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HEYDAR ALIYEV AND THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
OF KARABAKH (LATE 1960S — EARLY 1980S)

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**AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
INSTITUTE of HISTORY named after A. A. BAKIKHANOV**

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**HEYDAR ALIYEV
and the development strategy of Karabakh
(late 1960s — early 1980s)**

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This book provides a comprehensive study of the history of Karabakh, which is an integral part of Azerbaijan, in the period from the end of the 1960s to the beginning of the 1980s. In the late 60s of the 20th century, with the arrival of Heydar Aliyev to the leadership of the republic, the process of improving the management system in Azerbaijan began. This period was accompanied by the rise of the reputation of our state in the international community, the start of national revival and the dynamic development of the social, economic and cultural spheres of Karabakh. In the conditions of the strengthening of the factors contributing to the national awakening, in the 1970s Heydar Aliyev resolutely prevented new unfounded territorial claims of Armenia to Azerbaijan. The national leader was also engaged in research and analysis of other important issues of this period. In the book also analyzes and studies other important issues.

The book is intended for a wide readership.

I assure you that both Ilham Aliyev and the Yeni Azerbaijan Party will continue to unite the most worthy sons and daughters of our people around themselves and will do a lot for the development of the Azerbaijani state and the prosperity of our people. I believe that with your help and support, Ilham Aliyev will be able to complete the fateful issues, plans and deeds that I could not complete. I believe in him as much as I believe in myself and have high hopes for his future.

Heydar Aliyev
National Leader

Today Azerbaijan lives without Heydar Aliyev. This is a big test for us, a big test for all of us. This is a great sorrow and pain for all of us. But what reassures us is that the ideas of Heydar Aliyev live on. Modern Azerbaijan, founded and created by him, is growing stronger, living and will live.

Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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INTRODUCTION

The national leader Heydar Aliyev played a big role in the history of Azerbaijan in the 20th century and, with his extensive and comprehensive activities, made fundamental changes in the social and political life of Azerbaijan. At the time when Azerbaijan entered the period of independence, one of the important tasks facing our society was the protection and further development of national and moral values with an emphasis on universal human values in socio-political and cultural development. In this regard, the study of the heritage of Heydar Aliyev, the study of the socio-economic development of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in the late 1960s — early 1980s, based on his scientific and theoretical analysis, is of great scientific and socio-political importance. From this point of view, the topic we are studying is of great importance for a deeper and more historical study of the history of Azerbaijan. In one of his speeches, the great leader Heydar Aliyev expressed his attitude towards the study of this glorious period of our history, which we are studying, and said: “The implementation of the crucial issues for our independent state requires us to fully define our identity, opening many dark pages of our history, and educating the younger generation with a new way of thinking about their national roots. Despite the difficulties and difficult processes of the transition period, we were able to open very valuable pages of our historical past in a short time and managed to show them to the people. Every child of our people begins to feel a great sense of pride, knowing more deeply their historical past, cultural heritage, of which he is the heirs, and, needless to say, is proud of him ... We are the heirs of a rare heritage. Every citizen of Azerbaijan should strive to be worthy of this heritage and approach the past, present and future of our country with a great historical past, rich culture and high spirituality with a deep sense of responsibility” [6, p. 15].

At present, the strengthening of the sociocultural and moral potential of the people, the sociocultural policy of the state are the

result of a wealth of experience accumulated in the late 1960s and early 1980s. As stated in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in connection with the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, “Since the 70s of the last century, large-scale programs implemented in our republic in accordance with the strategy of Heydar Aliyev, the great son of Azerbaijan, have contributed to the formation modern economic potential, revitalization of social and cultural life and aimed at the revival of national and moral values, it paved the way for ensuring our future independence” [1]. From this point of view, the study of the history of the socio-economic and cultural development of Karabakh is of great scientific importance in the late 1960s — early 1980s.

The main purpose of the study is to explore the socio-economic situation of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in the late 1960s — early 1980s, to trace the dynamics of the development of demographic processes, industrial, agricultural and cultural sectors in the region during this period. At the same time, the main goals of the topic are the analysis of important problems, such as the further groundless territorial claims of Armenia to the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the preservation of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan as a result of the tense and purposeful policy of the national leader Heydar Aliyev in the 70s of the 20th century.

The political situation, socio-economic and cultural development of the Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the late 1960s — early 1980s were covered in different aspects and in different ways in the studies of that time, and this period was not separately the object of research, history problems, scientific, cultural, political and historiographic issues have not been systematically and comprehensively studied. The relevance and scientific novelty of our study lies in the coverage of unexplored pages of the history of Karabakh in the late 1960s — early 1980s, which is an integral part of the economic, political and cultural history of Azerbaijan.

A close acquaintance with the program of activities of Heydar Aliyev, who came to power in the republic in 1969, indicates that

he came to a responsible post with a ready-made construction concept. Heydar Aliyev, determined and innovative by nature, soon after coming to power showed a new worldview: the goal was a new Azerbaijan.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, along with economic revival, which was the most important direction in building a new life aimed at growth, there were developing directions designed for the return and dissemination of national and spiritual values and the formation of a national system of thought moved in tandem and developed parallel. The life experience of Heydar Aliyev, who was familiar with the subtlest moments of Soviet ideology, undoubtedly strengthened his conclusion that “national consciousness is the definition and condition for the existence of a nation” and became the basis for the concept of self-identification of a nation at that time. These bold steps required great courage in the era of Soviet ideology based on international foundations, and Heydar Aliyev was able to do it.

The national consciousness, formed by Heydar Aliyev, who felt the spirit of the nation and knew its abilities, became an inspiring force for the rise of national self-consciousness and the development of various spheres of society, therefore, the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1980s in the history of Soviet Azerbaijan can be characterized as a period of revival. Against the backdrop of the dynamic development of the republic’s economy, social life has significantly improved. Science, culture and art flourished.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, thanks to the policy of national awakening, economic and social progress pursued by Heydar Aliyev, the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan developed significantly.

The monograph shows that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, light, textile, food and local industrial enterprises in Karabakh were reconstructed and expanded, equipped with modern equipment. Already in 1985, as compared with the pre-war period, as a result of the improvement of technological processes at these enterprises, the facts demonstrated an increase in the production of basic consumer goods. Increased attention to the restoration and development of agriculture has led to the expansion of arable land, an increase in the

yield of grain and industrial crops, an increase in the productivity of animal husbandry, and an improvement in the work of collective farms and state farms. Also, as a result of the increase in the production of agricultural machinery, the production and technical base of agriculture in Karabakh was strengthened. The monograph also examined such important issues as those carried out in the field of cultural construction in Karabakh, and their successful results, as well as decisive measures taken by the national leader Heydar Aliyev against the attempts of the Armenian side to re-raise the Karabakh issue in the 1970s.

In order to prevent the distortion of our history, distorted in the Soviet era, in January 1997, Heydar Aliyev set an objective study of the history of Azerbaijan in the 19th-20th centuries as one of the main tasks of our science [3, p. 369]. Also of great importance in writing the history of the Republic are world-historical theoretical views and concepts, especially the provisions of the line of modernization, as well as the provisions arising from the generalization of the experience of statehood of Heydar Aliyev and Ilham Aliyev in the formation of a scientific and theoretical base. Here the concept of Azerbaijanism occupies a central place. Heydar Aliyev said at the First Congress of World Azerbaijanis (November 9, 2001): “After Azerbaijan gained state independence, Azerbaijaniism as a leading idea has been the main idea for Azerbaijanis living in Azerbaijan and all over the world. We should always unite around this idea. Azerbaijaniism means the preservation of one’s nationality, the preservation of national and moral values, at the same time, the benefit of their synthesis and integration with universal values and ensuring the development of each person” [4, p. 197].

After the historic victory in the 44-day war, President Ilham Aliyev made important provisions in the field of determining the fundamental issues of the history of the Republic and studying them. Among them, a special place is occupied by ideas about the Second Karabakh War, which changed the modern history of Azerbaijan. President Ilham Aliyev said: “The second Karabakh war, I want to say again, this is our historical Victory. There was no similar victory

in the centuries-old history of Azerbaijan. There is already enough information about the war and I don't want to repeat it. The course of the war is known to all. Simply put, now in our textbooks, scientific works, articles, books, very detailed and extensive information about the war and the pre-war period should be given so that we can mark this history as it is, write this history as it is, and so that future generations will always know about it and let them not forget, including the Armenian cruelty" [5].

One of the results of the 44-day Karabakh Victory was the complete removal of the issue of the "status of Nagorno-Karabakh". It should be recalled that the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, artificially inflated in the early 1920s, laid the foundation for a new stage in the sharp political struggle between official Yerevan and Baku until 1923. At that time, under the pressure of Moscow, on July 7, 1923, Nagorno-Karabakh was given the status of autonomy within the Azerbaijan SSR. The division of these Karabakh lands meant the creation of conditions for Armenia to present unfounded claims to this territory in the future. During the years of Soviet rule, the Center used this "card" very skillfully for its own interests. The bloody crimes committed by the armed forces of Armenia against the Azerbaijanis living in the region in the late 80s — early 90s of the 20th century, the creation of the so-called formation — the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" on September 2, 1991, prompted the Azerbaijani leadership to take decisive steps. On November 26, 1991, the leadership of Azerbaijan canceled the autonomous status of Nagorno-Karabakh, which "created and deepened national enmity between the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples". However, after that, the puppet regime created in Nagorno-Karabakh was "activated" for about 30 years. During these 30 years, negotiations with Armenia have not yielded any results, and the victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated Karabakh from occupation by force of arms. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev clarified this issue in one of his speeches and said: "In the long-term negotiations with Armenia, although little progress has been made, certain steps have been taken based on basic principles. But in recent years, all my hopes, as well

as the majority of the people of Azerbaijan, have been exhausted. Simply, I said and I want to say again that when to do what, how to do it, at what moment what to do, everything should be proportionate. We must hit so that the enemy does not wake up from this blow. This war is our glorious Victory. We are proud” [6].

CHAPTER I

KARABAKH INDUSTRY: FROM DECLINE TO PROGRESS

In the 60s of the 20th century, due to a number of objective and subjective reasons, negative trends began to appear in many areas of the Azerbaijani economy, both in industry and in agriculture. Gradually, the development of the republic slowed down, and this began to naturally affect the social condition of the population. The development of the republic gradually slowed down, and this began to have a logical effect on the social condition of the population. According to the general level of development of production, including the production of industrial products, the volume of national income and the rate of growth of labor productivity, Azerbaijan was lagging behind the level of the Union. And this backlog was increasing. Characterizing that period, Heydar Aliyev said in one of his speeches that “It can be definitely stated that in the 1960s, the economy of the republic as a whole entered a deep and long-term crisis phase. It is necessary to find a way out of the difficult situation, to develop fundamentally new conceptual approaches to the development of the economy, to carry out fundamental structural changes in the national economy, to apply new methods of stimulating agriculture and the economy” [12, 20]. In such a difficult situation, on July 14, 1969, at the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Heydar Alirza oghlu Aliyev was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. This event is of great importance in the history of Azerbaijan. Because since 1969, the foundation of the turning stage in the history of Azerbaijan was laid and dynamic development took place in the economic, political and spiritual life of our Republic [1]. The national leader Heydar Aliyev in his “New Address of 2001 to the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the advent of the new century and the third millennium” assessed this period as follows: “The years 1970-

1985 entered the chronicle of the construction of Azerbaijan as the brightest pages. The ninth, tenth and eleventh five-year plans occupy an important place in the new history of Azerbaijan due to the scale of transformations, the nature of deep structural transformations carried out in the economic and social spheres, the transition of the material well-being of the people to a qualitatively new stage... The workers and collective farmers, intellectuals of the republic, who started to do great work in solving the program adopted at that time, achieved very high results in meeting the growing needs of the people in terms of material and moral aspects in all spheres of economy and culture. For the first time in the post-war period, the development plans of the national economy for the ninth and tenth five-year plans were fulfilled ahead of time” [11, p. 18].

