

## **SYSTEM INNOVATION PROJECT OF THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE STRATEGIC UNION RUSSIAN FEDERATION – REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

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**Based upon a presentation delivered to the 4th session of Lazarev Club, 14 of June 2021, Yerevan, Armenia.**

The strategic emphasis of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Lazarev Club has been imperatively demanded by the need to find and pursue new ways to prevent the loss of the Armenian national statehood. The end-product of those efforts should be built upon the coincidence of the strategic interests of security and sustainable development of our two fraternal peoples and allied states - Russia and Armenia. The existential importance of brainstorming on the problem of life and death of the state, as well as its innovative development, was exacerbated by the challenge of the upcoming formation of new authorities following the results of the early parliamentary elections.

Statesmen and national and international security experts see why I consider it is my duty to begin this report with the imperative of implementing the "Armenia-Russian Israel" project in the Caucasus and the surrounding region of the Greater Middle East. A professional assessment of the nature of the threats and long-term interests of our fraternal Russian and Armenian peoples sets the priority of this particular choice. The discussion of this project, as we know, unfolded in a narrow circle of the top state leadership, starting in 1992 - with the acquisition of a new national statehood by Armenia and Russia. We know from the horse's mouth that our friend and Sparapet Vazgen Sargsyan once thought about this with inspiration. The leader of our club, Konstantin Zatulin, also spoke about the promising prospects of this model of building Armenia-Russian interstate relations.<sup>1</sup> During the Karabakh war, the leadership of our Political Science Association considered it necessary to publish the justification for this model on the portal of the Moscow Directorate of the club.<sup>2</sup>

The parallel between the experience of guaranteeing an allied status for Israel by the United States for the non-recurrence of the Holocaust against the Jewish people, and from the Russian Federation of guaranteeing the non-recurrence of the Genocide against the Armenian people<sup>3</sup> - in both cases reflected the existential benchmark of strategic security interests. While the motto "Never Again" is undeniable, the main priority for both pairs of allies is the imperative of mutual assistance to sustainable systemic innovative development.<sup>4</sup>

The legal and treaty consolidation of the Russian-Armenian allied obligations for the Armenian people guaranteed the non-recurrence of the Genocide by Turkey after the massacre of the Armenian civilian population in Baku, Kirovabad and Sumgait in the process of the collapse of the USSR.<sup>5</sup>

For Moscow, the military alliance with Armenia has become an important military and military-political factor in guaranteeing Russia's international security on the Armenian-Turkish border with NATO and adjusting the balance of strategic interests of the Russian Federation in its confrontation - rivalry with the North Atlantic Alliance.<sup>6</sup> Ensuring the mutual security of Armenia (RA) and Russia (RF) has obtained additional guarantees in the process of a trust-driven cooperation between the RA and the RF in the establishment of the Collective Security Treaty and its development into the CSTO. The backbone of the advancement of the Armenian-Russian alliance was Russia's assistance in the building and modernization of the Armed Forces of Armenia as its reliable military ally in the South Caucasus, as well as of the 102nd Russian base in Gyumri.<sup>7</sup>

The world community knows the extremely important role of Russia in preventing a genocide by Turkey also today, during the war in Artsakh. It was Russia in the autumn of 2020 that again assumed the historical responsibility for ending the military aggression of Turkey and Azerbaijan against the Armenian people in Karabakh and on the borders of Armenia. It is important to emphasize the fact that the Russian and French intelligence services have officially confirmed the terrorist nature of the anti-Armenian Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression.<sup>8</sup> In this regard, the professional assistance of the Moscow Directorate of the Lazarev Club in promoting our academic and expert developments in grounding the urgent deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces in Karabakh is highly appreciated.<sup>9</sup>

The realities of peace and war in the region require considering Russia's leading role in ending the war between Turkey and Azerbaijan in Karabakh, as well as on the state borders of Armenia, in the context of the above-mentioned model of Armenian-Russian allied relations. The leadership of Russia as an ally of Armenia in peacekeeping gives grounds to recommend the Russian authorities to continue their primacy in the co-chairmanship of the Minsk Group on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict with the application of the updated Madrid principles agreed with the parties to the conflict in 2016 during the summits in Vienna and St. Petersburg.<sup>10</sup> Russia, as a co-chair of the Minsk Group, has every reason for the initiative proposal of the United States and France to assess the genocidal aggression of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic - in violation of the agreed principles of the non-use of force or the threat of force.<sup>11</sup>

