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#### The Russian periodicals about the Romanian policy at the initial stage of the Russian–Turkish War of 1877–1878

*The policy of the Romanian government at the initial stage of the Russian–Turkish War of 1877–1878 was analysed on the basis of materials of the Russian periodicals. The attitude of press to signing and ratification of the military and political convention between Russia and Romanian, the first joint action against the Turkish forces and the proclamation of the Romanian independence were described. The reasons for proceeding of the Romanian government to the active military action against the Ottoman Empire were identified. It is figured out that Russian press spoke for the political and military alliance between the Russian Empire and the Romanian principality and stressed the need for Romania to defend the right to independence by military means. At the same time, the press reacted negatively to the delay by Romanian authorities of the march of Russian troops through its territory, criticized the Romanian diplomacy, which sought to avoid Romanian involvement in military operations at the beginning of the Russian–Turkish War.*

**Keywords:** the Russian periodicals, the Russian–Turkish War of 1877–1878, Romanian, the military and political cooperation.

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#### Russian periodical about the Romanian policy at the initial stage of the Russian–Turkish War of 1877–1878 гг.

*На основе материалов российских периодических изданий проанализирована политика румынского правительства на начальном этапе русско–турецкой войны 1877–1878 гг. Раскрывается отношение прессы к подписанию и ратификации военно–политической конвенции между Россией и Румынией, первым совместным военным действиям против турецких войск и провозглашению Румынией независимости. Определены причины перехода румынского правительства к активным военным действиям против Османской империи. Выяснено, что российская периодика высказывалась за заключение военно–политического союза между Российской империей и Румынским княжеством, подчеркивала необходимость Румынии отстаивать право на независимость военным путем. Вместе с тем, пресса негативно отреагировала на задержку румынской властью перехода российских войск через ее территорию, критиковала румынскую дипломатию, которая в начале русско–турецкой войны стремилась не допустить втягивания Румынии в военные действия.*

**Ключевые слова:** российская периодическая пресса, русско–турецкая война 1877–1878 гг., Румыния, военно–политическое сотрудничество.

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#### AREAS OF ACTIVITY OF OUR DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS IN RUSSIA IN THE PROTECTION OF POLITICAL INTERESTS OF AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

*Today world countries widely use lobbying activities in order to ensure their interests in any country and influence the policy of these countries related to their state. The role of Diaspora organizations in this process is irreplaceable. This issue is of great importance for Azerbaijan that has great Diaspora potential. The importance*

*of Azerbaijani Diaspora and its role and activity in the protection of political interests of Azerbaijan is very important. One of states where Azerbaijani Diaspora takes active part is Russian Federation. In 1991, after the collapse of Soviet Union and Azerbaijan's gaining independence migration of Azerbaijani people to Russia entered into a new phase in terms of quality. There is information on the migration of about one million Azerbaijani people to Russia from 1991 till now. Massive migration of Azerbaijani people to Russia paved the way for the formation of Azerbaijani Diaspora. At present, there is information on the fact that in general, 2,5 million Azerbaijani people live in the Russian Federation. Promotion of the history and culture of our nation and informing Russian community about Azerbaijan realities is one of the priority directions of the activity of our Diaspora operating in Russia. Azerbaijanis living in Russia play very important role in developing and deepening our bilateral relations. It is encouraging that they are an integral part of multiethnic society of Russia and give a worthy contribution to the development and progress of Russian Federation.*

**Keywords:** *solidarity, world azerbaijanis, azerbaijanism, diaspora, lobby.*

*(стаття друкується мовою оригіналу)*

Today countries in the world widely use lobbying activities in order to ensure its interests in any country and influence the policy of these countries related to their states. The role of Diasporas in this process is indispensable. This issue is of great importance for Azerbaijan which has great potential of Diaspora. The strength of the relations of Diaspora with Native land and one – another is a factor that serves to the purity and national unity of Diaspora and a tool that protects and increases commitment of people who are far from their Native land to traditional values [4, p. 284].

The significance of Diaspora of Azerbaijan, its role and activity in the protection of political interests of Azerbaijan is very important. Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations, mainly doing works in the direction of the development of political and economic relations of Azerbaijan with the states where they act, as well as, bringing the truths related to the occupation of Nagorno–Karabakh by Armenians and peaceful foreign policy implemented by the Azerbaijani leadership in this direction to the attention of nations of the world and its activity as a representative of the interests of Azerbaijan in the international arena is of particular importance [12].

Today, there are nearly 60 Azerbaijani Diasporas in CIS countries. One of the countries where Azerbaijani Diaspora widely operates is the Russian Federation. And one of such organizations is Azerbaijani Diaspora in St. Petersburg. Diaspora differs for the width of its action program and demonstration of close association and solidarity around the idea of Azerbaijanism. The history of the establishment of this Diaspora begins from the period of occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenian fascism. Just at that time there were established “Azeri” and “Support” organizations. The members of those organizations began mass rallies as a sign of protest against the criminal acts of Armenians against Azerbaijani people. They showed sacrifice in the dissemination of information about our tragedies to world countries. Our compatriots in St. Petersburg organized exhibitions and held conferences related to Khojaly massacre. In the early 90s of the last century, the newspaper “Only together” launched in St. Petersburg with the financial assistance of “Azeri” community. That press body calling our compatriots in a foreign land to unity around the idea of Azerbaijanism and today continuing its activity under the name of “Azeri” has gained a wide audience in a short time and played an important role in the destruction of false propaganda machine of Armenian society in St. Petersburg. The members of Azerbaijani Diaspora in St. Petersburg preparing thousands of audio and video cassettes

about inconceivable tragedies done by Armenian fascism in the last two centuries and disseminating and broadcasting them to secondary and higher educational institutions in St. Petersburg and the libraries of city was very useful in terms of the promotion of the realities of Azerbaijan. Our National Leader Heydar Aliyev said after the opening ceremony of the monument of great Azerbaijani poet, Nizami Ganjavi in St. Petersburg while meeting with the representatives of the Azerbaijani Diaspora there: “The Azerbaijani Diaspora in St. Petersburg is generally in a healthy mood. Today I am confident for the Azerbaijani people living here” [3].

In 1991, after the collapse of Soviet Union and Azerbaijan's gaining independence migration of Azerbaijani people to Russia entered into a new phase in terms of quality. There is information on the migration of about one million Azerbaijani people to Russia from 1991 till now. Massive migration of Azerbaijani people to Russia paved the way for the formation of Azerbaijani Diaspora. At present, there is information on the fact that in general, 2,5 million Azerbaijani people live in the Russian Federation. However, not all of them have moved from Azerbaijan. So, only from Georgia more than 200 thousand Azerbaijani people migrated to Russia. The vast majority of Azerbaijani people are engaged in business activity [8, p. 36].

According to the information given by Gregory Vashenko, Deputy Director of Russian Institute of Economic Analysis, profit in the amount of 10–12 milliards enters into the budget of Russia from the business activities of Azerbaijani people [6].

Increase in the number of Azerbaijani people in Russia brought the issue of organization of our compatriots to the agenda and a number of important steps were taken in this direction. So, the major institution uniting the Diaspora organizations operating in Russia, “All–Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis” (ARCA) was established by the initiative of our National Leader Heydar Aliyev. On June 22, 2000, the constituent assembly of All–Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis was held with the blessing and participation of our National Leader Heydar Aliyev [13]. The president, making very extensive and deep meaningful speech in the event set forth very important tasks for the Azerbaijani Diaspora and mentioned that it is a very important step to combine cultural societies, associations, diverse organizations of Azerbaijan existing in Russia, regulate and manage them in an organization with working activity mechanism. It should be noted that the representatives of 47 Azerbaijani communities from 50 provinces of Russia also participated in the meeting. Heydar Aliyev gave detailed information on the problem of Armenia, Azerbaijan Nagorno–Karabakh in his speech and at the same time, stressed the importance of the unity of Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations expressing that Armenian Diaspora gave false information to world community about this conflict and make support for themselves in international arena: Azerbaijanis are peaceful people and Azerbaijanis never have bad attitudes against other nations and people. Our tolerance and religious tolerance of our people is in very high level. We are not guilty that Armenians raised various conflicts in different variants and finally, in 1988 directly started an offensive action in order to separate and combine Nagorno–Karabakh Autonomous Region to them. And the conflict of Nagorno–Karabakh started from here.