In this difficult situation of our state, an important change took place in the leadership of Azerbaijan. In 1969, the first period of Heydar Aliyev’s rule in Azerbaijan began. Heydar Aliyev, a great admirer of his people, embarked on a broad program of reforms in all areas to turn Azerbaijan into one of the most advanced republics of the Soviet Union in difficult historical conditions dominated by a totalitarian regime.

After Heydar Aliyev came to power, his concern for the economic, social and cultural development of the regions increased even more. Including Karabakh, which is an integral part of Azerbaijan, especially its Upper part, has always been in the center of attention of our far-sighted head of state. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan adopted several resolutions on the development of the city of Shusha. Since the beginning of the 1970s, the restoration of historical monuments of the city of Shusha and the construction of new buildings began. In 1980-1981, a large mausoleum was built over the grave of Molla Panah Vagif. In the city of Shusha, the ancient cultural center of Azerbaijan, the house-museums of Uzeyir Hajibekov and Bulbul were opened, a statue of the daughter of Khan Natevan was installed. A large hotel, multi-storey residential buildings, administrative buildings have been built in the city. As a result of the special attention and care shown, the

provision of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh has always been higher than the average indicators for the Azerbaijan SSR. Which will be discussed in detail below. In 1973, a Pedagogical Institute was opened in Khankendi on the basis of a branch of the Azerbaijan Pedagogical Institute. In 1979, a railway was built from Aghdam to Khankendi. As a result of Heydar Aliyev's smart and far-sighted policy, the party and Soviet bodies, public organizations, organized their work in such a way that Armenian separatists refrained from public speeches. Although the Karabakh issue was raised again in 1977, it was resolutely prevented by Heydar Aliyev.

The end of the 1960s — the beginning of the 1980s entered the history of Azerbaijan, including Karabakh, as the brightest period of development throughout its existence. During this period, as a result of the correct policy of Heydar Aliyev, growth was observed in all sectors of industry and agriculture in Karabakh. At the same time, important structural changes were carried out in the economy of Karabakh. New and progressive industries were created. Due to the level of development of the industry, important measures have been taken for the proportional development of the entire region. Attention was paid to the development of scientific research areas directly related to production. In the field of application in the production of the achievements of scientific and technological progress and advanced technologies, Karabakh has taken a leading position in all of Azerbaijan. The quality indicators of manufactured products have increased to a level incomparable with previous periods. As a result of Heydar Aliyev's far-sighted policy, wise and competent leadership, Karabakh turned into the most advanced agricultural region of the entire republic, including an advanced cotton-growing and grape-growing region. The socio-economic condition of the rural workers has substantially improved. Unprecedented works on construction, improvement and cultural development have been carried out in the villages of Karabakh. In 1971-1985, the leadership of the republic allocated 989 million manats for the development of Karabakh, which was 2.8 times more than in the previous fifteen years. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, basic funds with a total value of 950 mil-

lion manats, 30 industrial enterprises and other production areas were commissioned in Karabakh. It is known from our research that only 15 out of 30 industrial enterprises created in Karabakh were in the share of Nagorno-Karabakh [24].

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, Karabakh looked like a huge construction site. The appearance of cities, regions and settlements of Karabakh has completely changed.

In Karabakh there are hundreds of beautiful residential buildings, hotels, public buildings, schools, cultural palaces that form the basis of our economy, factories, huge industrial facilities, large industrial complexes, reservoirs, lakes, aqueducts, green spaces, recreation centers, many roads, including connection of Nagorno-Karabakh with the center — Baku. Important measures taken to revive the environment of Azerbaijan in Karabakh, the construction of the railway to Khankendi, were the result of the mind of Heydar Aliyev, his tireless activity and love for the Motherland, which permeated the entire being of this great man.

It should be noted that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, large enterprises for the production of chlorine, caustic soda, sulfuric acid, sulfanol joined the chemical and petrochemical industry of our republic, and large enterprises for the production of synthetic detergents and superphosphate were also launched. The production of mineral fertilizers, plastic mass, synthetic rubber and sulfanol, sulfuric acid, and household chemicals increased. The development of this or that industrial product played an important role in meeting the demand for these products in Karabakh. As a result of the study, it became known that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, if we consider the amount of funds allocated to the national economy of the regions of our republic as a whole, the amount of funds allocated to Karabakh, especially Nagorno-Karabakh, was in 3rd place after the cities of Baku and Sumgayit. However, in order to justify their baseless territorial claims, attract public opinion to their side, and create the image of a traditional tormentor, the Armenian Dashnaks claim that the republic's leadership does not pay attention to Nagorno-Karabakh and that the indicators of economic development in the region are

at a lower level than other regions. All this is nothing but baseless nonsense. All this is nothing but baseless nonsense. Because, in those years, Nagorno-Karabakh has left behind other regions of our Republic only in terms of the volume of capital investment per capita. It is appropriate to note only one fact that if in 1923 capital investments for the construction of new industrial enterprises in Karabakh amounted to 2 million manats, then in the late 1960s and early 1980s, annual investments reached 70 million manats [6, p. 11, 23]. Studies show that in 1923, 1 million manats were allocated for the development of the industry of Nagorno-Karabakh, and in 1970 — 35 million manats. In the 1970s, with the special attention of Heydar Aliyev, the industry of Karabakh developed dynamically. According to the statistics of the 1980s, there were more than 100 modern industrial enterprises in Karabakh, which produced hundreds of types of products. By the way, we note that in these years, only in Nagorno-Karabakh, there were 52 industrial enterprises equipped with all kinds of equipment. In these years, the industrial enterprises of Karabakh produced silk products, electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, capacitors, musical instruments, furniture, decorative plaques and souvenirs, building materials, facing plates, shoes, construction products, meat and dairy products, confectionery and flour products, cognac, alcohol, wine and other products. In the mid-1980s, 35 types of industrial products were awarded the State Quality Mark in Karabakh, of which 26 were consumer goods. In 1983, the volume of industrial production in Karabakh increased several times compared to 1923 [6, l. 2-3].

One of the most important historical achievements of Azerbaijan in the late 1960s and early 1980s was the creation of a powerful human resources potential in Karabakh, including an army of specialists in rare specialties, which foresaw the distant future of the nation. Thus, in those years, in accordance with the rapid and diversified development of the economy in Karabakh, the network of higher and secondary specialized education of the republic was expanded. 3500 young Azerbaijanis were sent to 170 leading universities of the USSR. Every year, 800 students were sent abroad to study.

In the 70s and 80s of the 20th century, 213 new industrial enterprises were put into operation in Azerbaijan, of which 30 belonged to Karabakh as a whole, and 15 belonged to Nagorno-Karabakh. The created new enterprises played an important role in improving the production structure of the industry and increasing output. One of such enterprises created in Karabakh was the Khankendi shoe factory named after the 50th anniversary of the USSR. The industrial enterprise, founded in 1970, was put into full operation in 1972 [32, p. 141]. The project of the Khankendi shoe factory was developed in Kyiv on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev. Specialists from Baku, Mingachevir, Moscow, Krasnodar, Odessa, Ganja took part in its construction and installation of equipment. Machines and devices imported from Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Moscow, Leningrad, Baku, Tbilisi, Odessa, Kursk, Oryol are installed in the workshops of the enterprise. The young masters of the Khankendi shoe factory had production experience in Baku and Voroshilovgrad. The factory, equipped with the latest and most productive equipment, increased its output from year to year. In the years of its first operation, the factory produced 8.4 thousand pairs of shoes, in 1980 the production volume increased almost 5 times to 4 million 181 thousand, and in 1985 it reached 4 million 514 thousand. In those years, 6 workshops of the enterprise exceeded their plans and obligations. 95 percent of the products produced at the factory were accepted as first-class. In 1979, 4 models of products manufactured by the factory were awarded the Quality Mark. 1450 workers and employees working at the factory set an example of personal labor to increase labor productivity. The Khankendi shoe factory produced an average of 4 million shoes a year, which was one and a half times the capacity of the entire shoe industry in Azerbaijan in 1940. Only in 1976-1980 the factory produced 16 million 826 thousand shoes. In 1981-1985, the factory's output increased by about 12 percent [6, l. 11, 23].

It should also be noted that in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century, the geographical boundaries of the non-ferrous metallurgy industry in the republic expanded. In the 1980s, new enterprises were created

in this sphere of production in Baku, Nakhchivan and Ganja, and the products produced were consumed in all regions of the republic, including Karabakh.

In the 70s and 80s of the 20th century, an important role in increasing production was played by the commissioning of new enterprises and the improvement of the production structure of old enterprises in Karabakh. The existing industrial enterprises of the Beylagan region processed agricultural products. In the region there were factories for the primary processing of wine, agricultural enterprises of the regional branch of the Republican Agricultural Technical Association, enterprises for the supply of gravel and sand materials, and other enterprises of the light and food industries. The region's enterprises have played an important role in satisfying the population's demand for consumer goods and providing them with new jobs.

One of the industrial enterprises established in Karabakh in the 70s of the 20th century is the Khankendi building materials enterprises. The marble blocks produced here were widely used in more than 160 different cities of the former USSR, including Moscow, Kyiv, Tashkent and other cities. High-quality lumber, bricks, facing materials, marble blocks produced at the plant have gained fame throughout the Union. From year to year, the Khankendi plant of building materials increased both the volume of output and labor productivity. In 1982 alone, compared with 1975, the volume of production increased by 5.5 times, and labor productivity by 3.5 times. In the production of marble blocks, this growth reached 10.5 times, and in the production of marble facings — 6.4 times. The revenues of the Khankendi construction enterprise increased every year. So, in 1976 this figure was 44 thousand manats, and in 1976 it increased almost 3 times and reached 1 million 183 thousand manats [6, l. 11, 23]. In the late 1960 — early 1980s, the Khankendinskiy building materials plant was a cultural and community complex with an area of 3000 sq.m for workers and servants, a canteen of a modern type, a pioneer camp, a club for 240 people, a park of culture and recreation, and a sports ground and other cultural and community

facilities were put into operation. Since 1978, the combine had consistently achieved high performance and until 1986 was awarded various diplomas 32 times. One of the decisive steps taken by Heydar Aliyev in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century was the expansion of the production of finished products from local raw materials. Since this issue did not satisfy the Center, despite the fact that serious obstacles were created, the leadership of Azerbaijan was able to overcome this difficult obstacle. In the 70s, on the basis of local raw materials in Karabakh, the volume of production of silk fabrics, a wide range of knitwear, garments and other finished products increased. At that time, in the villages and towns where Armenians mainly lived, new branches of the “Karabakh Silk Combine” — the second largest silk factory in Azerbaijan, were created. The Silk Combine was provided with new equipment and the amount of allocated funds was increased 3 times. As a result, the volume of production increased many times. It is appropriate to note only one fact that in 1975, compared with 1929, the production of the Karabakh Silk Combine increased 250 times [8, p. 315]. The volume of production at the enterprise increased year by year. So, in 1965-1970, the total production amounted to 24603 thousand manats, in 1971-1975 this figure was 29016 thousand manats, in 1976-1980 — 33197 thousand rubles, and in 1981-1985 it increased and reached 42217 thousand manats [9, p. 186]. In the 1980s, 12 types of Silk Combine were produced at the Karabakh silk factory. For the quality of the manufactured fabrics, the factory was repeatedly awarded with medals and orders. The Karabakh Silk Combine produced 36 percent of the products of the silk industry in Azerbaijan. The products manufactured here were known not only throughout the Union, but also in Japan, Italy, Hungary and other countries. The silk factory eliminated the shortage of raw materials by purchasing them in the states of Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and the regions of Azerbaijan neighboring Karabakh. As a result of the care shown by the leadership of the republic to the people of Karabakh, the combine never stopped work during the year due to a lack of raw materials. About 3000 workers worked at the plant, 52% of them were women [28, p. 98]. In the late 1960s — early

1980s, a dynamic development of the production of silk factory was observed in Karabakh. Thus, in the 1960s, the Karabakh silk factory produced 2259000 square meters of fabric, in 1970 — 9773000 square meters, in 1980 — 15710000 square meters, and in 1985 — up to 16864000 square meters [5, 1. 1-5]. Karabakh was the second center of silk production in Azerbaijan. Karabakh accounted for two thirds of the production of the light industry of Karabakh and about 25 percent of the production of the silk industry of our republic. Mainly as a result of the development of this branch of industry, a working class was formed, social infrastructure facilities were created, and fairly stable economic relations were formed.

