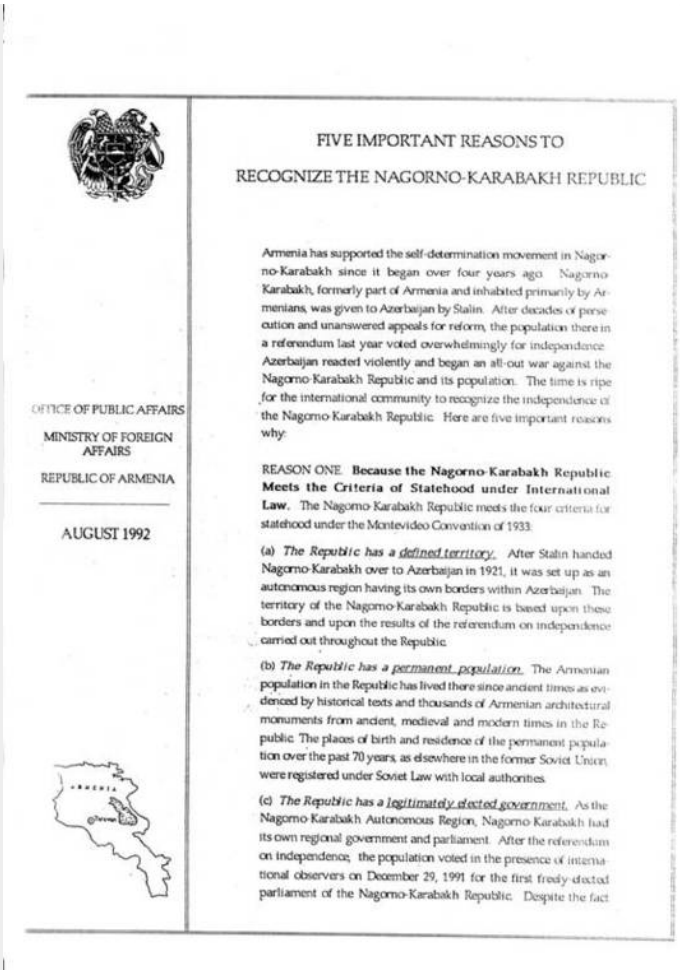
FIVE IMPORTANT REASONS

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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FIVE IMPORTANT REASONS TO
RECOGNIZE THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC

Armenia has supported the self-determination movement in Nagorno-Karabakh since it began over four years ago. Nagorno-Karabakh, formerly part of Armenia and inhabited primarily by Armenians, was given to Azerbaijan by Stalin. After decades of persecution and unanswered appeals for reform, the population there in a referendum last year voted overwhelmingly for independence. Azerbaijan reacted violently and began an all-out war against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and its population. The time is ripe for the international community to recognize the independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Here are five important reasons why:

REASON ONE. **Because the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Meets the Criteria of Statehood under International Law.** The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic meets the four criteria for statehood under the Montevideo Convention of 1933:

(a) *The Republic has a defined territory.* After Stalin handed Nagorno-Karabakh over to Azerbaijan in 1921, it was set up as an autonomous region having its own borders within Azerbaijan. The territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is based upon these borders and upon the results of the referendum on independence carried out throughout the Republic.

(b) *The Republic has a permanent population.* The Armenian population in the Republic has lived there since ancient times as evidenced by historical texts and thousands of Armenian architectural monuments from ancient, medieval and modern times in the Republic. The places of birth and residence of the permanent population over the past 70 years, as elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, were registered under Soviet Law with local authorities.

(c) *The Republic has a legitimately elected government.* As the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, Nagorno-Karabakh had its own regional government and parliament. After the referendum on independence, the population voted in the presence of international observers on December 29, 1991 for the first freely elected parliament of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Despite the fact

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