On March 5, 2001 I session of the ARCA began its work and the charter of Congress was unanimously adopted. Laureate of State Prize of Russia, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, one of the leading specialists of the country in the field of Oncology, Mammad Aliyev was elected as the president of the Congress. Vahid Alakbarov, the president of "Lukoil" that is one of the great oil companies of Russia, Farman Salmanov, the Hero of Socialist Labor, who discovered the oil in Tyumen for the first time, Lieutenant-General Kerim Kerimov, People's Artist of the USSR Tahir Salahov, academician Gadriyya Salimova, People's Artist of the USSR Muslum Magomayev and other famous persons were represented in the management of Congress. The following main objectives and tasks are given in the charter of Congress that combines 60 social organizations belonging to Azerbaijani people and have regional departments in 54 subjects of Federation:

1. Assist in the protection and provision of the rights of Azerbaijani people coming from Azerbaijan and being the citizen of the Russian Federation and in their social-cultural development;

2. Protection and development of cultural heritage, language and national traditions of Azerbaijani people living in Russian Federation;

3. Take part in strengthening friendship and interracial relations between RF and Azerbaijan Republic and holding national – cultural events of Azerbaijani people, development of national traditions of Azerbaijani people;

4. Assist in strengthening peace, friendship, trust and solidarity among nations and development of relations in national, religious and international organizations;

5. Protection of citizenship, political, economic, social and cultural rights and freedoms and national ambition of Azerbaijani people living in the Russian Federation;

6. Assist in establishing, developing and strengthening relations with international organizations of Azerbaijani people and Azerbaijani community in the Republic of Azerbaijan and in other countries and the establishment of international relations of Congress;

7. Development of cooperation and solidarity with other national associations and community organizations acting in the territory of RF.

One of the important achievements of Congress was the establishment of coordination centers of regional organizations of ARCA as a part of federal authorities of Russian Federation. The main aim in the establishment of centers is to increase the efficiency of the activity of congress in the regions of Russia. Centers will assist in improving the activity of regional organizations of congress in the consolidation of our compatriots and improve the cooperative activity of government authorities of regions with social organizations in the solution of their problems.

The communities and associations of Azerbaijan becoming a healthy and active social force serving to strengthening the economic, political and cultural potential of country where they operate, deepening of integration into the public life of country, at the same time, adoption of cultural value of this country by protecting national identity, native language and culture gives its contribution to strengthening cooperation ties between our nations.

The newspaper of ARCA entitled "Congress of Azerbaijan" is published and congress also cooperates with

"Inter – Azerbaijan" National TV and Radio Company operating in Moscow. Through these mass media means ARCA highlight its activity and the realities of Azerbaijan, true and detailed information related to Azerbaijan is given in Russian community.

ARCA took significant and important measures in the field of organization of our compatriots, strengthening their relations with historical native land and development of friendship and cooperation relations between Russia and Azerbaijan during the last period. The last period from the establishment of ARCA, standing at the position of healthy state and civic responsibility, is regarded as an important phase in the history of formation of Azerbaijani Diaspora. During this period, ARCA protected the interests of Azerbaijani Diaspora in a high level in all fields of social life of Russia and became one of the most influential public institutions of this country.

The recommendations given by our National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the historical meetings held with our compatriots were adopted as a program duties by the Azerbaijani intellectuals living abroad and there were taken important steps in the field of the formation of a sense of national identity, promotion of our national culture, and provision of intense spiritual union of our compatriots around our independent state. Due to the successful implementation of those recommendations, the Diaspora organizations of Azerbaijan actively integrated to the social and political life of the country where they operate and they are carrying purposeful works in the direction of representation of our compatriots in legislative and executive bodies of these countries. Azerbaijani businessmen living in foreign countries have already actively take part in the social and public life.

