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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2019 2:01 PM  
**To:** Tavlarides, Mark <[mtavlarides@bgrdc.com](mailto:mtavlarides@bgrdc.com)>  
**Subject:** Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention an excerpt from a recent CRS report on Iran sanctions. The excerpt, below, notes the extensive economic relations between Armenia and Iran. The full CRS report can be found [here](#).

“Iran and Armenia—Azerbaijan’s adversary—have long enjoyed extensive economic relations: Armenia is Iran’s largest gas customer, after Turkey. In May 2009, Iran and Armenia inaugurated a natural gas pipeline between the two, built by Gazprom of Russia. No determination of ISA sanctions was issued. Armenia has said its banking controls are strong and that Iran is unable to process transactions illicitly through Armenia’s banks. However, observers in the South Caucasus assert that Iran has used Armenian banks operating in the Armenia-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh territory to circumvent international financial sanctions.”

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Mark

Mark J. Tavlarides  
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**From:** Tavlarides, Mark <[mtavlarides@bgrdc.com](mailto:mtavlarides@bgrdc.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 3:17 PM  
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**Subject:** Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

I wanted to bring to your attention a recent article from *The American Spectator* titled, "[With Friends Like Armenia, Is Israel Safer?](#)" Paul Miller writes that "a careful look at Armenia's alliances reveals a disturbing picture." Despite the recent announcement by Armenia that it will open an embassy in Israel, Miller argues that Armenia's ties to nations like Lebanon, who is still in a state of war with Israel; Russia, who is leading an intervention in the Syrian Civil War; and Iran, for whom it may be helping out of U.S. sanctions, raise "serious concerns that should give the Jewish state pause before deepening ties." Miller also notes the high levels of anti-Semitism reported in Armenia, warning Israel that it should remain concerned and vigilant regarding its ties with Armenia.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Mark

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