
YEREVAN AGAIN SIGNALS SUPPORT FOR THIRD-PARTY CONTROL OF CORRIDOR FOR AZERBAIJAN

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Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian again indicated through a spokeswoman on Thursday that he is ready to let a foreign entity handle the transit of people and cargo from Azerbaijan to its Nakhichevan exclave through Armenia.

The territorial integrity, sovereignty, and jurisdiction of the Republic of Armenia certainly cannot be outsourced, Pashinians press secretary, Nazeli Baghdasarian, said in a Facebook post. The business management of railways, pipelines, and power lines can. By the way, the maintenance and management of highways in Armenia always has been outsourced to private companies.

Pashinian confirmed on July 16 reports that the United States proposed recently that an American company be hired for that purpose. The idea has been discussed during Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks, he said, adding that no final agreement has been reached yet. Pashinian also seemed open to the idea of a 100-year U.S. lease on the would-be transport link also floated by Washington.

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