One of the industrial enterprises created in Karabakh at the initiative of the national leader Heydar Aliyev was the construction of local industrial plants. The products of the Local Industrial Combine, established in the Barda region in 1977, were used not only in our republic, but also throughout the Union. By the way, we note that in the 70s and 80s of the last century, enterprises for the production of light food and other industrial products were created in the Barda region. During the period we are talking about, a butter and cheese plant, a cotton gin, plants for the production of liquefied gas and reinforced concrete, a garment factory, an electric grid, a regional branch of the Republican Agricultural Technical Association, a household plant and other industrial enterprises operated in the Barda region. Forestry was also been established in the region.

The Khankendi Electrotechnical Plant occupied an important place in the economy of Karabakh. In the 1970s, another production building of the plant with an area of five thousand square meters was built and put into operation. If earlier only table fans and household heaters were produced at the plant, then at the end of the 70s, significant progress was made in the product range. Already in the mid-70s, the plant began to produce modern-style electric lamps for lighting public buildings, domestic and medical institutions. In the early 80s, 14 types of products were produced at the enterprise. The development of a complete product quality management system began in 1976. At the initiative of the leadership of the republic, a comprehensive

plan of organizational and technical measures was drawn up. All this created conditions for increasing production volumes and product quality. In 1960-1970, production increased by more than 32 times. In 1962, the plant produced products worth 212000 rubles, and in 1985 this figure exceeded 25 million. In the 1980s, the Khankendi Electrotechnical Plant specialized in the production of lamps. Only in 1976-1980, labor productivity at the plant increased 4 times [3, 1. 33-34]. The plant's products were successfully exhibited at the Leipzig Fair along with other exhibits of Azerbaijan. In 1976-1977, the staff of the enterprise took an honorable place as the winner of the competition among the enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Energy and was awarded a high award. In 1981, 93 percent of the products manufactured at the Khankendi Electrotechnical Plant had a quality mark. 11 out of 14 types of products manufactured by the enterprise received a quality mark. The plant's products were exported to all the republics of the former USSR and 14 countries of the world. Residents of Moscow and Kyiv bought 30 percent of the products manufactured at the enterprise. In 1985, the number of customers of the Khankendi Electrotechnical Plant reached 2500 people. In 1985 alone, the company overfulfilled the plan by 35 percent; in addition to the plan, products worth 500000 rubles were produced. In 1985 alone, the company overfulfilled the plan by 35 percent, in addition to the plan, products worth 500000 rubles were produced. In the same year, 195 tons of black rolled metal, hundreds of kilograms of rolled aluminum and zinc, and 92000 kilowatt-hours of electricity were saved [26]. In 1971-1985, the Khankendi Electrotechnical Plant was equipped with new machines and equipment, and the process of complex mechanization and automation of the enterprise was accelerated. As a result, the company received a quality product. It is no coincidence that 40 workers of the enterprise were awarded the title of "excellent worker in quality", it is no coincidence that 40 workers of the enterprise were awarded the title of "excellent worker in quality", and most of the best workers were awarded the Order of Labor Glory III degree, the Red Banner of Labor and the Order of Honor. There were even factory workers who were elected deputies

of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR. The advanced workers and employees of the plant were awarded cash prizes called “13th salary” [6, 1.4] However, it should be noted a pity fact that there were very few Muslims by nationality among those awarded orders and medals, as well as in the list of monetary awards. The amount of monetary rewards given to Muslims was a very small percentage compared to Armenians.

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During the period under review, on the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, important industrial enterprises of the republic and the

Union were created and reconstructed in Karabakh. For example, we can mention an asphalt plant in Gubadli region, an incubator-poultry plant, a quarry, a dairy products plant, a consumer service plant in Kalbajar, a cheese processing plant, a mineral water plant, a mercury production industry, the Zangilan Wine-Industrial-Production-Agrarian Association, Timber industry, Brewery in Askeran, Factory of dry dairy products in Khankendi and others.

Heydar Aliyev's foresight lay in the fact that he put the organization of small and medium-sized industrial enterprises in Karabakh in the first place in order to more widely involve labor resources in production. In the 70s of the 20th century, one of the industrial enterprises established in Karabakh on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev was the construction of a plant for the production of lighting fittings for fluorescent lamps. This plant worked at the Khankendy Electrotechnical Plant. The comprehensive mechanization of the valve plant created the conditions for an annual increase in production. In 1970, the plant produced 474 thousand pieces of lighting fittings, in 1980 this number reached 780 thousand, and in 1985 it increased 2.1 times and reached 119 thousand pieces [7].

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, one of the dynamically developing industries in Karabakh was the wine industry. During the years we are talking about, 5 new wineries have been built and put into operation in Karabakh. In 1927, there were 2 distilleries in the region, in 1970 the number of such plants reached 10, and in 1985 — 15. It should be noted that in Nagorno-Karabakh, wineries were built in areas with a greater concentration of Armenians — Aghdara region, Askeran, Gyrgyzy Bazaar, Khankendi, Khojavend [2]. Our state has fully carried out work on electrification and mechanization at the wineries built in Karabakh, provided new machines, equipment, devices, based on the application of the achievements of science and technology here. As a result, not only production volumes have increased at the plant, but also quality products in accordance with international standards. Wine production in 1970 amounted to 539 thousand decaliters, in 1977 — 1062 thousand decaliters, in 1985 — 1211 thousand decaliters against 269 thousand decaliters in

1960. In 1980, compared with 1960, cognac production increased by almost 5 times. In 1980, it amounted to 53.8 thousand decaliters against 11.4 thousand decaliters before 1960. In 1927, the Karabakh wine trust produced goods worth 650 thousand manats, and in 1983 this figure exceeded 200 million manats. The material and technical base of viticulture and winemaking in Karabakh has been strengthened and developed every year. Quality products made in Karabakh were exported to 15 republics of the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and other countries. The white sweet wine “Karabakh” produced in the region was awarded a silver medal at the international competition of wines and cognacs. In 1981-1982, the Karabakh Winery Trust was awarded the Challenge Red Banner for the production of high quality products. The Karabakh wine-making trust, uniting 15 industrial enterprises, was included in the system of the State Committee for Viticulture and Winemaking of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR. In 1979, the fixed assets of the Karabakh winery trust increased 3 times compared to 1965, and the volume of wine bottling increased 3.5 times. In the 1980s, Karabakh wineries accounted for 12-17 percent of the entire wine industry in Azerbaijan [27].

Thanks to the care of Heydar Aliyev, the Karabakh wine industry developed dynamically in the late 1960s and early 1980s.

In the 70s and early 80s of the 20th century, Hasan Hasanov, who worked in the most responsible field of party work — the first secretary of the district committee and the city party committee, the secretary of the Central Committee for ideology, and then the secretary for construction and transport, he was a direct participant in large-scale economic reforms and expressed his views as follows: “Working in Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev not only laid the foundation of facilities, he created a long-term and effective, large-scale construction program thanks to a number of decisions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR. The program was so comprehensive, extensive, that often the builders simply could not cope. When Heydar Aliyev was elected the leader of Azerbaijan, the re-

public's economy was somewhat closed and neglected. Agriculture was dominated by cotton growing, while industry was dominated by oil production. At the same time, cotton harvest plans were not regularly met, and oil production levels continued to decline. On the whole, our republican mechanical engineering lagged far behind the developed mechanical engineering of the country. Heydar Aliyev approached the solution of the economic issue from a strategic point of view, and not from the then popular method of "fulfill the plan at any cost". He decided to radically rebuild the structure of the Azerbaijani economy... The volume of production of oilfield equipment in the industry has sharply increased. The scope of work has expanded from the reconstruction of existing factories to the construction of huge facilities using advanced technologies. The first signs of such advanced industries as machine tool building, electronics, electrical engineering were born, the flagship of which is the world-famous Baku Factory of Household Air Conditioners. In Azerbaijan, political success and economic indicators have joined in a single direction.

Heydar Aliyev always paid special attention to improving the cultural and living conditions of workers working at Karabakh wineries. In canteens intended for workers, food was served at half price. The institutions operated a store selling the most necessary goods, a large club, sanatorium and outbuildings with showers, subsidiary farms, kindergartens, a hairdresser, and a shoe repair shop. All these were concrete manifestations of Heydar Aliyev's concern for the working people of Karabakh and the entire population of the region.

The development of industry in the Lachin region did not escape the attention of Heydar Aliyev. It should be noted that the industrial facilities of the region were based on local raw materials. Dairy and butter and cheese factories, a carpet weaving enterprise, a bakery, an asphalt concrete plant, a building materials plant, and an agricultural repair enterprise operated in the area. On the basis of rich local natural resources, industrial enterprises of the region were equipped with new equipment, and in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the total volume of production in the region increased by about 2-3 times.

In the 70s of the 20th century, the “Karabakh brewery” became one of the newly created industrial enterprises in Karabakh. This plant, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1969, was built very quickly and put into operation in 1970. The plant, equipped with machine tools brought from Czechoslovakia and Germany, began to produce products already in the mid-1970s. In 1971, the plant produced 171 thousand decalitres, in 1972 — 175 thousand decalitres, in 1973 — 185 thousand decalitres, in 1980 — 205 thousand decalitres [23].

Heydar Aliyev’s foresight lies in the fact that he took into account the abundance of natural resources of Karabakh and proposed the creation of new industrial enterprises in these areas in order to ensure the application of the combined method in the region. At the same time, in the 1970s, most small and medium-sized industrial enterprises were built in the regions in order to attract more labor resources to production. Our research also shows that in 1985 42% of industrial output was produced outside industrial centers. In the 1970s, an inter-district car repair plant of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a butter and cheese and wine factories, a regional branch of the Republican Agricultural Technical Union, industrial and consumer service complexes and other industrial enterprises were built and operated in the Agjabadi district of the Karabakh region. The significance of these enterprises in meeting the demand of the population for consumer goods was great.