ARCA tries to establish its activity on the basis of mutual cooperation with public authorities and social organizations of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan Republic. So, the cooperation relations of Congress with the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, the government of Russian Federation, State Duma, ministries, provinces and regional authorities were established. All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress, along with being a full member of intergovernmental Commission of Russia and Azerbaijan on the economic cooperation, is also represented in National Parliament (Milli Majlis) of Azerbaijan Republic and the Inter-Parliamentary Commission of Federal Assembly of State Duma of Russian Federation. On February 11, 2003, the State Duma Committee on National Issues and ARCA Interregional Relations of the Moscow Mayor's Office and the National Policy Committee signed analogical agreement.

Regional offices of All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis (ARCA) in Moscow was included in the composition of International Advisory Board (IAB) under Moscow government. Vice-Mayor of Moscow Valery Shantsev, who chaired the next meeting of IAB in the theme of "Realization of medium-term program of tolerance for the city in the field of interracial relations is one of the priority directions of activity of the Moscow government", stated that ARCA was included in the composition of IAB of Moscow Regional Department. He particularly highlighted the activity of Moscow Department by highly appreciating the activity of ARCA in Russian society. V. Shantsev has noted that the department gives a great

contribution to the cooperation between social organizations and interaction of Azerbaijani Diaspora with all the institutions of Moscow [15].

The communities and associations of Azerbaijan becoming a healthy and active social force serving to strengthening the economic, political and cultural potential of country where they operate, deepening of integration into the public life of country, at the same time, adoption of cultural value of this country by protecting national identity, native language and culture gives its contribution to strengthening cooperation ties between our nations. As we mentioned, ARCA, established with the participation of our National Leader Heydar Aliyev, has done much in the field of organization of our Diaspora in Russia, solution of their several problems, as well as, attracting Russian investments to Azerbaijan and also using the potential of Azerbaijani Diaspora in the economy of Russia. Many of members of community living here have achieved important successes and they have a great reputation. There are worldwide famous scientists, cultural workers, public figures among them. A part of them, working at the leading positions of state and government structures, provide a great service in the formation of Azerbaijani Diaspora and further expansion of economic and cultural relations between our countries. Azerbaijani businessmen living in Russia have already taken an active part in the social and political life. It is a clear evidence of the election of famous Azerbaijani businessman, the president of "Northgas" company, leading non-state-owned gas producer of Russia, Farhad Amirov as the members of Federation Council of Russian State Duma. Farhad Amirov is the first Azerbaijani person that who is represented in Federation Council of Russian State Duma as an Azerbaijani. All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis, along with being a full member of intergovernmental Commission of Russia and Azerbaijan on the economic cooperation, is also represented in National Parliament (Milli Majlis) of Azerbaijan Republic and the Inter-Parliamentary Commission of Federal Assembly of State Duma of Russian Federation. In February, 2003, the State Duma Committee on National Issues and All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis signed an agreement on cooperation. Diaspora organizations of Azerbaijan try to bring the realities of Khojali genocide and Kharabakh issues to the attention of world and for the punishment of perpetrators of genocide [14].

At the same time, ARCA has established Human Rights Center in order to ensure the reliable protection of the civic rights of our compatriots living in Russia. Establishment of this center is associated with the realities caused by the complex processes today taking place in Russia. In XXI century, international terrorism that threatens the peace and security in the world has put its tragic traces in the lives of Russian nations and made an artificial motive for the establishment of some problems in interracial relationships. Human Rights Center acting under ARCA implements the mission of legal awareness in order to ensure the protection of rights of our compatriots [7, p. 58].

In 2004, there was held round table in the theme of "There is no place for extremism in multinational Russia" with the participation of heads of nearly 50 social organizations, party leaders and diplomats of different facets in the "President Hotel" in Moscow. In October of 2004, again an event was organized in the theme of

"Caucasus – doesn't mean "terror"" in Moscow and a number of issues have been clarified. For the first time, the representatives of right nationalist organizations of Russia were invited to the event [10].

