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# Iran In New Karabakh War

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Trend, an Azerbaijani news agency, reported that the Iranian ambassador to Baku stated that Iran has a proposal on settlement of the Karabakh conflict but will publish it when it will be necessary.

This is interesting but not a surprise. The opposite would be strange if Iran did not have a proposal on the Karabakh issue that would be the same as having no vision at all.

Iran is one of the interested parties to the Karabakh issue so it must have its own visions and scenarios and it will intervene in case the process deviates from them.

Ostensibly, the current process is in line with Iran's vision as it is not trying to intervene. In fact, Iran is satisfied with what is in place, the status quo, and the status quo is in line with Iran's visions.

When the Iranian diplomat stated that it will be published if necessity occurs, most probably he meant that Iran will disclose its plan as soon as the status quo is exposed to threat. Meanwhile, it will expose Iran to danger because Iran cannot afford the presence of any country's armed forces in the liberated territories bordering with Iran except the Armenian forces.

Although it is not accidental that Iran announces about having a proposal now. The point is that recently threats of a regional war have been rather frequently voiced by Moscow in answer to Armenia's steps towards rapprochement with the West. At the same time, the Russian experts and their Armenian attaches are spreading rumors that Serzh Sargsyan is likely to return Karabakh.

In this situation Iran's statement was expected. Perhaps it is symbolic that Tehran chose Baku to make this statement. Problems in the relations between Iran and Azerbaijan are known, and by stating about it in Baku Iran actually warns Azerbaijan that the attempts to change the status quo are not in line with Iran's plans. In addition, such a transparent hint means that the issue is important to Iran, and Tehran will view it as a matter of its strategic interest with all the ensuing actions.

Also, Iran thereby hints to Moscow that in case of a possible regional war Iran will not be among the Kremlin's allies. Besides, Iran states about its role and place in the regional processes, which cannot be ignored.

Notably, Iran's statement came three days before the inauguration of the Iranian president elect Hassan Rowhani who is considered to be a reformer. His inauguration is on August 4. By the way, Serzh Sargsyan will attend the ceremony, while Ilham Aliyev will not. It is not ruled out that there he will be introduced to the details of the Iranian proposal on settlement.

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