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# RELEASE NEWS

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THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## **U.S. Peace Corps Director To Visit Azerbaijan**

**Baku, April 29, 2004**

Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez will visit Azerbaijan from April 30 - May 2. During his visit he will tour the newly-established Peace Corps volunteer sites, meet with key government officials and explore new opportunities for further development in Azerbaijan. A press conference will be held at the International Press center for Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez on Friday, April 30th at 6pm. Media representatives are invited to the event.

Located in towns and villages including Lenkoran, Neftchala, Agdash, Vandam, Ocagli, Khirmandali, Mingeçavir, Ismailii, Sheki, Oguz, and Ganja, Peace Corps volunteers are teaching English in various secondary schools and teacher training institutions throughout Azerbaijan. A second group of 31 Volunteers is expected in Azerbaijan in the summer of 2004.

The Peace Corps is an independent agency of the United States government that was established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Its mission is to promote international peace and friendship through the service abroad of American Volunteers. More than 160,000 Americans from every background have served in the Peace Corps in 134 countries. Through their service, Volunteers have fostered people-to-people relationships that help establish a foundation for peace. Volunteers today continue the tradition of working in partnership with people worldwide to improve basic conditions and create new opportunities. They live in the communities in which they work and they learn to speak the local languages. Volunteers share and represent the culture and values of American people of various races, ethnic and religious backgrounds.