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HAYDER ALIYEV'S ROLE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE CAUCASUS

National leader, architect and founder of the independent state of Azerbaijan, world-famous politician and statesman Heydar Aliyev's universal love and endless respect for his memory have not been bestowed on any head of state in any period of our millennial history. Heydar Aliyev is the brightest figure of the 20th century Azerbaijani politics and the architect of the 21st century independence course. His contributions to practical diplomacy will be studied for many years to come. And every time a new delicacy will be found. This process is endless. Heydar Aliyev demonstrated this to the world at a high level with his policy. In this connection, it is necessary to highlight the wisdom, restraint, determination and activity shown by the great leader in building the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline. Even in those bloody years, the National leader always emphasized that the Baku-Ceyhan project will change the geopolitical dynamics of Eurasia as a whole. This project will make a special contribution to the development, cooperation and raising of mutually beneficial relations to a new level in a wide space. It will also make quality changes in the field of security. Experience confirmed that the Great Leader was absolutely right. Now Azerbaijan is the initiator of several important international energy and transport projects. He is an active member of the implementation of the "East-West" and "North-South" corridors, an active participant in the "New Silk Road" project. The main principles of Heydar Aliyev's philosophy of national liberation have brought our state to a new level of development and turned it into an important geopolitical player. Of course, Heydar Aliyev's foreign policy course played a significant role in this process.

Key words: Caucasus, peace, stability, Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan, Armenia, politics.

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Гайдер Әлиевтің Кавказдағы бейбітшілік пен тұрақтылықты қалпына келтірудегі рөлі

Жалпыұлттық көшбасшы, сәулетші және тәуелсіз Әзірбайжан мемлекетінің негізін қалаушы, әлемге әйгілі саясаткер, мемлекет қайраткері Гейдар Әлиевтің жалпыға бірдей сүйіспеншілігі мен оның рухына деген шексіз құрмет біздің мыңжылдық тарихымыздың бірде-бір кезеңінде бірде-бір мемлекет басшысына бұйырмаған. Гейдар Алиев – ХХ ғасырдағы Әзірбайжан саясатының ең көрнекті қайраткері және ХХІ ғасырдағы Тәуелсіздік бағытының сәулетшісі. Оның практикалық дипломатияға қосқан үлесі көптеген жылдар бойы зерттелетін болады және әр жолы жаңа шеберлік табыла береді. Бұл процесс шексіз. Гейдар Әлиев мұны өзінің саясатымен әлемге жоғары деңгейде көрсетті. Осыған байланысты Баку-Тбилиси-Джейхан мұнай құбырын салу кезінде ұлы көшбасшы көрсеткен даналықты, ұстамдылықты, табандылық пен белсенділікті атап өту қажет. Сол қанды жылдары да Ұлттық Көшбасшы Баку-Джейхан жобасы жалпы Еуразияның геосаяси динамикасын өзгертетінін әрқашан атап өтті. Бұл жоба кең ауқымда өзара тиімді қарым-қатынастарды дамытуға, ынтымақтастыққа және жаңа деңгейге көтеруге ерекше үлес қосады. Сонымен қатар қауіпсіздік саласына сапалы өзгерістер енгізеді. Ұлы Көшбасшының дұрыс айтқанын тәжірибе растады. Әзірбайжан қазір бірнеше маңызды халықаралық энергетикалық және көлік жобаларының бастамашысы. Ол – “Шығыс-Батыс” және “Солтүстік-Оңтүстік” дәліздерін іске асырудың белсендісі, “Жаңа Жібек жолы” жобасының белсенді қатысушысы. Гейдар Әлиевтің ұлт-азаттық философиясының негізгі қағидаттары біздің мемлекетімізді дамудың жаңа деңгейіне шығарды және оны маңызды геосаяси ойыншыға айналдырды. Әрине, бұл үдерісте Гейдар Әлиевтің сыртқы саяси бағыты маңызды рөл атқарды.

Түйін сөздер: Кавказ, бейбітшілік, тұрақтылық, Гейдар Әлиев, Әзірбайжан, Армения, саясат.

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Роль Гайдера Алиева в восстановлении мира и стабильности на Кавказе

Общенациональный лидер, архитектор и основатель независимого Азербайджанского государства – всемирно известный политик и государственный деятель Гейдар Алиев. Всеобщая любовь и безграничное уважение к его памяти не были дарованы ни одному главе государства ни в один период нашей тысячелетней истории. Гейдар Алиев – это и ярчайшая фигура азербайджанской политики 20-го века, и архитектор курса на независимость 21-го века. Его вклад в практическую дипломатию будет изучаться долгие годы. И каждый раз будет находиться новое мастерство. Этот процесс бесконечен. Гейдар Алиев своей политикой продемонстрировал это всему миру на высоком уровне. В этой связи необходимо отметить мудрость, выдержку, решительность и активность, проявленные великим лидером при строительстве нефтепровода Баку-Тбилиси-Джейхан. Даже в тяжелые для страны годы общенациональный лидер всегда подчеркивал, что проект Баку-Джейхан изменит геополитическую динамику Евразии в целом. Этот проект внесет особый вклад в развитие взаимовыгодных отношений в широком масштабе, сотрудничество и продвижение на новый уровень. А также внесет качественные изменения в области безопасности. Опыт подтвердил, что Великий Вождь был абсолютно прав. Сейчас Азербайджан является инициатором ряда важных международных энергетических и транспортных проектов. Активный участник реализации коридоров «Восток-Запад» и «Север-Юг», активный участник проекта «Новый Шелковый путь». Основные принципы национально-освободительной философии Гайдера Алиева вывели Азербайджан на новый уровень развития и превратили его в важного геополитического игрока. Безусловно, немалую роль в этом процессе сыграл внешнеполитический курс Гайдера Алиева.

Ключевые слова: Кавказ, мир, стабильность, Гейдар Алиев, Азербайджан, Армения, политика.

Introduction

Heydar Aliyev is the brightest figure of the 20th century Azerbaijani politics and the architect of the 21st century independence course. His contributions to practical diplomacy will be studied for many years to come. And every time a new delicacy will be found. This process is endless.

After the restoration of Azerbaijan's state independence, one of the important tasks facing the country was to define and implement a foreign policy course based on national interests. There was a need to determine an effective, pragmatic foreign policy course to get the country out of the difficult situation it was in.

National leader Heydar Aliyev, who returned to power at the insistence of the people in 1993, renewed Azerbaijan's foreign policy from the first days and rebuilt it on the basis of the country's strategic interests. Great leader, first of all, to work in the direction of eliminating the gross mistakes made by the former government in the field of foreign policy and the very tense international political situation that has formed around Azerbaijan, to carry out a policy aimed at reconciling the strategic interests of the country with the interests of the regional states and individual states with special influence in the Caucasus. started While still being elected as the

chairman of the Milli Majlis, Heydar Aliyev defined the main tasks and directions of foreign policy: «One of the attributes that ensures the independence of Azerbaijan is foreign policy, Azerbaijan should have a sound foreign policy, a thoughtful foreign policy, a far-sighted foreign policy, a foreign policy that will make Azerbaijan a world power. connect it to the union, ensure Azerbaijan's relations with all countries, Azerbaijan's interests, and promote Azerbaijan as a de facto independent state on a global scale. «Azerbaijan has never had such a sane foreign policy.»

Continuing his speech, Heydar Aliyev draws attention to the mistakes made in this field: «Azerbaijan should have equal relations with all countries, Turkey, Iran, neighboring Georgia, Russia, America, European countries, Arab countries, It should have equal relations with Muslim countries, Turkic-speaking countries, Central Asian countries, and Kazakhstan» (Mammadov, 2022).

Materials and methods

A whole period of the most recent history of Azerbaijan is connected with the honorable name and magnificent activity of our national leader Heydar Aliyev. During his 35-year leadership, our republic has undergone a development equal to

centuries. During the time when the great leader led the republic, he devoted all his strength and abilities to the rise of Azerbaijan and initiated huge construction works.

In 1988-1993, defeats at the front, upheavals in the social and political life of Azerbaijan, anarchy, chaos, civil war, etc. created a tense situation in the country. At such a dangerous moment, the people invited their savior to power for the second time. June 15, 1993 was written in golden letters in the history of Azerbaijan, and the people celebrate this day every year as National Liberation Day.

Of course, when talking about Heydar Aliyev's foreign policy course, it is impossible not to emphasize the steps taken by this great personality in the direction of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. For the first time in the history of modern independence, Heydar Aliyev included this issue in a conceptual form among the priority issues of Azerbaijan's foreign policy course. This was not an easy task in the context of the current geopolitical realities. Because on the one hand, global geopolitics itself faced various problems. The great powers had completely lost their sense of justice, preferring their special interests. On the other hand, the aggressor Armenia was actively defended by the fans, and this continued even now.

Thanks to Heydar Aliyev's rich statesmanship experience, strong will and foresight, the civil war was stopped, as a result of increasing the combat power of our National Army, the occupation of our lands was stopped and a ceasefire was reached. In a short time, under the direct leadership of the great leader, socio-political stability and economic revival were ensured in our republic. In the political world, the international reputation of our state was strengthened and our independence became irreversible.