Sources show that during the period in question, there was great progress in the development of 5 local production plants of local industry in Karabakh. Among them, the name of the Shusha Factory of Oriental Musical Instruments, the only one in Azerbaijan operating in Shusha, should be especially noted. Musical instruments produced at the plant were exported to Central Asia, as well as to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. In particular, it should be noted that for the manufacture of these tools, local raw materials were used: beech, mulberry, birch bark, and spruce. Musical instruments were decorated with mother-of-pearl, varnished, strings were made of special steel. Skillful craftsmen Sh. Salmanov, M. Sirabov, V. Mammadov and others taught young workers the secrets of art, they re-

gularly and at a high professional level performed the tasks assigned to them. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, large reserves of marble, tuff, granite, felisite, limestone and other valuable and rare building materials were discovered in the mountains of Karabakh. In 1976-1985, new industrial quarries were opened in the region. These quarries are equipped with modern mechanisms. In 1984, a marble factory was built in the Asgeran region, producing 100000 square meters of decorative slabs per year [22].

As a result of the selfless and great patriotic creative activity of Heydar Aliyev in the 1970s, new industrial regions based on local raw materials were also created and developed in the Fizuli district of the Karabakh region. During this period, In the Fizuli district acted cotton ginning, reinforced concrete, butter and cheese factories, several grape processing enterprises, a branch of the Baku Experimental Plant named after M.I. Kalinin, textile factory, stone quarry, grain products plant, Department of the Technical Supply Committee of the Republican State Agricultural Production Company, power grid.

In the early 1980s, a conveyor with a production capacity of 50000 square meters was launched at the Khankendi Building Materials Plant. The plant fulfilled the tasks of the plan for 1981-1985, exceeding all technical and economic indicators. In 1985, the plant's output increased 3.5 times compared to 1980. Labor productivity increased 2.5 times. The personal five-year plan was fulfilled by 60 employees of the enterprise. 30 new, modern stone-cutting machines worked in the marble and stone quarries of Karabakh. Facing slabs made of marble, felsite, and granite produced here were sent to hundreds of cities of the former USSR [21]. Even the Center earned more by sending these precious stones of Azerbaijan to foreign countries. It is a pity that we did not come across a single Muslim name when considering the names of workers and employees who profited more by turning these gems into various forms in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

The surrounding of Karabakh with forests has created conditions for the development of timber processing enterprises in the area. As a result of the care of our state, high indicators have been achieved

here. The forests of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan are rich in beech and thick-leaved trees. From the wood of these precious and unique trees, various household items have long been made. The furniture shop, which began as a small workshop in Khankendi in 1928, later turned into a large factory. In the 1960s, a large furniture factory equipped with modern equipment was put into operation in Khankendi. In the 1970s, several branches of this factory were created. Wood materials for the Khankendi furniture factory came from the forestry, which was established near the Vagaus bridge across the Terter River. The Khankendi furniture factory was known in the former Soviet Union as a large specialized enterprise. Furniture, tables, chairs, armchairs, beds, cabinets, sideboards, rugs, household items and other goods produced here were sold on the territory of the former USSR and brought high profits to the enterprise. The volume of production of the enterprise increased from year to year at high rates. Compared to 1960, the factory's output in 1985 increased 5.9 times. Thus, in 1960, the Khankendi Furniture Factory produced products worth 786000 manats, in 1970 this figure increased to 1891000, in 1980 it reached 3435000, and in 1985 it reached 4657000. The Armenian leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh made a big profit by destroying rare, ancient and valuable tree species in the region.

One of the industrial enterprises created in Karabakh on the personal initiative of national leader Heydar Aliyev is the Aghdam machine-tool plant. The plant, built in the early 1970s, was commissioned in 1976. By the way, we also note that the city of Aghdam was one of the developing industrial centers of the republic. A heavy, food and light industry based on local raw materials was created in Aghdam. Operated in the area a meat processing plant, hardware fuznitur, butter, cheese, canning, cocoon seeds, wineries, a carpet factory, a mechanized quarry, a mechanized bakery, an electrical network, a regional branch of an association of agricultural machines, a car service station, a poultry farm, household service stations. In the 1970s, 11000 hectares of vineyards were planted in the area, from which more than 37000 tons of grapes were harvested, which created the basis for the creation of wineries in the area. In the 1970s, a wine-

making state farm-trust was established in Aghdam. At that time, high-quality “Aghdam” wine was consumed not only in the republic, but also in all the republics of the Union [26].

For the dynamic development of the industry, Heydar Aliyev put in the first place such factors for increasing labor productivity as “personal interest of workers”, updating outdated equipment and technologies, mechanization and automation of production processes, economic stimulation of enterprises and agriculture. As a result, high scores were obtained.

According to sources, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, one of the developing industries in the Karabakh region of the Azerbaijan SSR was the Khankendi garment factory named after M. Azizbekov. In the 1970s, additional buildings were built at the garment factory at the expense of special funds allocated by Heydar Aliyev. The functioning of such a plant in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and providing it with the necessary conditions was the result of great care shown by our state to the region. Because hundreds of people worked at this enterprise, and they were provided with the necessary wages. The plant’s products were very popular not only in our republic, but also on the territory of the former USSR, even outside the union. The volume of production at the plant increased every year. So, in 1975, the volume of production of all products at the plant was 91.6%, in 1977 — 103.8%, in 1980 — 115.2%, in 1985 — 121.8%. The Khankendi garment factory has repeatedly received honorary awards from the ministry and the trade union organization for the production of high-quality products and the fulfillment of planned targets [11].

The production of light industry in our republic increased in 1985 compared to previous years, the production of cotton fiber 251.1 thousand tons, raw silk threads 456 tons, woolen yarn 8.2 thousand tons, underwear 27.9 million pieces outerwear 12.9 million pieces, carpets and rugs amounted to 4045 thousand m² [21].

It should also be noted that important steps were taken in the 70s of the 20th century for the possibility of the existence of a sovereign independent Azerbaijan. The unprecedented construction work carried out in those years must be regarded as factors that

ensure our state independence. Historical facts prove that Azerbaijan began its path to independence in the early 70s. Heydar Aliyev himself confirmed in an interview with the Zaman newspaper on December 6, 1991 that he felt the intensification of the economic and political crisis in the USSR in the 70s: “I thought that someday the republics of the USSR would gain independence. In those years, I dreamed that our Azerbaijan would become an independent state”. The realization of this dream, working with all his might to ensure the rapid development of the national economy of Azerbaijan in all spheres — this was the main goal of his great dreams and efforts.

Carpet weaving was an ancient and beloved art of Karabakh women. The secrets of this subtle art are carefully guarded and passed down from generation to generation. Established in 1929 in Khankendi, the Karabakh carpets factory was improved and developed in subsequent periods. In the 1970s, new branches of the carpet weaving factory were established on the territory of Karabakh, and the existing carpet weaving factories were equipped with new machines and equipment. The carpets produced here have become famous in the former USSR, England, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, the Arab Republic of Egypt and other foreign countries due to their original and beautiful patterns, excellent creative style, exceptional durability. Carpets produced in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region were sold at a very high price on world markets and brought significant profit to the regional budget. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 90 percent of the carpets produced at the Khankendy carpet factory had a quality mark. Also in these years there was a large increase in the production of carpets. For example, in 1970, 2000 square meters of carpets were woven in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, in 1982 — 2745 square meters, in 1985 — 3000 square meters. Due to their beauty and durability, the carpets produced in Karabakh were successfully exhibited and gained fame in the world markets, various international exhibitions and fairs.

The production of high-quality raw materials in all parts of Karabakh led to the establishment of carpet weaving workshops in most regions in the 70s. At the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, in the 70s,

such an enterprise was also created in the Jabrayil region. Carpets produced in the region were distinguished by their quality and originality, they were known throughout the union and beyond. By the way, we note that in the 1970s and 1980s, a grape processing and baking plant, an enterprise for the repair of agricultural machinery, electrical networks and other industrial enterprises operated in the Jabrayil region.

The sources contain extensive information about milk and dairy products produced in Karabakh. Based on the sources, we can be said that one of the industrial facilities built in Karabakh in 1982-1983 was the new cheese-making workshop of the Khankendi Dairy Plant. During the period we are talking about, all departments of the dairy plant operating in Karabakh were equipped with new automatic devices, and the workshops themselves were mechanized. Compared with 1960, in 1970 the amount of funds allocated for the construction and restoration work of the Khankendi Dairy Plant was 52.4 percent more. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, Karabakh saw a huge increase in the production of milk and dairy products, cheese, fatty cheeses and butter. So, in 1960, 346 tons of beef fat, 268 tons of cheese and fatty curds were produced at the Karabakh dairy and dairy products plant, and in 1970 this figure increased to 550 tons of beef fat, 557 tons of cheese and fatty cheeses, in 1980 beef fat 885 tons, cheese and fat cheese 652 tons, and in 1985, compared with 1960, the production of fat increased 2.7 times to 964 tons, and the production of cheese and fat cheese increased 2.8 times to 764 tons reached. It should also be noted that the dairy plant in Nagorno-Karabakh was the only facility in the republic that had a workshop for the production of dry whey. In this workshop, equipment purchased by our state from abroad was installed. In terms of the production of milk and dairy products per capita, Nagorno-Karabakh occupied one of the first places among the economic regions of the Azerbaijan SSR. The products produced here not only met the needs of the local population, but were also sent to Armenia and other regions of the Union [31].

The traditional industry of Azerbaijan — the food industry — was among the most dynamically developing industries. Azerbaijan

was a record holder in terms of food production. For example, in 1985, food industry products were produced in the republic — 76.8 thousand tons of meat, 29.1 thousand tons of sausages, 219.6 thousand tons of processed dairy products, 54.8 thousand tons of vegetable oil, 619.9 million conventional cans various canned food, 94.9 thousand tons of confectionery, 164.1 million half-liter bottles of mineral water, 117.9 thousand tons of salt, 18.6 thousand tons of natural tea and others [33]. In general, the food industry occupied the first place among the industries of Azerbaijan in terms of the total volume of output.

All those or other high indicators were not easy. The basis of these achievements was the personality of Heydar Aliyev. “Heydar Aliyev was a man of comprehensive and extensive knowledge, a good organizer. He knew well the tasks that he had to solve. He carefully weighed everything before making a decision... He thoroughly studied a complex issue, consulted with experts, and only then made a decision... Heydar Aliyev followed this decision without fail after its adoption. Despite all this, Heydar Aliyev was able to achieve high rates of development of the Azerbaijani economy” [30].

The territory of Karabakh is rich in building materials. Therefore, various areas of the building materials industry based on local raw materials have been created and are developing here. In 1975-1980, new lime, sawmill, brick and ceramic factories were created on the territory of Karabakh. The newly created workshops were built mainly in the Khankendi, Aghdara and Hadrut regions, where the Armenians lived more compactly. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, enterprises equipped with modern equipment rapidly developed in the region. Thus, compared with 1960, the production of lumber in 1985 increased 4 times (from 11.7 thousand cubic meters to 46.9 thousand cubic meters), the production of lime increased 1.4 times (from 7.1 thousand tons to 10.1 thousand tons), brick production increased 6 times (from 325 thousand million to 1973 million). All these facts gave serious impulses for increase of construction works in Karabakh, particularly in his highland region [4, T. 54].

