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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement

**as delivered by Deputy Head of Delegation Armen Papikeyan
in response to the statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan
at the 854th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
March 17, 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

In response to the Azerbaijani delegation's statement let me once again reiterate my government's position, as it was presented by my Minister in his statement just couple of days ago here in the Permanent council meeting. Armenia continuously advocates implementation of confidence and security building measures in the line of contact between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh, including but not limited to the withdrawal of snipers. This long standing position of Armenia has been supported by international community and Minsk group Co-Chairs. We also welcome similar proposal made by the CiO of the OSCE during his recent visit to Baku.

Mr. Chairman,

Perhaps the best way to respond to the Azerbaijani delegation statement on recent alleged incident in the line of contact between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan let me read out the self-explanatory "Joint Commentary of the Press-services of the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic".

I quote "The Azerbaijani official propaganda continues aggravating the situation on the occasion of the Azerbaijani boy's death in the frontier village of Orta Karvend, intensively spreading false accusations against the Karabakh side.

Careful investigation of the case can discover some facts testifying to the fabricated accusations of official Baku.

During the March 10 monitoring conducted by the OSCE Mission in the noted place, the Karabakh side drew the attention of the monitoring group to the following facts:

1. The distance between the front positions of the NKR Defence Army and the village of Orta Karvend makes 1400-1500 meters, i.e. to hit a man with adjusted fire from a SVD sniper rifle is impossible in this case;
2. The relief of the noted section doesn't allow adjusted firing from the

positions of the NKR Defense Army towards the opponent, as the latter has height privileges”.

5. “Even if the child was killed by firing, still it should be established who and from what side fired. It isn't excluded that Fariz Badalov could be a victim of firing by the Azerbaijani points men between the villages of Orta Karvend and Shykhlar;

6. It isn't excluded either that the boy could have perished as a result of careless handling of unexploded ammunition, which often happens in the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict zone, on both sides of the contact-line;

7. If the shot was not fired straightly at the target, but up on-the-mitre, so the bullet, shot from a simple gun, could not fly so far. High calibre machineguns can fire at such a distance. But, according to the Azerbaijani mass media information, the child died on the way to the hospital. If the shot had been fired from a high calibre gun, so it would have merely smashed the child's head”.

Unfortunately, the Azerbaijani official propaganda doesn't disdain any methods, even cashing in on children's life and death. The Armenian parties are strangers to fascist methods used by Azerbaijan – killing children, asleep men, and hostages, making subversives and terrorists national heroes, and others.

Every time, after the Presidents' meetings or before a visit of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen to the region, the Azerbaijani propaganda machine increases the tension on the contact-line. Another example was the March 10 death of 19-year-old soldier of the NKR Defence Army Arthur Aghababian as a result of the firing from the Azerbaijani side. The incident took place almost immediately after the OSCE monitoring of the NKR and Azerbaijani armed forces' contact-line. This is rough violation of the agreements on confidence building measures achieved on March 5 in Sochi as a result of the Armenian, Russian, and Azerbaijani Presidents' meeting. While, on the initiative of the Armenian parties, the mediators once again offer drawing off snipers from the front line, official Baku doesn't only block this initiative, but also intensifies the sniper war and with its provocative actions reduces to zero the efforts of the international community on peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The international community must strictly condemn similar actions of the Azerbaijani leadership and apply corresponding sanctions against it.” End of quote.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.