chaos and anar-

chy, the Armed Forces of Armenia occupied the lands of Azerbaijan, and over one million of our country fellows became refugees and IDPs. Citizens of the country were instigated to internal armed clashes, confrontations, attempted to eliminate and destroy our state and statehood. We prevented all of these. However, we could not restore territorial integrity of Azerbaijan violated during the period of chaos and anarchy, and solve the problem of returning of the refugees to their homelands. I am confident that we shall certainly solve this question, too.

Despite this, during these years, we were able to solve the problems crucial for our people and state.

We, first, have achieved socio-political stability, which is the ground of our statehood, laid foundation of the civil society basing on the national unity and supremacy of laws.

Secondly, we have reconstructed the Country's economy, which forms the goal of every state, of its vitality, and are on the path of development.

Third, we could establish our democratic and strong state with all its relevant institutions, that reflects the wishes and aspirations of the people of Azerbaijan, and ensure irreversibility of its independence.

Only the state that acquired national unity, socio-political stability, dynamic economy, strong governmental institutions, and those bases on democratic and civil society, can solve everything, including territorial integrity another issues. I am certain that it will be just so.

Dear citizens of Azerbaijan, my dear people,

I have lived up 60 years of my meaningful life with today and tomorrow of my people. Ten years of them, I have served the independent Azerbaijani state. You are aware of

the works done in this field, but I have uncompleted, very perspective plans. Last times I have problems with my health that do not let me to complete these works that I started and conclusions of which I see clearly. Despite this, I was nominated as a candidate for the 15 October 2003 Presidential elections and my candidacy was registered. Hundreds thousands of people joined the election campaign and propagandize for me. Taking the opportunity, I extend my deep gratitude to those people, all members of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party who nominated my candidacy and back, representatives of other socio-political organizations, men of science, education and culture, intellectuals, and the people of Azerbaijan. I hope that I shall soon recover and turn to Motherland, be again with my people. Now, I recall my candidacy in favor of Ilham Aliyev.

I call on you - my country fellows, in the coming Presidential elections to vote for candidacy of my political successor, First Deputy Chairman of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party Ilham Aliyev. He is highly intellectual, pragmatic, and well aware of the modern world policy and economy, a strong and initiative personality. I assure you that both Ilham Aliyev and Yeni Azerbaijan Party will further closely unite worthy representatives of our people, do a lot for development of the Azerbaijani state and welfare of our nation. I am confident that with your help and support, Ilham Aliyev will be able to complete the crucial works and plans that I launched and could not complete. I trust him as myself and set my hopes on his future.

Deep respect,
Heydar Aliyev,
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1 October 2003

Biography of Ilham Aliyev, the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

Ilham Heydar oğlu Aliyev was born in December 24 of 1961 in Baku.

From 1967 through 1977 he studied in school in Baku.

In 1977 he entered Moscow State University of International Relations (MSUIR).

After its graduation in 1982 Mr. I.Aliyev continued his education as post graduate student in MSUIR.

In 1985 he finalized his research and received PHD in history.

From 1985 through 1990 he was a lecturer of Moscow State University of International Relations.

From 1991 through 1994 he led a group of private industrial-commercial enterprises.

From 1994 through 2003 he was a vice-president, and later a first vice-president of State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR). He was actively involved into the implementation of "Heydar Aliyev's oil strategy".

In 1995 and 2000 he was twice elected to Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 2003 he



* It was taken from www.president.az.

stopped his activity as a member of Parliament due to the appointment to the post of Prime minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Since 1997 he is the President of National Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan. For his great contribution to the development of sports and Olympic movement Mr. Aliyev was awarded the highest order of International Olympic Committee.

In 1999 he was elected as deputy, and in 2001 as first deputy of ruling Yeni Azerbaijan party.

From 2001 through 2003 he was the head of Azerbaijani Parliamentary delegation to Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE).

In January of 2003 he was elected as Deputy-Chairman of Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe and member of bureau of PACE.

In April of 2004 for his active participation in PACE events and commitment to European values Mr. Aliyev was awarded a medal and diploma of honorable member of PACE.

In August 4 of 2003 after confirmation of Milli Majlis (Parliament) he was appointed as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In October 15 of 2003 he was elected as the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. More than 76 % of voters supported Ilham Aliyev's candidacy during the elections. He assumed his post in October 31 of 2003.

Mr. Aliyev is fluent in Azerbaijani, Russian, English, French and Turkish.

He is the author of number of books on oil industry, economy and history of oil sector.

Mr. I. Aliyev is married, has three children.

**A speech of the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev
on his inauguration ceremony
October 31, 2003**

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen!

