

# Information Circular

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## Communication dated 17 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia

1. The Secretariat has received a Note Verbale dated 17 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Agency. At the request of the Permanent Mission, the Note Verbale and its attachment is circulated herewith for information of all Member States.



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ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՅՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

M/042

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in light of the military offensive launched on July 12 by Azerbaijan on the north-eastern part of the state border of the Republic of Armenia, as well as its attacks on civilian population and infrastructure of the Tavush province, would like to bring the Agency's attention to the following.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the head of the press service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan Vagif Dargahli made the following statement: "At the same time, the Armenian side should not forget that the latest missile systems that are in the arsenal of our army make it possible to hit the Metsamor nuclear power plant with high accuracy, which can lead to a great catastrophe for Armenia."

The actions threatened by the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan are a flagrant violation of the International Humanitarian Law, in particular - the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

According to the Article 56(1) of the 1977 Additional Protocol I and Article 15 of the 1977 Additional Protocol II, "works or installations containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dykes and nuclear electrical generating stations, shall not be made the object of attack, even where these objects are military objectives, if such attack may cause the release of dangerous forces and consequent severe losses among the civilian population."

According to Article 85(3)(c) of the 1977 Additional Protocol I, "launching an attack against works or installations containing dangerous forces in the knowledge that such attack will cause excessive loss of life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects" is a grave breach of the Protocol.

The threats voiced by the official representative of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan indicate the level of desperation and the crisis of mind of the political-military leadership of Azerbaijan. The leadership of Azerbaijan acts as a menace to all the peoples of the region, including its own people. Moreover, such statements create a dangerous precedent of threatening to make the nuclear installations used solely for peaceful purposes as military targets.

**The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

**Vienna**

Despite the perilous actions and warmongering of Azerbaijan and its deliberate targeting of settlements and civilian infrastructure in Armenia, Armenia's defensive actions and official statements have been in full adherence to the norms and principles of the international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia in its reaction to this extremely dangerous and belligerent statement strongly condemned the nuclear threats voiced by Azerbaijan. The relevant statement is enclosed to this Note Verbal.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the International Organizations in Vienna calls on the International Atomic Energy Agency to condemn in the strongest terms this irresponsible attitude of Azerbaijan and expects the IAEA and its leadership to swiftly react to such dangerous statements, which threaten the safety and security of the entire region.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia would highly appreciate the assistance of the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency in circulating this Note Verbale amongst the Permanent Missions accredited to the IAEA.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration. *A.P.*

Encl.: 1 page.



Vienna, 17 July 2020



**Statement by the MFA of Armenia on threats of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan to launch a missile strike at the Armenian Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant**

*16 July 2020*

The threats voiced by the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan to launch missile attacks at the Armenian Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant indicate the level of desperation and the crisis of mind of the political-military leadership of Azerbaijan.

The actions threatened by the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan are a flagrant violation of the International Humanitarian Law in general and the First Additional Protocol to Geneva Conventions in particular. Such threats are an explicit demonstration of state terrorism and genocidal intent of Azerbaijan.

Moreover, with such statements the leadership of Azerbaijan acts as a menace to all the peoples of the region, including its own people.

We strongly condemn the nuclear threats voiced by Azerbaijan, which demonstrate absolute absence of responsibility and sound judgement from this particular member of the international community.

Azerbaijan must publicly denounce such threats at once.