

Key texts and agreements

A selection of texts and agreements from the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and peace process. Texts in bold are printed here; additional materials are available at www.c-r.org/accord

- **Resolution by the Soviet of the Autonomous Region of Nagorny Karabakh requesting incorporation into the Armenian SSR**, Stepanakert, 20 February 1988 [unofficial translation].
- Resolution of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet regarding the decisions of the Supreme Soviets of Azerbaijan and Armenia on Nagorno Karabakh, Moscow, 18 July 1988.
- Joint resolution of Armenia SSR and Nagorny Karabakh Oblast on reunification, 1 December 1989.
- Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR in connection with the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR on uniting the Armenian SSR and the NKAO, Baku, 6 December 1989.
- **Law on Secession, USSR, 3 April 1990** [unofficial translation; extracts].
- Zheleznovodsk Declaration, Zheleznovodsk, 23 September 1991.
- Summary of Conclusions of the Council of Ministers of the CSCE, Helsinki, 24 March 1992.
- Joint Declaration by the Heads of State [of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran], Tehran, 7 May 1992.
- Agreement between the three foreign ministers of Nagorny Karabakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan on ceasefire, Alma-Ata, 1 September 1992
- Agreement on the halting of hostilities, Sochi, 19 September 1992.
- Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act (Public Law 102-511), Washington, DC, 24 October 1992.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 822**, 30 April 1993.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 853**, 29 July 1993.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 874**, 14 October 1993.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 884**, 12 November 1993.
- Declaration of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Moscow, 15 April 1994.
- **The Bishkek Protocol**, Bishkek, 5 May 1994 [unofficial translation].
- Ceasefire agreement, Bishkek, 11 May 1994.
- CSCE Summit Decision on Nagorno Karabakh, Budapest, 6 December 1994.
- Agreement on the Settlement of Incidents [along the ceasefire line], 6 February 1995.
- **Statement of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office**, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe 1996 Summit, Lisbon, 3 December 1996.
- Joint Declaration of the Presidents of the Russian Federation, United States and France, Denver, 23 June 1997.
- **Minsk Group proposal ('package deal')**, July 1997 [unofficial translation].
- **Minsk Group proposal ('step-by-step deal')**, December 1997 [unofficial translation].
- **Minsk Group proposal ('common state deal')**, November 1998 [unofficial translation].
- Council of Europe Resolution 1416, Strasbourg, 25 January 2005.
- Report of the OSCE Fact-Finding Mission to the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan Surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh, Prague, 6 February 2005.

The resolution of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh requesting incorporation in Soviet Armenia

20 February 1988

Special meeting of the 20th session, the Soviet of People's Deputies, Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh.

RESOLUTION:

Regarding mediation for the transfer of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh from the Azerbaijani SSR to the Armenian SSR:

After listening to and reviewing the statements of the people's deputies of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh Soviet "regarding the mediation of the SSR Supreme Soviet between the Azerbaijani SSR and Armenian SSR for the transfer of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh from the Azerbaijani SSR to the Armenian SSR," the special session of regional soviet of the 20th regional soviet of Nagorno Karabakh *resolves*, Welcoming the wishes of the workers of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh to request the Supreme Soviets of Azerbaijani and Armenian SSRs that they appreciate the deep aspirations of the Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh and to transfer the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh from the Azerbaijani SSR to the Armenian SSR, at the same time to intercede with the Supreme Soviet of USSR to reach a positive resolution regarding the transfer of the region from the Azerbaijani SSR to the Armenian SSR.

Extracts from the USSR's Law on Secession

3 April 1990

Concerning the procedure of secession of a Soviet Republic from the USSR. The law of the USSR of April 3, 1990 (Register of the Congress of the People's Deputies of USSR and Supreme Soviet of USSR. 1990, issue No. 13, p. 252)

Article 1: The procedure of secession of a Soviet Republic from the USSR is conducted in accordance with the Article 72 of the Constitution of the USSR under the present Law.

Article 2: The decision on secession of a Soviet Republic from the USSR is made by the will of the people of that Soviet Republic by means of a referendum.

The decision to conduct a referendum is to be ratified by the Supreme Soviet of a Soviet Republic based either on its own will or on the request made by the 10 per cent of permanent residents who have a right to vote according to the USSR laws.

The referendum is to be conducted according to the referendum law of the USSR, referendum law of a given Soviet or autonomous Republic if they do not contradict this law.

The referendum is to be conducted by a secret vote not earlier than 6 months and not later than 9 months after the decision to conduct the secession referendum has been made by a Soviet Republic.

Citizens of the USSR, permanently residing on the territory of the Republic by the time the decision to conduct a referendum is made and who have a right to vote according to the USSR laws, have a right to participate in the referendum.

No agitation on the subject of the referendum is allowed during the course of the referendum.

Article 3: In case the Soviet Republic has autonomous republics, autonomous regions or autonomous territories within its borders, referendums are to be conducted separately in each of the autonomies. The people residing in the autonomies are given a right to independently decide whether to remain in the Soviet Union or in the seceding Republic as well as to decide on their state legal status.

Referendum results are to be considered separately for the territory of a Soviet Republic with a compactly settled ethnic minority population, which constitutes majority on that particular territory of the Republic.

Article 6: Decision of a Soviet Republic to secede from the USSR must be made by means of a referendum if so voted by not less than two-thirds of the citizens of the USSR, who permanently resided on the territory of the Republic and are eligible to vote in accordance with laws of the USSR by the time the decision was made to conduct a

referendum on secession from the Soviet Union.

Results of a referendum are to be reviewed by the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Republic. In a republic, which has autonomous republics, autonomous regions, autonomous territories or territories with compactly settled national minority population as mentioned in Article 3 of the present Law within its borders, the results of the referendum are to be reviewed by the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Republic jointly with the Supreme Soviet of the autonomous republic and respective Soviets of People's Deputies. The Supreme Soviet of a Soviet Republic then submits the results of the referendum to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Republic which has autonomous republics, autonomous regions, autonomous territories or territories with a compactly settled national minority population within its borders as mentioned in second part of Article 3 of the present Law submits the results for each autonomous republic, autonomous region, autonomous territory or territory with a compactly settled national minority population to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR separately along with necessary conclusions and suggestions made by respective state authorities. If it is verified that the referendum is conducted in accordance with the law, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR takes it to the Congress of the People's Deputies of USSR for review.