It should also be noted that in the 1970s it was not easy to make decisions and allocate funds for the development of industry in the republic, which lagged behind on the Union scale in terms of social development. Heydar Aliyev, who brought clarity to the adoption of these complex, responsible and important decisions, recalls: “Indeed, on August 5, 1969, a broad analysis of the Azerbaijani economy was given at the annual plenum: both to Azerbaijan and to our people, our country, our republic. We also clearly showed the USSR that the economy of Azerbaijan is in a difficult situation and we need to help it. Therefore, I remember that in 1970 the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted two important decisions on Azerbaijan. One of these decisions concerned the development of agricultural production in Azerbaijan, and the second concerned the development of industrial potential. It was an unthin-kable event even at the time. The ministers in Moscow, very big people, on the one hand congratulated us, and on the other hand said that we have been working here for many years, we have never seen such decisions being made for the republic. But we did it. We surpassed them in 5 years from 1970 to 1975. Therefore, I had a moral right, I went to Moscow and informed both the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers that you had made decisions on Azerbaijan. You and many people did not believe that Azerbaijan would do these things, because in the past there was an idea in Moscow that the leaders of Azerbaijan come, make promises, sometimes get some help, but do nothing. You also looked at me that way, you had the right. But now I am informing you. They got the information without me. But I wrote a long letter there, showed everything. I was asked what you want, I said that I need a new solution for the coming years. Because, you know, this system was such that when these decisions were made, every trade union minister had to carry them out. If there is no solution, go ask him or her. But there is a decision, the decision was signed by the General Secretary of the Party and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. If the minister or another representative of the trade union does not do this, then you immediately go there and report, they were very afraid of this. Therefore, the importance of

those decisions was precisely in this. We also had to plan our work. These decisions were necessary for this. “Yes, in 1975 a decision was made on measures to further intensify agricultural production in Azerbaijan, and in 1976 a decision was made to develop advanced industries in Azerbaijan”.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, through the efforts of the leadership of the republic in Karabakh, flour milling and flour products enterprises, confectionery shops, meat processing plants, sausage shops and others were built and handed over to the population for use. One of the industrial enterprises put into operation in Karabakh in 1984 was the launch of a new line with a production capacity of 50000 square meters at the Khankendi building materials plant — a conveyor for processing pieces of marble. The conveyor surpassed all technical and economic indicators in 1985. With the launch of this enterprise, labor productivity in the production of marble increased by 2.5 times. Only 60 workers worked at this enterprise, who fulfilled all the tasks assigned to them with a surplus.

The development of energy-intensive areas required an increase in electricity production in Azerbaijan. In the 70s of the 20th century, the leadership of the republic did significant work to fully provide Karabakh with electricity. The supply of electricity to Karabakh from the Mingachevir hydroelectric power station through the Aghdam-Khankendi high-voltage power line has been increased. The Madagiz, Askeran, Sajan, Khankendi hydroelectric power stations and other stations operating in Karabakh were equipped with new equipment, their capacity was increased. In the 1970s, Heydar Aliyev worked hard and persevered in order to meet the needs of the Azerbaijani people for electricity. The national leader recalls that period as follows: “In the 1970s, many efforts were made to provide Azerbaijan with electricity... As a result of the work done in Azerbaijan in the field of energy, we have created an energy system with a production capacity of 5,000 megawatts of electricity. At that time, we received large funds from the Union government and created in Mingachevir 8 large power units with a capacity of 300 megawatts each. Kur’s HPP was built. In 1979, a decision was made to reconstruct the HPP” [32]. In the late

1960s — early 1980s, the Tartar HPP, the Araz HPP, the Shamkir HPP, and Azerbaijan State District Power Station were built and put into operation. The energy sector developed rapidly in the republic. If in 1970 the capacity of power plants was 2.741 thousand kW, then in 1985 it was 4.649 thousand kW, and electricity generation increased from 12.027 million kWh to 20.702 kWh. As a result of the work, all regions of Azerbaijan, including the cities and villages of Karabakh, industrial enterprises and facilities, collective farms and state farms were provided with electricity at the required level. Even when considering the statistical materials of the period we are talking about, it becomes clear that in the late 1960s and early 1980s, a dynamic increase in electricity production was observed in Karabakh. Thus, if in 1970 the production of electricity in Karabakh reached 2.8 million kilowatt-hours, then in 1980 this figure reached 5.9 million kilowatt-hours, and in 1985 it dynamically increased to 7.5 million kilowatt-hours [34]. As a result of the study, it became known that the Nagorno-Karabakh region became the leader in terms of electricity supply per capita at the level of the entire republic. Let us note only one fact that in 1985 the production of electricity in Nagorno-Karabakh was 2 times higher than in Karabakh as a whole, and 30 percent more than in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Both at the level of the entire republic, in comparison with other regions of Karabakh, and in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, it was noted that electricity consumption per person in Nagorno-Karabakh was 2 times higher [32]. All this gave a powerful impetus to the development of energy-intensive regions of Nagorno-Karabakh, especially industry, to the improvement of the material well-being of the population.

By the way, we note that, despite the fact that most of Nagorno-Karabakh is a mountainous area, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, a high-voltage power line 1300 km long was built to develop energy in the region. Nagorno-Karabakh is the only region in Azerbaijan with a tripartite electricity supply. This supply ensures that the region will be more reliably supplied with electricity. A number of special subdivisions, including a large repair and production base, have been organized to ensure the construction of Karabakh power grid

facilities. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the construction of energy facilities in Karabakh gained momentum. The Sarsang HPP not only produces a sufficient amount of electricity, but this complex hydraulic structure was able to irrigate new and perennial crops on 120000 hectares of the Karabakh plain. By the way, we also note that the 130-meter spillway dam of the Sarsang reservoir is one of the highest dams in the world. 125 million kilowatt-hours of electricity generated by the Sarsang hydroelectric power station was supplied annually to the unified energy system of Transcaucasia. The Republic of Azerbaijan occupied one of the leading places in the Soviet Union in the production of valuable oil products, oil equipment, steel pipes, non-ferrous metals, synthetic rubber, electric motors, building materials, household air conditioners, car tires, cotton fibers, wine materials and canned food. 350 types of high-quality products of the republic were exported to 65 countries of the world.

Thus, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, as a result of personal initiative, thinking and persistent activity of the head of our republic, Heydar Aliyev, the industry of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan developed rapidly and dynamically. The industry of Karabakh grew by 249 percent in 1980 and by 300 percent in 1985 compared to 1970 [37].

In those years, the indicators of the Karabakh industry were superior both at the level of the entire republic and in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Thus, over 15 years, in terms of production growth, the industry of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region exceeded the level of the entire republic by almost 3 times. At the end of 1986, the value of the industrial production assets of Karabakh increased by 55 percent compared to 1980, which is 46 percent higher than the figure for the republic as a whole. In 1985, more than 50 times more people worked in the industry of Karabakh than in 1923, and 50 percent of them were women. In terms of the number of industrial workers per 10000 people in the Karabakh region, their number is almost 2 times higher than in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Region. In terms of employment in industry, the Karabakh region was second only to the Baku-Sumgait

region. As a result of the implementation of planned activities for the commissioning of new facilities in Karabakh, high rates of development of production were ensured, in the ninth five-year plan this figure was 153 percent, in the tenth five-year plan — 162 percent [36]. In Karabakh, per capita industrial output worth 1.4 thousand manats was produced, which is higher than in all economic regions of our republic, except for Baku and Sumgait. The basis of the industrial complex of Karabakh was electrical engineering, sericulture, mechanical engineering, electric power industry, building materials, textile, furniture, footwear, meat and dairy industries and others. In 1981, there were 593 people with higher education and 1083 people with secondary education among the workers in the industry of Karabakh, which is 25 percent more than in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Region. In Karabakh, the level of employment in social production was quite high. The labor force was 198000, of which 103000 were men and 88,000 were women of working age. The structure of employment of the population gradually improved. The rapid development of Karabakh, the creation of industrial enterprises, their branches and workshops in cities, towns and villages, the increase in the number of workers at home, the measures taken by the leadership of the republic in other areas ensured the employment of the able-bodied population of the region more effectively and fully.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the current indicators in the field of industry in Nagorno-Karabakh completely exceeded those in the republic as a whole. All this is clearly seen from the following facts. Thus, in 1985, the average per capita income of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh exceeded 1113.5 manats, which is 97.8 manats more than the indicators of the entire republic and Karabakh, and 170.4 manats more than the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. There are thousands of unbiased studies and reliable facts about the development of Nagorno-Karabakh. Probably, the Armenian lobby, which is trying to falsify our history, either does not know the above historical facts, or deliberately falsifies it. Armenian nationalists went to the highest level of fraud and immeasurably exaggerated the role of Armenia in the economic development of Nagorno-Karabakh.

However, as a result of the study, it became known that the share of Armenia in the economic development of Nagorno-Karabakh was less than 2 percent. 90 percent of the economic and social development of the region accounted for the Azerbaijan SSR, and 8 percent — for the RSFSR, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia [35]. The technical assistance of the union republics to each other in the former USSR is an undeniable fact, but to exaggerate it, to spread false facts that do not correspond to reality in the world is a crime, and those who deny justice, hide the truth, “write” a slanderous story will soon receive their punishment.

National leader Heydar Aliyev “Azerbaijan is at the crossroads of the 21st century and the third millennium. In his address to the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the advent of the new century and the third millennium (Respublika newspaper, December 20, 2000), he expressed his views on the development of industry in the late 1960s and early 1980s as follows: “In the late 1960s and early 1980s, industry in Azerbaijan developed dynamically. Over the years, 213 new large industrial enterprises have been put into operation, more than 250 large plants, factories and production workshops have been built, labor productivity in industry has increased 2.1 times, production by 3.3 times, profits by 3.2 times, ensuring in cash of industrial and productive personnel increased by 1.4 times, 451 products were awarded the state quality mark. Products manufactured in our country were exported to 65 countries of the world, and the material well-being of our people has improved significantly” [10].

In the successful results of large-scale construction work carried out in Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s, the development of building complexes as a whole at a level that met the requirements was of exceptional importance. The scope of work in this area alone was 2.6 times greater than in the previous 15 years. In 1981-1985, the volume of fixed assets was increased by 20 percent compared to 1956-70, which covered 15 years. In Karabakh, the number of state contracting and assembly organizations and the number of state construction and assembly trusts doubled in the late 1960s and early 1980s.

Thus, the great rise of the industry of the Karabakh region in the late 1960s — early 1980s, of course, but only on the basis of the harmonious development of all its constituent branches, was possible thanks to the personal initiative, thought and perseverance of Heydar Aliyev in the leadership of the republic.

Heydar Aliyev personally supervised all strategically important matters aimed at the future development of Azerbaijan. In a word, the great Azerbaijani, always thinking about the future of his people, was ahead of his time and created a strong personnel potential for Azerbaijan in the 21st century. As a result of comprehensive development programs implemented by Heydar Aliyev in the early 70s and 80s of the 20th century, Northern Azerbaijan became an advanced industrial, agricultural and cultural republic in the space of the great USSR, which at that time began to disintegrate. This was a bright result of a purposeful, deliberate, deeply balanced and future-oriented wise policy, brilliant foresight of Heydar Aliyev. In one of his speeches, Heydar Aliyev emphasized that: “The most obvious result of the development of Azerbaijan during the Soviet period is that the economic, scientific, technical and cultural potential created during this period created a solid foundation for the functioning of our republic as a fully independent state”. Even then, Heydar Aliyev saw those days when we lived independently, he prepared his Motherland for these days. It was from that time that the great genius began to build a new Azerbaijan — today’s Azerbaijan! [10].

CHAPTER II

DYNAMIC GROWTH OF AGRICULTURE IN KARABAKH

In the 60s of the 20th century, the growth rates of agriculture in Azerbaijan were the last on the scale of the Union. National leader Heydar Aliyev clarified the current situation in Azerbaijan in his “Appeal to the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the new year 2001, new century and third millennium” and noted that in the 1960s there were shortcomings in agricultural melioration in wasteland irrigation, mechanization of agricultural work dropped to a low level. The yields of grain, cotton, vegetables, grapes, tea leaves and other crops were low due to the violation of agrotechnical rules. Gross mistakes were made in the distribution of productive forces. As a rule, most large facilities and enterprises were built in the cities of Baku and Sumgayit, which reduced the degree of efficiency in the use of labor resources in medium and small towns, caused an outflow of the country’s population to the capital, and exacerbated the already existing difficulties with housing and social facilities. It can be definitely stated that in the 1960s the economy of the republic as a whole entered a phase of a deep and prolonged crisis. It was necessary to find a way out of a difficult situation, to develop fundamentally new conceptual approaches to the development of the economy, to carry out fundamental structural transformations in the national economy, to develop new methods of managing the economy and economic stimulation.