One of the main problems of our compatriots related to the application of Law "on the legal status of citizens of foreign citizens in the Russian Federation" is related to timely getting migration cards and their registration in temporary residential areas. Related to this issue, as a result of negotiations held by Russian Azerbaijanis with the Representatives of Governments of the Federal National Cultural Authority, there was made an agreement on the distribution of migration cards to our compatriots at the place where they work by the special commission jointly organized with the Department of Migration Service of the Russian Federation. All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis, preparing booklet, disseminated it among the members of society through regional organizations for the purposes of awareness and enlightenment of our compatriots who temporarily settled from legal point of view.

ARCA also gives its contribution to the activity implemented by State Committee for Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad and various Diaspora organizations in the field of organization of our compatriots in several countries of the world and establishment of relations between communities and associations. In 2003, ARCA was one of the initiatives and organizers of the establishment of Coordination Council of Azerbaijani public institutions of CIS countries within the framework of 1<sup>st</sup> Forum held in Mainz, Germany by the heads of world Azerbaijanis' Diaspora organizations. One of founders of European Azerbaijanis Congress established in Berlin, Germany in April 2004 and combining 52 Diaspora organizations operating in Europe just was ARCA [2, p. 184].

Just as a result of the implementation of this policy of Heydar Aliyev in the field of the formation of Diaspora organizations, today 73 regional organizations of All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis successfully operates in 73 subjects of the Russian Federation. By coordinating the activity of these regional organizations, district councils in federal offices of Russian Federation were established in order to regulate the relations between them. At present, Privolzhsk attracting 14 regional organizations of All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis, Ural district council combining 5 regional organization, Northern – West district council consisting of 11 regional organizations, Siberia and the Far East district councils referring to 16 regional organizations have been established and they successfully operate. It should be also noted that All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis is continuing its activity in the direction of consolidation of Azerbaijani Diaspora organizations operating in the region. For the purposes of coordination of the activity of these institutions and consolidation of solidarity among our compatriots and protection of their interests, there was established the Coordination Council of Azerbaijani Diaspora Organizations [1].

President Ilham Aliyev, continuing the policy of Heydar Aliyev in the field of Diaspora building pays special attention to this issue. President Ilham ALiyev meets with our compatriots settled here during his visits to foreign countries, deals with their problems and carries out discussions with government representatives related to these

issues with government representatives. This has a positive impact to the positions of Azerbaijanis living in those countries. In general, almost the Diaspora policy implemented during the times of Heydar Aliyev is today successfully continued by Ilham Aliyev.

In February 2004, Ilham Aliyev met with Azerbaijani communities during his visit to Russian Federation and made a speech on some issues, dealing with the problems of Azerbaijan and the measures that can be taken by Diaspora in the solution of these problems, he stated: We have many problems and there are social problems. First of all, we think more about the condition of refugees and internally displaced persons living in a difficult situation in Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev did important works in this direction. Important steps were taken based on the relevant decrees for the improvement of the condition of people from this category.

I am confident that our compatriots living abroad, as well in Russia will participate in this issue and give their contributions to these issues. If we will take into consideration the number of Azerbaijani people living here, but not being the citizens of Russia, in this case we will see that they are more. We have a complete understanding, we are well aware that, the level of bilateral relations between Russia and Azerbaijan seriously affect to the activity, lives and welfare of Azerbaijani people living in Russia. Yes, a part of Azerbaijani people living in Russia are the citizens of Russian Federation. However, it doesn't mean that they may be strange for us. Our nation has its traditions, though they are far from Native land and not in homeland for a long time, their love for their homes, native land, native town and regions always live in their hearts. Therefore, I consider that the level of bilateral relations is very important for the successful, peaceful and normal activity of our compatriots in Russia [15].

On October 19, 2004, there was held II General Assembly of ARCA. More than 1000 people, as well as, 350 representatives from Moscow and St. Petersburg and 67 regions of Russia participated in the Congress in which the President of Azerbaijan Republic, Ilham Aliyev and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin took part. President V. Putin's accepting the invitation of ARCA and participating in forum was an obvious indication of the reputation of the organization in Russia on the one hand and on the other hand, the development of Russian – Azerbaijan relations on an upward trend. It is not accidental that the head of Russia has specially noted this point in this speech in the Congress: "We consider Azerbaijani community as an important factor of strengthening relations between our states and its initiatives are in favor of both our political and business cooperation" [9].

