
RUSSIA INSISTS ON ROLE IN ARMENIAN TRANSIT LINK FOR AZERBAIJAN

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Russia must be involved in the planned opening of a U.S.-run transit corridor that would connect Azerbaijan to its Nakhichevan exclave through Armenia, a senior Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian pledged to give the United States exclusive rights to the corridor during his trilateral talks with U.S. President Donald Trump and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev held in Washington in August.

Although the deal is seen by analysts as another blow to Russian presence in Armenia, Russias public reaction to it was rather cautious. Moscow said only that the transit arrangement must not be at odds with Armenias membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), a Russian-led trade bloc, and the presence of Russian border guards along the Armenian-Iranian border. The transit corridor to be named after Trump would be adjacent to that border.

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