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Headline: Armenia-Azerbaijan Tension Continues on Border

Source Line: NC0909115990 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1630
GMT 8 Sep 90Subslug: [Unattributed report: ``Clouds Are Gathering Over Artsakh,
Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast-- NKA0'']

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Unattributed report: ``Clouds Are Gathering Over Artsakh,
Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast-- NKA0'']
2. [Excerpts] With an enviable (?ability) the Azerbaijani authorities are exploiting the state of emergency situation virtually to eliminate Nagorno-Karabakh as an autonomous Armenian oblast. The occupation of the building housing the Martuninskiy Rayon Party Committee and the executive committee of Martuninskiy Rayon Soviet of People's Deputies was yet another step in eliminating the remnants of Soviet power in Nagorno-Karabakh. The incident took place on the evening of 7 September.
3. The population of Askeran has temporarily frustrated a similar attempt in Askeranskiy Rayon with the assistance of the Internal Troops.
4. The aim of these [word indistinct] actions is to install the so-called organizational bureaus after the example in Gadrutskiy and Shaumyanovskiy Rayons.
5. The incident has sharply exacerbated the situation in the oblast and there is the danger that it could spin out of control. The Armenian population of NKA0 is well aware that the present leadership of Azerbaijan has decided to appear decisive in its intention to eliminate the NKA0 and thus win the assistance of the Azerbaijani people in this venture on the eve of the elections in that republic.
6. The people of Artsakh are resolved not to let themselves become pawns in the government's political intrigues for the fate of the people. Their very existence on the lands of their ancestors is in question. The people do not pin their hopes on the intervention of the Union Monitoring and Observation Commission, which in NKA0 is dubbed as Unmonitoring and Sharply Sidelong-Observation Commission. And that is understandable. Over this entire period Chairman Foteyev

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has been to the oblast far fewer times than the flying saucers which have become a frequent occurrence here.

7. There is no doubt that in the coming days, or even sooner, they would attempt to create organizational bureaus in Mardakertskiy Rayon and Stepanakert City as well, thus resolving all the problems: That is, the Armenian autonomous formation will exist no more. In this regard many urgent cables have been sent to numerous Union organs, though people have ceased to believe that their voice will be heard and those cables will on the whole reach their destination. It is no coincidence that this is being done on the eve of holidays.

8. One could definitely argue--and there is no other explanation--that Artsakh has been sacrificed to Azerbaijan. This is what the 28 November 1989 infamous decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet led to [words indistinct]. The republican organizational committee which was supposed to reinstate the oblast administration organs is shamefully endorsing even the elimination of the lowest level of popular administration. And this is being carried out with the assistance of the Internal Troops of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry.

9. It is hard to predict how the incidents will develop. This information was given to ARMENPRES at around 1200 and it is highly possible that the communication lines might be severed again.

10. USSR People's Deputy Lyudmila Arutyunyan is in the oblast and she has witnessed the aforesaid actions of the Azerbaijani leadership. Yesterday she met the women's aktiv of Stepanakert.

11. According to the news received by an ARMENPRES correspondent from unofficial sources, after hearing about the inflammatory act by Azerbaijan, the people of Martuninskiy began to gather in Martuni on the morning of 7 September. The roads were blockaded. The people demanded that the representatives from Baku and their assistants in military uniforms leave the building housing the party rayon committee and its executive committee. Colonel Ovchinnikov, interim acting commandant of the state of emergency area, arrived at the scene of the incident. The situation was extremely tense. Ovchinnikov withdrew his subunits. The Azerbaijani representatives in the building were forced to evacuate it. The local employees have now reoccupied the building.

12. The outrageous lawlessness is continuing in Stepanakert airport. Yesterday, 7 September, the airplanes which had arrived from Yerevan were again detained, including the YAK-40 belonging to the Lithuanian civil aviation administration. [passage omitted]

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13. Apparently, such a shameful incident could happen today as well. Evidently, the Azerbaijani leadership is intentionally provoking the Armenians to resort to illegal actions so as to justify their claims about the complex situation in NKA0, a situation which supposedly is not conducive to the election of local soviets there. Only time will show what further steps they will take.

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