

CRISIS SITUATION. NAKHCHIVAN (1991-1993 years)

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The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was experiencing its most painful period at the beginning of the 20th century. The blockade, intensive attacks by Armenians, battles, hunger, and cold caused material, moral and psychological damage to the population of the republic.

During his leadership of the autonomous republic, Heydar Aliyev resorted to different ways to overcome the crisis situation that arose as a result of the military aggression of Armenia, and also tried to use the power and capabilities of the neighboring states. Despite the fact that on June 12, 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran signed a memorandum on cooperation in the economic field and, according to the memorandum, provision of gas and electricity from Iran to Nakhchivan, which was under a blockade, the issue was resolved precisely as a result of Heydar Aliyev's negotiations in Nakhchivan.

On January 7, 1992, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gulamrza Aghazade, was received by Heydar Aliyev, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Autonomous Republic in Nakhchivan [8, p.256]. During that meeting, reaching an agreement on the construction of the Marand-Nakhchivan gas pipeline was of vital importance for the autonomous republic. This served to eliminate the crisis situation in the energy supply of Nakhchivan, which was in a blockade and the power lines passing through the territory of Armenia were cut.

In order to save the Autonomous Republic from the economic crisis, Heydar Aliyev also held talks with the then president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemi Rafsanjani. On August 22, 1992, at the invitation of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Heydar Aliyev visited Tehran on President Rafsanjani's private Boeing-727 plane. The negotiations conducted during the visit led to the facilitation of the issues of mutual movement of the population and the opening of a common market. On August 24, after talks and negotiations with senior officials of Iran, a protocol was signed "On cooperation between the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of the Repub-

lic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields". One of the issues stipulated in Article 13 of the Protocol was related to Iran's participation in the gas supply of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Gas transmission, distribution and delivery to users was planned to be carried out through the Iranian company to be established in Nakhchivan. In addition, considering Nakhchivan's demand for liquefied gas, the Islamic Republic of Iran had to supply Nakhchivan with one hundred tons of liquefied gas per month [4, v. 132].

In addition to improving the Julfa checkpoint, an agreement was reached between the two countries on the construction of the Shahtakht-Poldasht bridge in the Tehran protocol. The bridge, the construction of which was started quickly, was put into use on December 3, 1992. Heydar Aliyev and Minister of Cooperation of Iran G. Shafeyi participated in the opening ceremony. On the same day, a solemn rally was held at the Arazkanari station on the occasion of the supply of 40 megawatts of electricity from Iran to Nakhchivan. Heydar Aliyev spoke at the rally. Of course, such assistance played an important role in the survival of the autonomous republic at that time.

The social problems caused by the military aggression and the blockade were also quite severe. It is known that regardless of where it takes place in the world, military aggression and blockade is a phenomenon that has a profound impact on the social situation of countries and societies. These effects are wide and multifaceted. The first of these are deaths and injuries of the population. Wars take lives and injure many people. It is a historic tragedy for families, and the loss of loved ones can weaken their psychological state. Only in May-June 1992, as a result of heavy fighting in the border areas of Armenia and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 43 people from the Azerbaijani side were killed, 160 people were seriously injured, and 14 thousand people were displaced from their homes [12, p.3].

The conditions of military aggression and blockade have a fundamental effect on population migration. Although the emigration of the population

to other countries and other regions of the country did not occur due to the military aggression of Armenia to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, certain migration processes took place within the autonomous republic. For example, the displacement of the population of the village of Karki and the displacement of the population during the active attacks on Sadara had quite serious social consequences. During the fighting in May 1992, a part of the population of Sadarak settled in tents in a plain area relatively far from the firing range. Such settlement caused diseases to spread more quickly among the population. There were problems in providing food and clean water. At that time, the UN representatives who came to Nakhchivan directly witnessed the deplorable situation in Sadarak [3].

At the same time, the occupation of regions located in the territory of Karabakh and Eastern Zangezour by Armenia caused a part of the Azerbaijani population who lived in these regions to come to Nakhchivan. For example, after the occupation of Kalbajar in 1993, a group of residents of this region came to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. On the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, the Kalbajar refugees who came to Nakhchivan from the social development and defense fund of the autonomous republic were helped in the amount of 10 thousand rubles each [11, p.640].

