

with neighbors and the rest of the world community, on the basis of mutual benefits and negotiations.

During the past months it has become increasingly clear that the only policy goal pursued consistently by the central authorities has been the preservation of the empire. Political and economic reform have become expendable. The U.S.S.R. government, in pursuit of its imperial agenda, has been willing to circumvent and even disregard its own laws and Constitution when it comes to dealing with the preservation of the empire.

The entente between imperial Moscow and authoritarian Azerbaidzhan must be seen in this context. The government of Azerbaidzhan, still under the control of the Communist Party, has become an ally of the anti-reformist forces in Moscow. . . . The Soviet Union has tried to represent the conflict as an ethnic one, as if a continuation of the antagonism between Armenia and Azerbaidzhan. Western governments and media have tended to accept that interpretation at face value. The two republics certainly face major difficulties. Yet the last two weeks are evidence of what I have always

believed. The essence of the question is political rather than ethnic or national.

In the short run, the military operations against Armenia, code-named, "Circle," constituted an attempt to draw Armenia into a war against Azerbaidzhan, and to turn Armenians into martyrs in a futile struggle against the Soviet Army. Any of these reactions would have justified a formal military intervention in Armenia itself. While bearing the full weight of the war machine on the civilian population of our republic, the Soviet government intended the citizens of Armenia to associate national and democratic aspirations with terror and destruction, sovereignty with insecurity and impotence. . . .

It is also obvious, that a show of force against Armenia is bound to bolster the weakening authority and position of Azerbaidzhan's President Ayaz Mutalibov, the head of the only Communist government in the Transcaucasus. Without him, Transcaucasus would drift away from the empire, since Georgia has declared independence already and Armenia, albeit in its own way, has stated its intention to achieve independence. . . .

Eyewitnesses tell of Red Army genocide spree

Collaborators of EIR News Agency of Wiesbaden, Germany, during a recent trip to the Soviet Union, asked witnesses about the bloody measures of suppression. What follows is a small excerpt of the terrifying documentation they offered, with the help of a translator:

G.W. Adamirovic, born 1931: "The Army came with tanks. They hit us—first the Army, then the OMON [Interior Ministry special forces] and finally the Azerbaidzhanis. We asked the Army, why are you doing this? The Army answered, this is an order from Gorbachov. A major said that there were three sacks of money there, which someone could come for. But that was a lie. Our prisoners were mistreated by the Azerbaidzhanis. Women and men were raped. We cannot say much about the number of victims, because we don't know what happened to a lot of people, where they ended up. It all took place under the eyes of the Army. If the Army had not been there, the Azerbaidzhanis could not have done that. Before the Army invaded and only the Azerbaidzhanis came, we were always able to defend ourselves."

A younger woman: "On April 30, about 150 tanks encircled our village and cut it off. When they came into the village, they stormed the first house. On the same day they looted everything and killed people. Four people

were killed. The Army did not just kill people. They ran back and forth with tanks over the corpses, so nothing was left of them. Behind the houses, vials of drugs were seen. The Army soldiers had taken drugs, in order to be able to carry out such cruel deeds. Near the house of my brother, two or three vials were found. And the soldiers smeared green paint on their faces, so that no one could identify them. On one tank of the Russian Army was written 'Out with the Armenians, Long Live the Muslims' (Azerbaidzhanis).

"When I realized that the inhabitants of our village were being killed, we fled into the woods. I have a seven-month-old child. We spent three days and three nights in the woods with this child. I went to the commandant and asked, 'Why are you killing our people? You are Russians just as I am.' The commandant repeated that this was happening on Gorbachov's orders. All the houses were plundered and set on fire. I have three small children. We fled from Getashen by night into the woods with the children. Getashen had helped the people who lived in Martunashem, where the first raid occurred. The people came from there to Getashen. With the inhabitants of Getashen they fled by helicopter to Stepanakert. My mother is Volga-German. The Germans were deported. She said that Colonel-General Shatalin, the Supreme Commander of the Interior Ministry troops, was to blame. In the spring he was in Getashen. I gave him a letter because my mother lives somewhere else and I do not know what has become of her. I still have not received an answer. I still don't know whether she is alive or not."