

Eldar Gasanov accused Sergey Lavrov of unconsciousness - Probably, he doesn't remember well ...

22.01.2017

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Azerbaijan to Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina Eldar Hasanov answered questions from Moderator.az regarding the well-known pro-Armenian statement of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, which was met with anger in Azerbaijan:

- Eldar, the opinion expressed by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov a few days ago in response to a question from an Azerbaijani journalist was met with great discontent in our country. I would like to know your attitude to his opinion that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is not an internal affair of Azerbaijan.

- I am answering your questions as a citizen of Azerbaijan, whose country is occupied by Armenia.

Answering a journalist's question, Lavrov said that the conflict is not, without exception, an internal affair of Azerbaijan. It is clear that one side of the conflict is Azerbaijan, and the other side is Armenia, which Russia considers its ally and has repeatedly transferred weapons for free or at reduced prices over the past 25 years. In addition, we should not forget that among the military personnel captured during the battles with the Armenian occupying forces in the early 1990s, there were Russian officers and soldiers. Our archives also contain voluntary and sincere confessions about how and on whose orders they participated in the hostilities. The nature of Russian-Armenian relations is not a secret, I have repeatedly expressed my opinion on this matter and was not surprised by such a reaction. A separate issue is that our country, subjected to armed aggression, has the right to self-defense individually or collectively in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. This right cannot be limited by the statements of S. Lavrov, N. Bordyuzha or any other person.

- The Russian minister also advised the UN Security Council to turn to the UN archives to see who is observing the ceasefire.

- Everyone knows that Lavrov served as Russia's permanent representative to the UN for a long time. He probably does not remember the processes of that period well. And we know these processes well. Also, unlike Armenia, we have no problems with opening archives. It should be noted that at that time the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions on one issue, the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, within a few months. It is very rare that the UN Security Council adopts four resolutions on such an issue in such a short period of time. The adoption of resolutions usually took place after the occupation of the regions of Azerbaijan. These resolutions reflect the norms and principles of international law, enshrined in the UN Charter, and indicate who violates the ceasefire, who is the aggressor, who is the culprit.

For example, Decree No. 822, adopted on April 30, 1993, noted the occupation of Kelbajar and other lands by Armenians, emphasized the inadmissibility of the seizure of territories by force, unambiguously supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. As can be seen from the text of the resolution, the Armenians violated the ceasefire and committed military aggression. The representative of Pakistan in the UN Security Council at one time expressed hope that with the adoption of the resolution, all Armenian armed forces would be withdrawn from the territories of Azerbaijan, and called for respect for the generally recognized international borders of states. At the same time, the US also expressed deep concern over Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan. This position was officially voiced by State Department spokesman Richard Butcher. After a while, on July 29, another resolution No. 853 was adopted. The resolution also condemned the occupation of Aghdam and other areas, and in paragraph 9 of the resolution, the UN Security Council called on the Armenians to comply with resolution 822. The text of this resolution also clearly indicates who conducted the hostilities, i.e. who opened fire.

However, when the members of the UN Security Council saw that the Armenians did not even pay attention to these documents, they adopted another resolution No. 884, in which they already called on Armenia not to expand hostilities. Turkey, Iran, and the European Union then issued statements calling on the occupying forces to respect the ceasefire.

- Lavrov also connected land liberation with the status of Nagorno-Karabakh...

- Lavrov did not refer to the decisions of the UN Security Council, but to the documents prepared by the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group. I did not see Lavrov's position in the documents published on behalf of the co-chairs. But we should keep in mind that the negotiations have been going on for more than 20 years. I do not exclude that during these

years of negotiations some Co-Chairs, who are openly sympathetic to Armenia, will make such a proposal. However, this does not mean that Azerbaijan agreed to such an approach or that such proposals were shared by the other co-chairs. The strength of our foreign policy, determined by President Ilham Aliyev, lies in the fact that if there are proposals and initiatives that do not meet our national interests, they are neutralized in a timely manner, negotiations are again aimed at an objective and fair solution in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council, documents, adopted by the OSCE, the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, NATO, the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement.

In particular, UN Security Council resolutions call for the immediate and unconditional liberation of our occupied territories. This is clear as it is today. The Azerbaijani Foreign Minister reminded about this in his latest interview with APA. If you remember, the U.S. co-chairman took a great interest in social networks at one time and held meetings as best he could. But he became more cautious after he was strictly warned by the Azerbaijani state, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When proposals are made within the framework of UN Security Council resolutions and the norms and principles of international law, Armenia immediately finds itself in a difficult situation and tries to derail or delay negotiations, especially on the front lines, through various provocations. Armenia has been using these tactics for a long time. This is the real picture. The question is what should we do in this situation? President Ilham Aliyev has clearly stated his position on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, based on national interests and international law. This position is undoubtedly based on the will and expectations of the Azerbaijani people. Our state is able to say its word at the right time and in the right place. We have a strong, popular, highly professional and combat-ready army. The events of last April showed that we are ready for it. We are ready as a nation. I believe that sooner or later this issue will be solved in any case on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and respect for universally recognized international borders.

Today, the rationally thinking strata of Armenian society and the Diaspora, thinking about the fate and future of their people, have already begun to realize that it will never be possible to get rid of the deep socio-economic, political, humanitarian, demographic, infrastructure crises and problems that they face without abandoning the policy of aggression against Azerbaijan. The sooner Serzh Sargsyan, the field commander who shed the blood of thousands of peaceful Azerbaijanis, realizes this, and the sooner his regime realizes this, will refuse various provocations and demonstrate a constructive position in accordance with the

resolutions of the UN Security Council, the norms and principles of international law, the conflict will be resolved peacefully as soon as possible. Only in this case, if Armenia renounces unfounded territorial claims to its neighbors - Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, peace, security, and stability will be established both in Armenia and in the South Caucasus region as a whole.

Lavrov, who should be impartial and neutral as foreign minister of the co-chairing state, instead of leading Armenia into the abyss with such statements, in his own words, should take from the UN archives and carefully read the decisions of the Security Council and urge Armenia to act in accordance with the aforementioned criteria. Thus, Russia would use the historical circumstance to assert its peacemaking position, contributing to the peaceful resolution of at least one, as well as the first of the military conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union, the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

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