General assembly played an important role in the life of Congress and marked the beginning of a new stage. New action plan was developed and here, first of all, the issues such as representation of our compatriots in the elected bodies of Russian Federation, its capital, various subjects, support authorities, parties, people supporting Azerbaijan in the elections, cooperate with Diaspora organizations of various nations, regularly make a speech in leading information means of Russia and inform the public about the realities of Azerbaijan were among them.

The President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev considering the process of organization in the field of Diaspora

organization in his speech in II session of All – Russia Azerbaijanis in October, 2004, recommended further stimulation of the activities of our compatriots in this direction. He said: "I am very pleased that All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis managed to unite very strong, authoritative structure – all the regional organizations in a short time and became a structure that actively work both in the protection of rights of Azerbaijani people living in Russia and in strengthening and expanding our bilateral relations. Congress has very important role in this direction". The President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev highly appreciated the activity of Congress in his meeting with ARCA heads and activists and praised the activity in the field of organization of our compatriots in Russia and strengthening their relations with historical Native land.

In the II session of All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis, the opinions of the President of Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin related to Azerbaijani people living in Russia retains its relevance today. He expressed the attitude of public administration and people of Russia towards Azerbaijan as follows: "All people in Russia sincerely want Azerbaijan to be strong state from stable, secure and economic point of view. Only independent countries in terms of economy can form and implement authoritative, independent and almost, good-neighborliness, mutual respect and friendship policy which are very important for Russia. Russia just wants to be neighbor with such countries. I am confident that we should protect and develop our valuable achievements as good neighborliness and cooperation obtained due to great effort and blood money, we should create every condition for the representatives of our people and should do our best that Russian people living in Azerbaijan and Azerbaijani people living in Russia can feel comfortable themselves. All of these are very important factors of both present well-being and future prosperity of our people. Your Congress is a known and authoritative organization of Azerbaijani Diaspora. You are engaged in cultural and educational activities, assist in social adaptation programs and work in many other fields. And we highly appreciate the contribution of Azerbaijani Diaspora to all fields of the life of Russian society".

Special application was accepted related to a fair solution of Kharabakh conflict in II Session of All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis. Adoption of such application in this authoritative event in which senior government and state representatives participated served to informing Russian community about the main reasons of conflict.

Azerbaijani Diaspora in Russia actively takes part in the activity of informing public of this country about the realities related to the history of our nation. So that on February 26, 2005, an evening was held which was devoted to Khojali genocide in Cinema and Concert Complex "Baku" located on Moscow with the initiative of Azerbaijani Diaspora. The presentation ceremony of the book of "Khojali tragedy" held in the evening and there was demonstrated documentary film about terrible act of terror committed against peaceful population.

On November 15, 2004 mass rally was held in "Slavic" avenue near Kremlin, Moscow by the initiative of "Kharabakh" International Society for Charity. Action was dedicated to the problems of regulation of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by peaceful means and the role of Russia

in this process, international terrorism and aggressive separatism issues.

At that time, Russian Azerbaijanis held a round table in the theme of “the role of Russia in the regulation of Karabakh conflict” with the initiative and organization of Federal National Cultural Autonomy in Moscow. The position of Russia in the solution of Nagorno–Karabakh conflict, Armenia – Azerbaijan was discussed in the event. State representatives of Russian Federation and the representatives of Azerbaijani Diaspora participating in the event state that Russia supports the increase in the role of solution of conflict [11].

According to decree dated on August 11, 2004 of the President of Azerbaijan Republic, Azerbaijani Diaspora, as well as, ARCA and Federal National Cultural Autonomy of Azerbaijanis in Russia take active part on the realization of intergovernmental agreement on holding the Year of Azerbaijan in Russia and Russian Year in Azerbaijan within the framework of special action plan developed related to holding the Year of Azerbaijan Republic in Russian Federation in 2005.

