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**AMBASSADOR: FRANCE SUPPORTS REGULAR NEGOTIATIONS ON KARABAKH CONFLICT SETTLEMENT**

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France supports the regular negotiations on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, said Ambassador of France to Armenia Jean-Francois Charpentier, APA reports.

We support more frequent regular dialogue to be held between the high-ranking officials of the two countries. From this perspective we can only express satisfaction that the meeting between the foreign ministers of the two states was held. I have repeatedly stated that this conflict has no military solution and it must be settled through negotiations, the ambassador said.

According to him, such meetings are directed for further positive developments and they must not be limited only to talks between the two foreign ministers, its necessary to organize also meetings of heads of the two countries.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict entered its modern phase when the Armenian SRR made territorial claims against the Azerbaijani SSR in 1988.

A fierce war broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. As a result of the war, Armenian armed forces occupied some 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which includes Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts (Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan), and over a million Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced people.

The military operations finally came to an end when Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in Bishkek in 1994.

Dealing with the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the OSCE Minsk Group, which was created after the meeting of the CSCE (OSCE after the Budapest summit held in Dec.1994) Ministerial Council in Helsinki on 24 March 1992. The Groups members include Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Belarus, Finland and Sweden.

Besides, the OSCE Minsk Group has a co-chairmanship institution, comprised of Russian, the US and French co-chairs, which began operating in 1996.

Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of the UN Security Council, which were passed in short intervals in 1993, and other resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, PACE, OSCE, OIC, and other organizations require Armenia to unconditionally withdraw its troops from Nagorno-Karabakh.

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Kaynak/Source: