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**RUSSIA CALLS ON AZERBAIJAN, IRAN TO EXERCISE 'UTMOST PRUDENCE' AMID TENSIONS**

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*Moscow urges both countries to avoid creating new dividing lines in region at expense of good-neighborliness.*

Russia on Saturday called on Azerbaijan and Iran to exercise the utmost prudence amid growing tensions between the two countries following a drone strike on the former's Nakhchivan exclave earlier this week.

Regarding the tensions that have arisen between Azerbaijan and Iran, we call on both sides -- our strategic partners -- to exercise the utmost prudence, refrain from ill-considered steps, and avoid creating new dividing lines in the region at the expense of the principle of good-neighborliness, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

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