

## **CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (1988-2003)**

### **1988**

#### **February 13**

The first demonstration took place in Stepanakert, the center of the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), demanding the re-unification of NKAO with the Armenian SSR.

#### **February 20**

The extraordinary session of the NKAO Soviet of People's Deputies passed the resolution "On Petitioning the Supreme Soviets of the Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR for NKAO's Transmission from the Azerbaijan SSR Structure to the one of the Armenian SSR."

#### **February 23**

The Bureau of the Nagorno Karabakh District Committee of the Communist Party elected Henrikh Poghosian the First Secretary of the Party District Committee, releasing Boris Kevorkov from this position.

#### **February 26**

One million people rallied in Yerevan in support of NKAO's re-unification with the Armenian SSR.

#### **February 27-29**

Mass pogroms and killings of Armenian citizens in the Azerbaijani town of Sumgait took place.

#### **March 1**

With the aim of leading the national-liberation movement of Karabakh Armenians, a public-political organization "Krunk" was founded in the NKAO capital, headed Arkady Manucharov.

#### **March 17**

The plenary session of the Nagorno Karabakh District Committee of the Communist Party approved the resolution from the session of the NKAO Council of People's Deputies on NKAO's secession to the Armenian SSR.

#### **March 24**

The Central Committee of the USSR Communist Party and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted the resolution "On the Measures on Intensification of the Social-Economic Development of the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijani SSR in 1988-1995." This resolution ignored the constitutional demand of the Karabakh Armenians, transforming a political problem into an economic issue.

#### **June 1**

The Nagorno Karabakh District Television Station was established.

#### **June 15**

The Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR gave its consent for NKAO's inclusion into the

Armenian SSR, on the basis of Article 70 of the USSR Constitution.

### **July 18**

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet discusses the Nagorno Karabakh problem. First Secretary of the Nagorno Karabakh District Committee of the Communist Party, Henrikh Poghosian, emphasizes the impossibility of NKAO's remaining within the Azerbaijani SSR. USSR Central Television broadcast the sessions.

### **July 27**

First Secretaries of the Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR Communist Parties' Central Committees, A.Vezirov and S.Haroutiunian, visit NKAO by invitation from Moscow's representative in Stepanakert, A.Volsky.

### **September 21**

Moscow announces the introduction of martial law in NKAO.

### **December 24**

Famous human rights advocate, Academician Andrey Sakharov, visits Stepanakert.

## **1989**

### **January 12**

Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet established the NKAO Special Administration Committee (SAC), headed by A. Volsky. Thus, NKAO was removed from the administrative submission of Azerbaijan. Simultaneously, the activities of the District Committee of the Communist Party and the District Soviet of People's Deputies were suspended, with the subordination of personnel to the Special Administration Committee.

### **March 25**

During the elections of the USSR People's Deputies, Henrikh Poghosian, Zory Balayan, Boris Dadamian, Vachagan Grigorian, Vahan Gabriyelian, Arkady Volsky and Vagif Jafarov are elected USSR People's Deputies from NKAO.

### **August 16**

Congress of the plenipotentiaries of Nagorno Karabakh takes place, during which the NKAO National Soviet was created under the guidance of Vachagan Grigorian.

### **August**

Azerbaijan starts the economic blockade of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

### **October 1**

After more than 60-years of church services resume at St. Hovhannes the Christener Church of the Gandzasar Cloister (XIII century) in NKAO. Bishop Pargev Martirosian, the leader of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, conducts it.

### **November 28**

Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet dissolves the NKAO Special Administration Committee and establishes the Republican Organizational Committee of NKAO, appointing Second Secretary of the Azerbaijani Communist Party, V.Polyanichko as its head. With this

act, Moscow attempts to return NKAO to Azerbaijan. However, the Karabakh Armenians rejected this resolution.

### **December 1**

The joint session of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR and the National Soviet of NKAO unanimously adopt a resolution on re-unification of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

## **1990**

### **January 13-20**

Armenian pogroms begin in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. */Link to: TRAGIC EVENTS/*

### **January 15**

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet introduces a state of emergency in Nagorno Karabakh and some regions of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

## **1991**

### **January 14**

The Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR passes a resolution unifying the Armenian-populated Shahoumian region with the Kasum-Ismailov region of Azerbaijan, creating the new, Geranboy region.

### **January – June**

Azerbaijan, supported by the USSR Internal Forces, carries out deportations of Armenians in twenty-four Karabakh villages. These deportations become known as the “Koltso /Ring/ Operation.”

### **July 16**

The delegation of the First International Congress in headed by Vice-Speaker of the House of Lords of the British Parliament, Baroness Caroline Cox, visits NKAO. Baroness Cox, who later visits Karabakh more than fifty times, continues to actively support the right of the Karabakh Armenians for self-determination.

### **August 30**

The Azerbaijan Parliament passes a declaration on the restoration of Azerbaijan’s national independence of 1918-1920.

### **September 2**

The joint session of the Nagorno Karabakh District and Shahoumian Region Soviets of People’s Deputies, with the participation of Deputies of Soviets of all levels, adopts the Declaration on Proclamation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR). Leonard Petrossian is elected Chairman of the NKR Executive Committee.

### **September 22**

Russian and Kazakhstani Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev visit Stepanakert with a peacemaking mission.

**September 23**

With guidance from the mediation mission of the Presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan, a meeting of the leaders of Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia is held in Zheleznovodsk. A joint Communiqué is adopted.

**September 25**

Stepanakert is for the first time bombarded with artillery from nearby Azerbaijani areas. Such incursions later become regular and are viewed as a declaration of war by Azerbaijan.

**November 26**

The Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan Republic passed a resolution abolishing the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

**December 10**

A referendum on the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic takes place. As a result, 99.89% of those who vote do so for NKR independence.

**December 28**

Elections to the first parliament - the NKR Supreme Soviet – are held. The newly established parliament consists of seventy-five elected representatives.

**December 30**

The leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member states address Azerbaijan and Armenia with an appeal for the resumption of negotiations on the Karabakh conflict.

**1992****January 6**

The NKR Supreme Council adopts a declaration on the national independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

**January 8**

Arthur Mkrtchian is elected the first Chairman of the NKR Supreme Council. Oleg Yessayan is appointed Chairman of the NKR Council of Ministers.

