

Sergueï Lavrov parle avec Pachinian

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POLITICS

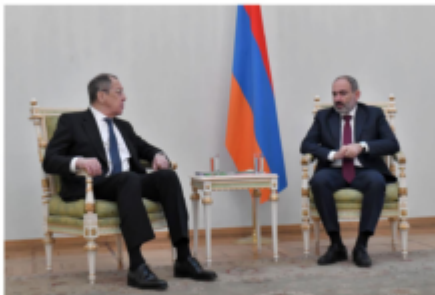
Pashinyan, Lavrov discuss humanitarian issues in Nagorno Karabakh

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov.

Welcoming the Russian Foreign Minister, Prime Minister Pashinyan said "the most important issue for us now is the situation in Nagorno Karabakh. We have to make decisions on many issues, the most important thing is the humanitarian side of the issue, we have to ensure the return of the people of Artsakh to their homes."

Of course, he said, already now there is a rather good dynamic of the residents of Artsakh returning to their homes. And in fact, the Russian peacekeepers have been deployed in all the designated places and are provide security.

"This is a very important factor that ensures the security of the people of Nagorno Karabakh. But there are issues that have not been resolved and remain open: how will we ensure the exercise of the right of return of the residents of several regions in the future, who will ensure the security of our compatriots, how will it be imple-



mented? These, of course, are issues that are on our agenda. We must discuss and make decisions in that regard," PM Pashinyan said.

Sergey Lavrov, in turn, thanked for the welcome and noted that the Russian delegation arrived in Yerevan within the framework of Nikol Pashinyan's agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, in order to fully address all areas of cooperation, the allied, strategic relations.

"The November 9 statement provides an opportunity to resolve issues in Nagorno Karabakh on the basis of agreements

reached in a document signed by the three leaders. First of all, it refers to the return of refugees, the solution of all humanitarian issues of the current situation," Lavrov said.

He thanked PM Pashinyan for his appreciation of the role played by the Russian peacekeepers, which is important not only in terms of security as a key component of their mandate, but also in terms of ongoing support for the returning people who need humanitarian assistance.

"And in addition to the role of peacekeepers, the interdepartmental center, which is being established by President Putin's order, is already starting its work, and will also deal specifically with all these issues. We actively involve the international organizations of the UN system, we encourage them to use their opportunities in a more active, more proactive way for the people of that region. We actively support the International Committee of the Red Cross, which works, including in Karabakh," the Russian Foreign Minister said.

Armenian, Russian defense ministers discuss situation around Nagorno Karabakh



The extended format meeting of the delegations of Armenia's Defense Minister Vagharshak Harutyunyan and Defense Minister of Russia Sergei Shoigu was held at the Armenian defense ministry on November 21, the ministry told Noyan Tapan. A broad range of issues relating to the cur-

rent situation around Nagorno Karabakh, the future actions and the Armenian-Russian military cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

Army General Sergei Shoigu congratulated Vagharshak Harutyunyan on appointment as Armenia's Defense Minister.

The sides highly valued Russia's role and efforts aimed at stabilizing the military-political situation in the region, as well as the process and effectiveness of the Russian peacekeeping mission in Artsakh in accordance with the November 10 statement signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia. The Russian defense minister reported on the actions done so far in this direction and the future plans.

The Armenian and Russian defense ministers stressed the importance of work on finding and exchanging killed servicemen, prisoners of war and missing persons, as well as the work of the inter-agency humanitarian response center created in the territory of Nagorno Karabakh aimed at organizing the works of the return of refugees, restoration of civilian infrastructure, etc.

At the end of the meeting the Armenian and Russian defense ministers signed a package of documents regulating the framework of the actions of the Russian peacekeeping troops in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

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