

CONFIDENTIAL



MEL/61/548/6		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 76		
19 SEP 1981		
DESK OFFICER:	REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
✓	✓	2

OFFICE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
ROND-POINT ROBERT SCHUMAN 6  
1040 BRUSSELS  
TELEPHONE 736 99 00

10 September 1981

M D M Franklin Esq CB CMG  
Cabinet Office  
LONDON  
SW1

Dear Mikhail,

G A ALIYEV

1. We have been asked to provide a brief for Mr Thorn's office regarding the status of the First Party Secretary of Azerbaijan.
2. As recently as 21 August 1979, Aliyev was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour for his services to economic development in his republic, notably achieving increases in productivity and Plan fulfilment. It is reported that Aliyev is highly regarded by Brezhnev. Taking leadership of the Party in 1969, and with it responsibility for a moribund republic, he has largely triumphed in improving economic performance. He has won broad public support through concerted efforts to improve living conditions, investment in housing, education, health and public services. He has tackled the most serious consumer food problems, including meat supply. Among ordinary Azerbaijanis, who perceive they are treated as second class within the Soviet Union, there is a widely held impression that Aliyev is prepared to stand up for local interests against Moscow.
3. Aside from his wife, an ophthalmologist, Aliyev has no perceivable interest in science and medicine. Despite this, he personally champions projects dealing with cancer research at the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union in Moscow. According to our ambassador much of his emphasis is breast cancer and leukaemias that cause common gynaecological diseases in women.
4. Aliyev has rebuffed attempts by the Armenian SSR to ferment a political coup d'état over the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. He has repeatedly clashed with Karen Demirchyan, First Party Secretary of Armenia, over the fermenting of an insurrection. He eviscerated Demirchyan for the illicit supply of arms to an Armenian ethnic minority. That includes some 120 Claymore mines, purchased from Irish Republican Army, intercepted by European authorities.

5. Aliyev is notable that he personally lives modestly and rejects many of the trappings of power that are enjoyed so ostentatiously by his peers across the Soviet Union. He has criticised senior comrades who live "gilded lives" and been vocal that Party leaders should live their lives beyond reproach.

*Yours* *ever*

*Michael*

(Michael Butler)