

**Joint Communiqué on the results of negotiations between representatives of the leadership of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh**

On 12 and 13 September 1993 representatives of the leadership of Azerbaijan, A. Jalilov, and of Nagorno-Karabakh, A. Gukasyan, with the assistance of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs held direct talks in good faith in order to search for a route towards the speedy settlement of the armed conflict. Meeting in person, through a mediator and within the framework of the CSCE Minsk Group.

As a result of repeated established contacts repeatedly an agreement extending the temporary cease-fire has been formed. Despite some violations, it has, on the whole, been respected, which has created a relative lull in the recent period of fighting. This is prompting new steps towards reconciliation. As a result of the Moscow negotiations, the ceasefire is extended again until 5 October 1993 inclusive.

Agreeing that in the long conflict, which has claimed thousands of lives, and is depriving hundreds of thousands of people of shelter, there is not and cannot be a military solution, the parties expressed their desire to overcome their mutual distrust. Attaching particular importance to starting a dialogue, they reaffirmed their commitment to consider the whole range of issues regarding the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, beginning, in the first instance, with the definitive issue of the cessation of hostilities, as well as the withdrawal of troops from the occupied territories and the establishment of communications.

Participants of the meeting considered the phased settlement of disputed issues to be important. They see the CSCE Minsk Conference forum as having the potential to be an effective means for the development of a comprehensive and lasting peace settlement.

The question of preparations for the meeting of the Leaders of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed at length. Agreement to hold the meeting, as well as to maintain contact at various levels, was reached.

The sides exchanged views on the mutual transfer of prisoners and hostages as well as other issues of mutual interest.

The negotiations were held in a business-like and constructive atmosphere, and the negotiators expressed their gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for contributing to their implementation.

Moscow, September 13, 1993