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AGGRESSIVE DIPLOMATIC ATTEMPTS OF ARMENIA TO RESOLVE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE ZANGEZUR REGION

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As one of the historical lands of Azerbaijan, Zangezur region has been strategically important due to its geographical location and has rich natural and spiritual wealth. Despite the fact that it is always proven in the documents as a region inhabited by Azerbaijanis, the "Great Armenia" dream of Armenians did not bypass this region. How? The answer to this question is complic ated: by committing mass massacres, destroying the material and spiritual heritage of the people, and most importantly, "by going astray when they feel the power behind them". In the foreign policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, it is very important to analyze the issue of the Zangezur region and investigate the aggressive policy of Armenia.

Key words: Zangezur, aggressive policy, massacre, foreign policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, territorial claims.

Introduction. It is of scientific importance to study the important and fundamentally important issues that happened in Zangezur during the existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the complex social and political processes affecting the life of the people.

In 1918, several steps were taken towards the establishment of national statehood in Azerbaijan, one of which was the issue of territorial management. Thus, in December 1918, "a statement was made that the command of the allied army will provide comprehensive assistance to the government approved by the parliament" [1, 345-346]. In that law, the issue of territorial division was put in the middle. In the parliament, 80 deputies from the Turkish-Muslim population represented the Muslim population, and two of them were intended for Zangezur district [1, 346].

Another issue was the formation of the army. However, the tension of Azerbaijan's internal situation had a negative impact on the social and political life of the country. Attempts to divide the territory of Azerbaijan and unite it with Armenia caused all kinds of disasters to happen to the people of Azerbaijan. Hateful Armenians "started to implement the policy of ethnic cleansing in Nakhchivan, Karabakh and Zangezur districts in order to realize the idea of "Great Armenia" [1, 406]. As Musa Gasimly said, after capturing Yerevan, Armenia did not give up its territorial claims. The next area they set their eyes on was Nakhchivan, Karabakh and Zangezur regions [5, 415].

In general, the gravity of Azerbaijan's geopolitical situation in 1918 was evident in the political processes that took place in the Caucasus after the end of World War I, the defeat of Turkey in that war, the threat of an attack by the XI Red Army, and the anti-Azerbaijani policy in southern Azerbaijan [9, 147]. According to the Mudros Agreement, the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the territory of Azerbaijan threatened the fate of the population of Azerbaijan [1, 408]. The Dashnaks became hostile to the Azerbaijanis and in November 1918 repeatedly bombarded Bash Garni, Big Vedi, Basarkechar, Sharur, Karabakh, Zangezur and other regions [5, 425].

In November of the same year, 52 villages were completely destroyed in Zangezur district, 495 houses were burned in 32 villages, 492 houses were destroyed, 2254 Azerbaijanis were killed, and 304 Azerbaijanis were burned alive. (Volume 5, 406) Murad Urud writes that "according to official documents, 115 Muslim villages were destroyed, 3257 men, 2276 women, 2196 children were killed, 794 women, 1060 men, and 426 children were burned. 10,068 Muslims were killed and maimed in the entire accident" [10, 222]. The Dashnaks "in late 1918 wiped out 400 villages with a population of 150,000 people in Zangezur district" [5, 426].

Thus, Andronicus established an "Armenian governorate" in a part of Zangezur and made Gorus its center [1, 408]. The atrocities committed by Andronikos' bandits were discussed at a parliamentary session on December 20, 1918. Parliament adopted a decision to provide all kinds of material and moral assistance to the population [1, 412].

As Abbas Piriyev also noted, one of the main directions of geopolitics is the safety of the population. At that time, "the largest population of the Caucasus was Azerbaijani Turks" [9, 148]. When so many calamities befell Azerbaijan, they did not learn to loudly announce their troubles and disasters to the world. That is why the Armenians skillfully used it [9, 148].

After the end of World War I, the British brought military forces to Nakhchivan at the beginning of 1919, in accordance with their own interests and when the interests of the other side coincided. At the same time, Armenians deployed their troops in Zangezur, Nakhchivan and Karabakh [1, 409]. Azerbaijanis were subjected to further violence in Zangezur district. In connection with this, at the meeting dated January 15, 1919, a decision was made to establish a temporary general-governorship for Zangezur, Shusha, Javanshir Jabrayil districts [8].

Although the establishment of the Karabakh governorate encouraged Androkin's gang to commit more massacres, the atrocities they committed were temporarily stopped when British troops arrived in Shusha in February 1919 [1, 412].

In the protest notes sent by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Ziyadkhanov to the Armenian government, the historical-ethnic rights, the misfortunes of the population, and the peaceful resolution of all conflicts were highlighted [8].

Also, the dual policy of the British manifested itself both in giving a part of the Zangezur district to Armenia and in protecting the Karabakh governorate. The Armenians, however, did not stand still and put forward various issues for the sake of their historical rights with false evidence [1,413]. Ilgar Niftalyev emphasizes that "on April 3, 1919, the command of British military units in Karabakh confirmed the sole authority of Governor-General Khosrov Bey Sultanov with the words of Colonel D. Shuttleworth" [8]. However, some points can be noted: the British demanded the removal of their bandits from the districts. At the same time, they tried to transfer power in the region to the Armenian National Council. Attempts to remove Khosrov bey Sultanov from his position were also part of their dual policy [1, 414].

On June 4, 1919, the establishment of military posts by the Karabakh governor-general around Shusha and along the road made the insidious policy of the Armenians a little more prominent. Thus, the attack of Armenian armed groups on military posts resulted in the martyrdom of 4 Azerbaijani servicemen [1, 414].