Military aggression also caused problems in the education system. At that time, schools were one of the main targets of the Armenian armed forces that attacked settlements along the border. First of all, school buildings were exposed to rocket attacks because they were taller and more visible than other houses and buildings, and on the other hand, in many cases, military headquarters were placed in the basement of schools during heavy battles due to certain security features. This caused the enemy to target the place, which in turn resulted in the halting of the educational process. Thus, the process disadvantaged children's development and limited their future opportunities. During the fighting in May 1992, the building of the regional public education department in Sadarak was made unrecognizable. Classrooms were blown up and destroyed, in one classroom alone more than 14 computers were destroyed by a missile [3].

On December 8, 1991, the supply of domestic gas to the territory of Armenia and Nakhchivan was stopped. Armenians believed that in Nakhchivan, which has quite harsh climatic conditions, stopping or interrupting the supply of domestic gas could cause quite

serious social upheavals. In this situation, on February 24, 1992, under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic adopted a decision on the establishment of the State Communication Committee of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. In the decision, it was written that the institution was established in order to fulfill the necessary requirements in the field of fully and stably providing the demand for electricity and gas of the autonomous republic, to organize the creation of transport lines connecting the autonomous republic with Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan and other regions, as well as with neighboring countries [5].

On July 13, 1992, the supply of electricity to the autonomous republic through the territory of Armenia was stopped [1, p.347]. On July 15 of the same year, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan discussed the issue related to the energy supply of the autonomous republic and "the decision of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the situation in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of the Republic of Azerbaijan" was adopted. It was noted in the decision that under the current conditions, it is possible to cover only 30% of the electricity needs in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is under blockade by Armenia. Although tasks were given to the state and government structures to correct the situation [7, p.85], it was not effective. At the end of 1992-early 1993, an electric line was laid from the Igdir region of the Republic of Turkey to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

There were also problems with transportation. In May 1992, during the period of heavy fighting in the direction of Sadarak and Sharur, the Armenians started shooting at civilian planes moving in the direction of Nakhchivan-Baku. In May, Armenia warned the leadership of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic that it no longer guarantees the safe flight of civil aircraft from the country's airspace [12, p.307]. In order to get out of this situation, negotiations were held with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Baku-Nakhchivan-Baku flights were started to be carried out through the airspace of Iran [12, p.292].

The financial and technical condition of the hospitals was quite deplorable. The Sadarak district hospital, where the heaviest battles were fought, had only 25 beds, although it was supposed to serve a population of 12,000 people. The building where the hospital was located had neither sewage nor heating. Only 4 doctors worked in Sadarak hospital [10].

In order to get the autonomous republic out of a dif-

difficult situation, work was carried out in different regions of the country, and attempts were made to receive aid from foreign countries. At that time, the Charity Society for Helping Nakhchivan was established in Ganja. Urfullah Gurbanov, head of the counter-intelligence service of the State Defense Committee of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, who was sent several times to perform special state-important tasks on the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, played an important role in this process.

One of the problems caused by the occupation and blockade was related to information security. One of the issues attracting attention in historiography is related to the Armenians cutting the lines from the Uchtepe radio and teletransmission station located in the territory of Gorus region and the problems with the transmission of Azerbaijani television and radio to the territory of Nakhchivan. Different researchers indicate different dates for this. Analysis of the events of the period allows us to dwell on several versions. It is understood that the transmission of radio waves from the station was interrupted several times, this usually happened on the eve of or during the intensification of clashes in the border zone between the parties. After the tension subsided, it was possible to restore the activity of the radio transmitter to a certain extent, and on September 19-20, 1991, the transmission from Uchtepe was completely stopped, and the Bichenak intermediate station of the Shusha-Nakhchivan radio relay line located in Batabat was completely destroyed. With that, the process of transmitting waves through the territory of Armenia was completely stopped [6, p.2].

As it is clear from the above notes, the Armenians tried to capture strategic points located not only on the territory of Armenia, but also on the territory of the autonomous republic, in order to block Nakhchivan completely. On September 20, 1991, about 60 Armenian armed men attacked from the direction of Karakilsa (Sisyan) from the direction of Batabat pass of Shahbuz district. The defenders of the station from Nakhchivan had only machine guns, while the Armenian armed groups had grenade launchers and grenades. Armenians first threw grenades at the building to blow up the building of the TV transmitter. The few defenders in this direction spread around and exchanged fire with the Armenians, shortly after the arrival of police forces of Shahbuz region forced the enemy to retreat [2, p.22].

After Heydar Aliyev began to lead the autonomous republic, various steps were taken in this dire-

ction to ensure that there was no information gap at the country level, and special tasks were given to relevant state bodies. As a result of the Armenian aggression, the blockade of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, as well as the elimination of the problems and difficulties in various spheres of life affected by this aggression, were successfully implemented in all areas. As a result of this, the crisis situation caused by military aggression in the autonomous republic was eliminated, cooperation with neighboring states was achieved, Nakhchivan was protected from Armenian occupation with the strength of the created regular army, the trust and efforts of the people.

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BÖHRANLI VƏZİYYƏT. NAXÇIVAN (1991-1993-cü illər)

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XÜLASƏ

XX əsrin əvvəllərində Naxçıvanda blokada və böhranlı vəziyyətlə əlaqədar təhsil, mədəni infrastruktur, kommunikasiya vasitələri ciddi zərərə uğramış, informasiya blokadasının yaratdığı çətinliklər vəziyyəti daha gərginləşdirmişdir. Qonşu dövlətlərlə aparılan danışıqlar və əməkdaşlıq Naxçıvanın elektrik enerjisi ilə təmin olunmasında, həyatın müxtəlif sahələrinə vurulan zərərlərin aradan qaldırılmasında ciddi mənada mühüm rol oynamışdır. Muxtar respublikada erməni hücumları nəticəsində başlanan miqrasiya prosesi əhalinin sosial həyatına təsir etirdi. Hərbi təcavüz və blokadanın müxtəlif sahələrdə yaratdığı çətinliklərə baxmayaraq görülən işlər, Naxçıvana edilən yardımlar öz nəticəsini verirdi. Məqalədə geniş şəkildə öz əksini tapmış bu məsələlərin həlli Heydər Əliyevin uzaqgörən bir lider kimi verdiyi qərarların nə qədər doğru olduğunu göstərir.

Açar sözlər: *Naxçıvan, Azərbaycan, blokada, böhran, sosial həyat.*

КРИЗИСНАЯ СИТУАЦИЯ. НАХЧИВАН (1991-1993 годы)

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Из-за блокады и кризисной ситуации в Нахчыване в начале 20 века серьезно пострадали обра-

зование, культурная инфраструктура и средства связи, а трудности, вызванные информационной блокадой, еще больше обострили ситуацию. Переговоры и сотрудничество с соседними государствами сыграли важную роль в обеспечении Нахчывана электроэнергией и устранении ущерба в различных сферах жизни. Процесс миграции, начавшийся в результате нападения армян в автономной республике, отразился на социальной жизни населения. Несмотря на трудности, вызванные военной агрессией и блокадой в различных районах, проделанная работа и оказанная Нахчывану помощь дали результаты. Решение этих вопросов, широко отраженное в статье, показывает, насколько правильными являются решения, принятые Гейдаром Алиевым как дальновидным лидером.

Ключевые слова: *Нахчыван, Азербайджан, блокада, кризис, общественная жизнь.*

SUMMARY

Due to the blockade and crisis situation in Nakhchivan at the beginning of the 20th century, education, cultural infrastructure, and means of communication suffered serious damage, and the difficulties caused by the information blockade made the situation even more tense. Negotiations and cooperation with neighboring states played an important role in providing Nakhchivan with electricity and eliminating damages to various areas of life. The process of migration started as a result of Armenian attacks in the autonomous republic affected the social life of the population. Despite the difficulties caused by the military aggression and the blockade in various areas, the work done and the assistance given to Nakhchivan gave results. The resolution of these issues, widely reflected in the article, shows how correct the decisions made by Heydar Aliyev as a visionary leader are.

Keywords: *Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan, blockade, crisis, social life*