In the modern history of Azerbaijan, the beginning of a turning point was laid in 1969. Tireless activity, unparalleled initiative and enormous energy in the development of comprehensive programs for the dynamic development of the republic have become a clear sign of all the 70s. The end of the 1960s — the beginning of the 1980s entered the annals of Azerbaijan as the brightest pages. The ninth, tenth and eleventh five-year plans occupy an important place in the

new history of Azerbaijan due to the scale of transformations, the nature of deep structural transformations carried out in the economic and social spheres, and the transfer of the material well-being of the people to a qualitatively new stage. The government of the USSR adopted five special resolutions in relation to Azerbaijan, providing for the all-round growth and intensive development of the national economy of the republic. These important decisions, which are of historical significance for the people of Azerbaijan, determined the complex issues of the main directions of the country's socio-economic development in the 70-80s and in the future. The workers and collective farmers, the intellectuals of the republic, who began a great deal of work on the decision of the adopted program, have achieved very good results in meeting the growing needs of the people in material and moral terms in all spheres of economy and culture. For the first time in the post-war period, the plans for the development of the national economy for the ninth and tenth five-year plans were completed ahead of schedule. Today it can be said with full confidence that the state sovereignty and economic independence of Azerbaijan, systematically expanding foreign economic relations, deeper integration into the world economy are based on the potential of the national economy, which was laid in the late 1960s and early 1980s. The dynamically growing production of agricultural products, the fulfillment of obligations ahead of schedule and above the norm, the improvement of quality indicators in all areas of the national economy, the share of Azerbaijan's development in the 70s and 80s, as well as its participation in the foreign economic relations of the USSR, have increased significantly...

In the 60s of the 20th century in Karabakh there was an indifferent attitude to the shortcomings of specialization, to the correct assessment of local conditions, to the effective use of the economic potential of the region. More progressive forms and methods of farming were sought. The increase in the personnel and production potential of agriculture, the level of inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration necessitated the abolition of field structures for managing the agricultural sector. Large losses in the supply, storage,

processing and shipment of agricultural products and the existing contradictions in the agro-industrial complex required a revision of the investment policy and the creation of unified management bodies for this complex.

In 1969-1982, when the nationwide leader Heydar Aliyev was in charge of Azerbaijan, one of the most important economic results was the dynamic development of Karabakh agriculture and its increasing role in the economy. During this period, the intensification and improvement of production on a scientific basis played an important role in increasing the achievements of agriculture. The necessary renewal of agriculture at the level of deep reforms ensured unprecedented progress in its development.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, along with more efficient use of farming methods based on the expansion of the material base of agriculture in Karabakh, the system of intensive appropriation of the land fund was also strengthened. In general, in those years, the development of agriculture was determined on the basis of intensification. In order to improve the level of agro-technical services, which are of exceptional importance in the conditions of Karabakh (chemicalization, regional melioration programs, investment policy within the framework of state programs), significant results have been achieved by transforming many collective farms into state farms.

At the direction of Heydar Aliyev, regional agro-industrial associations began to be created during the period under review. The agro-industrial complex was gradually formed and successfully completed.

Agriculture in Karabakh had a relatively limited amount of arable land. Therefore, it was considered important to fully and comprehensively use the possible reserves of productive forces in agriculture. However, in all previous periods, no fundamental change in its correct decision on this important issue was achieved. For this, first of all, in the republic, including in its Karabakh region, certain areas of agriculture should be developed at a high level in favorable soil and climatic conditions, most suitable for each of them, due to the effective specialization and concentration of agriculture and animal

husbandry in various natural and economic zones. It was in the late 1960s — early 1980s, on the basis of the successes achieved in the agriculture of Karabakh, that important steps were first of all taken to correctly assess and use the requirements of these basic conditions for its development.

On August 5, 1969, on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, a plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan was held, at which he gave an analysis of the socio-economic crisis and many years of backwardness of Azerbaijan, explained the reasons and determined the way out. Since that time, Azerbaijan has begun the transition from recession to progress. With the coming to power of Heydar Aliyev, a stage of economic revival, development, qualitative progress of society, national self-consciousness, national self-return began in Azerbaijan. The years 1969-1982 were a period of revival in the socio-political and economic life of Azerbaijan.

Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the concept of the economic development of the republic was developed in a short time, comprehensive measures related to the creation of specialization, concentration, material and technical and modern production areas in the economy, including agriculture, were prepared and implemented, the economy of the republic developed on the basis of scientific achievements.

First of all, Heydar Aliyev, using his influence in the center, achieved the adoption of the following relevant decisions of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR in order to ensure the development of agriculture in the republic: 1) July 23, 1970 “On measures to develop the national economy of the Azerbaijan SSR”; 2) July 25, 1970 “On measures for the further development of agriculture in the Azerbaijan SSR”; 3) July 9, 1975 “On measures for the further intensification of agricultural production in the Azerbaijan SSR”; 4) February 22, 1979 “On measures for the further specialization of agricultural production and the development of viticulture and winemaking in the Azerbaijan SSR” [1, 2, 3]. It should also be noted that significant funds were allocated to Azerbaijan from the central budget

to ensure the implementation of these decisions through the hard work of Heydar Aliyev.

Karabakh is a region of Azerbaijan with fertile lands, favorable climatic conditions and water resources. Such a natural and geographical position of Karabakh created conditions for the development of agriculture. On the territory of the economic region, the leading sectors were the development of grain farming, viticulture and animal husbandry. Crop production accounted for 57 percent of products produced in the territory of Karabakh, and livestock — 43 percent.

In the 1970s, at the direction of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, important measures were taken to develop agriculture in Karabakh in order to implement the above-mentioned decisions in the regions of Azerbaijan. One of these measures was the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers in May 1973 on “Measures for the further development of the national economy of Karabakh”, which was of great importance for the development of the entire economy and culture of Karabakh. First of all, the above-mentioned decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan was discussed in the regions of Karabakh, and in accordance with this decision, an “action plan” for the development of agriculture was developed in the Karabakh party committees. More than 342 million manats were allocated for the development of agriculture in Karabakh, the strengthening of its material and technical base (excluding large amounts of state allocations for water management and land reclamation).

Only in 1970-1979, 22 million 634 thousand manats of longterm loans were allocated for the development of agriculture in Karabakh [28, p. 104-105]. In 1980-1985, the amount of this loan was increased to 26 million 552 thousand manats [30]. To the departments that are part of the Karabakh Agro-Industrial Complex as a whole, the departments of agriculture of the District Executive Committees producing agricultural and livestock products, the Karabakh Agrarian Production Union, industrial enterprises processing agricultural raw materials, the Karabakh agricultural authorities, the Karabakh chemical departments, rural transport enterprises and construction orga-

nizations, agricultural technical schools and vocational schools were given specific tasks.

In the 70s of the 20th century, 25 inter-farm associations and complexes were created in Karabakh. On the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, 77 percent of the 6670.1 thousand hectares of arable land in Karabakh were used for agricultural production. As a result of the economic policy pursued by Heydar Aliyev in 1969-1982, the annual gross product increased from about 21 percent to 47 percent, and the growth of fixed production assets amounted to 62 percent, the gross product amounted to 85% [11].

In addition, for the development of Karabakh agriculture, reclamation and irrigation works were further expanded. For these purposes, our state allocated 402000 manats in 1970, 496000 manats in 1975, and 652000 manats in 1980 [33].

Many important water management facilities and canals were built in Karabakh. By the way, we also note that the relief of Karabakh is diverse. Since the mountainous regions are relatively dry, crop and livestock production is supported by rainfall. However, the reserves of underground and surface waters of the region are extensive. Karabakh belongs to the Kura-Araz water basins and consists of the Gargarchay, Khachinchay, Tartarchay irrigation networks. Also, since these rivers take their flows from a height of up to 3500 meters, they quickly flow across the plain and create energy reserves. They are used as a source of energy and are also of great importance for the irrigation of the flat regions of Karabakh. The purity of the water of these rivers, which originate from mountain waters, allows the population to use them in the household. Groundwater in Karabakh in many places comes to the surface in the form of spring water, which was used for drinking and domestic needs.

Heydar Aliyev has always focused on the issue of providing water to the agriculture of Karabakh. It is no coincidence that in 1970-1981, only 1550000 manats were allocated for irrigation and reclamation work in Karabakh. In the 1970s, artesian wells with a depth of 100-400 meters were dug in the collective farms and state farms of the region [34]. Only in 1971-1975, 86 mechanical units were

installed for pumping water from the rivers flowing from the deep gorges of Karabakh. The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan has always paid attention to the construction of the Sarsang reservoir built on the Terter River. Even on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, in 1970 the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan adopted a special resolution “On measures to accelerate the construction of a reservoir along with the main canals on the Terter River”. Construction work on the Sarsang reservoir under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev was completed in 1976. The far-sighted statesman Heydar Aliyev took part in the opening of this complex, calling this grandiose building “Friendly Construction”. As a result of the research, it became known that more than 95 million manats were spent on the construction of the Sarsang reservoir, which was almost equal to all the funds spent on the construction of national economy facilities in the republic during the sixth five-year period. During the construction, 20 million cubic meters of concrete and cement concrete were poured, more than 2800 tons of metal structures and technological equipment were installed, and underground tunnels with a length of more than one kilometer were built. The Sarsang reservoir with an area of 35 square kilometers holds 560 million cubic meters of water. This water was discharged to the collective and state farm fields of Karabakh through canals with a total length of about 100 kilometers. Two main magistral canals were built here. The 1st channel is the right channel 75 kilometers long, and the 2nd channel is the left channel, the length of which was 25 kilometers. It was planned to irrigate 120 thousand hectares of new and perennial crops from the water of the Sarsang reservoir [35]. By the way, we note that this huge reservoir of Azerbaijan has been occupied by the armed forces of Armenia for thirty years.

Along with all this, in the 1970s, the Upper Karabakh Canal was reconstructed. In the years we have considered, the network of inter-district canals and the construction of on-farm canals were expanded. In 1976-1981, on the territory of Karabakh, at the expense of special funds allocated by the state, large inter-district state canals with a length of 388.5 kilometers and on-farm canals with a length

of 348 kilometers were built and put into operation. Even on the territory of Aghdara region, an irrigation system called “artificial rain” was introduced, which is a convenient irrigation system for irrigating farms, which prevented water losses and increased plant productivity. Based on all this, we can say that during the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, irrigation and reclamation work was carried out at the required level for the development of agriculture in Karabakh, and the volume of irrigated land, having overcome the level of 41726 hectares in 1970, reached 48750 hectares in 1980, and in 1985 — up to 57938 ha [31, p. 639]. The increase in the areas of irrigated lands, which is of exceptional importance in the conditions of Karabakh, played a great role in the great achievements of agriculture.

Ameliorative measures in the arid climate and shallow lands of Karabakh are of great economic and social importance. From this point of view, during the specified period, certain works were carried out in the farms of Karabakh. In 1975-1985 more than 38 thousand hectares of land were provided with irrigation water, more than 76 thousand hectares of land were improved in terms of reclamation, up to 90 thousand hectares of substantially leveled land were put into operation, 180 thousand hectares of pastures were provided with irrigation water [36, p. 8].

