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REF LD270050 FYI: YEREVAN IN ARMENIAN TO EUROPE BEHAVIOR
REF NC261945 YEREVAN INTERNATIONAL ARABIC 261750--YEREVAN ARABIC:
ARMENIAN PATRIARCH GIVES ADDRESS

USSR: Armenian Patriarch Delivers Address

LD270209

Yerevan in Armenian to Europe 2130 GMT 25 Feb 88 (Tentative)

[Text] Vazgen I, supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Church, gave an address on Armenian television last night. He said: I greet you on behalf of the Armenian Church and I convey to you the blessings of the holy Eucharist. I, too, am profoundly concerned about and share our people's emotion over the issue of attaching the mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh Oblast to Soviet Armenia.

I believe that this demand is natural, legal, and constitutional. Therefore, I am confident that the USSR Higher authorities will arrive, with the utmost solemnity, at a just and impartial decision commensurate with the perestroika and democracy of our days. I am receiving at present many telegrams and telephone calls from our church and cultural organizations abroad. In their calls, the organizations, on behalf of more than 2 million Armenians of the Diaspora, ask me to intercede with the USSR higher leadership for a just solution of the Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh in accordance with the Soviet Constitution, the decision of the Soviet of the peoples deputies of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the principles of democracy.

In response to such calls, I sent a comprehensive telegram today to our country's top leader, esteemed Mikhail Gorbachev, asking for his decisive intercession in favor of the aspirations of the Armenian inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian people, in Armenia and abroad, have always faithfully backed the fraternal basis binding the USSR peoples and the historically rooted friendship with the Russian people. The Armenian people wholeheartedly direct their gaze to the higher authorities of our country with optimism, particularly since all of you know that our higher authorities have effected

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that a high-level meeting will be held in Moscow in the very near future to discuss the issue of the Armenian region of Nagorno-karabakh and find a [word indistinct] and lawful settlement for it on the basis of the right of self-determination for the nationalities in the Soviet Union.

dearly beloved, I understand your current emotions and all-people's expressions. Everything has already been said in the proper quarters and I say to you, with optimism and respect toward the higher authorities in our country, to remain peaceful and orderly. Apply yourself to your daily work and (?tackle) the tasks assigned to you, maintaining your balance and common sense. [words indistinct] during such critical moments, it is essential to show an extraordinary degree of serious and far sighted behavior, to guard the imperative of the fraternal ties between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples like the apple of one's eye so that painfully unpleasant intercommunal occurrences occur neither in Armenia nor in Azerbaijan.

This, rest assured, is also the message that your Armenian brothers and sisters direct at you. If this is not done, the successful course of the just issue may be disturbed and we may be confronted with complications. The objective for us all must be not to cause justice to fail but to help it triumph.

Attention, Attention! Listen to my voice, listen to my fatherly advice. Before our fatherland and our nation, and imbued with a profound sense of responsibility, I appeal to you all as the patriarch of all Armenians in the words of the Holy Bible: Peace be upon those who are far and those who are near, and peace be upon all. Amen.

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