



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

24 July 1994

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Philippa,

Clarification on Azerbaijan-Armenia territorial dispute

Regarding the Prime Minister's request for clarification on the disputed territory of Nagorno Karabakh.

Considering the prevailing arguments on both the Azerbaijan and Armenian sides, our view has consistently been to tread a fine line wherever possible in order to avoid provoking either side into action. However as far as official policy goes our stance remains true to international law and thereby that the territory should be returned to Baku. No matter the degree of social and economic gerrymandering orchestrated by the Armenian side, this remains our prevailing policy.

Notwithstanding human and material losses to Azerbaijan, it was President Aliyev who sued for an end to the conflict and he has remained stoic in pursuit of a reasonable settlement in the face of a great deal of provocation and needless prevarication. President Aliyev's letter to the Prime Minister outlined some really rather coherent ideas as to how this issue may be resolved equitably. We will assess these and revert back to you shortly with some recommendations for the Prime Minister's reply.

Yours ever,

SJS

(S J Sharpe)
Private Secretary

Ms Philippa Leslie-Jones
10 Downing Street