

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador – Designate Matthew J. Bryza by
Senator Barbara Boxer (#1)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 22, 2010**

Question:

On June 18, a violent clash took place near Nagorno-Karabakh that left four ethnic Armenian troops and one Azerbaijani soldier dead.

During your confirmation hearing, you suggested that Azerbaijani soldiers moved across the “Line of Contact.” If this is the case, why hasn’t the U.S. government been more forceful in its condemnation of Azerbaijan? Is the Government of Azerbaijan actively trying to escalate the conflict with Armenia?

Answer:

As Secretary Clinton made clear during her recent trip to the Caucasus, the United States condemns the use of force and regrets the loss of life that resulted from the incident during the night of June 18-19, 2010.

The full details of what occurred on June 18 are not known. Regardless, the U.S. government believes strongly in the inadmissibility of the use of force or the threat of force and reiterates the need to remain engaged in the Minsk Group Process in pursuit of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

With active mediation by the United States and its French and Russian counterparts in the OSCE's Minsk Group, President Aliyev and Sargsian have established an ongoing dialogue in an effort to achieve a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and the parties have come far towards reaching a mutually acceptable agreement. In June, 2010 the Presidents of the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries (France, Russia, and the United States) issued a joint statement calling on the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to "take the next step and complete the work on the Basic Principles to enable the drafting of a peace agreement to begin." If confirmed as Ambassador, I will urge President Aliyev to maintain his commitment to the Minsk Group process and do everything possible to support the U.S. Minsk Group Co-Chair.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador – Designate Matthew J. Bryza by
Senator Barbara Boxer (#2)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 22, 2010**

Question:

During your confirmation hearing, you noted that you were unable to recall any specific public actions you took in the immediate aftermath of the desecration of the Djulfa cemetery.

Is it accurate that you did not make any public statements regarding the December 2005 incident until March, 2006? If not, can you please provide the Committee with a record of any other statements?

Did you push for an investigation by the Azerbaijani government? If so, can you provide evidence of this effort?

Will you commit to visiting the site and investigating the incident if you are confirmed?

What specific steps will you take, if confirmed, to ensure that other Armenian religious and cultural sites in Azerbaijan are not desecrated?

Why was Azerbaijan's demolition of the Djulfa cemetery not included in the State Department's International Religious Freedom Report?

Answer:

Upon learning of the desecration of the Djulfa Cemetery in December 2005, I immediately expressed my concern to the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and began to gather additional facts. In March, during my first visit to the

region following the December 2005 report, I publicly condemned the desecration at Djulfa and reiterated with Azerbaijan's top leaders the serious concern of the United States regarding this issue.

As a strong proponent of preserving world cultural heritage, we urged Azerbaijan and Armenian to work with UNESCO to investigate the destruction of these cultural monuments. In addition to condemning such attacks on Armenian cultural landmarks in Azerbaijan, the State Department has also consistently noted in its International Religious Freedom Report that all Armenian churches remain closed in Azerbaijan, leaving an estimated 10,000 to 30,000 ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan unable to attend services at their traditional place of worship. If I am confirmed, I pledge to continue to stress in public and private the need to respect and safeguard Armenian religious and cultural sites in Azerbaijan, and will visit Djulfa.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador – Designate Matthew Bryza by
Senator Barbara Boxer (#3)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 22, 2010**

Question:

The United States Congress has consistently appropriated assistance for Nagorno-Karabakh. Can you please provide a detailed accounting on the disbursement of all U.S. assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh for the past five years? Why weren't the full amounts allocated by Congress for Nagorno-Karabakh in 2009 and 2010 spent?

Can you provide a detailed explanation of existing policies and procedures governing the implementation of U.S. assistance programs to Nagorno-Karabakh?

Answer:

Since 1998, the United States has provided more than \$35 million to support those affected by the Nagorno–Karabakh conflict in the form of food, shelter, emergency and medical supplies, access to quality health care and water, and demining. Our assistance has renovated over 1550 shelters, renovated and equipped 108 health facilities, schools and community centers, and upgraded 59 potable water systems.

