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RELEASE NEWS

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

Message from President Bush

June 7, 2005

Dear Mr. President,

Congratulations to you and to the people of Azerbaijan on the opening of the Twelfth International Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference in Baku.

Azerbaijan has made great strides over the last year. Only a few days ago, we celebrated the occasion of first oil entering the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline – a giant step towards making the Caspian region's East-West Energy Corridor fully operational. Progress continues on the South Caucasus Pipeline, which will bring Azerbaijan's natural gas to markets in Turkey and Europe. At the same time, we welcome efforts Azerbaijan has made to enhance transparency in managing its revenues from the oil and gas sector.

The United States will continue to work in partnership with Azerbaijan to promote world energy security, and to achieve a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future for the people of Azerbaijan and the region.

I extend my warmest wishes for the success of the Twelfth International Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush