

Georgian Ambassador to Armenia Appeals to Diasporan Armenians to make investments in Javakhk.

Noyan Tapan 9/3/2006

YEREVAN, MARCH 9, NOYAN TAPAN - ARMENIANS TODAY. Georgia is not interested in Javakhik's being emptied of Armenians. The Georgian Ambassador to Armenia Revaz Gachechiladze stated this at the discussion "The Threat of Expulsion of Javakhki Armenians, Youth Problems in Javakhk" organized by the Mighty Homeland Party on March 9. The ambassador considered the concern expressed by the people living in Armenia to be completely legal, moreover, he was grateful that "you have opened our eyes" regarding certain problems. He underlined that the Georgian government should take more care of the regions. Particularly, it is willing to create new jobs, but the market economy dictates its laws - capital flows where a profit is made. The ambassador appealed to the Diasporan Armenians to make investments in Javakhk, while the Georgian government will assist them. He pointed out that the problem of jobs in industry must be regulated by private capital. The Georgian diplomat noted that knowledge of Georgian is required for administrative positions only, which, according to him, makes 200-300, a maximum of 500 jobs. In his words, knowledge of Georgian is not being imposed on Armenians, it is just necessary for best integration into the Georgian society. He said that only 300-500 Armenians are working at the Russian military base in Akhalkalak, so people will not feel its closure, except for "those who work there". "The Armenian-Georgian friendship exists not only on paper but also in reality: Georgia is interested in the Armenians' being where they are - both in Armenia and Javakhk and their well-being. It is also in Armenia's interest that the Georgian ship will not shake, since there are many who shake it. Let us help each other instead of hindering," the Georgian ambassador said. According to the main speaker - member of the Mighty Homeland Party Board Shirak Torosian, the Russian military base to be withdrawn from Javakhk currently employs 3 thousand people. According to the party, at present 100 thousand Armenians live in Javakhk or 95% of the population, young people aged 16-35 make up 31% or 32 thousand, with about 30 thousand of them or 93% being unemployed. 9 thousand people or 30% leave Javakhk each year in search of work, and half of them never return to Javakhk. To solve this problem, the Mighty Homeland Party proposes creating the appropriate infrastructures to encourage investments - to ensure 24-hour power supply, improve roads and the railway. The party also proposes to use tax, customs, credit and other privileges, to allocate part of the Georgian grant and credit programs for Javakhk, etc.