Dear guests!

I'd like to express my deep gratitude to voters, citizens and the entire people of Azerbaijan for their entrusting to me and electing me president of the Azerbaijan Republic.

I will justify to this great confidence and cope with this duty decently. I will continue Heydar Aliyev's policy.

On October 15, going to the polls, the Azerbaijani people voted for Heydar Aliyev's policy, voted for peace, safe, prosperity, development, reconstruction and stability. I consider no alternative to this policy in Azerbaijan.

Heydar Aliyev's policy has brought great success to Azerbaijan. The development in all spheres is underway and is making progress and success in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan enjoys international respect and has managed to take its worthy place in the international arena.



Azerbaijan's authority has been enhanced. Now Azerbaijan is reckoned with and respected. All large-scale international projects in the region are implemented with Azerbaijan's participation and with account being taken of its national interests.

Azerbaijan acts successfully in international organizations. Such an authoritative international organization as the Council of Europe has recognized Armenia as an aggressor state at the insistence of Azerbaijan. This process will keep on. Azerbaijan will get even firmer positions in the international arena and all over the world.

Relationship and cooperation with our neighbors is successfully developing. Our bilateral relations are becoming stronger and regional cooperation is developing. The presence of prominent statesmen from neighboring countries, who have come to Azerbaijan and Baku to participate in this inauguration ceremony, proves this once again.

Taking advantage of this chance, I welcome Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Sergey Mironov, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Abdulatif Sener, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad-Ali Abtahi and Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovch who are attending this ceremony.

The economy is strengthening and Azerbaijan is developing in all fields. Economic reforms are realized in Azerbaijan. As a result of these reforms, our country has improved its economy in a short period of time. In the last five years, the gross domestic product, which is

the most important indicator of the economy, has been increasing by 10 per cent every year. The level of inflation is 2 per cent. Actually 10 years ago, the level of inflation was 1,600 per cent in Azerbaijan.

The private sector is successfully developing in Azerbaijan. It is a very pleasing fact that the share of the private sector in the gross domestic product comprises 70 per cent. Building of entrepreneur's class is underway and a large-scale privatization program is being conducted. Land reform has been completed. Land has already been handed over to peasants for private ownership. As a result of these reforms, agricultural production is increasing. All this proves that the economic reforms conducted under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan are yielding their necessary results.

Foreign investment is at a very high level in Azerbaijan and this process is continuing. And I can tell you that the volume of investment from all sources is composed 15bn dollars. In terms of foreign investment per head of the population, Azerbaijan takes one of the first places among the former Soviet republics and is also ahead of some eastern European states.

However, it is no secret to anyone that investments and especially foreign investments are put in stable countries. An investor does not want to run a risk. From this point of view, Azerbaijan is a very relevant country for investment. The stability and social - political order that have been prevailing in Azerbaijan over the last few years have enabled us to take great steps in the sphere of attracting investment, which is proved by this day.

Of course, it is the duty of all of us to protect, retain and strengthen this stability in Azerbaijan.

We will let nobody to disrupt stability in Azerbaijan and if someone tries to do so, we will not allow this to happen and will ensure that the Azerbaijani people live in conditions of comfort, security and stability. This stability will allow us to develop Azerbaijan in the future at an even higher rate and comprehensively. We have a lot of plans on that score. Every sphere in Azerbaijan must be developed.

Oil strategy is heart of economy. Of course, the main direction of the Azerbaijani economy is to develop its oil strategy. The new oil strategy launched by Heydar Aliyev in 1994 has brought great success to Azerbaijan. With in 1994, this strategy has been Contract of the Century the signing of the conducted for nine years.

As a result of this, Azerbaijan is effectively exporting its oil and gas reserves to the world market. Azerbaijan is successfully cooperating with foreign companies in its own sector of the Caspian Sea. Ten billion dollars of investment have been made in Azerbaijan's oil industry. Tens of thousands of new jobs have been opened. A new infrastructure has been created. Drilling installations, platforms, oil pipelines, oil terminals and other infrastructure of importance to our country have been created in a short time.

Azerbaijan is already exporting its oil to the world market with the help of two pipelines. Since the restoration of the Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline, 2.5 m tones of oil have been exported every year. The Baku - Supsa oil pipeline was built anew and provides Azerbaijan with a way out to the West. With the help of this

pipeline, 6.7m tones of oil are being exported every year. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline is being constructed at the moment, 40 per cent of the work has already been carried out and 1.2m dollars have been invested in the construction of this pipeline. At the end of next year, we will mark its opening.