RESOLUTION 822

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3205th meeting, on 30 April 1993

The Security Council,
Recalling the statements of the President of the Security Council of 29 January 1993 (S/25199) and of 6 April 1993 (S/25539) concerning the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict,
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General dated 14 April 1993 (S/25600),
Expressing its serious concern at the deterioration of the relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan,
Noting with alarm the escalation in armed hostilities and, in particular,

the latest invasion of the Kelbadjar district of the Republic of Azerbaijan by local Armenian forces,
Concerned that this situation endangers peace and security in the region,
Expressing grave concern at the displacement of a large number of civilians and the humanitarian emergency in the region, in particular in the Kelbadjar district,
Reaffirming the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in the region,
Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,
Expressing its support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and deeply concerned at the disruptive effect that the escalation in armed hostilities can have on that process,
1. *Demands* the immediate cessation of all hostilities and hostile acts with a view to establishing a durable cease-fire, as well as immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kelbadjar district and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan;
2. *Urges* the parties concerned immediately to resume negotiations for the resolution of the conflict within the framework of the peace process of the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and refrain from any action that will obstruct a peaceful solution of the problem;
3. *Calls* for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region, in particular in all areas affected by the conflict in order to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population and reaffirms that all parties are bound to comply with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as the Chairman of the Minsk Group of the Conference to assess the situation in the region, in particular in the Kelbadjar district of Azerbaijan, and to submit a further report to the Council;
5. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 853

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3259th meeting, on 29 July 1993

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolution 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993,

Having considered the report issued on 27 July 1993 by the Chairman of the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (S/26184),

Expressing its serious concern at the deterioration of relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic and at the tensions between them,

Welcoming acceptance by the parties concerned at the timetable of urgent steps to implement its resolution 822 (1993),

Noting with alarm the escalation in armed hostilities and, in particular, the seizure of the district of Aghdam in the Azerbaijani Republic,

Concerned that this situation continues to endanger peace and security in the region,

Expressing once again its grave concern at the displacement of large numbers of civilians in the Azerbaijani Republic and at the serious humanitarian emergency in the region, *Reaffirming* the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

1. *Condemns* the seizure of the district of Aghdam and of all other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic;

2. *Further condemns* all hostile actions in the region, in particular attacks on civilians and bombardments of inhabited areas;

3. *Demands* the immediate cessation of all hostilities and the immediate complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces involved from the district of Aghdam and all other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic;

4. *Calls on* the parties concerned to reach and maintain durable cease-fire arrangements;

5. *Reiterates* in the context of paragraphs 3 and 4 above its earlier calls for the restoration of economic, transport and energy links in the region;

6. *Endorses* the continuing efforts by the Minsk Group of the CSCE to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict, including efforts to implement resolution 822 (1993), and *expresses its grave concern* at the disruptive effect that the escalation of armed hostilities has had on these efforts;

7. *Welcomes* the preparations for a CSCE monitor mission with a timetable for its deployment, as well as consideration within the CSCE of the proposal for a CSCE presence in the region;

8. *Urges* the parties concerned to refrain from any action that will obstruct a peaceful solution to the conflict, and to pursue negotiations within the Minsk Group of the CSCE, as well as through direct contacts between them, towards a final settlement;

9. *Urges* the Government of the Republic of Armenia to continue to exert its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorny-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic with its resolution 822 (1993) and the present resolution, and the acceptance by this party of the proposals of the Minsk Group of the CSCE;

10. *Urges* States to refrain from the supply of any weapons and munitions which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of territory;

11. *Calls once again* for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region, in particular in all areas affected by the conflict, in order to alleviate the increased suffering of the civilian population and *reaffirms* that all parties are bound to comply with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist displaced persons to return to their homes;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-

Office of the CSCE as well as the Chairman of the Minsk Group, to continue to report to the Council on the situation;

14. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 874

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3292nd meeting, on 14 October 1993

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993 and 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993, and *recalling* the statement read by the President of the Council, on behalf of the Council, on 18 August 1993 (S/26326),

Having considered the letter dated 1 October 1993 from the Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/26522),

Expressing its serious concern that a continuation of the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, and of the tensions between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, would endanger peace and security in the region,

Taking note of the high-level meetings which took place in Moscow on 8 October 1993 and *expressing* the hope that they will contribute to the improvement of the situation and the peaceful settlement of the conflict, *Reaffirming* the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

Expressing once again its grave concern at the human suffering the conflict has caused and at the serious humanitarian emergency in the region and *expressing* in particular its grave concern at the displacement of large numbers of civilians in the Azerbaijani Republic,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to make effective and permanent the cease-fire established as a result of the direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Government of the

Russian Federation in support of the CSCE Minsk Group;

2. *Reiterates again* its full support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the CSCE, and for the tireless efforts of the CSCE Minsk Group;

3. *Welcomes and commends* to the parties the Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) set out on 28 September 1993 at the meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group and submitted to the parties concerned by the Chairman of the Group with the full support of nine other members of the Group, and *calls on* the parties to accept it;

4. *Expresses* the conviction that all other pending questions arising from the conflict and not directly addressed in the adjusted timetable should be settled expeditiously through peaceful negotiations in the context of the CSCE Minsk process;

5. *Calls for* the immediate implementation of the reciprocal and urgent steps provided for in the CSCE Minsk Group's Adjusted timetable, including the withdrawal of forces from recently occupied territories and the removal of all obstacles to communications and transportation;

6. *Calls also* for an early convening of the CSCE Minsk Conference for the purpose of arriving at a negotiated settlement to the conflict as provided for in the timetable, in conformity with the 24 March 1992 mandate of the CSCE Council of Ministers;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to respond favourably to an invitation to send a representative to attend the CSCE Minsk Conference and to provide all possible assistance for the substantive negotiations that will follow the opening of the Conference;

8. *Supports* the monitoring mission developed by the CSCE;

9. *Calls on* all parties to refrain from all violations of international humanitarian law and *renews its call* in resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in all areas affected by the conflict;

10. *Urges* all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts and from any interference or intervention which would lead to the widening of the

conflict and undermine peace and security in the region;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in security and dignity;

