<u>Press Releases: On the Occasion of Azerbaijan's Republic Day</u>

Press Statement Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC June 6, 2017

On behalf of the American people, I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the Azerbaijani people on the commemoration of their Republic Day.

The United States and Azerbaijan share a strong partnership, built through years of cooperation on energy and security issues as well as dialogue on democratic principles. As the month of Ramadan begins, I also congratulate Azerbaijan on its rich history, including the establishment of the first Muslim-majority parliamentary republic 99 years ago. Then, as now, you had a vision and worked to make it a reality. The United States encourages efforts to build a more secure and prosperous nation that respects the fundamental freedoms of its people. We also remain committed to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The United States looks forward to even greater cooperation with Azerbaijan across all areas of our relationship in the years to come.

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