**January 26**

The first serious defeat of the regular Azerbaijani Army happens near the Armenian village of Karin-Tak in the Shoushi region. This victory becomes a moral booster for further successful military operations by the Karabakh volunteer troops against the enemy.

**January 30-31**

The Prague meeting of the CSCE Council of Foreign Ministers is held. Due to the admission of Azerbaijan and Armenia to the CSCE, it is decided to send a representative from the organization to the region.

**February 19**

The Presidium of the NKR Supreme Council issues an address to the UN Secretary General

and permanent member-states of the UN Security Council, condemning the military aggression of Azerbaijan against NKR, and the use of “BM-21/Grad” missile-artillery attacks on Stepanakert and other areas of NKR.

### **February 28**

The 7<sup>th</sup> session of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) is organized. The session participants addressed the leaderships of Russia and Kazakhstan with a request to continue efforts towards achieving a cease-fire and promoting the negotiation process. The CSCE appeals to Azerbaijan to lift the blockade on Nagorno Karabakh.

### **March 13**

A resolution calling for a special meeting of the CSCE Council on Nagorno Karabakh is passed at the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials.

### **March 16**

The Trilateral Teheran Communiqué (Iran, Armenia, and Azerbaijan), envisaging a one-week cease-fire in the conflict zone, is adopted.

### **March 20**

The CIS Summit in Kiev is held. An agreement on the creation of monitoring groups and collective peacekeeping forces in the CIS is agreed upon. The situation in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone is discussed.

### **March 20**

Former Secretary of State, Cyrus Wens, and CSCE Executive Commissioner, Janosh Kubich of Hungary visit Stepanakert.

### **March 21**

French Minister on Social and Humanitarian Assistance, Bernard Koushchner, visits Stepanakert with the aim of opening a humanitarian corridor to NKR.

### **March 24**

A resolution at The Helsinki meeting of the CSCE Council calls for a special conference on the issue of Nagorno Karabakh in which the “the elected and other representatives of Nagorno Karabakh” were expected to attend.

### **March 26**

NKR Council of Ministers establishes a Self-Defense Committee under the NKR Government.

### **March 31**

Representatives of the Russian MFA visit Stepanakert.

### **April 1**

A meeting of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, and the NKR leadership is scheduled in Stepanakert.

### **April 1**

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister visits Stepanakert.

**April 3**

Presidium of the NKR Supreme Soviet endorses the staff of the NKR Defense Council headed by Chairman of the Supreme Council, Arthur Mkrtchian.

**April 7**

Mario Rafaelli of Italy is appointed Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno Karabakh.

**April 10**

RF Foreign Minister, A.Kozyrev, visits NKR.

**April 13**

The CSCE Mission headed by the Personal Representative of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office visit the conflict zone.

**April 14**

NKR Supreme Soviet Chairman tragically and unexpectedly dies. Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Georgy Petrossian is appointed as acting Chairman of the Supreme Council.

**April 14**

Russian Foreign Minister sends a letter to the UN Secretary General on scenarios for the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

**April 20**

The NKR Representation Office is established in the Republic of Armenia.

**May 1**

A resolution on the procedural principles adopted at the Minsk Conference and the establishment of a mission for monitoring a cease-fire was adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the CSCE Committee.

**May 5**

Russia declares the creation of a Mediation Mission on the Karabakh settlement and expresses a willingness to promote the negotiation process under its aegis.

**May 8**

A meeting of the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan is held in Teheran under the mediation of Iran. A joint Communiqué is reached.

**May 9**

The NKR Self-Defense Forces liberate the town of Shoushi. Commander of the NKR Self-Defense Forces, Arkady Ter-Tadevosian, leads the military operation.

**May 18**

The NKR Self-Defense Forces conducts a successful operation opening a humanitarian corridor through Lachin, finally connecting NKR with the outside.

**May 18-19**

The 11<sup>th</sup> session of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials is held. A resolution on conducting a preparatory meeting of the member-states of the Minsk Conference on Nagorno

Karabakh under the CSCE auspices is passed.

**June 1-6**

The preparatory meeting of the member-states of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno Karabakh is held in Rome. Later, these states form the CSCE Minsk Group.

**June 2-4**

The NKR Supreme Soviet session adopts a resolution approving the NKR State Flag. The NKR Supreme Soviet confirms the appointment of Georgy Petrossian as the Acting Chairman of the NKR Supreme Council.

**June 12**

The Azerbaijani forces begin large-scale offensives resulting in occupation of the Shahoumian region, the northern part of the Martakert region, and the eastern part of the Askeran region.

**July 21-27**

The Russian Mediation Mission visits Baku, Nakhichevan, Stepanakert, and Yerevan.

**July 26**

RF MFA Special Envoy, V.Kazimirov, visits Stepanakert and presents an “Approximate Schedule of Measures on Suspending the Military Activities,” to the NKR leadership.

**July 31-August 5**

The official delegation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic participates in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of CSCE Minsk Group meetings for the first time.

**August 11**

The U.S. Congress passes a resolution condemning Azerbaijani aggression against Nagorno Karabakh and prohibiting the U.S. Administration from providing governmental assistance to Azerbaijan until the blockade on Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh is lifted.

**August 14-15**

Chairman of the NKR Council of Ministers Oleg Yessayan resigns. Presidium of the NKR Supreme Council creates the NKR State Defense Committee headed by Robert Kocharian.

**August 24-26**

CSCE Minsk Group Chairman Rafaelli travels to Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert.

**September 15**

Confidential meetings of the official representatives to Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh are held in Moscow.

**September 19**

The Sochi Agreement is signed by the defense authorities of Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, calling for the cessation of all military activities for two-months.

**September 25**

A military-technical protocol on the implementation of the Sochi Agreement is signed in Moscow.

**October 13**

The Nagorno Karabakh (now Artsakh) State University is established, with support from the former Stepanakert State Pedagogical Institute, local branches of the Armenian State Polytechnics University, and the Vanadzor Pedagogical Institute (Armenia).

**December 4-15**

Acting Chairman of the NKR Supreme Soviet, Georgy Petrossian, visits the USA on an invitation from the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). Petrossian holds meetings with representatives of the U.S. State Department, Senate, and media, as well as with the local Armenian community.

