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**Comment for Russian Media by Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey
Lavrov Following the Signing Ceremony of the Armenian-Turkish Documents,
Zurich, October 10, 2009**

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We have just witnessed a landmark event: the signing by Armenia and Turkey of the Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and the Protocol on the Development of Bilateral Relations, which determine the subsequent actions of the two sides to move towards a comprehensive normalization of interstate ties.

I will not hide – we are sincerely glad of this. Armenia and Turkey are countries friendly to Russia.

The operative part of the signed documents evidences the firm resolve of both countries to cover their part of the journey. It is noteworthy that none of the steps provided may be construed as prejudicial to a third party.

Improved relations between the two neighboring countries will liven up economic and trade contacts and have a positive impact on the socioeconomic situation in Armenia and Turkey.

The Russian Federation stands ready to support this process via the further implementation of cooperation projects with Armenia and Turkey, particularly in electricity and transport and communications. Russian company OJSC Inter UES is involved in the supply of electricity from Armenia to Turkey. OJSC Russian Railways is ready to ensure the establishment and smooth functioning of a rail link between the two countries through the border crossing Dogukapi-Ahuryan. There are other promising projects that will positively affect the daily lives of people.

We welcome the pragmatic and businesslike joint work of the Armenian and Turkish partners to resolve complicated issues. Today's accords are the result of concerted efforts by the Armenian and Turkish leaders to bring the two countries closer together. Much credit also belongs to Foreign Ministers Edward Nalbandian and Ahmet Davutoglu. We feel their firm resolve to work towards the establishment of good-neighborly relations between Armenia and Turkey, which should objectively contribute to further steps promoting peace and security in the region.

I want to note that the signing of the protocols is the first step towards normalizing relations. The sides need to ratify these instruments as soon as possible and to embark on their practical realization.