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## US Russia to extend aid to Armenia to tackle fallout after Georgia-Ossetian conflict

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Armenia will get technical and financial assistance to remedy the economic damage inflicted by the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said.

"This issue was discussed at the meeting with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, at the meetings with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank representatives.

Condoleezza Rice promised to extend us the necessary assistance. The IMF and World Bank also promised to render technical assistance, we have specific agreements with these organizations on extending financial aid to Armenia," Sargsyan said.

The damage inflicted on Armenia was also discussed with Russian representatives during the visit of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to Yerevan, he said

"We have some concrete agreements with Russia including on financial and technical help. We hope that we shall be able to jointly implement them. Armenia has more than a thousand Russian enterprises with Russian capital and participation, some of these are vitally important for the Armenian economic system," Sargsyan said.

Armenian losses because of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict have been assessed at \$670 million.

The U.S.-Armenian relations have entered a new stage of cooperation, he said. "When meeting with Condoleezza Rice, I got a signal that our relations entered a new stage of cooperation that exist between friendly nations. The sides will develop new programs and Armenia will receive considerable technical and financial aid," he said.

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