From: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Subject: Azerbaijan Update

Good afternoon,

Linked here is an interview by BBC HardTalk's Stephen Sackur with Armenia's Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan. I wanted to highlight a few of their exchanges regarding Nagorno-Karabakh, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. In the interview, BBC's Sackur pressed the Armenian Foreign Minister, saying, "I have seen no evidence that your government has brought new ideas, new imagination to this conflict."

Sackur noted that in August, the Armenian Prime Minister made a speech in which he "declared in no uncertain terms 'Karabakh is Armenia.' Period.'" Sackur said this statement "flies in the face of international law, the position of the UN, and all of the independent international agencies." Noting recent statements by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov that this is "the same as if the Prime Minister of Albania said from Tirana that Kosovo is Albania," Sackur said, "So even the Russians are now saying that your position is unacceptable."

When pressing the Armenian Foreign Minister to recognize international law, Sackur said, "No question that Armenian people live on that territory, but that territory is not Armenian."

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Mark

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