Azerbaijan has already started to work successfully on the "Shahdeniz" deposit that has large natural gas reserves. Investment is being made in the construction of the Baku-Erzurum gas pipeline and, if everything goes according to schedule, Azerbaijani gas will be delivered to Europe in 2006.

The foundations of all these plans and work were laid in 1994. In those difficult and complicated conditions, Azerbaijan was regarded as a very risky country. In order to attract investment to Azerbaijan, Mr. President Heydar Aliyev carried out great work. And finally, he turned a myth into reality.

Oil profits serve the people. The integral part of the oil strategy is that profits made from oil should effectively serve the Azerbaijani people. With this aim, the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan was set up. The creation of this Oil Fund is a very significant event in Azerbaijan's modern history. This fund is a fund that meets all international standards. It is a transparent fund. International financial organizations have overestimated its activities.

At present, there are 800m dollars in the Oil Fund. These assets belong to the people. For this reason, the public is constantly being informed of the activities of the Oil Fund. Each citizen should know what cur-

rency reserves his country has and how they are being spent.

With the development of Azerbaijan's economic potential in the future, after new oil fields are discovered in Azerbaijan and after the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline is put into operation in Azerbaijan, our country's possibilities will become even greater. And every year, billions of dollars of assets will enter Azerbaijan. With the help of these assets, construction work will be carried out in all spheres in Azerbaijan.

Great work will be carried out in the sphere of solving social problems. You know that funds allocated from the Oil Fund are being spent on refugees and internally displaced persons that live in the most difficult conditions in Azerbaijan. They are being spent on improving their living standards. By the decrees of Mr. President Heydar Aliyev, 70m dollars were allocated for this purpose. New settlements and houses are being constructed for refugees and displaced persons. Tens of thousands of refugees and displaced persons have already moved out of refugee camps into modern houses. This process will continue and we will continue to pay great attention to this issue in the future. I am sure that in the near future, all refugees and displaced persons that have suffered from the occupation will be provided with modern conditions.

Other social issues are also being solved in Azerbaijan. You know that recently, Mr. President decreed a 50-percent pay rise for health, education and culture workers. Pensions were increased by 40 per cent. This shows once again that our president has always paid attention to social issues.

From now on, this policy will continue. All the possibilities of the country will be at the service of this. And it is not by chance that 60 per cent of next year's budget will be spent on social issues.

In the future, Azerbaijan will turn into a very rich and powerful state. By continuing the oil strategy, we will comprehensively develop our country in a short time.

In particular, great attention will be paid to the non-oil sector. New plants and new factories will be put into operation. A plan of measures for entrepreneurs is being prepared. An economic development plan is being prepared in Azerbaijan. And this comprehensive economic development program will allow us to turn Azerbaijan into a rich state in a short time. We have all possibilities - natural reserves, human resources and most importantly, the will of the people. We will turn Azerbaijan into a rich and powerful state by closing ranks and hitting at one point. Karabakh is Azerbaijan's thorniest problem. Great work has been done in the sphere of army construction in Azerbaijan. A strong army has been set up in Azerbaijan and this process will continue. This issue will always be in the centre of my attention. Azerbaijan should have a strong army capable of settling all issues. I am confident that Azerbaijan's economic potential will give us the opportunity to enable the Azerbaijani army to meet the highest standards and tackle all the tasks it is facing.

The Azerbaijani-Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh problem is the thorniest problem for our country.

We have been living under the cease-fire regime for many years. Unfortunately, the activities of the

OSCE Minsk Group, which is directly involved in settling this issue, have not so far yielded any results. We are still not losing our hopes. We still hope that the co-chairmen will deal with this issue earnestly, in a responsible way, as this issue should be resolved. However, this issue can be resolved on the basis of several principles, on the basis of international laws. Azerbaijani land should be liberated from occupation, one million refugees and displaced persons should return to their native homes and Azerbaijan's territorial integrity should be restored. We shall never reconcile ourselves to the current situation.

Azerbaijan will never reconcile itself to the loss of the lands. Everybody should know, though, we are in favor of peace, we do not want war, this issue should be resolved by peaceful means, but, at the same time everybody should know that our patience is not endless. Azerbaijan will liberate its native lands at any cost. I believe in Azerbaijan's lucky future.

I am sure that our country will develop and will be stronger and develop thoroughly, democracy will develop in Azerbaijan, political pluralism, freedom of speech will develop, and Azerbaijan will shift to a modern state.

