

Information Circular

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Communication dated 20 August 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia

1. The Secretariat has received a Note Verbale dated 20 August 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the Agency.
2. At the request of the Permanent Mission, the Note Verbale is circulated herewith for the information of all Member States.



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

M/050

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 with reference to the communication of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the IAEA No. 0332/16/20 of 6 August 2020 has the honour to inform the Agency of the following.

It is regrettable that so far Azerbaijan has not renounced in an explicit and acceptable manner the threat to launch a missile attack at the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant. On the contrary, it tries to downplay the seriousness of this incident with unacceptable and in some cases inconceivable explanations and clarifications.

In its communications to the IAEA, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan in fact justifies the threat of nuclear terrorism against the ANPP by referring to the context of hostilities. The following notion repeatedly appeared in its communications:

“The remarks from the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan should be viewed in its proper context of the armed attack...”

This suggests that in the context of hostilities the Armenian NPP could be considered as a legitimate military target by Azerbaijan, thus displaying the real intentions of this country.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan tries to portray its deplorable actions as a response to imaginable threats coming from Armenia. Therefore, it is worth to underscore that no official of the Republic of Armenia never made any statement threatening Azerbaijani civilian objects.

As to the claims regarding the safety of the Armenian NPP, the Permanent Mission rejects all allegations as false and fabricated thus not meriting any clarification or explanation. Armenia's record of cooperation with the IAEA has been verified and confirmed by dozens of international expert review missions.

It is regrettable that Azerbaijan continues to question the credibility of the IAEA and intentionally tries to devalue its experience and professionalism in ensuring the peaceful use of atomic energy. It is further regrettable that whereas the right of peaceful use of nuclear energy is one of the cornerstones of the NPT regime and the IAEA's critical work, a state party to the Treaty and member State of the Agency opt for manipulating this essential principle for the sake of its narrow political agenda.

The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

In its recent communication, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan refers to the Spitak earthquake of 1988, which had a devastating effect for Armenia and the Armenian people. However, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan intentionally overlooks the fact that regardless of its high magnitude and devastating character, the Spitak earthquake did not have any impact on the structures, systems and components of the ANPP, which was verified by relevant international review missions. This very fact speaks for itself with regard to the safety of the Armenian NPP and its capacity to resist possible seismic events in the region.

Armenia has serious concerns that Azerbaijan's persistent attempts to produce unfounded accusations regarding the safety of the Armenian NPP are derived from a clear intention to prepare sufficient justification in the event of its possible strike at the Armenian NPP, with a view to present it as an accident related to the safety of the plant.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia will continue to alert the IAEA and its member states regarding this issue and expects the IAEA's and member states' appropriate reaction in order to prevent attempts to undermine the nuclear security regime in our region and devalue the right of peaceful use of nuclear energy. We reiterate our call to the IAEA and international community to give appropriate assessment to the threat by Azerbaijan to strike Armenian NPP.

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 and publishing it as an INFCIRC document.

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.*



Vienna, 20 August 2020