



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT
on the 76th Anniversary of the End of World War II
as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1312th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

6 May 2021

Madame Chairperson,

It was not the intention of my delegation to take the floor under this agenda item, since my delegation has joined the statement that was introduced by the distinguished Ambassador of the Russian Federation. However, the provocative statement of the representative of Azerbaijan compels me to make the following additional remarks.

At the outset, let me thank the Delegation of the Russian Federation for raising this important issue and reminding us about the upcoming 76th anniversary of the Victory Day which we will be marking shortly. The Armenian Delegation fully aligns itself with the Statement on the 76th anniversary of the Victory in World War II made by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation on behalf of several OSCE participating States.

But let me also say a couple of words in my national capacity. I should start by once again paying tribute to the heroism and unprecedented sacrifices of those who brought freedom and prosperity to the nations of Europe and beyond. During World War II, more than 600 thousand Armenians joined the peace-loving nations of the world in the fight against the scourge of Nazism. Almost 1/7th of the Armenian population did not return from the battlefields. Armenian soldiers have been honoured for their bravery and courage. Hundreds of them have received the highest decorations by the Soviet Union, France, the United States etc.

During the years of war, five Armenians became Marshals of the Soviet Union: Ivan (Hovhannes) Baghramyan, Marshal of the Soviet Union, Ivan Isakov (Hovhannes Isaakyan), Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union, Amazasp Babajanyan, Chief Marshal of Armored Forces, Sergey Khudyakov (Armenak Khamferyants), Marshal of Aviation, Sergey Aganov, Marshal of Engineer Troops. More than 60 Armenian generals carried out command on all fronts of the war, among them - three army commanders and three corps commanders. Armenians also contributed to fight in the

ranks of partisans and resistance forces in the Soviet Union and the European countries. Armenian intelligence agents made a special contribution to the victory.

Distinguished colleagues,

We fully concur and once again underline the necessity to take good care and preserve the military graves, memorial complexes, monuments and obelisks in honour of those killed in the fight against Nazism and fascism. Indeed, there is no justification for vandalism against these memorial sites and we strongly condemn such barbaric acts.

Nevertheless, we particularly witness such occurrences which in the aftermath of the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan and its allies against Artsakh last fall, has gained endemic character in the occupied territories of Artsakh. In the context of our present discussion, I would like to once again raise the issue of the destruction of the Armenian cultural and religious heritage by Azerbaijan in the currently occupied territories of Artsakh. And here I would like to particularly refer to the destruction of monuments to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War. These state-perpetrated activities continue unabated.

Thus, a monument to a twofold Hero of the Soviet Union, the fighter pilot Nelson Stepanyan, one of the defenders of Leningrad, was recently blown up in Shushi. Monuments to Marshalls Baghramyan and Babadjanyan, General Sardarov, Admiral Isakov and Air Marshal Khanferyants (Khudyakov) all of whom played important roles in the victory over Nazism have been destroyed.

The fact, that on one hand the Azerbaijani perpetrators without doubt acting upon orders of state authorities conduct these acts of vandalism, while on the other hand the representatives of that very country join the Statement on the 76th anniversary of the Victory in World War II, reveals the hypocritical nature of these steps and vividly demonstrates the contradiction between the expressed attitude of Azerbaijani leadership and its actual behaviour, which in reality is very much consistent with the pattern that we have been constantly observing.

Madame Chairperson,

Preserving memory and paying tribute to heroes-liberators is an important component of our common victory. The people of Armenia remember and honour all their heroes. May their memory and glory be eternal.

I thank you.