12. *Requests also* the Secretary-General, the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE and the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference to continue to report to the Council on the progress of the Minsk process and on all aspects of the situation on the ground, and on present and future cooperation between the CSCE and the United Nations in this regard;

13. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 884

Adopted by the Security Council at its 3313th meeting, on 12 November 1993

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993, 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993 and 874 (1993) of 14 October 1993,

Reaffirming its full support for the peace process being pursued within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and for the tireless efforts of the CSCE Minsk Group,

Taking note of the letter dated 9 November 1993 from the Chairman-in-Office of the Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh addressed to the President of the Security Council and its enclosures (S/26718, annex),

Expressing its serious concern that a continuation of the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, and of the tensions between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijani Republic, would endanger peace and security in the region,

Noting with alarm the escalation in armed hostilities as consequence of the violations of the cease-fire and excesses in the use of force in response to those violations, in particular the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz in the Azerbaijani Republic,

Reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States in the region,

Reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory,

Expressing grave concern at the latest displacement of a large number of civilians and the humanitarian emergency in the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz and on Azerbaijan's southern frontier,

1. *Condemns* the recent violations of the cease-fire established between the parties, which resulted in a resumption of hostilities, and particularly *condemns* the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz, attacks on civilians and bombardments of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of Armenia to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic with resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993) and 874 (1993), and to ensure that the forces involved are not provided with the means to extend their military campaign further;

3. *Welcomes* the Declaration of 4 November 1993 of the nine members of the CSCE Minsk Group (S/26718) and *commends* the proposals contained therein for unilateral cease-fire declarations;

4. *Demands* from the parties concerned the immediate cessation of armed hostilities and hostile acts, the unilateral withdrawal of occupying forces from the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz, and the withdrawal of occupying forces from other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic in accordance with the adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) (S/26522, appendix), as amended by the CSCE Minsk Group meeting in Vienna of 2 to 8 November 1993;

5. *Strongly urges* the parties concerned to resume promptly and to make effective and permanent the cease-fire established as a result of the direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Government of the

Russian Federation in support of the CSCE Minsk Group, and to continue to seek a negotiated settlement of the conflict within the context of the CSCE Minsk process and the Adjusted timetable, as amended by the CSCE Minsk Group meeting in Vienna of 2 to 8 November 1993;

6. *Urges again* all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts and from any interference or intervention, which would lead to the widening of the conflict and undermine peace and security in the region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population, including that in the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz and on Azerbaijan's southern frontier, and to assist refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in security and dignity;

8. *Reiterates* its request that the Secretary-General, the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE and the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference continue to report to the Council on the progress of the Minsk process and on all aspects of the situation on the ground, in particular on the implementation of its relevant resolutions, and on present and future cooperation between the CSCE and the United Nations in this regard;

9. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

The Bishkek Protocol

5 May 1994

Participants of the meeting held in May 4-5 in Bishkek on the initiative of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Parliament of Kyrgyz Republic, Federal Congress and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation:

express determination to assist in all possible ways to the cessation of armed conflict in and around Nagorno Karabakh, which does not only cause irretrievable losses to Azerbaijani and Armenian people, but also significantly affects the interests of other countries in the region and seriously complicates the international situation;

supporting the April 15, 1994 Statement by the CIS Council of heads of states, express readiness to fully

support the efforts by heads and representatives of executive power on cessation of the armed conflict and liquidation of its consequences by reaching an appropriate agreement as soon as possible;

advocate a naturally active role of the Commonwealth and Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in cessation of the conflict, in realization of thereupon principles, goals and the UN and OSCE certain decisions (first of all the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884); call upon the conflicting sides to come to common senses: cease to fire at the midnight of May 8 to 9, guided by the February 18, 1994 Protocol (including the part on allocating observers), and work intensively to confirm this as soon as possible by signing a reliable, legally binding agreement envisaging a mechanism, ensuring the non-resumption of military and hostile activities, withdrawal of troops from occupied territories and restoration of communication, return of refugees; agree to suggest Parliaments of the CIS member-states to discuss the initiative by Chairman of Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly V. Shumeyko and Head of the Assembly's Peacemaking Group on Nagorno Karabakh M. Sherimkulov on creating a CIS peacemaking force; consider appropriate to continue such meetings for peaceful resolution of the armed conflict;

express gratitude to the people and leadership of Kyrgyzstan for creating excellent working conditions, cordiality and hospitality.

[Signatories]

Lisbon Document

3 December 1996

ANNEX 1: STATEMENT OF THE OSCE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

You all know that no progress has been achieved in the last two years to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the issue of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I regret that the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference to reconcile the views of the parties on the principles for a settlement have been unsuccessful.

Three principles which should form part of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were recommended by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group. These principles are supported by all member States of the Minsk Group. They are:

- territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic;
- legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh defined in an agreement based on self-determination which confers on Nagorno-Karabakh the highest degree of self-rule within Azerbaijan;
- guaranteed security for Nagorno-Karabakh and its whole population, including mutual obligations to ensure compliance by all the Parties with the provisions of the settlement.

I regret that one participating State could not accept this. These principles have the support of all other participating States.

This statement will be included in the Lisbon Summit documents.

Minsk Group 'package' proposal

July 1997

Unofficial translation of Russian original

Comprehensive agreement on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the OSCE

Preamble:

The Sides, recognizing fully the advantages of peace and cooperation in the region for the flourishing and wellbeing of their peoples, express their determination to achieve a peaceful resolution of the prolonged Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The resolution laid out below will create a basis for the joint economic development of the Caucasus, giving the peoples of this region the possibility of living a normal and productive life under democratic institutions, promoting wellbeing and a promising future. Cooperation in accordance with the present Agreement will lead to normal relations in the field of trade, transport and communications throughout the region, giving people the opportunity

to restore, with the assistance of international organizations, their towns and villages, to create the stability necessary for a substantial increase in external capital investment in the region, and to open the way to mutually beneficial trade, leading to the achievement of natural development for all peoples, the basis for which exists in the Caucasus region. Conciliation and cooperation between peoples will release their enormous potential to the benefit of their neighbours and other peoples of the world.