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, one of the measures taken by the leadership of the republic to develop agriculture in Karabakh was to better equip the collective farms and state farms of the region with agricultural machinery and other technical means. By direct order of Heydar Aliyev, 988 agricultural machines were sent to work in the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh in 1971-1981. During these years, the number of tractors in Karabakh was increased from 3707 to 4236, the number of grain harvesters from 716 to 750, and the number of trucks from 2269 to 3289. By the way, we note that in 1985, the agricultural enterprises of the Azerbaijan SSR had 38.4 thousand tractors, 4.5 thousand grain harvesters, 7.2 thousand cotton harvesters and other agricultural equipment [29, p. 111].

As a result of the comprehensive measures taken to equip the agriculture of the region with new equipment — tractors, combines,

cars and other equipment, in 1985, compared to 1970, the number of tractors working in the agriculture of Karabakh was 34.9%, the number of grain harvesters-pressing combines was 2.8 times, the number of hay harvesters increased 2.9 times [17].

In addition, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, thousands of plows, various seed drills, grain threshers, silage cutters, grain cleaning machines, sprayers and etc. were sent to Karabakh. Consistent improvement of technical means, an increase in their power, and the intellectual nature of their management were one of the factors that influenced the progressive changes in agricultural labor. At the initiative of Heydar Aliyev in the 1970s, the technical base of Karabakh agriculture was completely updated every five years at the expense of special funds allocated by the state. With the strengthening of scientific and technological progress in Karabakh, the equipping of farms with relatively more advanced equipment and mechanisms, the level of energy equipment of production and labor increased. In 1971-1981, the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh had 411 electric motors and 369 technical motors. At the same time, the number of electric motors used in Karabakh farms increased from 545 to 960, and the number of mechanical motors from 547 to 915 [11, l. 25]. During this period, the leadership of the republic created conditions for reducing the cost of complex mechanization of Karabakh farms and the constant strengthening of the agrarian industrial complex, increasing labor productivity and dynamic development of agriculture.

Heydar Aliyev very far-sightedly understood that in these years, in order to develop the productive forces in the agriculture of Karabakh, it is necessary to improve the professional qualifications of rural workers. At the same time, the role of vocational schools operating here was great in meeting the needs of Karabakh in personnel. During the period we are talking about, there were 15 vocational schools in Karabakh — in Terter, Gubadli, Zangilan, Beylagan, Jabrayil, Aghjabadi, Aghdam (3 vocational schools), Fizuli, Khankendi, Aghdara, Shusha, Khojavend, where they taught the secrets of vocational training the younger generation. A branch of

the Khojavend Vocational School No. 125 was opened in Hadrut. In these vocational schools in 1971, 1440 skilled workers and 1500 qualified specialists were trained, in 1975 their number reached 7896, and in 1980 — 9354 [26]. During the period, there were 9 technical schools in Karabakh, one of them — the Khankendi Agricultural College — only trained agricultural specialists. In Aghdam, there were 4 technical schools, two of which trained only agricultural specialists. Hundreds of specialists were trained at the “Agricultural College” and “Technical School of Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture” and sent to the farms of Karabakh. The vocational schools and technical schools operating in Karabakh not only taught the students studying here the secrets of science, but also applied the acquired knowledge in practice. After graduating from school, the graduate began working in the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh as a specialist who knows his job well. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the role of Heydar Aliyev in providing the agriculture of Karabakh with qualified personnel was indispensable. Over the years, higher educational institutions of our republic have trained 14.6 thousand qualified personnel for the agriculture of the regions. In general, more than 35000 specialists with higher and secondary education were concentrated in agricultural structures, which is 2,1 times more than in the 60s [14].

In order to provide all villages of the republic with qualified personnel, the number of students in higher and secondary specialized educational institutions increased from year to year. Only in 1965-1980, 1034 qualified personnel were sent to work in the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh. In those years, the number of qualified personnel increased from 8223 to 9266 people [6, 1. 119]. By the way, we note that during this period, the “Azerbaijan Research Forestry and Agroforestry Institute” and the “Experimental Reclamation Station” also operated in the Barda region, and these scientific centers were of great importance in the development of agriculture in Karabakh. In the 1970s, the role of state property in the agriculture of Karabakh gradually increased. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the number of collective farms in Karabakh was halved

as a result of their consolidation and transformation into state farms. So, in 1970 there were 210 collective farms in Karabakh, and in 1985 there were 98 of them. At that time there were only 608 collective farms in Azerbaijan. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the number of state farms in Karabakh tripled. In 1970, there were 39 state farms in Karabakh, in 1980 their number increased to 114, and in 1985 to 120. By the way, we note that in 1985 there were 805 state farms in Azerbaijan [12, 1.73]. The transformation of collective farms into state farms in Karabakh also caused a number of negative situations. Thus, in Karabakh, the outflow of the population from the village to the city increased and there were problems with employment.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, one of the activities carried out in Karabakh on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev was to improve the supply of chemicals in order to carry out mandatory measures against pests, diseases and weeds of agricultural plants. At the same time, the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh were provided with organic and cultural fertilizers to improve soil fertility. The veterinary service, the observance of sanitary rules, the fight against diseases of livestock, and the improvement of its breed composition came to the fore. From year to year, the supply of collective farms and state farms of Karabakh with fertilizers and pesticides increased. Thus, in 1970, 36000 tons of fertilizers were delivered to Karabakh, and in 1980 this number doubled to 7200 tons. Since 1985, about 72-78 thousand tons of fertilizers have been annually issued to the farms of the region [31, p. 639]. All this increased soil fertility, prevented erosion, salinization and increased productivity in Karabakh farms.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the Karabakh agro-industrial complex included 99 collective farms, 120 state farms, 18 inter-farm associations and 15 livestock complexes of industrial enterprises. In the 1970s, the intensification, specialization and concentration of agricultural production in Karabakh, the expansion of inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration were one of the important factors in the development of agriculture.

During this period, scientifically substantiated measures were taken in the field of specialization of agriculture in Karabakh. In the

1970s, the process of deepening the division of labor in agriculture accelerated. When carrying out structural transformations in the agriculture of Karabakh, the natural and geographical position of the region, climate, soil composition, and so on were taken into account. For example, cotton cultivation has been stopped in Agdara region. Vineyards have replaced cotton plantations. Tobacco cultivation has been stopped in Shusha, Hadrut, Khojavend and Khankendi regions. Tobacco was grown only in the highlands of the Agdara region.

The state farms of the Shusha and Khojavend regions stopped planting potatoes, and the state farms of the Hadrut region completely reduced the planting of potatoes. Khankendi and Agdara regions were mainly engaged in growing potatoes. Although all the farms of Karabakh were engaged in the cultivation of grain, in the Shusha district, the sowing of grain decreased by 3 times. In the state farms of the Shusha region, the cultivation of grain has been completely stopped since 1974. Also, since 1972, the cultivation of vegetables in the state farms of the Shusha region has decreased. Due to the natural and geographical position of Shusha, since the 70s, plants that do not require watering have been grown here. Grapes were not planted on the state farms of Shusha, only 2 hectares of grapes were planted on the collective farms [27]. Since 1970, the Shusha region has been exempted from the cocoon production plan. In the 1970s, viticulture and animal husbandry were the main leading areas of agriculture in Karabakh.

Thus, in 1969-1982, as a result of Heydar Aliyev's personal principled position and deep thinking, complex measures were consistently carried out in the agriculture of Karabakh. Thus, scientific achievements and best practices were used in production; the work on providing the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh with qualified personnel has been fully completed; in all farms of Karabakh, work was carried out on electrification, mechanization, irrigation, melioration and specialization; construction, repair and installation work was carried out in the villages; labor and wages were fully financed; the amount of funds allocated by the state increased from year to year; all Karabakh farms were provided with equipment,

seeds, breeding animals, machinery, material resources and other resources necessary for the agricultural sector, and as a result of all this, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, Karabakh agriculture developed dynamically and at high speed. During this period, agricultural land in Karabakh changed little in terms of volume. Thus, in 1970 the area of this land was 1470 thousand hectares, and in 1985 it increased by 20 thousand hectares and reached 1491 thousand hectares [13, l. 29]. From the studies carried out, it becomes known that the lands of collective farms have decreased, while the lands of state farms have increased. Of the lands of Karabakh suitable for agriculture, 738 thousand hectares belonged to collective farms, 396 thousand hectares to state farms, 339 thousand hectares to the state forest fund and 21 thousand hectares to other industries [5, l. 5]. Arable land of Karabakh from 16000 ha in 1965, 188000 ha in 1980 and 198000 ha in 1985. In 1980, the distribution of arable land among the regions of Karabakh was uneven. Starting from 1980, the process of allotment of land for fallow (for recreation) in Karabakh began. In 1980, 10000 ha were allotted for fallow (for recreation) in the region's farms, 5,000 ha in 1985, and 14000 ha in 1986 [26]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the sown area of various agricultural crops in farms of different categories in Karabakh was as follows (in thousands of hectares).

Table 1

Area of plantations of agricultural plants

| Years | Total sown area | Including | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | Corn | Technical plants | Potatoes and gourds | Feed plants |
| 1966 | 163,8 | 96,0 | 7,5 | 5,4 | 54,9 |
| 1970 | 209,7 | 126,3 | 4,8 | 4,8 | 73,8 |
| 1975 | 188,3 | 91,2 | 0,6 | 5,1 | 92,4 |
| 1980 | 188,0 | 88,8 | 0,6 | 6,0 | 93,6 |
| 1985 | 198,9 | 96,3 | 1,5 | 5,7 | 95,4 |

The intensification of grain production in Karabakh was one of the most important tasks for the development of agriculture at that time. In 1970, more than 126 thousand hectares of land were occupied under grain crops in Karabakh, which accounted for 60 percent of the entire sown area in the region. Our research shows that grain was grown in all regions of Karabakh. Especially in the flat regions of Karabakh, more space was given to the cultivation of grain. In the 1970s, out of the total area of grain crops in Karabakh, 91 thousand hectares belonged to the Aghdam region, 12 thousand hectares to the Jabrayil region, 11 thousand hectares to the Fizuli region, 7 thousand hectares to the Terter region. In Khojavend, Beylagan, Askeran regions, 10000 hectares of grain have been sown. During this period, even in the mountainous regions, although not much, they sowed grain. So, in Gubadli, grains were cultivated on 6 thousand hectares, in Zangilan — 2.5 thousand hectares, in Agdare — 7.5 thousand hectares, in Shusha — 1.5 thousand hectares, in Kelbajar — 0.4 thousand hectares. More than half of the grain crops sown in Karabakh were irrigated. In 1961-1968, attention to this area was weak, and the grain economy was completely abandoned. Since 1970, attention has been paid to improving grain crops, changing the varietal composition of grain crops, improving the technology of their planting and harvesting, and only high-yielding varieties of wheat are sown. As a result, in 1985, compared with 1970, the area under grain crops decreased by 33.000 hectares, while the grain yield increased by 15.000 tons. Studies show that in 1980, 27 thousand tons of grain were supplied from the farms of Aghdam region, 25 thousand tons of Jabrayil region, 23 thousand tons of Fizuli region, 22 thousand tons of Khojavend region, 18 thousand tons of Askeran region, 12 thousand tons of Aghdara region thousand tons. In those years, the grain yield in Karabakh almost doubled. In 1970, 118 centners of grain were harvested from each hectare, and in 1985 it increased to 21.2 centners [11, l. 25-26]. In addition to all this, as a result of Heydar Aliyev's special concern for the development of grain farming in 1969-1980, grain production in the republic increased by 2.1 times, grain production reached 1182 thousand tons from 574 thousand tons, and

a system of centralization of grain farming was implemented. Also, the yield of grain crops in our republic in 1970 reached 11.6 c/ha, and in 1980 — 23.2 c/ha [32, p. 9-16].

