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

**President of the U. S. George W. Bush signed a waiver of Section 907**

January 26, 2002

President of the United States George W. Bush signed a waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act on January 25, 2002. In doing so, the President used the authority provided in the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002. The waiver has the effect of terminating remaining restrictions on assistance by the United States to the government of Azerbaijan.

The Embassy, in conjunction with various agencies of the U.S. Government, will be developing programs of assistance to the Azerbaijan Government to support economic reform and development, strengthen border security and cooperation against terrorism, and for other purposes. Fiscal year 2002 funding for assistance to Azerbaijan is expected to be about \$50 million, a substantial increase over the previous year.

It is the hope and the expectation of the United States that the waiver of Section 907 will facilitate further cooperation with Azerbaijan, accelerate this country's development as a strong, independent and democratic country, and contribute to regional peace and stability, including the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.