This genius spent his inexhaustible energy not only on the development of his people and state, but also on raising the economic and cultural level of the peoples of the world as a whole, and establishing friendly relations between them. It was the historic Silk Road, which was restored at the initiative of the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, that connected the East and the West of our world and made an important contribution to the development of all countries of the world. Located between the European and Asian continents, Azerbaijan has historically served as a «bridge» between the West and the East, and the South and the North. The international conference dedicated to the restoration of the historical Silk Road and held in Baku with great ceremony demonstrated that our republic is

once again becoming a junction connecting two continents. Representatives of 33 countries located on the Silk Road and 8 international organizations gathered in the capital of our country and once again confirmed the international reputation of Azerbaijan in the whole world.

In the Caucasus, including the South Caucasus, for the first time, in the second half of 1993, taking into account the existing realities, based on the deep theoretical analysis of Heydar Aliyev, practical measures were taken to ensure peace, stability and eliminate ethnic conflicts. On September 6, 1993, Heydar Aliyev visited the Russian Federation, which had the opportunity to have an important influence on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and met with President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders and held discussions to improve the complicated relations between the two countries. As a result of the discussions, documents on Azerbaijan's accession to the CIS were signed on September 24. In order to normalize relations between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan, which has a major role in the peaceful settlement of all national conflicts in the Caucasus, along with Nagorno-Karabakh, Heydar Aliyev managed to make flexible maneuvers and special tactical moves.

Thanks to the foreign policy implemented by Heydar Aliyev in the current system of international relations in 1993-1996, it was possible to attract the attention of various prestigious, developed and countries with special influence in the resolution of major conflicts in the world to the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (Huseynova, 2008:124)

In general, Heydar Aliyev developed a special concept aimed at solving the problems of territorial integrity existing in Nagorno-Karabakh and the entire Caucasus, and introduced it as a consistent political course. It should be noted that until Heydar Aliyev, especially in 1991-1993, in the Caucasus, including the South Caucasus, the policy of ensuring peace, stability and elimination of ethnic conflicts was ignored, its relevance and practical importance were not seriously considered. Only after Heydar Aliyev returned to the political power of Azerbaijan, political measures aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the Caucasus and eliminating ethnic conflicts were implemented.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's efforts in 1993-1994, the blockade created around Azerbaijan regarding the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was broken, and the real causes and face of the conflict were brought to the world community. Heydar Aliyev's return to power

marked the beginning of an important period towards the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

With the «Contract of the Century» signed on September 20, 1994, the new oil strategy of independent Azerbaijan began to be implemented, and the volume of investment in the country's economy increased year by year. For the first time among the former Soviet republics, Azerbaijan signed such a large-scale agreement with major oil companies of the West and laid the foundation for international cooperation in the Caspian Sea. At that time, President Heydar Aliyev once again demonstrated great political courage, irrevocable will, accurate economic calculation and deep wisdom, and put forward the new oil doctrine of independent Azerbaijan.

The «Contract of the Century» prepared under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev and signed jointly with the giant companies of the world opened the glorious pages of our new oil strategy. It was this agreement that became the cornerstone of the development of Azerbaijan's economy, ensured the introduction of free economic mechanisms and the dynamic integration of our republic into the world economy, accelerated the flow of foreign investment to our country, and gave a strong impetus to the conclusion of new oil and gas contracts in Azerbaijan. George Bush, who was the President of the United States of America at that time, wrote in his letter addressed to Heydar Aliyev: «The United States of America is ready to work closely with you to ensure global energy security and help build a more prosperous and peaceful future for the people of Azerbaijan.» At the same time, as a result of Heydar Aliyev's intense activity, a ceasefire was reached on the Armenian-Azerbaijani front in 1994.

Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the first Constitution of our independent republic was adopted in November 1995, and parliamentary elections were held. For the first time in the East, the death sentence was abolished in Azerbaijan, and the legal and civil state building process began. The implementation of economic reforms became widespread and a huge oil contract named «Contract of the Century» was signed, and our economic and political relations with the countries of the world expanded. All these listed things became possible as a result of the visionary policy and hard work of the great leader Heydar Aliyev.