In accordance with these wishes, the Sides, being subject to the provisions of the UN Charter, the basic principles and decisions of the OSCE and universally recognized norms of international law, and expressing their determination to support the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, agree herewith to implement the measures laid out in Agreement I in order to put an end to armed hostilities and re-establish normal relations, and to reach an agreement on the final status of Nagorny Karabakh, as laid out in Agreement II.

Agreement I – The end of armed hostilities

The Sides agree:

I. To reject the use of armed force to resolve disputes between them, including disputes arising in connection with the present Agreement.

II. To withdraw armed forces in two stages:

In the first stage forces positioned along the current line of contact to the east and south of Nagorny Karabakh will be withdrawn kilometres to lines agreed in Appendix I of the High Level Planning Group recommendations, with the aim of securing conditions for the deployment of a forward detachment of international OSCE forces in a militarily secure buffer zone, separating the Sides along this line and guaranteeing security for the second stage of withdrawal.

At the second stage forces will be withdrawn in accordance with the timetable agreed in Appendix I, as follows:

A. The armed forces of Armenia will be withdrawn to within the borders of the Republic of Armenia.

B. The armed forces of Nagorny Karabakh will be withdrawn to within the 1988 borders of the Nagorny Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO); with the exceptions detailed below in Clauses VIII and IX).

C. The armed forces of Azerbaijan will be withdrawn to positions agreed in Appendix I on the basis of the High Level Planning Group's recommendations

D. Heavy weaponry will be withdrawn further to positions agreed in Appendix I on the basis of the High Level Planning Group's recommendations and subject to conditions of transparency and accountability.

E. Upon the completion of withdrawal the buffer zone will be located as indicated in the map shown in Appendix I, along the 1988 borders of the NKAO and the northern part of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

III. That territories released as a result of the withdrawal of armed forces will form a division zone, in which OSCE peacekeeping forces will implement monitoring of security conditions in conjunction with a Permanent Joint Commission. Neither side will be permitted to introduce its forces into this zone except by permission of OSCE peacekeeping forces and the Permanent Joint Commission in accordance with the implementation of Appendix II, in which agreed subdivisions are envisaged for customs services, demining and civil police force functions. The Sides agree not to carry out any military flights over the division zone and buffer zone.

IV. To cooperate with the deployment of international OSCE peacekeeping forces in the buffer zone in order to guarantee security in conjunction with the Permanent Joint Commission. OSCE peacekeeping forces will consist of forces appointed by the OSCE, whose mandate will be defined by UN Security Council resolution and renewed on the recommendation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

V. To implement the return of displaced persons to their original places of permanent settlement in the division zone. OSCE peacekeeping forces in conjunction with the Permanent Joint Commission will observe the security conditions for the returning population and provide guarantees to all Sides

regarding the observance of demilitarization in this zone.

VI. That simultaneously with the withdrawal of armed forces measures will be implemented aimed at the restoration of roads, railways, electricity transmission lines and connections, trade and other relations, including any other actions implied in the achievement of these goals. The Sides guarantee the free use of these connections for all, including ethnic minorities, and guarantee the latter access to their ethnic groups located in other parts of the region. Each Side pledges to remove all blockades and to allow the passage of goods and people to all other Sides. Armenia and Azerbaijan guarantee the free and safe rail connection between their territories, including the Baku-Horadiz-Meghri-Ordubad-Nakhichevan-Yerevan route.

VII. To cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other international humanitarian organizations to secure the return of all persons detained as a result of the conflict, ascertainment of the fate of those disappeared without trace and the repatriation of all remains.

VIII. In relation to the following measures concerning the Lachin corridor:

A. Azerbaijan will lease the corridor to the OSCE, which will conclude a contract on the exclusive use of the corridor by the Nagorny Karabakh authorities (with exceptions envisaged for transit, explained below in Clause E).

B. The OSCE will observe security conditions in conjunction with the Nagorny Karabakh authorities.

C. The boundaries of the Lachin corridor are agreed in Appendix II with due consideration of the recommendations of the HLPG.

D. The OSCE will observe the construction of roads around the town of Lachin. Upon the completion of road construction the town of Lachin will be excluded from the Lachin corridor. It will return to Azerbaijani jurisdiction (as part of the division zone) and its former inhabitants will be able to return.

E. Permanent settlement or armed forces are not allowed in the corridor,

with the exception of permitted security force contingents. Representatives of official bodies, observers and OSCE peacekeeping forces have the right of transit subject to prior notification, as do Azerbaijani inhabitants of the region in transit from the Lachin district to the Gubatly district or vice versa. Territory of the Lachin district lying outside of the corridor forms part of the division zone.

IX. With regard to the following measures, concerning the town of Shusha and the Shaumian district:

A. The Sides will withdraw their armed forces from both districts, with the exception of anti-aircraft defences manned with limited crews.

B. The local authorities will assist the deployment of observers from the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE.

C. Displaced persons will be able to return to their places of former permanent residence. The relevant local authorities will guarantee their security.

D. Returnees will enjoy full civil rights, including the right to form political parties. They will be appropriately represented in parliaments in Baku and Stepanakert and in the elected councils, police forces and security structures of these districts in accordance with their proportional share of the local population.

E. A permanent joint commission will coordinate the allocation of international aid in these locations on the basis of justice and mutual benefit of both parts of the population.

F. Inhabitants of the town of Shusha and Shaumian district will have guaranteed access to roads, connections and other communication links to the rest of Azerbaijan and with Nagorny Karabakh.

X. To establish a Permanent Joint Commission (PJC) to observe the implementation of measures foreseen in the present Agreement addressing the problems of Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. The PJC has three co-chairs: one Azerbaijani, one from Nagorny Karabakh and one representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. The implementation of the Agreement forms the principal responsibility of the Azerbaijani and

Nagorny Karabakh co-chairs; mediation and arbitration in case of dispute forms the main responsibility of the OSCE co-Chair. The PJC has the following sub-commissions: military, economic, humanitarian and cultural. The functions of the PJC and its sub-commissions are laid out in Appendix II.

XI. To re-establish full diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

XII. To establish a Bilateral Armenian-Azerbaijani Commission (BAAC), with one co-chair from the Republic of Armenia and one from the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE will be represented in this commission. The BAAC will work to prevent border incidents and will maintain links between the border forces and other corresponding security forces of both countries, and will observe the implementation of measures to open roads, railways, communications, pipelines, trade and other relations.