On the other hand, the United States, in its turn, followed a dual policy. Andronikos sent a telegram to the United States demanding "interference in the solution of the Armenian issue" [3, 317]. On the eve of the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, the attempts of Armenians to acquire Nakhchivan through American policy failed. The point is that the Independent Armenian American Committee operating in the USA was engaged in Armenian lobbying and false propaganda [4, 76]. Musa Gasimli notes that more than 120,000 Armenians lived in the United States at that time [5, 365]. However, despite all the complex conditions during this period, the Azerbaijani delegation presented the issue of administrative territory at the Paris peace conference. Here, Zangezur district is included in Yelizavetpol governorate [9, 147].

Ali Hasanov notes that "since Deniki's offensive activity posed a serious threat to the independence of the Caucasian republics, the representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the North Caucasian republics submitted protest notes consisting of 7 articles on June 23, 1919" [4, 74]. Jamil Hasanli writes that "the difference between this document and the previous two documents (June 5 and 7) was that here the Caucasian republics approached the processes taking place in Russia from the point of view of their own destiny, ... there was a protest against Denikin, who had become a serious threat" [3, 290]. The international situation that arose in the middle of 1919 conditioned the Azerbaijani government to establish relations with the leading states. On this eve, "A.M.Topchubashov wrote to the US President V.Wilson in a letter on September 26, 1919, stating that he hoped that the US would protect the independence of Azerbaijan" [4, 76].

In the autumn of 1919, large-scale military operations in the Zangezur region of Armenia caused more than 60,000 Turkish-Muslims to leave their ancestral homes and become refugees. Most of them migrated to Karabakh. The commander of the 1st regimental division, Major General C. Shikhlinski, sent a special force against the Armenians' heinous actions in the Zangezur district. Armenians did not remain indifferent to this issue and resorted to international diplomacy. Thus, on October 12-13, 1919, a meeting was organized with N. Yusifbeyli and M.Y.Jafarov with the diplomatic representative of Armenia, T.Bekzadyan, in the direction of resolving the territorial disputes. Reminding the other side of the concessions of Iravan and Etchmiadzin, the leadership of Azerbaijan firmly stated that Karabakh, Nakhchivan and Zangezur will remain only within the borders of Azerbaijan [1, 416-417]. In the conferences held on November 23-29, and also on December 14-21, 1919, no steps were taken to solve the Zangezur problem [1, 418].

In January 1920, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan issued a number of protest notes in order to stop the expanding Armenian aggression, but the hypocritical and hateful policy of the Armenians continued [1, 419]. In March 1920, Armenians gathered in Karabakh and Zangezur with great force. 7000 Armenian soldiers were brought from Dilinjan to Zangezur alone. However, the Azerbaijani army fought resolutely for the defense of Karabakh. After the successes in the military operations in Karabakh, the main task of the army was the liberation of Zangezur from Armenian military units [1, 421].

In April 1920, the Azerbaijani army "restored the situation of November 23, 1919" [1, 422].

Conclution. Thus, in the struggle for the sovereign rights of Azerbaijan in Karabakh and Zangezur, the governor-general of Karabakh, Khosrov Bey Sultanov, made a great contribution [3, 323]. It should be noted that our history is the social memory of evolution that connects our generations and roots. During the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, research conducted against the background of "strengthening of the state, emergence of national self-awareness, correct orientation of foreign political strategy" [9, 144] are of great importance. Because the legacy left by the short-lived state created a renewed sense of determination in the following generations and was a light for the steps taken to restore an independent state.

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ERMƏNİSTANIN ZƏNGƏZUR RAYONUNDA ƏRAZİ İDDİALARINI HƏLL ETMƏK ÜÇÜN TƏCVÜZKAR DIPLOMATİK SƏYLƏRİ

Tarixi Azərbaycan torpaqlarından biri kimi Zəngəzur bölgəsi coğrafi mövqeyinə görə strateji cəhətdən əhəmiyyətli olmaqla yanaşı zəngin təbii və mənəvi sərvətə malik bir ərazi olmuşdur. Sənədlərdə daima azərbaycanlıların yaşadığı bölgə kimi sübut olunmasına baxmayaraq ermənilərin "Böyük Ermənistan" xülyası bu bölgədən də yan keçməmişdir. Necə? Bu sualın cavabı mürəkkəbdir: Kütləvi qırğınlar törədilərək, xalqın maddi və mənəvi miraslarını dağıdaraq,ən əsası "arxalarında güc hiss edəndə azğınlaşaraq". Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin xarici siyasətində Zəngəzur bölgəsinin məsələsini təhlil etmək və Ermənistanın təcavüzkar siyasətini araşdırmaq çox önəmlidir.

Açar sözlər: Zəngəzur, təcavüzkar siyasət, qırğın, Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin xarici siyasəti, ərazi iddiaları

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АГРЕССИВНЫЕ ДИПЛОМАТИЧЕСКИЕ УСИЛИЯ ПО РЕШЕНИЮ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНЫХ ПРИТЕНИЙ АРМЕНИИ В ЗАНГАЗУРСКОМ РАЙОНЕ

Как одна из исторических земель Азербайджана, Зангезурский район имел стратегическое значение благодаря своему географическому положению и богатому природному и духовному богатству. Несмотря на то, что в документах он всегда указывается как регион, населенный азербайджанцами, мечта армян о «Великой Армении» не обошла и этот регион. Как? Ответ на этот вопрос сложен: совершая массовые убийства, уничтожая материальное и духовное наследие народа, а главное, «сбиваясь с пути, когда он чувствует за собой силу». Во внешней политике Азербайджанской Демократической Республики очень важно проанализировать вопрос Зангезурского района и исследовать агрессивную политику Армении.

Ключевые слова: Зангезур, агрессивная политика, резня, внешняя политика Азербайджанской Демократической Республики, территориальные претензии.

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