**December 11-14**

A session of the CSCE Minsk Group member-states occurs in Stockholm. A document on the cessation of the military operations was submitted to the conflicting parties for consideration. The Azerbaijani party, supported by one of the CSCE Minsk Group members, Turkey, rejects the proposal.

**1993****January 5-8**

A meeting between the personal representatives of the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, the United States, Turkey, and the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group, is set up in Moscow in the diplomatic “5+1” format. Participants of the meeting approve a “calendar settlement”. The NKR leadership rejects Turkey’s mediation in light of this country’s provision of military and economic assistance to Azerbaijan.

**January 18-24**

CSCE Minsk Conference Chairman Rafaelli visits Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert.

**January 26**

The NKR Supreme Soviet adopts a resolution on NKR joining the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977.

**January 28**

The European Parliament passes a resolution declaring the blockade of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh by Azerbaijan as a brutal violation of human rights.

**February 5**

The NKR Representation Office opens in Moscow.

**February 22 – March 1**

The CSCE Minsk Group meets in Rome. A draft mandate of the leading group of observers is approved.

**March 17-April 6**

A meeting in the “5+1” format is held in Geneva. Azerbaijan unilaterally refuses to take part in negotiations in this format.

**April 8**

The President of the Russian Federation introduces a new initiative on settling the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in his messages to the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

**April 9-16**

Confidential consultations with representatives from Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia occur in Moscow.

**April 29-30**

The personal representative of the Russian Federation's President and special representatives from the USA and Turkey meet in Moscow. On the basis of the RF President's initiative of April 8, 1993 the "Urgent Measures Schedule" calling for the cessation of military operations for sixty days is proposed.

**April 30**

The UN Security Council passes Resolution 822, calls for the immediate cessation of all military and hostile activities, provision of access to the region for all international organizations, resumption of negotiations, and deployment of CSCE peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone.

**May 13-14**

Consultations between Russian mediators and representative leaders from Armenia and NKR, David Shakhnazarian and Arkady Ghoukassian, begin in Moscow.

**June 3-4**

The "Urgent Measures Schedule," on the implementation of the UN SC Resolution 822 is approved and proposed to the conflicting parties.

**June 14**

Acting Chairman of the NKR Supreme Council, Georgy Petrossian, resigns. Presidium of the NKR Supreme Council appoints Karen Baburian as acting Chairman of the NKR Parliament.

**June 17**

An agreement on bilateral cessation of artillery bombardments of Agdam and Stepanakert is achieved between NKR and Azerbaijan with the help of Russia's mediation.

**June 27**

An agreement on a one-week cessation of offensive military operations, missile, and artillery bombardments in the Martakert and Agdam regions is achieved between NKR and Azerbaijan, again with the help of Russia.

**June 28 – July 4**

The Russian Mediation Mission visits Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert. Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev addresses the clashing parties with a proposal to prolong the terms of the June 27 agreement, and to extend the suspension of military activities over other zones of armed conflict.

**July 1**

CSCE Minsk Conference Chairman Rafaelli visits the region proposing the schedule approved at the CSCE Minsk Group meeting in Rome on 3-4 June 1993 to the conflicting parties.

**July 14-19**

The NKR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the Parliament, Georgy Petrossian, visits Sofia and participates in sessions of the Assembly and General Council of Parliamentarians of the Transnational Radical Party.

**July 23**

The NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs is established. Advisor to the Chairman of the NKR State Defense Committee on foreign relations, Arkady Ghoukassian, is appointed NKR Foreign Minister.

**July 24**

An agreement on the termination of offensive operations and bombardments for a three-day term, beginning on 25 July 1993, is achieved under Russian mediation.

**July 28**

A meeting of governmental delegations from NKR and Azerbaijan occurs on the front line in the Martakert region. An agreement on the prolongation of the cease-fire for an additional seven days more is reached.

**July 29**

The UN SC passes Resolution 853 on Nagorno Karabakh.

**August 10-12**

The "Urgent Measures Schedule on the Implementation of the UN SC Resolutions 822 and 853" are discussed in a meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group in Rome.

**August 20**

A meeting of Russia's Foreign Minister Kozyrev with NKR State Defense Committee Chairman, Robert Kocharian, is held in Moscow.

**August 25**

NKR Representatives for France, the European Union, and the Council of Europe are appointed.

**August 31**

A new 10-day cease-fire agreement is realized through Russia's mediation.

**September 9**

The Russian President sends messages to the leaders of Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, proposing an agreement on comprehensive termination of military activities.

**September 9-11**

A meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group takes place in Moscow with the aim of revising the "Urgent Measures Schedule." The CSCE Minsk Group recognizes Nagorno Karabakh as an independent party to the conflict.

**September 12-13**

Negotiations in Moscow between the Deputy Parliament Chairman Jalilov and NKR Foreign Minister Ghoukassian lead to the adoption of a joint Communiqué. An agreement on the

prolongation of the cease-fire term until October 5 and on a meeting of the top officials of Azerbaijan and NKR is achieved.

### **September 22-28**

Negotiations between Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, under the aegis of the CSCE Minsk Group, convene in Paris. The “Urgent Measures Schedule” on the implementation of the UN SC Resolutions 822 and 853 is talked about.

### **September 23**

NKR State Defense Committee Chairman Robert Kocharian sends a message to the President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin.

### **September 25**

A meeting of leaders from Azerbaijan and NKR is held in Moscow. RF Foreign Minister A.Kozyrev also meets with H.Aliyev, R.Kocharian and the President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosian.

### **September 25**

A meeting of the Deputy Heads of Governments of NKR and Azerbaijan occurs on the front-line of the armed forces of both republics in the Aghdam region.

### **October 6**

An agreement on the prolongation of the cease-fire regime until November 5 is achieved under Russian guidance.

### **October 6-15**

The personal representative to the CSCE Chairman-in-Office visits Stepanakert.

### **October 13-23**

NKR State Defense Committee Chairman, Robert Kocharian, visits France and Belgium. Kocharian makes a speech at the International Diplomatic Academy in Paris. He also holds meetings at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, and with representatives of the Armenian communities of these countries.

### **October 14**

The UN SC passes Resolution 874, urging the implementation of the “Urgent Measures Schedule” by the conflicting parties and finally confirming Nagorno Karabakh’s status as a conflicting party.