XII. The United Nations Security Council is the guarantor of the present Agreement.

XIV. The present Agreement will remain in force until the conclusion at the OSCE Minsk Conference of a comprehensive peace agreement, which will, in part, establish permanent security and peacekeeping mechanisms replacing those foreseen in the present Agreement.

[Appendices I & II]

Agreement II – Status

Preamble

The status of Nagorny Karabakh and the preservation of its original ethnic and cultural character are issues of concern for the international community, including the Republic of Armenia. Its status cannot be determined by unilateral acts of either the Azerbaijan Republic or the Nagorny Karabakh authorities. Its status will be determined according to the following parameters:

I. All Sides in the conflict recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and Armenia and the inviolability of their borders.

II. Nagorny Karabakh forms a state-territorial entity within Azerbaijan, and its self-determination comprises

the rights and privileges laid out below, agreed between the Azerbaijan Republic and the Nagorny Karabakh authorities, approved by the Minsk Conference and incorporated into the Constitutions of Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh.

III. Nagorny Karabakh and Nakhichevan have the right to free and unimpeded transport links and communications with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

IV. The administrative boundaries of Nagorny Karabakh are determined on the basis of the boundaries of the former Nagorny Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (Region).

V. Nagorny Karabakh has its own Constitution, adopted by the people of Nagorny Karabakh on the basis of a referendum. This Constitution incorporates an official agreement between the Nagorny Karabakh authorities and Azerbaijan as to the form of self-determination on the basis of the present document.

Azerbaijan will introduce the necessary changes into its Constitution to incorporate these agreements. Nagorny Karabakh has its own flag, national symbols and anthem.

VI. The Constitution and laws of Nagorny Karabakh are effective on the territory of Nagorny Karabakh. The laws, rules and executive decrees of Azerbaijan are effective on the territory of Nagorny Karabakh only if they do not contradict the latter's Constitution and laws.

VII. Nagorny Karabakh independently forms its legislative, executive and judicial bodies.

VIII. The population of Nagorny Karabakh elects representatives to the parliament of Azerbaijan and participates in elections for the president of Azerbaijan.

IX. Nagorny Karabakh has the right to establish direct external relations with foreign states and international organizations in the spheres of economic relations, science, culture, sport and humanitarian issues, and to have appropriate representatives abroad for the conduct of these relations. Political parties in Nagorny Karabakh have the right to relations with political parties in other countries.

X. Citizens of Nagorny Karabakh have Azerbaijani passports with a special stamp indicating 'Nagorny Karabakh'.

Citizens of Nagorny Karabakh are not considered foreigners with regard to the laws of Armenia, they have the right to emigrate to Armenia at any time, and in case of permanent settlement in Armenia they may adopt Armenian citizenship.

XI. Nagorny Karabakh comprises a free economic zone with the free circulation within it of currencies.

XII. Nagorny Karabakh has a national guard and police force. Citizens of Nagorny Karabakh have the right to do their military service on the territory of Nagorny Karabakh.

XIII. The army, security forces and police of Azerbaijan do not have the right to enter the territory of Nagorny Karabakh without the permission of the Nagorny Karabakh authorities.

XIV. The budget of Nagorny Karabakh is formed of contributions derived from its own resources. The government of Nagorny Karabakh encourages and guarantees the investment of capital by Azerbaijani and foreign individuals and companies.

XV. Nagorny Karabakh has a multi-ethnic character; all citizens have the right to the use of their national language in all official and unofficial contexts.

XVI. The United Nations Security Council is the guarantor of the present Agreement.

Confidence building measures for the Nagorny Karabakh Conflict

As a demonstration of their will to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict the Sides may implement, without expectation of any further agreement, any or all of the following measures for the enhancement of trust and security:

A. Azerbaijan and Armenia may take upon themselves responsibility for the resumption of the ceasefire regime without delay along the boundary in the Ijevan-Kazakh sector. This regime, applied in 1992, included a telephone hotline connection and joint border patrols;

B. The Sides may agree on an increase in the OSCE Chairman-in-Office's observer mission, in order to implement additional monitoring in connection with Nagorny Karabakh, for example along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in the Ijevan-Kazakh sector;

C. Dialogue with the assistance of the UN High Commissioner on Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in order to assess humanitarian needs (for both displaced Azerbaijani populations and within Nagorny Karabakh itself). This could be implemented in agreement with either the UN High Commissioner or the ICRC;

D. The opening of weekly or daily markets in the Nagorny Karabakh region, open for both Armenians and Azerbaijanis. This will demand the creation of border crossing points and the demining of transport routes to market places and agreement regarding the modalities of transport arrangements and rules of trade.

Minsk Group 'step-by-step' proposal

December 1997

Unofficial translation of Russian original

Agreement on the end of the Nagorny Karabakh armed conflict

Preamble

[not reproduced here – see the near-identical preamble to the 'package proposal']

I. The Sides reject the use of force or the threat of the use of force as a means of settling disputes between them. They will resolve disputes, including such disputes as may arise in connection with the implementation of the present Agreement, by peaceful means, in the first instance by means of negotiations, including negotiations within the framework of the Minsk Process of the OSCE.

II. The Sides withdraw their armed forces in accordance with the following provisions and the detailed discussion in Appendix 1:

A. In the first phase armed forces currently situated along the line of contact to the east and south of Nagorny Karabakh will be withdrawn to the line shown in Appendix 1 and in accordance with the timetable indicated in it, taking into due consideration the recommendations of the High Level Planning Group (HLPG), with the aim of making

possible an initial deployment of multinational OSCE divisions in a militarily secure buffer zone, the separation of the Sides along this line and to guarantee security conditions for the second phase of withdrawal.

B. In the second phase forces will be withdrawn simultaneously in accordance with the timetable laid out in Appendix 1, in the following way:

(1) All Armenian forces located outside of the borders of the Republic of Armenia will be withdrawn to locations within those borders.

(2) Nagorny Karabakh forces will be withdrawn to locations within the 1988 boundaries of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), with the exception of the Lachin corridor.

(3) Azerbaijani armed forces will be withdrawn to the line indicated in Appendix 1 on the basis of the HPLG's recommendations, and will be withdrawn from all territories of Armenia.

