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

ENGLISH only

Statement
delivered by Ambassador Jivan Tabibian
at the 572nd Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
October 13, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

This is really not a reply and I welcome very much the measured ways in which my distinguished Azerbaijani colleague used his right of reply.

Let me simply add that this reminds me of a great French play from the classical period - "Les Plaideurs", the only comedy of a great tragic writer who dabbled in some comedic form. In the play the lawyer begins by saying: "In the beginning there was the genesis". The judge rightly knows that if we start at the genesis it is not going to end, turns to the lawyer and says: "*Avocat, passons au deluge*", that is: "Can we get to the deluge and shortcut that long period in between?"

I think my distinguished Azerbaijani colleague is absolutely right: we cannot solve this problem by who threw the first stone. When we get to 1988, we get to 1987, then to 1923, then to the 19th century, etc. Like in many conflicts you can keep going back as far as you want. He is absolutely right: we have to stop this sequence.

Let me simply try to correct one/two points. We are also concerned about the welfare and safety of Amb. Kasprzyk. He serves there for us and with our consent, so there is no particular care that some attach to his safety than others.

Secondly, what the distinguished Ambassador of Azerbaijan diagnoses as "in anticipation of possible solution hardheaded people in Armenia continue to adopt a provocative attitude" may be correct, but the same fringe exists on both sides. That is ultimately our common headache. We heard here the very enlightening words of Minister Mammadyarov a month ago or so, and we can tell you that we have to deal with our own fringes and not simply point the finger at a fringe on the other side.

With those words I would like to hope this issue, at least on the line of contact, close for the time being.

Thank you.