To accomplish all this, a lot of work should be carried out in Azerbaijan, but what is most essential in this is that in order to carry it out, to make Azerbaijan a powerful state, Heydar Aliyev's policy should be continued in Azerbaijan. Today, speaking from this high rostrum, I pledge to the Azerbaijani people that I shall remain loyal to this policy and will never deviate from this path; I will continue Heydar Aliyev's policy.

Today from this high rostrum I am appealing to our dear president, Mr. Heydar Aliyev: Dear President, we will strengthen your, modern Azerbaijan, make it richer, develop it comprehensively and will head for new victories following your path.

Long live Heydar Aliyev, the Azerbaijani people's national leader, the founder of modern Azerbaijan!

Long live the heroic Azerbaijani people!

Long live, free and independent Azerbaijan!



**The historical background to materials
of the book**

***Speech by Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev, Chairman
of Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
at the Meeting of Milli Mejlis (Parliament)
on June 15, 1993***

On June 4, 1993, as a result of putsch raised in Ganja city, the socio-political situation of the Azerbaijan Republic had become aggravated. Military defeats in Karabakh battles, gross mistakes following the incapability of Azerbaijan Population Front – Musavat authority to rule over the country, as well as a socio – economic crisis had lead Azerbaijan to meet face to face with civil war and threat to lose its independence. Just in that case the people had invited again Heydar Aliyev, their only rescuer, to power. On June 15, 1993, at the people's urgent request Heydar Aliyev has been elected a chairman of the Supreme Soviet (Milli Mejlis). This date is celebrated as the Salvation Day of the Azerbaijan Republic.

***Speech of the Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev
on his Inauguration Ceremony on October 10, 1993***

On October 3, 1993, in the extraordinary presidential elections Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev was elected the president. 97, 6 percent of general number of the electors entered in the list of voters participated in the elections. 98, 8 percent of the electors voted for Heydar Aliyev. In 1993, for the first time in the history of Independent Azerbaijan Republic there was held Heydar Aliyev's inauguration ceremony at the palace of "Republic" and the President delivered a broad speech.

***Speech of the Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev on
his Inauguration Ceremony on October 18, 1998***

In the 4th presidential elections held October 11, 1998, 2.556.059 persons or 76, 11 percent of electors voted for Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev. So, according to item 2 of article 101 of the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, polling the votes of two thirds of electors, Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev was reelected the President of the Azerbaijan Republic. On October 18, on the Independent Day of the Azerbaijan Republic, there was conducted an inauguration ceremony of the President.

***Address of the Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev to
the Nation, on October 1, 2003***

On October 1, 2003, President Heydar Aliyev appealing to the nation announced that he could not participate in the presidential elections because of health problems and withdrew his candidature in Ilham Aliyev's favor for the future development and prosperity of Azerbaijani people.

***Speech of the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on his
Inauguration Ceremony on October 31, 2003***

In the presidential elections held October 15, 2003, participating as a single candidate from the Yeni Azerbaijan Party, Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister, the first Deputy Chair of the Yeni Azerbaijan Party, outvoted and collected 76 percent of votes and elected the President of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Indexes to the materials of the book

*Heydar Aliyev,
Nation-wide leader of the people of
Azerbaijan*

<i>Nakhchivan city</i>	The capital of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic situated in the south-west of Azerbaijan Republic
<i>War</i>	The speech is about the war of Germany against the USSR (1941-1945)
<i>Saint Petersburg</i>	The city in northwest of the Russian Federation
<i>The Supreme Soviet of the USSR</i>	The Supreme Body of the government of the former USSR
<i>Michael Gorbachev</i>	Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Soviet Union (1985 - 1990). The first and last President of the USSR. The Soviet troops were brought into Azerbaijan on January 20, 1990 by his command. As a result of this, hundreds of innocent and defenseless people were killed.
<i>January 20</i>	1990 – The Soviet troops were brought into the city of Baku and some other regions of Azerbaijan. The bringing of troops into the country was followed by horrible cruelty. 134 civilians were killed and about 700 wounded.
<i>Lenin's award</i>	The supreme prize of the former USSR.

<i>The prize of "The Red Star"</i>	Handed to militarists in the former USSR for merits in protection of the native land during the war and peace time.
<i>The Hero of Socialist Labour</i>	The honorary title in the former USSR. The persons were awarded for special services in development of a national economy, sciences and cultures.
<i>Speech by Heydar Aliyev in Milli Majlis, (June 15, 1993)</i>	
<i>Milli Mejlis (Parliament)</i>	Supreme legislative body of the Azerbaijan Republic.
<i>Supreme Soviet</i>	Supreme legislative body of the Azerbaijan Republic until 1995.
<i>Azerbaijan Democratic Republic</i>	Independent National Government in 1918 – 1920.
<i>The Soviets Union</i>	The Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics. It was formed in 1922, collapsed in 1991.
<i>Armenia</i>	The state having the same border occupied 20 percent of territory of Azerbaijan (1991-1994).
<i>Occupied territories</i>	Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 bordering districts were occupied by Armenian armed forces as the result of the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan (1991 - 1994).
<i>Ganja</i>	Second large industrial town situated in the west part of the Azerbaijan Republic.

- Abulfaz Elchibey (1938 -2000)** The president of Azerbaijan Republic in 1992 - 1993 years.
- Ganja incidents** The clash with the governmental armies as a result of putsch raised by military unit in Ganja (1993).
- Surat Huseynov** The leader of Ganja putsch in 1993. Then, he was appointed the Prime Minister. In 1995, he was arrested on a charge of the coup d'etat.

*Inauguration speech by Heydar Aliyev,
(October 10, 1993)*

- Mountainous Garabag** Historical-geographical region situated in the south-west of Azerbaijan
- Shusha** A town, where the most of the population were Azerbaijanis, in Autonomous Region of Mountainous Garabag occupied by Armenian military units on May 8, 1992.
- Lachin** A district situated in the south - west of Azerbaijan Republic. Occupied by Armenian military units on May 18, 1992.
- Kalbajar** A district situated in the west of Azerbaijan Republic. Occupied by Armenian military units on May 18, 1992.
- Agdam** A district situated in the west of Azerbaijan Republic. Occupied by Armenian military units on July 23, 1992.
- Fizuli** A district situated in the south of Azerbaijan Republic. Occupied by Armenian military units on August 22, 1992.

- Jebrazil** A district situated in the south of Azerbaijan Republic. Occupied by Armenian military units on August 25, 1992.
- Gubadli** A district situated in the south - west of Azerbaijan Republic. Occupied by Armenian military units on August 31, 1992.
- Popular Front** Azerbaijan Popular Front - the political movement which emerged on a wave of national-liberation movement in 1988.
- Caucasus** The geographical territory located at the turn of Europe and Asia
- The Koran** The holy book of the Islam religion.
- The Commonwealth of Independent States** The Association founded by 12 republics of the former USSR (Russia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova) after the collapse of the USSR (1991).

*Inauguration speech by Heydar Aliyev,
(October 18, 1998)*

- Nagorno-Karabakh Problem** Artificial problem created by Armenian separatists as a result of the activities on the direction of joining of the Nagorno-Karabakh being Azerbaijani territory to Armenia, in 1998.
- Regime of cease-fire** The agreement on the termination of military operations on the Azerbaijani-Armenian front in May, 1994.
- Manat** National currency of the Azerbaijan Republic.

The Great Silk Way The transport corridor connecting Europe with Asia

*Address by Heydar Aliyev to the nation
(October 1, 2003)*

Ilham Aliyev President of the Azerbaijan Republic (since 2003).

Yeni Azerbaijan Party Founded by Heydar Aliyev in 1992 and ruling party since 1993

*Inauguration speech by Ilham Aliyev
(October 31, 2003)*

Baku Capital of the Azerbaijan Republic

Caspian Sea The largest lake in the world. Located at the turn of Europe and Asia.

The Minsk group of OSCE The International mission formed at Budapest Summit of OSCE in 1994 with the purpose of the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict on Mountainous Garabag.

Edward Shevardnadze The head of the Republic of Georgia (1992-1995), the president of the Republic of Georgia (1995-2003).

Sergey Mironov Chairman of Federal Council of Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation by the moment of Inauguration Ceremony of Ilham Aliev (since 2001 year).

Abdullatif Shener Deputy Prime Minister of Turkish Republic by the moment of Inauguration Ceremony of Ilham Aliyev.

Mahammadali Abtahi Vice-president of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the moment of Inauguration Ceremony of Ilham Aliyev.

Victor Janukovich Prime-minister of the Ukrainian Republic since November 21, 2002 by the moment of Inauguration Ceremony of Ilham Aliyev.

"Contract of Century" International agreement on exploitation of the hydrogen resources in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea (September 20, 1994).

Baku – Novorossiysk oil pipeline The oil pipeline for transportation of the Azerbaijan oil to the Europe on northern route.

Baku - Supsa oil pipeline The oil pipeline for transportation of the Azerbaijan oil to the Europe on the western route.

Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline The oil pipeline for transportation of the Azerbaijan oil to the Europe.

Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline The gas pipeline for transportation of the Azerbaijan gas to the Europe.

The State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan The Structure founded for gathering of oil profits and their charges to destination.

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