On the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, on March 8, 1996, the presidents of Azerbaijan and Georgia signed the historic Declaration «On peace, stability and security in the Caucasus region», and the

interests of the countries of the region and the states with relations with the Caucasus began to increase in the peace process in the Caucasus. It was not long ago that the presidents of the states of the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia, called the «Caucasus Quartet», held a meeting in the North Caucasus on June 3, 1996, to discuss the issues of peace, tranquility, security and cooperation in the Caucasus. At the Kislovodsk meeting of the «Caucasus Four», the «Declaration for tranquility, peace, economic and cultural cooperation in the Caucasus» was adopted. In that Declaration, the transformation of the Caucasus into a region of peace, tranquility and security, the creation of inter-ethnic solidarity in the Caucasus, providing comprehensive assistance to the establishment of strong peace and stability in the Caucasus, the importance of resolving conflicts in the region only by peaceful means based on international legal norms, the implementation of a balanced economic policy in the Caucasus, The joint implementation of global issues such as the protection of the rare nature of the Caucasus, etc., has been reflected. The declaration ends with such hopeful notes for the fate of the Caucasus, as well as the Caucasian peoples distinguished by their rich cultures of human civilization, and the South Caucasian states that gained independence at the end of the 20th century: «We, the heads of state of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, realize that we bear historical responsibility for the future of our people. expressing the will of millions of people, we declare that we are ready to do everything in our power to ensure interethnic solidarity, peace, economic progress, and to increase the cultural and historical heritage of the Caucasian peoples together. The Caucasus is our common home. It is our duty to turn it into a peaceful, progressive region inhabited by people who are proud of their history and look to the future with confidence.»

The document known as the «Kislovodsk Declaration» in the historiographical literature is, in essence and content, the logical and political continuation of the Tbilisi Declaration, which is the product of Heydar Aliyev and Eduard Shevardnadze's thinking and rich experience of statehood.

After signing the Declaration, Heydar Aliyev said: «In general, I want to say once again that I am very satisfied with today's meeting. I want peace in the Caucasus, stability in the Caucasus, because representatives of different nationalities and people of different religions live in the Caucasus, most of them belong to the Muslim religion. Therefore, our duty, the duty of each of us – I am talking about

my duty – is to treat these issues with utmost care, to respect all religions, all faiths, and all people, regardless of their nationality. I repeat, in this regard, there is an opportunity to closely unite the peoples of the Caucasus and turn the Caucasus into a peaceful region...».

As agreed at the Kislovodsk meeting, the «Caucasus Quartet» regularly held meetings in various formats related to the creation of peace in the Caucasus. first, Heydar Aliyev and Robert Kocharyan had a one-on-one meeting, and then Vladimir Putin and Eduard Shevardnadze joined this meeting. During the meeting, Vladimir Putin spoke about the importance of establishing peace, stability and security, the need to solve the problems of the region as soon as possible, the importance of increasing mutual efforts in solving the conflicts in the region, and strengthening relations and cooperation. noted that he is interested. Vladimir Putin said that Russia will use all opportunities to resolve the conflicts soon. The President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev noted the importance and importance of holding such meetings within the framework of the «Caucasus Quartet» in solving regional problems.

The most striking example of Heydar Aliyev's balanced initiatives in the direction of restoring peace in the Caucasus in accordance with the interests of all peoples and states existing here is that he succeeded in establishing friendly and cooperative relations between Azerbaijan and Georgia. From this point of view, Heydar Aliyev's visit to the Republic of Georgia on March 8-10, 1996 was of special importance. Heydar Aliyev's meetings with Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi were aimed at modernizing the existing traditional relations between the neighboring countries in a new context, as well as the peace of ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus, including the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as the Georgian-Abkhazian, Georgian-Ossetian, and Chechen-Russian conflicts. resulted in a new initiative being put forward in the direction of the solution.

During Heydar Aliyev's visit to the Republic of Georgia on March 8-10, 1996, one of the most important issues discussed between him and Eduard Shevardnadze focused on the problem of peace in the Caucasus. As a result of the discussions, the ideas and views of the presidents related to the creation of the «Common Caucasian House», the systematization of the conflicting processes and the search for a way out through dialogue formed a single concept.

On March 8, 1996, Heydar Aliyev and Eduard Shevardnadze signed the Azerbaijan-Georgia Joint Declaration «On Peace, Stability and Security in the Caucasus Region». At the suggestion of Heydar Aliyev, this Declaration was named «Tbilisi Declaration» (Huseynova, 2003: 23). On April 13, 1999, national leader Heydar Aliyev was awarded the International Atatürk Peace Prize as a champion of peace in the whole world, establishing stability in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus region, restoring friendship, mutual understanding and good-neighborly relations, in accordance with Atatürk's principle of «peace in the country, peace in the world» seen(Shakaraliyev, 2022).

