

order, insofar as this will lead to the total isolation of Europe, Russia, and China from the regions of the Middle East and Western Asia, thereby isolating them from the corresponding energy and raw materials markets. The consequences of this criminal policy are very serious in Armenia.

Since November 1992, industrial production has almost completely stopped, so that power could be used for residential buildings and basic services. But not even this extreme measure could provide for uninterrupted electricity supplies. For most of each day, there is no electricity because of the chronic shortage of fuel.

Fuel shortages led to the complete shutdown of transport. Even ambulances and police cars often cannot get to the scene of an accident. Since there is no fuel for the garbage trucks, there is a pile-up of garbage in the cities, which threatens to breed epidemics.

The blockade is also causing serious difficulties with the food supply to the population. Because of an acute shortage of flour, bread ration cards, at the level of 250 grams [slightly over half a pound] of bread for each person, were introduced as early as the fall of 1992. Considering the chronic shortage

of other foodstuffs, this quantity is clearly inadequate.

These problems all became acutely worse on Jan. 23, when the only natural gas pipeline supplying Armenia was blown up by sabotage. Consequently all thermal electric power stations halted production.

The electric power generated by hydroelectric power stations suffices only for the needs of the army, which is in combat against the Azerbaijani aggressor, and for a few official buildings. Due to the lack of electricity, the telephone system is practically shut down.

It has become extremely cold in residential buildings, since in the absence of heating fuel, electricity was the only source of residential heat. In order not to freeze to death, the population of Yerevan and other cities has had to cut down the trees on the streets, city parks, and squares for firewood. People are using anything that will burn for fuel. The complete lack of gas and electricity has made it extremely problematic to bake bread. Even hospitals and clinics cannot function normally.

So far, the Armenian people have found the strength within themselves to defend the country and to bear the monstrous hardships of the blockade.

Declaration in support of Armenia and Karabakh

The statement which follows was issued by the International Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity from its headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany:

Feb. 20, 1993 marks the fifth anniversary of the decision by the Armenian regional council of Nagorno-Karabakh to declare the independence of Karabakh from Azerbaijan, and its entry into the structure of the Republic of Armenia. The decision was taken as the only possible response by an Armenian population that had become the victim of Azerbaijan's policy of "creeping ethnic cleansing." Azerbaijan's policy goal, analogous to that of Serbia against Albanian-inhabited Kosova, was and remains the forcible expulsion of the Armenian population, and the resettlement of Azeris in their vacated towns and villages. Karabakh itself had always been, both under Czarism and in the first years of Bolshevik rule, an integral part of Armenia. Its detachment was an arbitrary decree by Lenin and Stalin in 1921.

The Azerbaijan war of aggression and total economic blockade against Armenia and Karabakh has been conducted with the full support of the western powers, notably the United States and Britain, directing NATO ally Tur-

key as the overt military backer of Azerbaijan. Immense human suffering, thousands killed on both sides, and hundreds of thousands of refugees on both sides, have been the toll of the war, designed to establish an ethnically "pure" "Greater Azerbaijan," a NATO-Turkish satrap in the Transcaucasus. . . .

With the same urgency with which we have called for decisive international action to stop the genocide in the Balkans, the International Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity demands now, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the date on which Armenia said "No" to Nazi "ethnic cleansing," that the people, leaders, and governments of the western world arise to take drastic actions to stop the ongoing genocide winter in Armenia and Karabakh, and end the war on the basis of the *status quo ante* before Azerbaijan began its war of aggression. In the Balkans, if Serbian aggression is not stopped, then a future Balkan-wide war is inevitable, creating the conditions for a world war. The same terrible threat is endemic in the Armenia-Azerbaijan war. The Anglo-American leadership sees this war as "only" the opening to a series of wars on the territory of the former Soviet Union, wars intended to promote their geopolitical goal of convulsing all of Eurasia in continual destabilization, chaos, and slaughter.

The International Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity demands an international mobilization to stop the genocide in Bosnia and in Armenia, to finally, once and for all, overturn the geopolitical axioms that have caused these wars, before it is too late for all of us.