(4) Heavy weaponry will be withdrawn to positions indicated in Appendix I on the basis of the High Level Planning Group's recommendations, to be observed by the OSCE peacekeeping mission and subject to conditions of transparency and accountability laid out in this Appendix.

III. Territory released as a result of this withdrawal of forces forms a buffer zone and a dividing zone, as laid out in detail in Appendix 2.

A. Upon the completion of withdrawal of armed forces the buffer zone will be located along the 1988 boundaries of the NKAO and the north and south boundaries of the Lachin corridor.

The buffer zone will remain without human population and is completely demilitarized, with the exception of elements forming part of the OSCE peacekeeping mission.

B. The dividing zone is demilitarized with the exception of forces assigned to assist the work of the Permanent Joint Commission, as indicated in detail in Appendix 2, including:

(1) Units forming part of the peacekeeping mission;
(2) Units assigned for border patrol and demining purposes;
(3) Civil police forces, the number and permitted weaponry of which are determined in Appendix 2.

C. In the buffer and dividing zones a no-fly zone, into which the Sides will not conduct military flights, is established under the control of the OSCE peacekeeping mission, as detailed in Appendix 2.

D. Security conditions in all districts controlled by the Nagorny Karabakh authorities after the withdrawal of forces in accordance with Article II will be guaranteed by the existing military and security structures of Nagorny Karabakh.

IV. In accordance with the decisions of the OSCE Budapest summit of 1994 the Sides invite and will assist with the deployment of multinational OSCE peacekeeping forces (PKF), which will work together with the Permanent Joint Commission (PJC) and the Armenian-Azerbaijani intergovernmental commission (AAIC) stipulated in Article 7. The PKF observes the withdrawal of armed forces and heavy weaponry, the prohibition of military flights, support of the demilitarization regime and the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, as laid out in Appendix 2. The Sides call upon the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution appropriate to these objectives for an initial period of not more than one year and to renew the status of this resolution according to necessity as determined by the recommendations of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The Sides agree that the overall duration of the peacekeeping mission will be the minimum necessary relative to the situation in the region and the pace of the wider resolution of the conflict. The Sides fully cooperate with the PKF, in order to guarantee the implementation of the present Agreement and to avoid any disruption or interruption of peacekeeping operations.

V. The Sides assist the safe and voluntary return of displaced persons to their places of former permanent residence in the division zone, as laid out in Appendix 2. The PKF in conjunction with the Permanent Joint Commission observes the security conditions for the returning population, in order to provide assurances to all sides of the monitoring of the demilitarization regime in this zone. The Sides conduct

negotiations on the implementation of the immediate, safe and voluntary return of all other persons, other than those covered by the present Agreement or general settlement agreement, who were displaced as a result of the conflict and tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan since 1987.

VI. Simultaneous to the withdrawal of armed forces the Sides implement without delay measures to open roads, railways, electrical transmission and communications lines, trade and other relations, including all actions necessary to achieve this in the shortest possible time in accordance with the timetable and concrete provisions laid out in Appendix 3. The Sides guarantee the use of these connections by all, including ethnic minorities, guaranteeing the latter access to co-ethnic groups in other districts of the region. Each Side pledges to remove all blockades and to guarantee the delivery of goods and people to all Sides without obstruction. The Sides guarantee free and safe railway communications between them.

VII. The Sides cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees and other international organizations in order to ensure the swift and secure return of all persons detained as a result of the conflict, investigation of the fate of those disappeared without trace, the repatriation of all remains and the delivery without discrimination of humanitarian and reconstruction aid across territory under their control to regions afflicted by the conflict. The Sides cooperate with the OSCE PKF through the good offices of the Permanent Joint Commission to implement confidence-building measures.

IX. The Sides without delay establish a Permanent Joint Commission (PJC) to observe the implementation of the provisions envisaged in the present Agreement relating to the problems affecting Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. The chair of the PJC is a representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, working with one vice-president from Azerbaijan and one vice-president from Nagorny Karabakh. The principal obligation

of the PJC is to observe the implementation of the Agreement; the obligations of the OSCE Chair likewise include mediation in cases of disagreement and the sanctioning of measures taken to deal with emergency situations, such as natural disasters. The PJC has sub-commissions for military, economic, humanitarian, cultural and communications affairs. The structure, functions and other details concerning the PJC are laid out in Appendix 4.

The Sides establish without delay an Armenian-Azerbaijani Intergovernmental Commission (AAIC) in order to avoid border incidents between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the conduct of communications between border forces and other security forces of both countries and the monitoring and assistance of measures to open roads, railways, communications, pipelines, trade and other relations. The AAIC has two co-chairs, one from Armenia and one from Azerbaijan. A representative appointed by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE forms part of the Commission. The structure, functions and other details concerning the AAIC are laid out in Appendix 5. The Azerbaijan Republic and the Republic of Armenia establish communications offices in each other's capital cities.

X. The Azerbaijan Republic and the Republic of Armenia enter into bilateral and multilateral negotiations at the appropriate international and regional forums with the aim of securing improved security in the region, including military transparency and complete conformity with the OSCE agreement.

XI. The three Sides in the present Agreement, having thus put an end to the military aspects of the conflict, agree to continue the conduct of negotiations in good faith and with the assistance of the Minsk Conference co-Chairs and other Sides invited as appropriate by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, aimed at the urgent achievement of a comprehensive settlement for other aspects of the conflict, including political aspects such as the determination of the status of Nagorny Karabakh and the resolution of the problems posed in Lachin, Shusha and Shaumian; following the

attainment of an agreement at these negotiations and its signing by the three above-mentioned Sides, it would be subject to recognition by the international community at the Minsk Conference, to be convened as soon as possible.

XII. Each Side fully respects the security of other Sides and their populations. The Sides pledge to develop neighbourly relations between their peoples, assisting trade and normal interrelations between them, and to refrain from statements or acts capable of undermining the present Agreement or good relations.

XIII. In addition to the concrete provisions concerning peacekeeping and the monitoring of military withdrawal laid out above, and recalling the corresponding principles and obligations of the OSCE, including those expressed in the Helsinki document of 1992 and the Budapest document of 1994, using the appropriate mechanisms the OSCE observes the complete implementation of all aspects of the current Agreement and takes appropriate steps in accordance with these principles and decisions to avoid the violation of the conditions laid down in the present Agreement and opposition to it. Witnesses of the present Agreement, acting through the offices of the Permanent Council of the OSCE and the United Nations Security Council, assist in its complete implementation. In case of serious violation of the present Agreement they consult among themselves regarding necessary measures to be taken, inform without delay the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, the Chair of the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and request that the OSCE Permanent Council or the UN Security Council consider appropriate measures in this regard.

XIV. The Sides take upon themselves mutual obligations to ensure the observance of the provisions of the present Agreement, including guarantees of the security of Nagorny Karabakh, its population and returning displaced persons, and to take any necessary steps for the fulfilment of all obligations flowing from the present Agreement.

XV. The present Agreement comes into force from the moment of its signing and ratification and remains in effect with those exceptions flowing from a comprehensive settlement mentioned in Article XI. The present Agreement can be changed, added to and abrogated by agreement of all Sides. [appendices listed]

Minsk Group ‘common state’ proposal

November 1998

Unofficial translation of Russian original

On the principles for a comprehensive settlement of the armed conflict over Nagorny Karabakh

Firmly resolved to realize the peaceful settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, including the principles of the territorial integrity of states and the self-determination of peoples, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh agree the following:

I. Agreement on the status of Nagorny Karabakh

The Sides will conclude an agreement on the status of Nagorny Karabakh, which will include the following provisions:

Nagorny Karabakh is a state-territorial formation in the form of a Republic and constitutes a common state with Azerbaijan in the latter's internationally recognized borders. Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh will sign an agreement on the division of spheres of responsibility and the mutual delegation of powers between corresponding state governmental bodies, which will have the status of constitutional law.

Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh form a Joint Committee, which will be composed of representatives of the presidents, prime ministers and speakers of parliament, for the determination of policy areas and activities belonging to spheres of joint jurisdiction.

In order to maintain contacts and coordinate joint activities

representative missions of Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan will be established in Baku and Stepanakert respectively.

Nagorny Karabakh will have the right to enter into direct external relations with foreign states in economic, trade, scientific, cultural, sporting and humanitarian fields, and with regional and international organizations associated with these fields and to have appropriate representative missions abroad for the conduct of these relations. Political parties and social organizations in Nagorny Karabakh will have the right to establish connections with political parties and social organizations of foreign states.

Nagorny Karabakh participates in the implementation of Azerbaijan's foreign policy on issues touching upon its interests. Decisions on such issues cannot be taken without the agreement of both sides.

The government of Nagorny Karabakh may have its representatives in embassies or consular missions of Azerbaijan in foreign states, in which it has special interests, and likewise to send its experts as part of Azerbaijani delegations to participate in international negotiations, if these concern the interests of Nagorny Karabakh.

The borders of Nagorny Karabakh will correspond to the borders of the former Nagorny Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. Their possible clarification or revision can become the subject of special mutual agreements between Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh.

The borders between Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh will be open in both directions for the free movement of civilians. In travelling across these borders and in conducting business they will not be subject to customs duties or other tolls. The right to grant permanent residency rights will fall within the purview of the corresponding governments.

Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh will not use force or the threat of force to resolve disputes between them.

In case of disputes or disagreements not overcome within the framework of the Joint Committee, the Sides may call for the consultative opinion of the

OSCE Chairman-in-Office, which will be taken into consideration before the adoption of a final decision.

The status of Nagorny Karabakh will also include the rights and privileges listed below in the formulations used in the Agreement on the Status of Nagorny Karabakh, approved by the Minsk Conference.

1. Nagorny Karabakh will have its own Constitution, adopted by the people of Nagorny Karabakh by means of a referendum. This Constitution will incorporate the provisions of the Agreement on the Status of Nagorny Karabakh. Azerbaijan will introduce the appropriate changes into its Constitution to incorporate this agreement.

The terms of this Agreement or of those parts of the Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan Constitutions incorporating it cannot be changed without the agreement of all three Sides.

2. On the territory of Nagorny Karabakh the Constitution of Nagorny Karabakh and its laws will have effect. The laws, regulations and executive decrees of Azerbaijan will have effect on the territory of Nagorny Karabakh only if they do not contradict the latter's Constitution and laws.

3. Nagorny Karabakh will have its own flag, national symbols and national anthem.

4. Nagorny Karabakh forms its legislative, executive and judicial bodies independently in accordance with its Constitution.

5. As personal identity documents citizens of Nagorny Karabakh will have Azerbaijani passports with a special stamp indicating 'Nagorny Karabakh'. Only the government of Nagorny Karabakh or a body authorized by it will have the right to issue such passports.

Citizens of Nagorny Karabakh of Armenian origin may emigrate to Armenia and in case of permanent settlement there may receive Armenian citizenship in accordance with the laws of that country.

6. The population of Nagorny Karabakh has the right to elect representatives to the parliament of Azerbaijan and to participate in elections for the president of Azerbaijan.

7. Nagorny Karabakh will form a free economic zone, have the right to its own currency issue, which will circulate equally with Azerbaijani currency issue, and to issue its own stamps.

8. Nagorny Karabakh will have the right to free and unimpeded transport links and communications with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

9. Nagorny Karabakh will possess a national guard (security forces) and police force, formed on a voluntary basis. These forces cannot operate outside of Nagorny Karabakh without the agreement of the government of Nagorny Karabakh.

10. The army, security forces and police of Azerbaijan will not have the right to enter the territory of Nagorny Karabakh without the agreement of the government of Nagorny Karabakh.

11. The Armenian language is the principal official language of Nagorny Karabakh, while Azeri is the second official language. Its citizens can likewise use other native languages in all official and unofficial instances.

12. The budget of Nagorny Karabakh will be composed of contributions generated by its resources. The government of Nagorny Karabakh will encourage and guarantee capital investment by Azerbaijani and foreign companies and individuals.

II. Concerning the Lachin Corridor

The question of the use of the Lachin corridor by Nagorny Karabakh for unimpeded communication between Nagorny Karabakh and Armenia is the subject of a separate agreement, if other decisions on a special regime in the Lachin district are not taken proceeding from the agreement between Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. The Lachin district must remain a permanently and fully demilitarized zone.