This internationally legitimate position of Russia can become the basis for the withdrawal of the Azerbaijani aggressor's troops beyond the borders of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, followed by a referendum among the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to determine the status of its subjectivity. The implementation of such an internationally legitimate approach towards the initiator of the military aggression will strengthen the leading role of Russia also in relation to the de-escalation at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. This approach will provide an opportunity to stop the escalation stemming from the process of delimitation and demarcation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani borders. It is expedient for Russia to stop this unprecedented in international practice forced delimitation and demarcation imposed by the aggressors against the international legal norms on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.<sup>12</sup>

At the same time, an important role can be played by the coincidence of interests of the Russian Federation and the United States in using the unique resource of the consensual approach by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs to advance the American-Russian dialogue on strategic stability.<sup>13</sup>

The leadership of the Russian Federation in settling the consequences of the aggression in Karabakh also presupposes the continuation of our cooperation with the Russian security think tanks on the innovation of the architecture of the Armenian-Russian relations according to the "Armenia-Russian Israel" model.

Among the recognized studies on ensuring mutual security, it is advisable to consider our projects on adjusting the model of the Israeli defense system to the interests of the Armenian-Russian strategic alliance. We are talking about the demand for an innovative revision, taking into account the new security realities of the "Nation-Army" - "AZG-BANAK" project, as well as the project of adapting the US state system for managing cyberspace resources to the interests of modernizing the total power of Armenia with the participation of the World Armenians.<sup>14</sup> We should note that the project "Nationwide Army" - before its renaming into "AZG-BANAK" - was conceived and mostly developed under the leadership of the Minister of Defense Colonel-General Ohanyan.<sup>15</sup>

Regarding the forthcoming formation of the new government of Armenia following the early parliamentary elections, the task of the meritocratic selection of highly qualified specialists for the implementation of the "Armenia-Russian Israel" interstate project is highlighted. Obviously, given the reality of the threat of losing the Armenian national statehood, this choice must be

infallible. I propose considering Seyran Ohanyan as a model for the selection of such leaders with updated knowledge. We know him as a statesman from the 8 years of leadership of the defense system. Observers from the international security community, including from Russia and the United States, have also confirmed the highest level of combat capability of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia within past strategic defense review processes. This standard for a senior executive in the selection of personnel for the new authorities is especially important from the point of view of possessing modern standards of Smart Power. Precisely such professionals in international practice are assessed as Role Model : a general – academic policy maker in the field of leading the modernization of defense systems with the goal of setting them up for new generation wars.

In conclusion, we can confidently note the usefulness in the implementation of the “Armenian-Russian Israel” model of the studies pursued by the Institute for National Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Defense of Armenia, as a result of our state academic and expert missions to Israel in 2011-2017.

This is about the innovation of a new methodology for revising the National Security Strategy of Armenia which should be adapted to the challenges of the new generation wars and to the scale of the security interests of the Armenians Worldwide, as well as:

- the Israeli model of parliamentary power architecture instead of the German model currently operating in the Republic of Armenia;
- the Israeli model Inner or Military-Political Cabinet<sup>16</sup> (Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs) which, on the basis of the strategic consulting of the Institute for National Strategic Studies of the RA Ministry of Defense, would draft and make government decisions in the field of military policy, as well as on national and international security.

As you can see, the “Armenia-Russian Israel” project under the current realities is a way of systemic implementation of the conclusion of the keynote address to the Lazarev Club, namely: “Russia and Armenia should be strong in order to overcome external and internal challenges to their sustainable development”.<sup>17</sup> Thus, our motto in the context of the above assessed realities should be the following one: - Let’s go onward to the innovative renewal of the architecture of the strategic union of Russia and Armenia following the landmarks of the “Armenia-Russian Israel” model.

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<sup>1</sup> Zatulin: Armenia should become Russian Israel in the Caucasus. News.am. 24.12.2020  
<https://news.am/rus/news/620736.html>

Zatulin: Since April 2016, the most modern types of weapons have been supplied to Armenia. Radio Azatutyun, March 26, 2018.  
<https://rus.azatutyun.am/a/29125034.html>

<sup>2</sup> H. Kotanjian, A. Atanesyan. Armenia's mission is Russian Israel in the Caucasus.  
<https://lazarevsky.club/analitika/missiya-armenii-rossiyskiy-izrail-na/>

<sup>3</sup> Yuri Barsegov. GENOCIDE OF ARMENIANS - CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY (on the legality of the term and legal qualifications). "Bulletin of social sciences", 1985, No. 9 (513).