In 2005, new society was founded that combined Azerbaijani women around it under the Moscow regional organization of All–Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis. The main aim in the establishment of this organization was to achieve in the consolidation of Azerbaijani women living in Russia and ensure their active participation in the social – political life. In future, it is planned to establish the same type society under All–Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis [5].

Diaspora organizations of Azerbaijanis became an integral part of civil society of Russia. Promotion of the history and culture of our nation and informing Russian community about Azerbaijan realities is one of the priority directions of our Diaspora activity.

Ilham Aliyev confirmed again the known reality in II session of All–Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis that the Diaspora has an important role in the regulation of interstate relations. The role of Azerbaijanis living in Russia is very important in developing and deepening our bilateral relations. It is encouraging that they are an integral part of multiethnic society of Russia and give a worthy contribution to the development and progress of Russian Federation.

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#### Напрямки діяльності організацій азербайджанської діаспори в Росії в галузі захисту політичних інтересів Азербайджанської Республіки

*Сьогодні країни світу широко займаються лобізмом, щоб забезпечити свої інтереси в будь-якій країні, впливати на політику цієї країни щодо своїх країн. Роль діаспор в цьому процесі незамінна. Дане питання має величезне значення для Азербайджану, який володіє великим потенціалом діаспори. Значення азербайджанської діаспори, її роль і діяльність у захисті політичних інтересів Азербайджану величезне. Однією з країн, де азербайджанська діаспора розгорнула широку діяльність, є Російська Федерація. Після розпаду Радянського Союзу в 1991 р. і придбання Азербайджану незалежності міграція азербайджанців в Росію вступила в якісно нову фазу. Є відомості про те, що з 1991 р. по теперішній час в Росію емігрувало близько мільйона азербайджанців. Масовість міграції азербайджанців в Росію створила сприятливий ґрунт для створення азербайджанської діаспори. У нас є відомості, що в даний час в Російській Федерації проживає більше 2,5 млн. азербайджанців. Пропаганда історії та культури нашого народу, доведення до громадськості Росії істини про Азербайджан є одним з пріоритетних напрямків діяльності нашої діаспори. Роль азербайджанців також велика в розвитку і поглибленні наших двосторонніх відносин. Радісно, що вони є невід’ємною частиною багатонаціонального російського суспільства, вносять свій внесок у розвиток і прогрес Російської Федерації.*

*Ключові слова:* солідарність, азербайджанці світу, азербайджанство, діаспора, лобі.

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#### Направления деятельности организаций азербайджанской диаспоры в России в области защиты политических интересов Азербайджанской Республики

*Сегодня страны мира широко занимаются лоббизмом, чтобы обеспечить свои интересы в какой-либо стране, оказывать воздействие на политику этой страны в отношении своих стран. Роль диаспор в этом процессе незаменима. Данный вопрос имеет огромное значение для Азербайджана, обладающего большим потенциалом диаспоры. Значение азербайджанской диаспоры, ее роль и деятельность в защите политических интересов Азербайджана огромно. Одной из стран, где азербайджанская диаспора развернула широкую деятельность, является Российская Федерация. После распада Советского Союза в 1991 г. и приобретения Азербайджаном независимости миграция азербайджанцев в Россию вступила в качественно новую фазу. Имеются сведения о том, что с 1991 г. по настоящее время в Россию эмигрировало около миллиона азербайджанцев. Масовость миграции азербайджанцев в Россию создала благоприятную почву для создания азербайджанской диаспоры. У нас имеются сведения, что в настоящее время в Российской Федерации проживает более 2,5 млн. азербайджанцев. Пропаганда истории и культуры нашего народа, доведение до общественности России истины об Азербайджане является одним из приоритетных направлений деятельности нашей диаспоры. Роль азербайджанцев также велика в развитии и углублении наших двусторонних отношений. Радостно, что они являются неотъемлемой частью многонационального российского общества, вносят свой вклад в развитие и прогресс Российской Федерации.*

*Ключевые слова:* солидарность, азербайджанцы мира, азербайджанство, диаспора, лобби.

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