In particular, the Declaration signed at the initiative of Heydar Aliyev envisages the creation of a «Common Caucasian House» for the restoration of peace and tranquility in the Caucasus. As an important historical document that laid the foundation of the «Common Caucasian House», the «Tbilisi Declaration» includes respect for national minorities regardless of their religion and ethnicity, observance of human rights and freedoms, expectation of ethnic and religious tolerance, cultural heritage of Caucasian peoples and states and protection of the traditions of statehood, universal recognition of the borders of the Caucasian states recognized by the international community, creation of conditions for the formation of economic and cultural relations between peoples and states have been reflected.

The «Tbilisi Declaration» created at the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, which is extremely important for the restoration of peace, stability and security in the Caucasus, created a great echo in the region and around the world. The countries of the region began to join the movement for a peaceful Caucasus, formed at the initiative of Heydar Aliyev. A clear example of this is the peaceful settlement of the undeclared war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, which was artificially instigated by Armenia on June 3, 1996, along with other problems in the Caucasus, as well as the Georgian-Abkhazian, Georgian-Ossetian, and Chechen-Russian conflicts. was the «Caucasus Quartet» created to solve [Abbasbeyli, 1997 : 37] .

Results and Discussion

Another aspect of Heydar Aliyev's successful foreign policy activity attracted attention with the creation and raising of Azerbaijan's relations with influential international and regional organizations to a higher level. Becoming a member of international organizations and establishing effective business

with them is of great importance for conveying the problems of Azerbaijan and the truths of Azerbaijan to the world. That is why Azerbaijan is a member of international organizations such as UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, CIS, GUAM, ICT, OSCE, OIC, European Union, NATO, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Islamic Development Bank and actively cooperates with other organizations.

Active representation in the prestigious international organizations of the world constitutes one of the leading directions in the foreign policy strategy of the independent Azerbaijan state, which is rapidly advancing on the path of building an open and democratic society. Cooperation relations of our country with prestigious international organizations are developing on an upward line. Cooperation relations with these organizations covering political, economic, cultural, humanitarian, military and other fields are multifaceted and aimed at expressing the national interests of Azerbaijan in a more complete manner and strengthening mutual relations with the states that play a leading role in the international world.

The consistent integration of Azerbaijan into the Euro-Atlantic space was one of the main directions of Heydar Aliyev's foreign policy. Thus, in 1994, immediately after NATO's «Partnership for Peace» program was offered to the newly independent countries, Heydar Aliyev visited Brussels and signed the framework document about our country joining this program. Later, he participated in NATO summits and defined the main priorities of Azerbaijan's partnership with the North Atlantic Alliance.

As in previous years, integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures is an important direction of Azerbaijan's foreign policy. Sharing the values of Europe and the Euro-Atlantic Union, Azerbaijan contributes to security and stability on the European continent and beyond its borders by successfully developing multilateral Transatlantic security cooperation programs. Today, cooperation with NATO in the direction of regional and energy security, fight against terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illegal circulation of drugs and human trafficking, border protection, elimination of consequences of emergency situations, security and reforms in other areas is successfully developing. Azerbaijan fully benefits from possible partnership mechanisms with NATO through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and other means. An active political dialogue with NATO provides an opportunity to

create and strengthen a common understanding of the common challenges we face. Azerbaijan has successfully completed the implementation of the second document on the Action Plan, which opens the next phase of the Operational Plan on Individual Partnership and envisages the deepening of the political dialogue with NATO, the implementation of reforms in the fields of defense and security, cooperation in the field of science and public diplomacy, which in the coming years Azerbaijan-NATO will direct their relations. Another important priority of Heydar Aliyev's foreign policy course was the establishment and development of relations with the European Union. In its cooperation with this prestigious institution, Azerbaijan aims to effectively develop the national economy, fully integrate the national economy into the European economic and financial space, and constantly increase its role and importance in pan-European processes, especially in the establishment of a stable and efficient architecture of European security. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed between the European Union and Azerbaijan in 1996 serves as a framework for important processes such as political dialogue, support for the development of democratic institutions, economic cooperation and investment promotion. The assistance provided by the European Union is aimed at accelerating the process of reforms in Azerbaijan and implementing various projects. All these are factors that serve the development of the economy of Azerbaijan thanks to the successful policy of Heydar Aliyev. This policy is diligently continued today.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's flexible maneuvering policy, the Nagorno-Karabakh problem was put on the agenda as a special issue for the first time at the Budapest summit of the OSCE. The admirable thing that happened at the summit is that UN Secretary General B. Boutros-Ghali, US President B. Clinton and a number of leading heads of state and political figures around the problem of peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the creation of peace in the Caucasus as a whole they had performed. In addition, Heydar Aliyev held meetings with individual heads of state regarding security and cooperation issues in the Caucasus region at the Budapest summit. In these meetings, Heydar Aliyev made concrete proposals in the direction of restoring security and cooperation in the Caucasus. For this purpose, Heydar Aliyev was known as Czech President V. Gavel, Finnish President M. Ahtisaari, Norwegian Prime Minister G. Brutland, Bulgarian President J. Jeleu, Portuguese Prime Minister A. Kovaki Silvo, Swiss President O.

