

## **Negative Atmosphere About Iran Can Cause Difficulties For Armenia And Georgia.**

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YEREVAN, FEBRUARY 6. ARMINFO. Possibility that the UN Security Council will apply sanctions against Iran cannot be omitted, stated in an interview to ARMINFO correspondent Sergey Sarkisian, expert of the 'Spectrum' Center for Strategic Analysis. The sanctions are possible even in spite of the fact that the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) has not been able either to deny or confirm that Iran is engineering nuclear weapon. The authorities of Iran cannot neglect decline in the support of IAEA member-countries, Russia and China too voted for the resolution.

To the opinion of Mr. Sarkisian, shift in Russia's position concerning Iran can be explained by the political and economical interests.

First of all the Kremlin wants to lobby the project of nuclear fuel enrichment on its territory for Iran. Secondly, Russia is discontented with Iran's gas policy with Georgia. Iran is ready to supply Georgia with gas at the price of \$120 per 1 thousand cubic meters through Iran-Azerbaijan-Georgia pipeline. Russia also takes into consideration Iran's lately preferences for China.

Sarkisian believes that it will be hard to diversify gas supply and avert total dependence from Russian gas for both Armenia and Georgia.

In case economic sanctions will be applied against Iran, will be practically impossible to preserve energetic independence. The Northern direction of Iran's gas policy that envisages gas export to the South Caucasus states, will be put at stake. As the escalation of the situation around Iran, has already caused increase in electricity prices. This factor may have negative impact on the economical situation of the region's states.

The expert believes that the further growth of tension around Iran may cause preparations for probable military actions. As a result, this will expedite deployment of military bases of USA or NATO in Azerbaijan. In this case, the force balance in the region may be lost, which will put at stake the peaceful settlement of the regional conflicts, including Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Nevertheless, Sarkisian expressed hope that Tehran will make concessions.

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