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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to my earlier letters (S/1997/147 and S/1997/186), containing statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic on the strengthening of the military capability of the Republic of Armenia, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

At a press conference on 14 February 1997, Aman Tuleyev, Minister for Cooperation with the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) of the Russian Federation, referred to illegal deliveries of military equipment, including tanks and armoured vehicles, to Armenia.

Today, 13 March 1997, the ITAR-TASS State news agency indicated that the Russian Minister of Defence, Igor Rodionov, has officially confirmed the delivery of military equipment to Armenia without charge in 1994-1996.

The Chief Military Prosecutor of the Russian Federation, Valentin Panichev, whose office is conducting an investigation into Russian deliveries of military equipment to Armenia, stated, again according to ITAR-TASS, that such deliveries had indeed taken place.

The acquisition by the Republic of Armenia of offensive military equipment demonstrates that the Government of that country has not renounced its aggressive designs, while it continues to occupy 20 per cent of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic.

Can any reliance be placed on the peaceful statements by the Armenian party while it is systematically arming itself, taking advantage of the ceasefire in force between Azerbaijan and Armenia since 1994?

The Azerbaijani Republic again urges the international community to condemn these aggressive acts by the Republic of Armenia and to take appropriate measures against it, since, if Armenia goes unpunished, it will continue its policy of expansion, threatening peace and security in the region.

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I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIYEV  
Permanent Representative

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