

No Issue In Relations Between Armenia And Georgia Should Give Cause For Political Speculation, Georgian Prime Minister Says

Noyan Tapan - 9/12/2008

TBILISI, DECEMBER 9, NOYAN TAPAN. The governmental delegation headed by the RA prime minister Tigran Sargsyan on December 9 left for the Georgian capital city of Tbilisi for a one-day working visit in order to take part in the 7th sitting of the Armenian-Georgian intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation.

According to the RA Government Information and PR Department, prior to the sitting T. Sargsyan had a tete-a-tete talk with the Georgian prime minister Grigol Mgaloblishvili.

Then the prime ministers of the two countries met with the working group of the intergovernmental commission and participated in the regular sitting of the commission, during which the sides discussed the implementation process of the decisions taken at the previous sitting held on October 15, 2007, issues related to the current state and development prospects of the legal and contractual basis between the sides, the long-term directions of developing the trade and economic cooperation, as well as issues of cooperation in transport, agriculture, energy, health care and social security, education and culture, environmental protection, and tourism. The demarcation process of the state border between Armenia and Georgia was also discussed.

The prime ministers of two countries said that the good-neighbourly relations between Armenia and Georgia are developing successfully. They expressed a hope that the 7th sitting of the intergovernmental commission will become an additional stimulus for deepening and extending these relations. Both sides attached importance to the work on fulfilment of the agreements reached between the presidents of the two countries during the visit of Armenian president Serzh Sargsyan to Georgia this year.

T. Sargsyan and G. Mgaloblishvili were unanimous in the opinion that it is necessary to conduct an open, transparent and comprehensible policy, underlining that it should be visible to the great powers having interests in the region. They expressed confidence that the documents to be signed will give new impetus to the interstate relations, noting that the governments of Armenia and Georgia will do painstaking work in the near future with the aim of implementing the agreements reached. According to them, during their tete-a-tete talk, they addressed issues of mutual interest and those of regional importance. The problem of Armenian Norashen Surb Astvatsatsin Church was discussed as well. It was pointed out that the centuries-old friendly links unify the Armenian and Georgian Churches. The prime ministers underlined the importance of the initiative of the Patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church regarding creation of a joint commission to discuss and solve the problems related to Norashen Surb Astvatsatsin Church and other churches through a dialog. In this connection the Georgian prime minister said that no issue in the relations between the two countries should give cause for political speculation.

The ceremony of signing joint documents took place at the conclusion of the sitting of the intergovernmental commission. The two prime ministers signed the protocol summarizing the results of the 7th sitting of the Armenian-Georgian intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation. The

Armenian minister of economy Nerses Yeritsian and the Georgian minister of economic development Ekaterine Sharashidze signed the protocol on making amendments to the Agreement on Free Trade between the Governments of Georgia and Armenia of August 14, 1995. The Armenian deputy minister of culture Gagik Gyurjian and the Georgian deputy minister of culture, monument preservation and sports David Kiria signed the 2008-2010 Program on Cooperation between the two ministries.

It was decided to hold the next - 8th sitting of the intergovernmental commission in Yerevan in 2009. The date and agenda will be determined later.

Then T. Sargsyan and G. Mgaloblishvili gave a joint press conference.

During the visit the prime minister Tigran Sargsyan met with the Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili, visited the Armenian embassy in Georgia, the Armenian Norashen Surb Astvatsatsin Church, and the Pantheon of Prominent Armenian Writers and Public Figures.

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