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# Azerbaijan runs Georgian gas network, owns pipeline to Armenia

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"Mubariz Ahmadoglu: `The latest problems in the Southern Caucasus are connected with wrong regional policy of Georgia'"

A Day.az interview with the head of the Centre for Innovations and Political Technologies.

[Correspondent] We'd like you to comment on information that Georgia would make available its opportunities for the repair of military hardware of the Armenian army.

[Ahmadoglu] One of the main sources of the latest problems in our region is that Georgia cannot determine parameters of its regional policy. The talk is not about declaration of its integration into the European Union or NATO. Georgia's regional policy is full of mistakes. Up until now, official Tbilisi wants to integrate into NATO and is punished for this by Russia. On the other hand, Georgia has closer relations with Armenia, which, in its turn, is an executor of Russia's policy in our region. Georgia allows Armenia to use its territory to get access to the [Black] sea.

Armenia has been recently aggravating the ethnic situation in Samtskhe-Javakheti, in exchange for this, the Georgian president awards the Armenian president an order. Armenians wish to eliminate Orthodoxy in Georgia and establish Catholicism, in a reply to this, Georgia is creating conditions for Armenia to deliver Russian weapons [to Armenia]. It is also obvious that the destination of the Russian military base in Armenia is changing as official Moscow is in more and more friendly relations with Turkey and wants to further establish more solid ties with Azerbaijan. Everyone knows that Russia's enemy in our region is Georgia. If one fine day NATO troops arrive in our region, then this country would come under double blow on the one hand, Russia, on the other hand Iran. One should remember that during the war in South Ossetia, Georgia received double blow from Russia and Armenia.

All these take place only for the reason of uncertainty of Georgia's regional policy. Actually, Armenia is not a regional country, she is only a neighbour of this region. Georgia, making manoeuvres with regard to Armenia, as if wants to bare its fangs to Azerbaijan. Exactly this policy has led the Georgian leadership to the current sad realities.

[Correspondent] What is the point? Why is Georgia trying to prove or show something to Azerbaijan? We give them everything, do not we gas, oil, low interest credits and so on?

[Ahmadoglu] All these are connected with ambitions of the current Georgian leadership. In fact, for its resources both natural and human, for economic figures and others, Azerbaijan is the leader of the region. However, Georgia wants that the region is ruled from Tbilisi. Exactly, for this reason, they want to prove something to Azerbaijan.

[Correspondent] What should be our position then?

[Ahmadoglu] I have already said that the current problems of Georgia are

results of its ambiguity. We should remember that some two-three years ago, Georgia even did not let closer the Azerbaijani investment [in its economy]. One should also recall that as soon as Mikheil Saakashvili came to power, his wife and the mayor of the town of Poti visited Armenia to ask them to mediate in the issue of investment in Georgia by the Armenian lobby. However, they failed to be successful.

Georgia tried to attract investment from Europe and nothing came out of this. Georgia managed to attract investment from Kazakhstan but it was not at a sufficient level. Now for about two years, Georgia treats the Azerbaijani investment loyally. A contract on supplies of Azerbaijani gas to Georgia has already been signed and the price for gas is in keeping with world rate. That is to say, we export relatively cheap gas and in exchange for this, Azerbaijan will own the whole gas network, which belonged to Russia in this country, for five years. The gas pipeline going to Armenia through Georgia will also be Azerbaijan's property. The current policy of Azerbaijan is relevant to Georgia's policy and I think that this policy should be continued.

[Correspondent] Well, what is a way of warning the Georgian side about inadmissibility of implementing plans for the repair of military hardware of Armenia in Georgia?

[Ahmadoglu] I think the fact that the Azerbaijani press is reporting about it is a warning to official Tbilisi.

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