
Our sad end.

By Hayk Gevorkian
Haykakan Zhamanak, Yerevan,

12/1/2007

It is a negative historic event that Georgia has refused to buy electricity from Armenia. It is for the first time that Georgia did that and it will get electricity from Azerbaijan. This means that Armenia is not Georgia's energy partner any longer. This was not a surprise and was unavoidable.

Armenia is slowly stepping on a path at the end of which there is absolute isolation when we shall depend on everybody but nobody will depend on us. And this means losing independence. The saddest thing is that Georgia's rejection of Armenian electricity was not a purposefully organized international action against Armenia but a natural process with its objective reasons. Georgians do not want to buy our electricity because it is expensive, but its price is a commercial secret although it is known that the price has doubled.

Last year Georgia bought our electricity at the price of 2.5-2.9 cents, and probably at present it became 5 cents. This is very expensive, for this reason Georgia has preferred Azerbaijan which does not demand money but they have made an arrangement whereby in summer Georgia will supply electricity to Azerbaijan. This means that their relations will become long-lasting. All this is the result of raising the gas tariff.

The Razdan power plant's gas supplies are subsidized only for producing electricity for the domestic market, and it gets no subsidy for producing electricity for export. But we should take into account that Armenia pays 110 but not 230 dollars [per 1,000 cu.m.] for Russian gas and in this case electricity produced in Armenia is not competitive. One may guess what will happen in Armenia after 2008 when Russia sells its gas to us at 180 or 230 dollars. And the entire Armenian economy is in a situation which has been developing rapidly, according to the official statistics. Georgia's refusal is just an episode in the prospect of our state. This is not at all conditioned by our geographical position. This is the result of the foreign as well as domestic policy carried out by our state. And if our authorities are sure that in case the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is not settled, time works in favour of us, if they say that we have the most powerful army, if they are sure that one may construct a strong and competitive state through fraud at referendums and elections, through populism and total control over TV broadcasting, in that case we shall have a sad end.