Since 2002, the USG has provided approximately \$2 million per year for

humanitarian projects in NK which include programs in demining, housing and school repairs, primary health care, and agriculture. Recent funding has focused almost exclusively on demining and water projects, and is allocated directly to the implementing organizations. The level and focus of our annual assistance to the people of NK balances several factors, including the results of needs assessments conducted by USAID personnel, evaluations of the absorptive capacity within NK, and competing obligations for Eurasia Regional funds.

In FY 2009, the U.S. directed approximately half of the assistance funding to extend de-mining assistance, implemented by HALO Trust, to enhance residents' safety and to increase access to agricultural lands to meet basic food needs. Since the demining program began in early 2001, it has provided mine awareness training to approximately 30,000 people and resulted in the clearance of approximately 83% of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, as well as 73% of the military ordnance remaining in the battle area following the cessation of hostilities. The balance of FY 2009 funds will be used to fund a new program to improve water supply for the city of Stepanakert by preventing the further deterioration of existing systems, and providing for priority repairs and additional rehabilitation and

modernization. This project will result in addressing water quality and quantity issues for roughly 25,000 people, about half of Stepanakert's total population. The USAID/Armenia Mission is currently in selection process for a contractor to implement the project, which will begin in the fall of 2010. Fiscal Year 2010 funding will continue to focus on demining and water projects in NK. The project was initiated by me, working in close collaboration with our Embassy in Yerevan and USAID, while I was serving as the U.S. Co-Chair of the Minsk Group, and in response to a request from those who will benefit directly in NK.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador – Designate Matthew J. Bryza by
Senator Barbara Boxer (#4)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 22, 2010**

Question:

Congress has enacted legislation known as “Section 907” prohibiting U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan until it meets a number of conditions, including taking demonstrable steps to cease “offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.”

During your confirmation hearing, you noted that Azerbaijani soldiers moved “across the line of contact” on the night of June 18, an event that left five dead.

Would you agree that the act committed by Azerbaijan on the night of June 18 was an “offensive use of force?” Why or why not?

Is the Government of Azerbaijan fully meeting the conditions of Section 907?

Do you support continuing to waive Section 907, as the Administration has done for the last several years?

Should the U.S. government be providing military aid to the government of Azerbaijan at the same time that Azerbaijan is committing acts of aggression and threatening renewed war against both Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia?

Answer:

The full details of what occurred on June 18 are not known. The United States condemns the use of force and regrets the loss of life that resulted

from the incident during the night of June 18-19, 2010. The U.S. government believes strongly in the inadmissibility of the use of force or the threat of force and reiterates the need to remain engaged in the Minsk Group Process in pursuit of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Successive Presidential Administrations have, since 2002, waived the full application of 907 pursuant to authorities provided by Congress. If confirmed, I will support the correct application of any and all statutory requirements that affect United States relations with Azerbaijan, including Section 907.

Azerbaijan is an important security partner for the United States, and our assistance to Azerbaijan is provided in this context, helping to further common objectives including counter-terrorism, border control, and maritime security. Azerbaijan has 90 troops stationed in Afghanistan, and provides valuable overflight, refueling, and landing rights for U.S. and coalition aircraft bound for Afghanistan. Azerbaijan is also a key node on the Northern Distribution Network allowing non-lethal goods to transit its territory to resupply our forces in Afghanistan. U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan has enhanced Azerbaijan's interoperability with NATO and U.S. forces and furthers U.S. peacekeeping and security objectives.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador – Designate Matthew J. Bryza by
Senator Barbara Boxer (#5)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 22, 2010**

Question:

What lessons have you drawn from the Russia-Georgia War of 2008 that you would apply in seeking to prevent the government of Azerbaijan from taking steps that could lead to the outbreak of renewed fighting?

Answer:

The conflict between Russia and Georgia in 2008 underscored clearly that there can be no military solutions to conflicts in the Caucasus. The international community must sustain progress toward peaceful and negotiated settlements, particularly in the negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh led by the OSCE Minsk Group. The international community must also work actively to reduce tension and the risk of miscalculation by bolstering transparency, including through observer missions along lines of contact in conflicts in the South Caucasus. The U.S. government will work actively with the other co-Chairs of the Minsk Group to achieve these objectives, and if confirmed, I will support the efforts of the Minsk Group to bring about a peaceful resolution based on the Helsinki Final Act principles of non use of force or threat of force, territorial integrity, and self determination and the equal rights of peoples.