III. Concerning the towns of Shusha and Shaumian

The Sides agree that all Azerbaijani refugees may return to their former places of permanent residence in the town of Shusha. The appropriate authorities of Nagorny Karabakh will guarantee their security. They will enjoy equal rights with all other

citizens of Nagorny Karabakh, including the right to form political parties, to participate in elections at all levels, to be elected to state legislative bodies and institutions of local government, and to work in official posts including those in law enforcement agencies.

Armenian refugees returning to the town of Shaumian will enjoy the same rights.

Inhabitants of the towns of Shusha and Shaumian will have guaranteed access by roads, communications and other means with other parts of Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. The authorities in Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan will cooperate with the deployment and activities in the towns of Shusha and Shaumian respectively of representative offices of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE.

The agreement on the status of Nagorny Karabakh will be signed by the three Sides and come into force after its approval by the Minsk Conference.

IV. Agreement on Ending the Armed Conflict

The Sides agree that the Agreement on Ending the Armed Conflict will include the following provisions:

I. The Sides agree to reject the use of force or the threat of the use of force to resolve disputes between them.

They resolve all such conflicts, including those that may arise in connection with the implementation of the Agreement on Ending the Armed Conflict by peaceful means, in the first instance through direct negotiations or within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Process.

II. The Sides effect the withdrawal of their armed forces in accordance with the following provisions and as laid out in detail in Appendix 1:

A. In the first phase forces deployed along the current line of contact to the east and south of Nagorny Karabakh will be withdrawn to the lines shown in Appendix 1 in accordance with the timetable indicated there, taking into consideration the recommendations of the High Level Planning Group (HLPG), with the aim of creating

conditions for the initial deployment of a forward division of multinational OSCE forces in a militarily secure, temporary buffer zone, the separation of the Sides along this line and the guaranteeing of security during the second phase of withdrawal.

B. In the second phase armed forces will be withdrawn simultaneously and in accordance with the timetable set out in Appendix 1, in the following way:

(1) All armed forces of Armenia deployed outside of the borders of the Republic of Armenia will be withdrawn to within those borders.

(2) The armed forces of Nagorny Karabakh will be withdrawn to within the 1988 boundaries of the Nagorny Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), with the exception of the Lachin corridor until the achievement of an agreement on unimpeded communication between Nagorny Karabakh and Armenia.

(3) The armed forces of Azerbaijan will be withdrawn to lines indicated in Appendix 1 on the basis of the HLPG's recommendations, and will be withdrawn from all territories of the Republic of Armenia.

(4) Heavy weaponry will be withdrawn to locations indicated in Appendix 1 on the basis of the HLPG's recommendations, under the observation of the OSCE peacekeeping mission and in conformity with the demands of transparency and accountability laid out in this Appendix.

III. Territories released as a result of this withdrawal of forces forms a buffer zone and a division zone in accordance with the following provisions and as set out in detail in Appendix 2:

A. Upon the completion of withdrawal the buffer zone will be situated along the 1988 boundaries of the NKAO. Pending the reaching of an additional agreement it could extend along the boundaries of the Lachin district. The buffer zone remains unpopulated and fully demilitarized, with the exception of units forming part of the OSCE peacekeeping mission.

B. The division zone is demilitarized with the exception of forces permitted for the operations of the PKF in cooperation with the Permanent Joint

Commission, as set out in detail in Appendix 2, including:

(1) elements of the peacekeeping operation,

(2) Azerbaijani border patrol and demining sub-units,

(3) Azerbaijani civil police, numbers and permitted weaponry of which are determined in Appendix 2.

C. A no-fly zone is established in the buffer zone and division zone under the control of the OSCE peacekeeping mission, into which the Sides will not allow military flights, as set out in Appendix 2.

D. Security in all regions controlled by the authorities of Nagorny Karabakh after the withdrawal of armed forces in accordance with Article 2 will be guaranteed by the existing security structures of Nagorny Karabakh.

IV. In accordance with the decisions of the OSCE Budapest summit of 1994 the Sides invite and assist in the deployment of multinational OSCE peacekeeping forces (PKF), which will work in conjunction with the Permanent Joint Commission (PJC) and the Armenian-Azerbaijani Intergovernmental Commission (AAIC). The PKF observes the withdrawal of armed forces and heavy weaponry, the prohibition of military flights, support of the demilitarization regime and the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, as set out in Appendix 2.

The peacekeeping mission is established in accordance with an appropriate resolution of the UN Security Council for an initial period of not more than one year and is renewed as required on the recommendation of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. The Sides agree that the overall duration of the peacekeeping mission will be the minimum necessary relative to the situation in the region and the pace of the wider resolution of the conflict. The Sides fully cooperate with the PKF, in order to guarantee the implementation of the present Agreement and to avoid any disruption or interruption of peacekeeping operations.

[V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, not reproduced: near-identical to step-by-step proposal except the latter's point XI is deleted in this proposal]

XII. In addition to the concrete provisions concerning peacekeeping and the monitoring of military withdrawal laid out above, and recalling the corresponding principles and obligations of the OSCE, including those expressed in the Helsinki document of 1992 and the Budapest document of 1994, using the appropriate mechanisms the OSCE observes the complete implementation of all aspects of the current Agreement and takes appropriate steps in accordance with these principles and decisions to avoid the violation of the conditions laid down in the present Agreement and opposition to it.

XIII. The Agreement on Ending the Armed Conflict will be signed by the three Sides and will come into effect after its approval by the Minsk Conference and ratification by the Parliaments of the three Sides.

XIV. The Azerbaijan Republic and the Republic of Armenia establish full diplomatic relations with permanent diplomatic missions at ambassadorial level after the signing of the agreements and their approval by the Minsk Conference.

V. On Guarantees

1. The Sides take upon themselves mutual obligations to guarantee conformity with the above provisions, including guarantees of the security of Nagorny Karabakh, its population and refugees and displaced persons returning to their former places of permanent residence.

2. The UN Security Council will follow closely the implementation of the comprehensive agreement.

3. The Agreement on the Status of Nagorny Karabakh and the Agreement on Ending the Armed Conflict may be signed by the Minsk Conference co-Chairs as witnesses. The presidents of Russia, the United States and France affirm the intention of their three countries to act together to ensure the thorough monitoring of progress in the implementation of agreements and the adoption of the appropriate measures for the fulfilment of this Agreement. In case of need, the OSCE or the UN Security Council may take diplomatic, economic or, in the last instance, military measures in accordance with the UN Charter.