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# Russian Duma To Consider Recognition Of CIS Breakaway Republics

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Today the Russian Foreign Ministry called upon Baku and Yerevan not to allow the escalation of violence in Nagornyy Karabakh.

The main thing is to ensure that clashes with the use heavy hardware, which flared up in the early hours of 4 March, would not grow into large-scale combat activities, the statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry says.

At the same time, some observers think it is no accident that the conflict flared up again now, a few weeks after Kosovo declared its independence. Vladislav Shikoyan continues on the issue.

[Correspondent] The Kosovo example, as Moscow warned, turned out to be contagious. Even before the protest actions in Serbia and the popular celebrations in Kosovo itself faded, passions flared up in other unrecognized republics. [Passage omitted: situation has escalated in Nagornyy Karabakh]

Nagornyy Karabakh is too busy for this but the three other self-proclaimed republics - Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Dniester region - are preparing a statement addressed to Russia, the CIS and the UN regarding recognition of independence. At least in Russia there is an intention to consider this issue seriously.

[Konstantin Zatulin, captioned as deputy of the Russian State Duma, speaking at news conference] They have more than enough of their own grounds, without any precedents, to have independence. Based on our proposal, the proposal of our committee [Duma committee on the affairs of the CIS and ties with compatriots], a parliamentary hearing will be held on the situation regarding the settlement of conflicts on the territory of the CIS and a statement regarding the recognition of independence sent to Russia by the Dniester-Moldova Republic, the Republic of Abkhazia and the Republic of South Ossetia.

Naturally, expressing my personal point of view, I think that, generally speaking, the issue of recognizing the independent states has become ripe long since even without the Kosovo precedent.

[Presenter] Against this background, Georgia has decided to leave the talks process altogether - Tbilisi is no longer satisfied with the tripartite commission for the settlement of the Ossetian conflict. In the unrecognized republics it is thought that this would lead to the escalation of the conflict. By the way, in a week's time the representatives of the parliaments of Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Dniester region will come to Moscow for a hearing. It has so far not been decided whether to invite representatives of Georgia and Moldova.

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