### **November 2-8**

The final version of the “Urgent Measures Schedule” is presented to the conflicting parties at a meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group in Vienna.

### **November 9**

Telephone negotiations between RF MFA head Kozyrev, Aliyev, Ter-Petrosian, and Kocharian takes place. An agreement is reached that the Russian Mediation Mission should visit the region.

### **November 11**

The UN SC passes its fourth resolution, 884, on Nagorno Karabakh.

**November 17-18**

A meeting between Vazgen I, the Catholicos of All Armenians, and Allahshukur Pashazadeh, the Head of the Ecclesiastic Administration of the Caucasus Muslims, convenes in Moscow with the assistance of the Russian Orthodox Church.

**December 1**

The Azerbaijani delegation rejects the final version of the “Urgent Measures Schedule” approved by the CSCE Minsk Group and leaves the conference hall in protest.

**December 21-22**

A seminar in which the parliamentary delegations of Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia takes place on the Aland Islands in Finland. The meeting is organized by the initiative of the Russian MFA, CIS Inter-parliamentary Assembly, and Aland Institute of Peace.

**December 16**

Azerbaijan violates the cease-fire terms and launches a large-scale offensive against NKR along the entire front line.

**1994****January 20**

The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs calls a meeting of RF Foreign Minister with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. The Russians' present documents on conflict settlement.

**January 27**

Russia proposes a three-week cease-fire beginning on February 1, 1994.

**January 28-31**

The Russian Mediation Mission visits Yerevan, Stepanakert, and Baku.

**February 4**

The newly appointed Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference, Swedish diplomat Jan Eliasson, takes part in a CSCE Minsk Group meeting.

**February 18**

Negotiations between the Defense Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the representative from the Nagorno Karabakh Defense Army, are organized in Moscow through Russian Defense Ministry arbitration. A military-technical protocol is signed.

**March 6-8**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense of the Russian Federation, Kozyrev and Grachev, send messages to the leaders of the conflicting parties.

**March 19-25**

Negotiations between the expert groups of the conflicting parties on the Russian drafted political agreement are held in Moscow. The representative of the CSCE Minsk Group

Presidium participates in the meeting.

**March 29**

The NKR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopts a resolution on the cooperation between the Parliaments of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

**March 31 – April 3**

The CIS Inter-parliamentary Assembly peacemaking task force visits Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh.

**April 14-15**

Negotiations under the CSCE Minsk Group auspices begin in Prague.

**April 15**

The CIS Summit is organized and a statement regarding the Nagorno Karabakh is issued.

**May 4-5**

A meeting between the heads of Parliaments from Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia takes place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan under the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA). Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh sign the “Bishkek Protocol.” Azerbaijan later signs the protocol on May 8, 1994. The “Bishkek Protocol” becomes the basis for a cease-fire agreement in the conflict zone.

**May 8**

A meeting between the spokesmen of Parliaments of Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia is scheduled. The CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA) Chairman participates in the discussions as well.

**May 9-11**

The Russian mediation team draws up a comprehensive cease-fire agreement. The defense authorities of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh sign the document. The agreement became effective on May 12, 1994.

**May 12-15**

A joint visit by the Russian Mediation Mission head and Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference to Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert is scheduled in which an agreement on maintaining the cease-fire terms and a long-term political settlement are discussed.

**May 16-17**

A meeting of the defense authorities of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh under the mediation of the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs of Russia finalizes the “Agreement on the Order of Implementation of the February 18, 1994 Protocol”. The Azerbaijani Defense Minister postpones signing the document.

**May 19**

The CSCE Permanent Committee issues a statement supporting strengthening the cease-fire conditions.

**June 14-18**

The CSCE Minsk Conference Chairman Jan Eliasson visits the region, including Nagorno

Karabakh.

**June 28 – July 5**

The Nagorno Karabakh parliamentary delegation, headed by acting Chairman of the NKR Supreme Soviet Karen Baburian, visits Strasbourg on the invitation of the Secretary - General of the Council of Europe to participate in the CE Commission work on relations with non-member-states.

**July 4**

The NKR Supreme Council adopts a resolution establishing inter-parliamentary relations between NKR and Russia.

**July 7**

The NKR delegation participates in the CSCE Minsk Group session in Vienna and rejects the proposal on deployment of Turkish troops as a part of the international peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone.

**July 14-22**

NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arkady Ghoukassian, visits Germany. The NKR Foreign Minister holds meetings with Director of the German MFA Department on Europe, Ernest-Jorg fon Studnitz, and representatives from Armenian community of this country.

**July 20-23**

A draft agreement on the conflicting parties' confirmation of their commitments to maintain the cease-fire terms is prepared with the help of the Russian Mediation Team.

**July 22-28**

NKR Foreign Minister conducts meetings with the Director of the French MFA Department on Europe and with French representative from the CSCE Minsk Group.

**July 27**

The parties involved confirm their commitment to maintain the cease-fire agreements until a political solution to the problem is found.

**August 5-13**

Negotiations of the proposed Russian political agreement are held in Moscow between the leadership of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh. The CIS Executive Secretariat representatives the CSCE Minsk Group Presidium also participate.

**August 11**

Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh hold negotiations in Moscow and achieve an agreement on the mutual release of women and children detained by the conflicting parties.

**August 23-30**

Jan Eliasson visits the region, including Nagorno Karabakh.

**September 1-7**

The negotiations on the proposed Russian draft continue in Moscow. Representatives of the CIS Executive Secretariat, CIS Inter-parliamentary Assembly, and CSCE Minsk Group observe the negotiations.

**September 8-9**

Bilateral and multilateral meetings between the top leaders of the parties, Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia and Chairman of the NKR State Defense Committee, with the participation of the Russian Foreign Minister and head of the Russian Mediation Mission, take place in Moscow. Key issues on a political settlement are discussed at the meeting.

**September 14-16**

A Resolution on Nagorno Karabakh, envisaging the possibility of creating CSCE multinational peacekeeping forces is adopted at the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) in Prague.

**September 15**

The finalization of the agreement on the mutual release of women and children detained is completed.

**October 17**

The CSCE Mission mediates the implementation of the agreement of the mutual release of prisoners of war and hostages.

**November 11-15**

Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group visits the conflict region, including Nagorno Karabakh.

