<u>Dmitry Medvedev congratulates Novruz</u> <u>Mamedov on his appointment as</u> <u>Azerbaijan's Prime Minister</u>

The Prime Minister's message reads, in part:

"Russia and Azerbaijan are linked by relations of strategic partnership based on the principles of equality, respect for each other's interests and neighbourliness. I am confident that further strengthening our bilateral trade and economic cooperation, implementing large-scale joint projects in transport, oil and gas industry, agriculture, high technology, education and culture fully meet the long-term interests of our countries."