Stich, Romanian President I. Iliescu. held meetings with state officials.

Heydar Aliyev's activities related to the Caucasus are related to respect for the sovereign rights of each state located in the region, the self-determination of peoples and nations within the framework of international legal norms, the protection of human rights and rights, separatism, terrorism, the security of states and peoples, the protection of material and moral values, national is aimed at joint cooperation in solving political conflicts. Heydar Aliyev's role in transforming the Caucasus into a region of civilized coexistence dominated by the system of international relations is being confirmed by a number of great political and state figures of the world today.

Heydar Aliyev, who has the main leading role in peace, security and integration processes in the Caucasus, said about the importance of restoring peace in the region: «The Caucasus is now the center of attention of the whole world. Therefore, directing the processes in the Caucasus in the right direction, in the direction of peace, and achieving peace and tranquility in the Caucasus is a very big, holy goal, a supreme goal, and we will continue to work diligently for this goal» [Huseynova, 2008: 210].

Heydar Aliyev was the first leader who created fertile and effective conditions for the creation of a unified economic, cultural and ultimately political space in the Caucasus. The political measures implemented by this great personality towards the peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict served to create peace in the entire Caucasus. Thanks to Heydar Aliyev, the successes achieved by Azerbaijan in the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at the OSCE summits held in Budapest in 1994 and in Lisbon in 1996 increased the importance of the Republic of Azerbaijan in solving the problems in the Caucasus. From this point of view, Heydar Aliyev's activity in establishing close cooperation relations between Azerbaijan, Georgia and North Caucasus republics is of exceptional importance. In connection with these aspects, during his official visit to Azerbaijan in February 1997, E. Shevardnadze spoke in front of the teaching staff of Baku State University, noting the special role of Heydar Aliyev in the direction of creating peace and stability in the Caucasus, and said: is the first head of state to support the initiative».

All this should be evaluated as recognition of Heydar Aliyev's services as the first head of state supporting the peace initiative in the Caucasus by

the neighboring countries and as a real and bright result of the peace policy of independent Azerbaijan.

Almost 200 years ago, during the time of Tsarist Russia, and later during the red «evil empire» that appeared in the form of the Soviet Union, the principle of ethnic division, discrimination, and «divide and rule» has always been the basis of the Caucasian policy of the Russians. At the end of the 20th century, the three South Caucasus countries that gained independence – Georgia (April, 1991), Armenia (September, 1991), Azerbaijan (October, 1991), as well as the North Caucasus nations, which are currently part of the Russian Federation, are suffering from ethnic separatism inherited from former tsarist and Soviet Russia. Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan, Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia, and Chechnya in the North Caucasus cannot be saved.

Heydar Aliyev, who returned to the political power of Azerbaijan in 1993, resolved the ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus, including the undeclared war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, which was artificially instigated by Armenia, as well as the Georgian-Abkhazian, Georgian-Ossetian, and Chechen-Russian conflicts. has shown significant initiatives in this direction.

After the fall of the USSR, there was no other leader who showed more initiative than Heydar Aliyev in the direction of restoring peace, tranquility and security in the Caucasus. The main reason for this was that Heydar Aliyev was a powerful political figure at the planetary level. That is why the restoration of peace, tranquility and security in the Caucasus before Heydar Aliyev, especially the peaceful resolution of ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus, including the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as the Georgian-Abkhaz, Georgian-Ossetian, Chechen-Russian conflicts All the initiatives put forward by individual Caucasian leaders have not stood the test of time.

On March 5, 1996, Heydar Aliyev, while receiving the head of the State Council of Dagestan M. Mohammadov with a delegation, noted that Azerbaijan is interested in the peace process in the Caucasus. Thanks to Heydar Aliyev, the foundation of friendly and cooperative relations was laid between the North Caucasian republics, which are considered subjects of the Russian Federation, and Azerbaijan. All this directly served to ensure peace, tranquility and security in the Caucasus.