**November 11-14**

Negotiations on the Russian political agreement draft continue in Moscow between the leaderships of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh.

**November 23**

The NKR Supreme Soviet adopts the Resolution “On the NKR National Emblem”.

**December 5-6**

The Conference for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is reorganized into the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). A resolution on the consolidation of mediation efforts of Russia and the OSCE, and introduction of an institution of Co-Chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group was adopted at the summit. Russia and Sweden are appointed as Co-Chairs. The Summit participants welcomed the implementation of the May 12, 1994 cease-fire agreement by the conflicting and expressed readiness to deploy the OSCE multinational peacekeeping forces after achieving an agreement on the armed conflict settlement. A resolution on creating the High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) of the OSCE is also adopted.

**December 22**

The NKR Parliament institutes a position of Presidency of the Republic and elects Robert Kocharian, the first President of the state.

**December 23**

The NKR Supreme Council adopts the “On the NKR National Anthem” Resolution.

**January 14**

Newly elected NKR Prime Minister, Leonard Petrossian, meets with the representatives from the European Union who visit Nagorno Karabakh on a humanitarian mission.

**February 6**

By the OSCE Minsk Conference Co-Chairs initiative, an agreement is drawn up between the Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia on the mechanism of possible settlement with the aim of strengthening the cease-fire agreement.

**February 6-11**

Negotiations between Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Conference Co-Chairs, are held in Moscow.

**February 28**

The Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Conference and Minsk Group pay a visit to NKR.

**March 5-6**

A meeting of the NKR leadership with the OSCE Minsk Group U.S. representative, Joseph Pressel, occurs in Stepanakert.

**April 11**

Parliamentary hearings in the RF State Duma on the situation in Nagorno Karabakh are organized in Moscow. The NKR delegation, headed by NKR President Kocharian, participates in the hearings. NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs submits a special report.

**April 30**

Special elections of the NKR People's Deputies are held. The elections are organized by the majority system. The Parliament, headed by newly elected Chairman Karen Baburian, consists of thirty-three representatives.

**May 9**

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the victory in the World War II and the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Shoushi commence with a parade composed of the NKR Armed Forces in Revival Square in Stepanakert.

**May 25**

The OSCE Minsk Conference Co-Chairmen visits Nagorno Karabakh.

**June 15-21**

Negotiations between the conflicting parties convene in Helsinki under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairmen.

**July 14-15**

The OSCE delegation headed by the newly appointed Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Conference from Finland and Russia visit Stepanakert.

**August 28**

The NKR leadership meets in Stepanakert with special USA representative OSCE Minsk Group, Joseph Pressel.

**September 4-5**

Personal representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Deputy State Secretary of Hungary, Ambassador Andre Yerdish, make a visit to NKR.

**September 4-12**

Negotiations continue between the conflicting parties under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen.

**September 28**

NKR President Kocharian meets with the OSCE Mission.

**October 9-17**

Negotiations between the conflicting parties are held in Finland under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen.

**November 6-December 2**

Negotiations continue between the conflicting parties in both Moscow and Bonn under the continued guidance from OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen.

**1996****January 9-15**

RF Foreign Minister, Y.Primakov, receives delegations from the conflicting parties.

**January 24**

The NKR leadership meets in Stepanakert with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairman, V.Kazimirov.

**January 26 – February 3**

NKR President Kocharian and Minister of Foreign Affairs visit the United States. On February 3, President Robert Kocharian holds a press conference at the UN. Numerous meetings with the United States Senators and Congressmen, as well as with representatives from the Armenian community are scheduled.

**March 12**

NKR Parliament Chairman Karen Baburian retires. Arthur Tovmasian is elected the next Chairman of the NKR Parliament.

**March 17**

The NKR leadership meets with the Russian Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, V.Kazimirov.

**March 19**

The NKR Parliament is renamed the NKR National Assembly.

**March 24**

The telethon ranging from Stepanakert to Yerevan to Los Angeles commences with the hopes

of fund raising enough money to start construction of the Goris – Stepanakert highway. “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund organizes the telethon.

**April 9**

The NKR leadership meets in Stepanakert with the Russian Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, V.Kazimirov.

**April 27**

The NKR National Assembly passes NKR highest military rank “Hero of Artsakh” and the introduction of the “Golden Eagle” decoration into law.

**May 8-9**

Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Primakov visits Stepanakert. The release of prisoners of war and other hostages is realized within his visit.

**May 12**

NKR President Kocharian appeals to the international community to recognize the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

**May 20-29**

President Kocharian and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ghoukassian travel to Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. Meetings with Brazilian President F.Cardozo, Vice-President of Uruguay U.Bataj, and Speaker of Argentinean Senate, E.Menem, as well as representatives of the Armenian communities these Latin American countries are organized.

**June 7-10**

NKR National Assembly Chairman, Arthur Tovmasian, participates in the third Congress of the European Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Orthodox states held in Sofia.

**June 14-18**

Negotiations between the conflicting parties take place in Moscow under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen.

**September 13-15**

The U.S. and German representatives of the OSCE Minsk Group visit Stepanakert.

**October 2**

The OSCE High Level Planning Group visits Nagorno Karabakh.

**October 4**

The OSCE Minsk Group Mission travels to Nagorno Karabakh.

**October 18-30**

Negotiations between the conflicting parties are held in Helsinki and Moscow.

**November 24**

The first nation-wide elections for President of Nagorno Karabakh are held. Robert Kocharian is re-elected the NKR President.

**December 2-3**

The OSCE Summit convenes in Lisbon. Azerbaijan attempts to veto the summit's final document because it fears that it would not include the settlement proposal from the Azerbaijani government. Armenia then vetoes Azerbaijan's article on settlement principles. As a compromise, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office makes an oral statement on the necessity of the conflict settlement based on the principles proposed by Azerbaijan. However, the statement of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office is not included in the Summit's final document, thus it had no binding force. The principles voiced by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office become known as the "Lisbon Principles." As a result of the Lisbon Summit, the negotiations on the Karabakh settlement between the conflicting parties are stopped. After the Lisbon Summit, a triple Co-Chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Conference is introduced. Russia, France and the USA became Co-Chairs.

#### **December 27**

The NKR President and the newly appointed Russian Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, Yuri Yukalov, meet and discuss conflict resolutions.

