



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Right of reply

by **Ambassador Armen Papikyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia,**

at the 1275th OSCE PC meeting

under the current issue “*Military offensive of Azerbaijan on north-eastern part of the State border of Armenia*”

16 July 2020

It was not the intention of my delegation to take the floor again, but let me briefly respond to the emotional statement just made by the Turkish Ambassador. I think my statement was very clear. It was about the role and place of Turkey in our region. It contained also the wish of the way in which Turkey should behave in our region.

I think one should be extremely cautious and show a degree of restraint before speaking about the territorial integrity, sovereignty, inviolability of international borders. We have had an opportunity to address this issue on a similar occasion previously. I said and I am going to repeat again that the recent history of Turkey, be it political or military, showed that Turkey has no respect whatsoever towards these principles. Just look around the neighbourhood of Turkey. I am not going to enumerate the countries. It is very much regrettable that Turkey refers to these principles only in specific and peculiar cases, which makes the point of Turkey very very weak.

We know that Turkey is part of the Minsk Group. We know that while being a part of the OSCE Minsk Group, Turkey's role is not supportive to the efforts of Minsk Group Co-Chairs. We also know that Turkey, based on its affiliation and allegiance towards Azerbaijan, is trying to use this format to advance the latter's narrow and biased agenda. Therefore, we believe that Turkey's role in the Minsk Group is not instrumental, just the contrary.

Now, I would like to react in a couple of words to the statement delivered by the representative of Azerbaijan. Firstly, I think I have to thank him for his self-confession because apparently what he said was that Azerbaijan was “generous” enough to give Armenia a “time-out”, and the low number of incidents on the borders and Line of Contact were the result of “good will” - “good will” of Azerbaijan. This once again comes to confirm that all the incidents, hostilities on the Line of Contact and/or on the state border of Armenia and Azerbaijan, including this one, are preplanned and premeditated by Azerbaijan.

Secondly, while referring to the UN Security Council resolutions, Azerbaijan employs an interesting tactic of picking-and-choosing certain specific elements out of the whole context, whereas there are other elements that Azerbaijan fully disregards.

We also took note of, and would like to point it out once again, how in this very room Azerbaijan resorted to blackmailing by saying that peaceful resolution of the conflict is not the only way to resolve it. It seems that blackmailing has become a sort of *modus operandi* of that delegation. “*My way or no way*” tactic is apparently paying off and therefore Azerbaijan continuously reverts to it. Let me assure Azerbaijani delegation that this tactic will yield absolutely no result, neither politically nor militarily.

And my last point, Mr Chairman, I want to receive clarification from you. As far as I understood, we are speaking under the current issue number 4, aren't we?

Second right of reply

Mr. Chairman,

We can continue this “I said, you said exercise” for hours, but the point is, and I raised that in my statements, that back in 2016 there were agreements reached to put in place a ceasefire violations mechanism which would allow us all to understand whom to blame. And now I want to turn to Azerbaijani representative and ask him whether Azerbaijan is ready to accept the relevant proposals which were made by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and agreed at the highest level? It will certainly help us to solve these differences, when we have diverging interpretations of the same events as in A.Kurosawa's Rashomon movie, where you see the same scenario but in different interpretations.

I think it is important for the Permanent Council to know that my authorities are in constant contact with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs updating them about the evolving situation on the ground. I have just received information that a few hours ago it was agreed by the sides to cease hostilities and to respect it without time limitation. As a gesture of goodwill Armenian side gave its consent for retrieving the bodies of Azerbaijani servicemen from the vicinity of Armenian military positions.

By saying this, I would appreciate it if the Azerbaijani representative could reply to my question.