<sup>4</sup> Hayk Kotanjian. Lessons from the revival of the Armenian and Jewish statehood. REGNUM, 23 December 2018- <https://regnum.ru/news/polit/2543028.html>

On the lessons of national disasters: on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire. Report at parliamentary hearings at the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, December 8, 2014. - <https://armenpress.am/rus/news/786902/azgayin-exernneri-daseri-masin-hayk-qotanjiani-zekuycy.html>

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<sup>5</sup> Azerbaijani witnesses speak. Yer.: Yerevan. Center for Public Relations and Information, 2018.— 136p.

<https://karabakhrecords.info/pdf/book-sumgait.pdf>

[https://karabakhrecords.info/sumgait\\_prigovor.html](https://karabakhrecords.info/sumgait_prigovor.html)

<sup>6</sup> Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Security between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia (Moscow, December 29, 1991)

<https://base.garant.ru/1119001/>

Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia on joint planning of the use of troops (forces) in the interests of ensuring joint security (entered into force on January 28, 2002).

<https://docs.cntd.ru/document/901815992>

<sup>7</sup> Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia on a Russian military base on the territory of the Republic of Armenia (as amended on August 20, 2010).

<https://docs.cntd.ru/document/901933348>

<sup>8</sup> Transcaucasia can become a new springboard for hundreds of terrorists. Head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Sergei Naryshkin. Moscow, Vesti, October 6, 2020

<https://www.1lurer.am/ru/2020/10/06/Закавказье-может-стать-новым-плацдармом-для-сотен-террористов-Сергей-Нарышкин/328632>

Macron announced the presence of militants of jihadist groups in Karabakh. Berlin, DW, October 1, 2020

<https://www.dw.com/ru/makron-zajavil-o-prisutstvii-dzhihadistov-v-karabahe/a-55125244>

<sup>9</sup> General Hayk Kotanjian: Russian peacekeepers are in demand to end Turkish terrorism-genocide in Karabakh. Lazarevsky club. Moscow, October 23, 2021.

<https://lazarevsky.club/analitika/general-gayk-kotandzhyan-mirotvorcy-ro/>

<sup>10</sup> Edward Nalbandian: Nagorno-Karabakh: X-ray of the Conflict. Union of Armenians of Russia, Moscow, April 19, 2021.

<https://sarinfo.org/news/novosti-sar/edvard-nalbandyan-nagornyy-karabah-rentgen-konflikta.html>

<sup>11</sup> Transcaucasia can become a new springboard for hundreds of terrorists. Head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Sergei Naryshkin. Moscow, Vesti, October 6, 2020

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<https://www.dw.com/ru/makron-zajavil-o-prisutstvii-dzhihadistov-v-karabahe/a-55125244>

Azerbaijani and Turkish aggression against Armenia, European Parliament, 14 of October 2020

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-005599\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-005599_EN.html)

<sup>12</sup> Delimitation and demarcation of state borders in the OSCE region. Vienna, OSCE Secretariat, 19 December 2017.

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<https://www.osce.org/ru/secretariat/363471>

<sup>13</sup> Military conflict expert: tasks of the MG co-chairs in Karabakh (international reputation of MG co-chairmanship as a resource for promoting strategic dialogue between the Russian Federation and the USA). Moscow, Lazarevsky club, February 17, 2021

<https://lazarevsky.club/analitika/voenny-konfliktolog-zadachi-sopreds/>

<sup>14</sup> Hayk Kotanjian: Importance of involving authoritative Armenians of the Diaspora in the process of creating a cyber-resource management system in Armenia. Report at the meeting of the VI All-Armenian Forum "Armenia-Diaspora" on the topic "Peculiarities of RA Defense Policy in the Context of Modern Challenges". Yerevan, September 19, 2017.

<https://armenpress.am/rus/news/905754/importance-of-engaging-renowned-diaspora-armenians-in-establishment-of-cyber-resources-0D0Amanagement-system.html>

<sup>15</sup> We do our best to become a nationwide army - Seyran Ohanyan. Statement on the Day of the Armenian Army. Yerevan, January 28, 2016.

<https://www.tert.am/ru/news/2016/01/28/seyan-ohanyan/1913834>

<sup>16</sup> Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs (NSAC- National Security Affairs Committee).

[https://www.gov.il/he/departments/prime\\_ministers\\_office](https://www.gov.il/he/departments/prime_ministers_office)

<sup>17</sup> Address to the Russian and Armenian public, 2018.

[https://lazarevsky.club/img/2020/07/obrashcheniye\\_k\\_rossiyskoy\\_i\\_armyanskoy\\_obshchestvennosti.pdf](https://lazarevsky.club/img/2020/07/obrashcheniye_k_rossiyskoy_i_armyanskoy_obshchestvennosti.pdf)