### **1997**

#### **March 17-18**

The first joint meeting of the three OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen convenes in Paris.

#### **March 20**

President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian, appoints NKR President Robert Kocharian Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. NKR Prime Minister Leonard Petrossian becomes the acting President of NKR until special presidential elections can be organized.

#### **April 1-4**

Negotiations between the conflicting parties take place in Moscow and become the last of this format after the OSCE Lisbon Summit.

#### **May 31**

The NKR leadership and the delegation from the OSCE Minsk Conference and Minsk Group assemble in Stepanakert. The OSCE Mission proposes a new plan for the resolution of the conflict, which is later accepted by Armenia and Azerbaijan, but is rejected by Nagorno Karabakh.

#### **June 23-29**

NKR National Assembly Chairman, Arthur Tovmasian, goes to Greece to participate in a symposium on regional integration in the South Caucasus (Athens, June 23-25) and in the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Orthodox states (Saloniki, June 25-29)

#### **July 18**

NKR National Assembly Secretary, Emma Gabrielian, attends the Forum of the All-Armenian International Association of Women in Paris.

#### **August 21**

German representative for the OSCE Minsk Group visits Stepanakert, and schedules meetings with NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**September 1**

Special elections for the NKR Presidency are held. NKR Foreign Minister Arkady Ghoukassian is elected President of NKR.

**September 22**

The OSCE Mission proposes a new step-by-step plan for settlement of the conflict. This plan is later accepted by Armenia and Azerbaijan but rejected by Nagorno Karabakh.

**October 17**

The NKR Representation Office opens in Washington, DC.

**October 17**

The leadership of the OSCE High Level Planning Group travels to Nagorno Karabakh.

**November 7-8**

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen visit the conflict region, including Nagorno Karabakh.

**December 2**

NKR National Assembly Chairman Arthur Tovmasian resigns and Oleg Yessayan is appointed Head of the NKR Parliament.

**1998****February 3**

Armenia's President, Levon Ter-Petrossian, resigns due to the protests from the Armenian people about Ter-Petrossian's acceptance of the conflict resolution plan, which did not take into account the interests of Nagorno Karabakh.

**February 19 – March 2**

NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Naira Melkoumian, visits the United States with an invitation from the Armenian National Committee of America. Meetings with the US State Department, Congress, Armenian communities, local clergy, and media outlets are scheduled.

**February 20**

National celebrations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national-liberation movement of the Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh are commemorated.

**March 30**

Special presidential elections are organized in Armenia, and RA Prime Minister Robert Kocharian is elected the second President of the Republic of Armenia.

**April 22**

The NKR National Assembly passes a resolution condemning the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 in Ottoman Turkey.

**May 9**

A protocol on consultations and cooperation between the RA and NKR Ministries of Foreign Affairs is signed in Shoushi.

**May 14-15**

The delegation of the RA National Assembly, headed by its Chairman Khosrov Haroutiunian, visits Stepanakert. Khosrov Haroutiunian holds meetings with NKR President Arkady Ghokassian, NKR National Assembly Chairman Oleg Yessayan, and members of the NKR National Assembly Presidium. The cooperation between the Parliaments of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh is agreed upon.

**June 17-18**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on Armenia and Azerbaijan travel to Nagorno Karabakh.

**July 17**

The NKR National Assembly passes a resolution creating a Committee on Inter-parliamentary Cooperation between the National Assemblies of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

**July 19**

St. Savior Church “Khazanchetsots) is opened after restoration of the XIX century church is completed in Shoushi.

**September 7**

The first session of the Commission on Inter-parliamentary Cooperation between the National Assemblies of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh is held in Yerevan.

**September 27**

Elections for local self-government bodies are set in NKR.

**November 11**

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen proposes a new plan for the comprehensive settlement on the basis of the “common state” concept. These proposals re accepted by Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh as a basis for resumption of the negotiation process, but are rejected by Azerbaijan.

**November 12-20**

NKR National Assembly Chairman Oleg Yessayan participates in the scientific symposium “The Caucasus Without War” in Sochi.

**November 24**

NKR President Ghokassian meets with the Bronislav Heremek, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, in Yerevan.

**December 16**

The NKR delegation headed by President Ghokassian is invited to Paris by the PACE Committee on Political Issues. Meetings of the NKR delegation members with Director of the French MFA Department on European Issues, Mr. Chassare, French Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, Mr. Vogier, and Deputies of the French Parliament are held.

**February 4**

The Secretary-General of the Interchurch Peace Council of Calvinist Churches, the President of the Helsinki Civil Assembly (HCA), and representatives from non-governmental organizations in Armenia and NKR participate in an international seminar in Stepanakert.

**February 21**

NKR Foreign Minister, Naira Melkounian, hosts a conference with Rune Osheym and Knut Hauge, representatives from the Norwegian MFA.

**February 27 – March 15**

President Ghoukassian visits the United States and assembles with UN representatives, Senate and Congressional members, the State Department, and Armenian community members. President Ghoukassian speaks at the Los-Angeles Council of International Affairs and at George Washington University and holds a press conference in the UN.

**March 11**

The European Parliament passes a resolution on Nagorno Karabakh that legitimizes the declaration of an independent NKR on the basis of former USSR legislation.

**April 29 – May 2**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Naira Melkounian, participates in a conference titled “1999 – Armenians on the Threshold of the Century.” The European Parliament and Forum of Armenian Unions of Europe sponsor the conference.

**May 3-5**

German representatives from the OSCE Minsk Group visit NKR.

**June 30**

NKR President Ghoukassian issues a decree appointing Anushavan Danielian as the new NKR Prime Minister.

**July 7**

A delegation from the U.S. Jewish Committee journeys to NKR. The delegation members confer with President Ghoukassian.

**September 16**

President Ghoukassian and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Naira Melkounian, gather with Knut Vollebaek, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, in Yerevan.

**September 22-23**

The “Armenia–Diaspora” All-Armenian Forum occurs in Yerevan. An NKR official delegation, led by President A.Ghoukassian participates in the forum.

**September 29**

NKR President Ghoukassian issues a decree appointing permanent NKR representatives in the United States, Australia, and Middle East countries.

**November 12**

November 12 marks the official opening of Goris–Stepanakert highway.

