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**CAUCASIAN FRIENDSHIP DAYS
MARCH 18-20, 2005**

DECLARATION

Rotary Club members from Tbilisi (Georgia), Baku (Azerbaijan), Yerevan and Gyumri (Armenia), California (District 5230 and 5300), New York (the Host Club of America and the United Nations) and District 2430 (Turkey) participated in the **CAUCASIAN FRIENDSHIP DAYS**. The event was held March 18-20, 2005 at the Bilkent Hotel in Ankara under the Chairmanship of District Governor Erhan Çiftçioğlu. The guests registered on March 18, 2005 and were greeted during a cocktail and friendship dinner.

On March 19, 2005 District Governor Erhan delivered a speech following the opening ceremony titled **"One Hundred Years of Rotary"** and read the message of R.I. President Glenn ESTESS. After the invocation given by Giorgio H. Balestrieri, Chair of the International Service Division of The Rotary Club of New York, the following presentations were delivered to an audience of over 400 Rotarians:

- The Role of Rotary Clubs in Promoting Regional Peace – Presented by PDG Garbis Der-Yeghian (District 5300 USA)
- How Rotary Programs Promote Peace? – Presented by PDG Ken Boyd (District 5230 USA)
- Rotary in Yerevan – Presented by Club President Hovsep Seferian (Yerevan, Armenia)
- The Importance of NGOs in "Promoting Peace" – Presented by PDG Ömer Tezcan (District 2430, Turkey)
- The Importance of Regional Understanding – Presented by PDG Hitay Güner (District 2420, Turkey)
- The Role of Rotary in Regional Education and Culture – Delivered by DGE Malik Aviral (District 2430, Turkey)
- Rotary's Regional Role in Promoting Youth and Friendship Programs – Presented by PDG Aydın Pelin (District 2430 Turkey)
- Economic Development as Conflict Resolution Tool – Rtn. Kaan Soyak of Rotary No. 6 Founded in 1909 (The Host Club of America and The United Nations)
- Rotary in Baku – Presented by Club President Ali Musayev (Baku, Azerbaijan)



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The session after the lunch break was organized with two discussion forums on

**“What Rotary Clubs can do in order to promote
regional cultural, educational and friendship programs?”**

The afternoon session proceeded with the following addresses:

- Rotary in Tbilisi – Presented by Club President Lasha Nickolaishvili (Tbilisi, Georgia)
- Rotary in Gyumri – Presented by Club President Tigran Beglaryan (Gyumriö Armenia)
- Humanity First – Presented by the Hon. Samson Ozararat (Representative of Armenia to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Business Council).

The ideas of the participants were taken into consideration and discussed with all the speakers in a panel Chaired by District Governor Erhan Çiftçioğlu and moderated by PDG Ken Boyd, PDG Garbis Der-Yeghian, Rotarians Giorgio H. Balestrieri and Kaan Soyak.

The various proposals were made part of the closing statements and of the Declaration presented by the hosting District Governor Erhan Çiftçioğlu.

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service,
- Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- Third: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business , and community life;
- Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



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ROTARY PROGRAMS

In order to achieve the object of Rotary the participants agreed to implement common projects among the Clubs of the participating countries. Programs will include:

- ☼ Youth Exchange
- ☼ Ambassadorial Scholarships
- ☼ Group Study Exchange,
- ☼ Vocational Exchange
- ☼ Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RILA)
- ☼ Matching Grants Projects
- ☼ Twin Clubs

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

It is important to maintain and share the value and heritage of each other societies.

The following activities will enhance the cultural bond to be achieved in order to link different Clubs of different Nations:

- ☼ Children Peace Choirs
- ☼ Art exhibitions including handicraft
- ☼ Folk Dance Performances
- ☼ Restoration of Historical Sites
- ☼ Promote of Cultural Tourism

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development will provide stability while promoting global harmony. The first step is to develop a comprehensive Master Plan recognizing the need for cooperation between the Clubs and the Private and Public sector to include but not limited to the following

- ☼ Physical Infrastructure:
 - a. Transportation
 - b. Food
 - c. Clean Water



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d. Reliable Power



Social Infrastructure

- a. Education
- b. Environmental Preservation
- c. Communication
- d. Health Care
- e. Housing



Sustainable Growth

- a. Privatization
- b. Formation of Cooperatives
- c. Public-Private Alliance

The participants have agreed to collaborate within the framework of the following entities:

1. Rotary Caucasus Peace & Development Council

The following received the mandate to create the Council:

- DG Erhan Çiftçioğlu
- Hon. Sanson Ozararat
- PDG Ufuk Güneş
- PDG Ken Boyd
- PDG Garbis Der-Yeghian
- Rtn. Giorgio H. Balestrieri
- Rtn. Kaan Soyak

The above Founding Members of the Council will create a comprehensive network of Public-Private Partners with expertise in all the required disciplines to achieve Economic Development as a Conflict Prevention Tool. The Council in an Alliance with Public-Private Partners will create a detailed plan to achieve its mandate committed to the Rotary Four Way Test.



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2. Regional Multinational Coordinating Committee (RMC)

Representatives from the Clubs of each Nation have agreed to form a coordinating committee to meet quarterly to review and encourage the implementation of the programs of Rotary referenced in this declaration. The following are the signatories and members of the RMC Committee:

- Azerbaijan : Ali Musayev (President Baku Club)

- Armenia : Hovsep Seferian (President Yerevan Club)

- Georgia : Lasha Nickolaishvili (President Tbilisi Club)

- Turkey (District 2430) : Serdar Kaya (President Ankara Club)

The members of the Council and the Committee have held the first meeting Ankara. At this meeting, they have stated their recommendations regarding the projects to be accomplished and agreed to support said projects, providing guidance and timely information to the Clubs.

The next plenary meeting will be held in Turkey in March of 2006 under the Chairmanship of 2004-2005 District Governor Erhan Çiftçioğlu.

March 19, 2005, Ankara

Erhan Çiftçioğlu

District Governor 2430