Heydar Aliyev, as a political figure with a high level of familiarity with the history, rich culture, psychology, outlook and pan-Caucasian mentality of the Caucasian peoples, effectively used all of

these in the direction of restoring peace, tranquility and security in the Caucasus. As a result, the peace process in the Caucasus was involved in conducting scientific research in the field of the ancient and rich history and culture of the peoples of the region.

The decree signed by Heydar Aliyev on holding the 200th anniversary of Sheikh Shamil, who has become a symbol of the struggle for freedom and independence of the Caucasian peoples, at the state level in the Republic of Azerbaijan, was of great importance in strengthening the friendship and cooperation relations between the Caucasian peoples. One of the important aspects of Sheikh Shamil's movement was that he was able to achieve the unification and solidarity of the Caucasian peoples. That is why Heydar Aliyev rightly emphasized that the people of Azerbaijan consider Sheikh Shamil as their national hero.

Heydar Aliyev was evaluated as the first political and statesman who took the initiative to effectively use the importance of historical figures who have become great influencers in the region and their respects that can create solidarity among peoples in the direction of restoring peace, tranquility and security in the Caucasus.

In October 1997, Heydar Aliyev, during his meeting with the Vice-President of the Chechen Republic, Vakhu Arsanov, paid great attention to the issue of security in the Caucasus, and expressed Azerbaijan's interest in the peaceful resolution of the Chechen-Russian conflict, and further took all necessary measures to restore peace in the Chechen Republic. stated that it will be implemented.

On March 9, 1998, Heydar Aliyev and the President of the Chechen Republic-Ichkeria Aslan Mashadov discussed and exchanged views on the issue of peaceful settlement of the Chechen conflict and the problems existing in the North Caucasus in general. During the meeting, Heydar Aliyev attached great importance to the economic reforms carried out in Azerbaijan and spoke about the importance of using this experience in the revival of the Chechen Republic's economy and said: «Azerbaijan is always ready to extend its helping hand to the Chechen people.»

In the development of economic relations between Azerbaijan and Chechnya, the Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline passing through the city of Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, played an important role in the stabilization of the Russian-Chechen conflict. On January 30, 1997, the article published in the French newspaper «Mond» about the problem of Caspian oil transportation said: «Oil,

which is the basis of the Chechen-Russian war, has become the most important factor of peace today.»

In addition to all this, Heydar Aliyev made a proposal to create a «Pact of peace, security and cooperation in the Caucasus» at the OSCE Istanbul summit held in December 1999 in order to help the realization of the idea of «Common Caucasian House» put forward in the «Tbilisi Declaration». . It was specially emphasized that ensuring peace in the Caucasus is an important factor in the economic and cultural integration of the modern world, ensuring peace and security in the region. Of course, Heydar Aliyev's proposal to create the «Pact of peace, security and cooperation in the South Caucasus» is considered one of the biggest initiatives in the direction of strengthening peace in the region.

In a broad sense, the «Tbilisi Declaration» signed on March 8, 1996 «On peace, stability and security in the Caucasus region», as a logical continuation of this Declaration, signed by the «Caucasus Quartet» on June 3, 1996 at the Kislovodsk meeting. «Declaration for tranquility, peace, economic and cultural cooperation in the Caucasus», on September 7-8, 1998, the signing of the «Agreement on the establishment of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor» and the «Baku Declaration», aimed at the implementation of the TRASEKA program events, the laying of the foundation for the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil pipeline on September 18, 2002, etc., signing of internationally important contracts, agreements and declarations are considered as unique initiatives of Heydar Aliyev in the direction of peaceful settlement of ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus.

The role of commissioning of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, which was laid by our great leader Heydar Aliyev, is invaluable in bringing the oil produced in our country to the world markets. Heydar Aliyev said in his speech at the ceremony of laying the foundation of the pipeline: «Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan has a great economic character. However, we believe that it is not only economic, but also political in nature. This project and its implementation can be a guarantor of peace, tranquility and security in the Caucasus region». As a result of the successful implementation of the oil strategy, which was the architect of this boon, the great leader Heydar Aliyev, dynamic development was ensured in our country, the welfare of the population was improved, and it was possible to strengthen the relations of integration into the world economic system.

The initiatives put forward by such a political and statesman with high thinking, wise and rich

experience as Heydar Aliyev in the direction of restoration of peace, tranquility and security in the Caucasus have been realized stage by stage and created broad and fertile conditions for the peoples of the Caucasus to solve their problems through dialogue and to succeed in cooperation [Huseynova, 2008: 344-345].

As a result of successful domestic and foreign policy of President Heydar Aliyev, in January 2001, Azerbaijan became a full member of the Council of Europe and joined a pan-European family and took its rightful place here. Thus, the successful implementation of legal reforms in our country, the establishment of a democratic, legal state and the non-return observance of such human values as the protection of human rights have received a decent assessment. In close cooperation with this influential pan-European Organization, Azerbaijan continues successfully building a democratic society based on the rule of law. Azerbaijan's cooperation with the Council of Europe, its Parliamentary Assembly, OSCE/ODIHR, as well as leading non-governmental human rights organizations on democratization processes in the country, especially the future development of civil society institutions, ensuring the protection of citizens' rights and fundamental freedoms, increasing efficiency in the field of Public Administration are also in the spotlight.

One of the important components of President Heydar Aliyev's successful foreign policy course is that immediately after the events of September 2001, 11, Azerbaijan joined the anti-terrorist coalition led by the United States and spared no effort in the fight against terrorism. As a country suffering from Armenian terror, the state of Azerbaijan has extensively cooperated with international organizations and different countries to resolve this problem. Today, Azerbaijan has been actively involved in international cooperation in the multilateral and bilateral framework in the fight against international terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Joining all international documents on the fight against terrorism, Azerbaijan constantly exchanges information on this area and prepares relevant reports. Azerbaijani peacekeepers served side by side with soldiers from other members of the international community in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. The efforts of the Azerbaijani government and companies to help Afghanistan and restore this country create opportunities for the population in need.

Immediately after the terrorist attacks of September 2001, 11, which had a fundamental impact on international relations, Heydar Aliyev's

statement condemning international terrorism, which poses a threat to all mankind, and his resolute declaration that Azerbaijan will be one of the countries that will take an active part in the antiterrorist coalition further strengthened us confidence in our republic and Heydar Aliyev's support to the anti-terrorist coalition and, in general, the consistent and decisive efforts of the head of state towards the implementation of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline project and the transportation of hydrocarbon resources of the Caspian basin to the West through Azerbaijan have resulted in the cessation of the unjust Amendment 907 to the "Freedom Support Act", which in October 2001, US President C. Bush and Secretary of State K. Powell addressed Congress, stressing that the elimination of the 907th Amendment served the national interests of the United States. Given the scale of the influence of the Armenian Lobby on the US Congress, the suspension of the 907th amendment was undoubtedly a great success of Heydar Aliyev's foreign policy.

Conclusion

The foreign and domestic policy, realized economic doctrine, founded by our national leader Heydar Aliyev and successfully continued by the president of the country Mr. Ilham Aliyev, gives grounds to say that in the coming years, thanks to the continuation of this policy, Azerbaijan will further increase the pace of comprehensive development and strengthen its positions both at the regional and global levels. All this gives reason to say that the stability and development strategy developed by our national leader Heydar Aliyev leads our people to great victories today.

Thanks to the high diplomatic skills of President Ilham Aliyev, which ensures the continuity of the foreign policy course of national leader Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan has gained an opportunity to influence not only the processes taking place in the region, but also the processes taking place in the international arena. On a number of issues that concern the world today, the heads of great powers reckon with the position of Azerbaijan – its leader. As an important geostrategic space located at the junction of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan is considered as the most promising partner as a fulcrum for ensuring peace and stability in the region. Our country is a key player in all regional issues, and no strategically important project in the region can be implemented without Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has established relations with neighboring countries at the level of a regional leader in terms of security, and a unique harmony has been formed between the issue of energy security and other areas of cooperation. Russia, Iran and Turkey establish relations with Azerbaijan as regional leaders and openly acknowledge this. These relations are created and improved on the principle of mutual usefulness. The activity of Azerbaijani diplomacy in the establishment of regional institutions is well known. Our country, which actively participates in these institutions, is also taking important steps towards the development of bilateral relations.

Thus, it is a well-known fact that Heydar Aliyev made a significant contribution to Azerbaijan, the region and the world. President Ilham Aliyev is successfully developing his State Building Course. In general, one of the invaluable services of the great leader was the training of such a great

politician as Ilham Aliyev, who ensured the future progress of the Azerbaijani people. This, in fact, is due to Heydar Aliyev's love for his homeland, his political professionalism and his serious commitment to national values. That is, for the sake of independent Azerbaijan, The Great Leader thought not only about the time he lived, but also about the future! Therefore, the Great Leader is always alive as a national leader, in the heart of the people, in the spirit of the successful policy of the state in all directions.

In general, Azerbaijan's foreign policy is a reliable guarantee of national security. This is due to the content of the modern foreign policy course, founded by great leader Heydar Aliyev and successfully developed by President Ilham Aliyev. The victory in the second Karabakh War is a vivid example of a worthy continuation of this political course.

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