**November 18-19**

The OSCE Summit is held in Istanbul. Participants welcome the intensification of dialogue between Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents and express hope for the resumption of negotiations between the two parties.

**November 19-26**

The NKR delegation travels to the United States to participate in a telethon to raise funds for the construction of a “North-South” highway in NKR. The “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund organizes the telethon. During the visit, President Ghoukassian meets with U.S. Senators, Congressmen, representatives from Armenian businesses and political organizations, as well as the U.S. Armenian community.

**November 28**

NKR President Ghoukassian meets in Paris with Head of the French MFA Department on Europe, Juerg Pernet, and newly appointed French Co-Chairman in the OSCE Minsk Group, Jean-Jacques Gaillarde.

**December 12-13**

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen visits Stepanakert.

**2000****February 7**

President Ghoukassian assembles with a representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Andrzej Kasprzyk, and a representative of the Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council on the Minsk Conference Issues.

**February 12-21**

NRK Prime Minister Danielian goes to Italy, Switzerland, and Hungary, where he presents a new governmental program on social-economic development in NKR.

**February 28**

President Ghoukassian meets with former Great Britain Ambassador to Armenia, David Miller, Executive Director of the London Information Net on Conflicts and State-Building (LINCS), Dennis Samut, LINCS Director Richard Samuel, and BBC correspondent Thomas Di Vaal.

**March 22**

President Ghoukassian and his two bodyguards are heavily wounded after an attempted assassination. As a result, former NKR Defense Minister Samvel Babayan is detained on suspicion of plotting the assassination attempt.

**May 15-22**

NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs visits France and the United States. Melkoumian speaks at the French Institute of International Relations, the Washington School of Law at American University, and the Center of Strategic and International Researches in Washington, D.C. She also meets with representatives from the U.S. State Department and Congress.

**May – June**

The President of Armenia, National Assembly Chairman, Prime Minister, and Deputies of the National Assembly and Government hold conferences with the heads of political and public organizations of Armenia, Ambassadors from Russia, USA, France, and Iran. The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen pay their respects to President Ghoukassian who is recovering in a Yerevan clinic.

**June 12-14**

NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs is invited to Vienna to discuss conflict resolution with OSCE Permanent Council Chairperson Jutta Stefan-Bastle.

**June 17**

President Ghoukassian holds telephone negotiations with OSCE Chairperson-in-Office who is traveling in Armenia. On the same day, Mrs. Ferrero-Waidner meets with the NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs in Yerevan.

**June 18**

The elections to the thirty-three seat National Assembly are organized.

**July 5**

The first session of the newly elected Parliament begins. Oleg Yessayan is re-elected Chairman of the NKR National Assembly.

**August 14**

President Ghoukassian receives the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Vardan Oskanian, and Deputy Foreign Minister, Tatoul Margarian.

**September 3**

Prime Minister of Armenia, Andranik Margarian, pays an official visit to Stepanakert. A protocol on the cooperation between the governments of the two Armenian Republics is signed.

**September 6-8**

The Millennium Summit convenes in New York. President Kocharian speaks at the Summit and appeals to the Heads of States to recognize the Armenian Genocide that occurred in Ottoman Turkey at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**September 18**

A trial begins for the attempted assassination of President Ghoukassian at the NKR Supreme Court.

**September 25**

Garegin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, visits NKR. The Supreme Patriarch and confers with the President Ghoukassian.

**October 25 – November 4**

NKR National Assembly Chairman Oleg Yessayan travels to the USA to help prepare for another telethon for social-economic development of the NKR. The “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund organizes the telethon.

**November 9**

The parliamentary delegation of Armenia, headed by RA National Assembly Chairman Armen Khachatryan, pay an official visit to NKR.

**November 20-22**

A conference for the heads of Foreign Offices of the Republic of Abkhazia, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the Cisdniestrian Moldavian Republic, and the Republic of South Ossetia, is organized in Tiraspol.

**November 23**

The fund-raising telethon for social-economic development in the NKR begins in the USA. NKR officials take part in the telethon.

**2001**

**February 2**

The NKR official delegation and Prime Minister Danielian go to Paris for a one-week working visit.

**February 26**

The trial for assassination attempt of NKR President Ghoukassian ends. Ex-minister of Defense, Samvel Babayan, and some of his closest circle are sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

**March 9**

NKR Prime Minister Danielian attended the International Forum of Investors and Businessmen by invitation from Swiss businesses.

**May 10-17**

The NKR delegation meet with the Senate and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in France. The delegation discusses issues with representatives from the Armenian community of France.

**May 19**

The delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group, headed by its Co-Chairmen Carey Cavanaugh (the USA), Nikolai Gribkov (Russia) and Philippe de Suremain (France), visits NKR. For the first time in the history of the conflict, the Co-Chairmen cross by foot the front-line of the armed forces.

**July 2-4**

A meeting of the Heads of Foreign Offices of the Republic of Abkhazia, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, the Cisdniestrian Moldavian Republic, and the Republic of South Ossetia, is held in Stepanakert.

**September 5**

Elections to local bodies of self-government are held in NKR.

**October 2-12**

The NKR official delegation, headed by National Assembly Chairman Oleg Yessayan, travel to Canada to participate in events dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia.

**October 23-27**

NKR President Ghoukassian meets with the leaders of the RF State Duma factions and deputy groups, political and public figures, and representatives from the Armenian community of the Russian Federation.

**November 5**

The OSCE delegations comprising the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen, as well as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, hold discussions in NKR.

**December 8**

A regular joint session of the Commission on Inter-parliamentary Cooperation between the National Assemblies of Armenia and NKR convenes in Yerevan.

**2002****February 19**

President Arkady Ghoukassian meets the delegation of the “International Working Group on Search for Missing Persons, Hostages and Prisoners of War,” headed by co-chairman Bernhard Klazen.

**February 22**

President Arkady Ghoukassian and Paul Grove, the Senior Clerk of U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hold discussions.

**March 5**

President Ghoukassian and NKR Foreign Minister Naira Melkounian gather in Yerevan with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, and other members from the OSCE delegation.

**March 10**

President Ghoukassian receives Co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno Karabakh as well as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation who are all paying a short visit to Nagorno Karabakh.

**March 15**

President Ghoukassian hosts Shane Pritchard, manager of the program on Mine-clearance and Neutralization of Unexploded shells in the NKR territory. The program is supported by the HALO Trust, a British humanitarian non-governmental organization functioning in Nagorno Karabakh since 1995.

**March 21-28**

The NKR Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports, Armen Sargssian, accompanies the President to France to conduct meetings with high-ranking diplomats of the French Foreign Office, officials of the International Federation of Human Rights Protection, and representatives from the French-Armenian community.

**March 30**

The NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with David Merkel, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Senior Minority Clerk, at the NKR Permanent Representation Office in Yerevan

**April 3**

President Ghoukassian convenes discussion with the Minister of Economy, Employment and Foreign Affairs of the Government of Geneva.

**April 4-7**

The NKR Foreign Minister visits France and meets with the French Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, Philip de Suremain. Melkoumian also convenes with the leadership of the Coordination Council of the Armenian Organizations in France.

**April 10**

President Arkady Ghoukassian and Klaus Hieken, the Head of Foreign Department of the Bavarian Red Cross discuss aid to the region.

**May 3**

An international conference titled “Impact of September 11 Events on the Activities of the NGOs of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh” is scheduled in Stepanakert.

**May 24**

NRK Prime Minister meets with AGBU (France) President Levon Kebabjian, and the French Senate Advisor, well-known writer François Toile.

**May 26**

NKR President Ghoukassian and the new Executive Director of the Armenian Assembly of America, John Jamian, hold conferences with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Peter Vospikian.

**May 27**

NKR President Ghoukassian addresses the second “Armenia-Diaspora” All-Armenian Forum in Yerevan.

**June 10-16**

NKR Foreign Minister sets up meetings with representatives from the U.S. Senate, Congress, and public organizations, as well as with the U.S. Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group.

**July 23**

A conference entitled: “Nagorno Karabakh Women for Peace and a Peaceful Co-existence” gathers in Stepanakert. The conference is sponsored by “Democracy Today” an organization in Armenia, and with the assistance of the NKR Foreign Ministry.

**August 1**

Nagorno Karabakh Republic President Ghoukassian meets with the Director of the Institute of CIS countries, Konstantin Zatulin.

**August 6**

The NKR authorities sign a new agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) giving the organization access to all places of imprisonment.

**August 11**

Regular presidential elections are held in the NKR. Arkady Ghoukassian is reelected the NKR President.

**September 9**

NKR President Arkady Ghoukassian signs a decree appointing Danielian to the NKR Prime Minister.

**September 23**

Armenian President Robert Kocharian receives NKR President Ghoukassian, Chairman of the National Assembly Oleg Yessayan, and Prime Minister Anoushavan Danielian.

**September 26**

NKR President Arkady Ghoukassian receives the First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, as well as the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno Karabakh.

**October 8**

President Arkady Ghoukassian hosts a delegation from the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA), headed by Vice-President of the Board of Directors, Mrs. Anny Totah.

**October 9**

President Arkady Ghoukassian issues a decree establishing the composition of the NKR Government.

**October 10**

President Ghoukassian receives the President of the All-Russian public organization "Union of the Armenians of Russia," a group of deputies and experts from the Russian State Duma. Celebrations for the "Days of the Union of Armenians of Russia in Armenia and Artsakh" are prepared.

**October 10**

NKR National Assembly Chairman Oleg Yessayan participates in the events dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund.

**October 11**

By a decree from the NKR President, Ashot Ghouljian is appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**October 24**

Forty-six U.S. Congressmen send a letter to Nagorno Karabakh Republic President Ghoukassian, congratulating him on his presidential victory. The letter states that the elections underscore the de-facto independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. "Observers from Italy, Russia, France, United Kingdom and the United States unanimously reported that the election process operated according to democratic norms. None found any voting irregularities, fraud, or voter harassment. This kind of careful organization and serious commitment to democratic values is most encouraging and stands as a fine example to other former Soviet republics," the Congressmen stated.

**November 2**

A delegation of the British parliamentarians consisting of the Vice-Speaker of the British House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox, Lord Shannon, members of the House of Commons Robert Wareing, Jane Griffiths, and the Secretary of the British-Armenian Parliamentary group, Odette Bazil visit Nagorno Karabakh and hold a number of meetings with the NKR leadership.

**November 14-17**

President Ghoukassian participates in a fundraising phone-a-thon for the construction of a strategically important “North-South” highway.

**November 14**

President Ghoukassian meets with the Vice-Chairman of the French Parliament, the new-elected leader of the French-Armenian friendship group, and the Mayor of the town of Issy-les-Moulineaux.

**November 16**

President Ghoukassian meets with the Director of the French MFA’s Department of the Continental Europe countries and the newly appointed French Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group.

**November 18-30**

President Ghoukassian leads a delegation to America to participate in a telethon to raise funds for the construction of the NKR of the “North-South” highway. During the visit, he meets with representatives of political, business, public, and religious circles of the Armenian Community in the United States of America.

**November 28**

Foreign Minister Ashot Ghoulian addresses a conference of diplomatic missions heads accredited abroad.

**2003****January 7**

Co-Chairman of the U.S. Congress Armenian Caucus, Frank Pallone, sends a letter to the President of Azerbaijan where he calls upon the latter to condemn the hysteria created by the Azeri mass media against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

**January 29**

NKR Foreign Minister meets in Yerevan with his Armenian counterpart, V.Oskanian.

**January 31 – February 1**

NKR National Assembly Chairman Oleg Yessayan heads a delegation to attend the international conference: “Pro-Armenia: Armenia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”.

**February 14**

Frank Pallone and Joe Knollenberg, Co-Chairmen of the US Congress Armenian Caucus, address a message to NKR President Ghoukassian congratulating him on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Karabakh movement.

**February 20**

Baroness Caroline Cox, the Vice-Speaker of the House of Lords of the British Parliament, and Robert Wareing, member of the House of Commons send a letter of congratulation to the NKR President and people on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of the Karabakh movement.

**March 24**

President Ghoukassian meets with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Andrzej Kasprzyk.

**June 16-18**

The NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs Ashot Ghouljian visits France and assembles with Senator Bernard Piras, the French Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, Henry Jaqolen, mayors of French towns and Armenian community members.

*(as of 1 July, 2003)*