One of the proposals put forward by Heydar Aliyev for the dynamic development of agriculture was the specialization of farms, taking into account the natural and geographical conditions of the regions. Considering all this, in the 70s of the 20th century, scientifically based measures in the field of specialization of agriculture were carried out in our republic. The process of deepening the division of labor in the agriculture of Azerbaijan has accelerated. Cotton production was concentrated in the Mugano-Salyan, Mil-Karabakh and Shirvan zones. If in the early 1960s cotton was produced in 32 districts of the republic, then in the 1980s the number of such districts decreased to 18. Barda, Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Terter, Beylagan regions of Karabakh became major cotton producers. If in 1969 the area under cotton crops was 197.6 thousand hectares, then in 1985 it reached 295.5 thousand hectares. Since 1980, the cultivation of cotton in the Fizuli region has been replaced by the cultivation of fodder. During this period, 16 thousand hectares were sown with cotton in the Beylagan region, 17 thousand hectares in the Barda region, 13 thousand hectares in the Aghjabadi region, 7 thousand hectares in the Aghdam region, and 13 thousand hectares in the Terter region [37, p. 58-59].

In Nagorno-Karabakh, at the suggestion of the Council of People's Deputies and by the decision of the regional party committee, the cultivation of cotton, which was very difficult, was reduced, and then completely stopped. Since 1975, the cultivation of cotton, which is difficult to grow, has been discontinued on the farms of Nagorno-Karabakh. Although in the farms of Nagorno-Karabakh cotton was sown on 3403 hectares in 1960, 1402 hectares in 1970 and 1024 hectares in 1974. Cotton production in Nagorno-Karabakh reached 2691 tons in 1970 and 2112 tons in 1974. During these years, the yield per hectare increased from 19.2 centners to 20.7 centners. In those years, 26.7 centners of cotton were harvested from each hectare in our republic [25].

Starting from 1970, at the suggestion of Heydar Aliyev, in an important period of growth of cotton growing in Azerbaijan, a powerful and modern production and processing potential in this area began to be created due to large investments. As a result, in 1985, the volume of cotton production reached 787.8 thousand tons, and the yield — 26.7 centners. A modern processing industry complex was established with a total annual production capacity of 1200000 tons. After specialization in the 1980s, high growth in production was observed in certain regions of Karabakh. Thus, during this period, 255 thousand tons of cotton were harvested in the Beylagan region, 56 thousand tons in the Barda region, 43 thousand tons in the Tarter region, 22 thousand tons in the Aghdam region, 39 thousand tons in the Aghjabadi region and transferred to the state [10, 1.26-27].

The role of Heydar Aliyev in the preparation and implementation of comprehensive measures for the development of viticulture in Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s is unparalleled. As a result of the concentration of viticulture in the 70s, 144 viticulture farms were created in Karabakh, of which 72 were in collective farms under the Ministry of Agriculture, 24 in state farms, and 25 in state farms under the Ministry of Food of the former USSR. Firstly, the national leader was well aware that the development of viticulture meant the creation of new factories, new jobs and an improvement in the material situation of the population. Despite all this, deep specialization of viticulture in natural and economic zones took place in Azerbaijan, the process of expanding viticulture areas was intensifying, as a result of which the special weight of this area in the structures of agricultural production increased. Vine plantations increased from 121.6 thousand ha in 1970 to 268 thousand ha in 1985, an increase of 2.2 times [26]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the special importance of viticulture in the structure of agricultural production in Karabakh increased. As a result of the special care of the republican leadership, viticulture developed intensively in the region. In those years, new vineyards were planted in the Karabakh farms on an area of 3.6 thousand hectares. Then construction of new

nurseries began in Barda, Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Terter, Askeran, Aghdara regions. In total, 90 thousand hectares of land were planted in our republic in those years with grape seedlings. In 1960, only in Nagorno-Karabakh, the area of vine plantations was 5.5 thousand hectares, in 1970 — 10.8 thousand hectares, and in 1985 — 17.8 thousand hectares. In the 1980s, there were 17800 ha of vineyards in Nagorno-Karabakh, 1000 ha in Aghjabedi, 3000 ha in Beylagan, 11000 ha in Aghdam, 17000 ha in Fizuli, 8000 ha in Jabrayil, 1000 ha in Terter, in Zangilan 10000 ha was [16].

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, grape production in Karabakh and the productivity of vineyards increased from year to year. State farms named after the XXII Party Congress and “Baku fehlesi” in Aghdara district, collective farms named after Communism, Kirov, “K.Marx” of Khojavend district, collective farm named after “S.Nelson” of the Askeran region and winegrowers of other farms, as masters of high yields, gained fame and more than a hundred winegrowers of these farms received 300-350 centners of grapes per hectare. There are even those who collect 400-450 centners from each hectare of the above farms, were awarded the Hero of Socialist Labor, the Laureate of the State Prize of the USSR and the Order of Lenin. In these years, at the direction of Heydar Aliyev, important measures were taken in Karabakh — the technicalization of work on vineyards, the improvement of the use of mineral fertilizers, the creation of the necessary conditions for strict observance of agro-technical rules and other factors, and the conditions were created to increase the production of grapes from year to year. In 1970, on average, 70.6 centners were harvested per hectare, and in 1981-1985 this figure reached 102.2 centners. The highest yield was taken in 1980 (119.9 centners/ha) [23]. Since the late 1970s, viticulture has rapidly developed in the republic, 75 percent of which were technical varieties. 26 percent of the products produced in Karabakh accounted for viticulture. Over the past 20 years, grape production in Karabakh has increased 18 times. In 1961-1965, the state was annually supplied with an average of 24 thousand tons of grapes, in 1970 this number increased to 150 thousand tons, in 1975 — up to 210 thousand tons

of grapes were sold annually to the state [29, p. 111]. 142 thousand tons of grapes were harvested from Karabakh farms — Khankendi, Khojavend, Hadrut, Aghdara, Shusha regions, and the rest fell on the share of Fizuli, Beylagan, Aghdam, Jebrayil, Zangilan, Aghjabadi, Barda and Terter regions. It should be noted that in the early 1980s, 116000 tons of grapes were supplied from the farms of the Fizuli region, 46000 tons from the Jabrayil region, and 36000 tons from each of the Beylagan and Aghdam regions. In 1985, there were 286 thousand hectares of vineyards in Azerbaijan, and 1829 thousand tons of grapes were harvested in farms [8, l. 119]. However, in the second half of the 1980s, after a campaign against alcoholism began throughout the Soviet empire, more than one hundred thousand hectares of vineyards were destroyed, which caused great damage to the people of Azerbaijan.

It should be noted that in the republic, whose economic potential has been strengthening every year, new opportunities for development have opened up. For their implementation, Heydar Aliyev put forward the tasks of obtaining thoughtful and reasonable financial and other resources. First of all, this was due to the high reputation of Azerbaijan in the country at that time and its position in the USSR. During this period, Azerbaijan was in first place in the Union, producing an average of up to 2 million tons of grapes per year, in fourth place, harvesting 700-800 thousand tons of cotton, and in second place, producing up to 6 thousand tons of cocoons. Heydar Aliyev, who deeply analyzed all these truths and reconciled them with the interests of the general high progress of Azerbaijan, constantly explored new opportunities for the economic development of the republic.

This was reflected in the activities carried out towards the development of tobacco growing in Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s. This source indicates that in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century, tobacco was grown among industrial crops in the agriculture of Karabakh. As we mentioned above, as a result of the policy of agricultural specialization, tobacco cultivation was stopped in Hadrut, Khojavend and Shusha regions in 1965, and in Khankendi re-

gion — in 1973. Since 1974, tobacco had been grown only in the Aghdara region of Nagorno-Karabakh. In 1985, compared with 1970, 127 hectares more land was sown with tobacco. Tobacco cultivation was mainly in the Gubadli region (700 ha), Kalbajar region (400 ha) and Zangilan region (400 ha) of Karabakh. So, in 1970, 1612 hectares were sown with tobacco, in 1975 — 1655 hectares, in 1980 — 1700 hectares, in 1985 — 1739 hectares [4, l. 9].

A slight increase in tobacco production was observed in the farms of Karabakh. So, in 1965, the sale of tobacco to the state amounted to 1988 tons, in 1970 — 2016 tons, in 1975 — 2182 tons, in 1980 — 2994 tons, and in 1985 it increased to 3612 tons. It should be noted that in 1985, 1.4 thousand tons of tobacco were collected in the tobacco farms of the Gubadli region, 800 tons in the Zangilan region, 1 thousand tons in the Kalbajar region, and 412 tons in the Agdara region [9, l. 4]. In these years, the increase in labor productivity of tobacco in 1965 amounted to 7.2 centners, in 1970 — 11.2 centners, in 1975 — 10.1 centners, in 1980 — 15.5 centners, in 1985 — 15.8 centners. The Karabakh tobacco workers worked profitably. Compared to 1965, the annual income of Karabakh tobacco workers in 1981 increased 15 times [29, p. 111]. Increasing the cash income of tobacco farms, improving the quality of products, increasing productivity were associated primarily with the provision of all conditions for the development of this industry.

In the 60s of the 20th century, there was an indifferent attitude to the shortcomings of specialization, incorrect assessment of local conditions, and the effective use of the economic potential of the republic. Agricultural management needed more advanced forms and methods. In connection with the growing human and production potential of agriculture, the achieved level of inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration, the need to abolish field structures for managing the agrarian field was considered. Large losses in the supply, storage, processing and shipment of agricultural products and the existing contradictions in the agro-industrial complex required a revision of the investment policy and the creation of unified management bodies for this complex. Based on the decisions of the ce-

ntral government in 1982, regional agro-industrial associations were created. Organizationally, the agro-industrial complex gradually took shape and was completed at the end of 1985. At the same time, an effective specialization and concentration of agriculture and animal husbandry in various natural and economic zones was required through the development of individual branches of agriculture in Karabakh at a high level in favorable soil and climatic conditions, more suitable for each of them. It was in the late 1960s and early 1980s that, on the basis of the successes achieved in the agriculture of Karabakh, first of all, important steps were taken to correctly assess and use the requirements of this basic condition for its development.

Vegetable and potato growing are auxiliary and additional sectors in the agriculture of Karabakh. Potatoes and vegetables were planted in all regions of Karabakh. The state farms of the Khojavend and Shusha regions did not grow potatoes. Since 1971, the state farms of the Shusha region have ceased to grow vegetables. Under vegetables and potatoes in 1970, 4.8 thousand hectares were planted, in 1980 — 6 thousand hectares, in 1985 — 5.7 thousand hectares.

Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, large farms in the field of horticulture and vegetable growing were built and put into operation, fruit and vegetable growing centers, new supply points, large canning factories were turned into economic zones in this area. As a result, in 1969-1980, vegetable production in Karabakh increased 2.4 times, and fruit production — 2.8 times. The sale of potatoes to the state in 1970 amounted to 0.9 thousand tons, and in 1985 it doubled to 1.8 thousand tons. The stock of vegetables increased from 9000 tons in 1971-1975, up to 15,000 tons in 1981-1985 [9, 1.4]. Note also that the above figures do not include potatoes and vegetables from private farms. For example, in 1980, although there were 28.2 thousand tons of potatoes from all farms, 1.2 thousand tons of them, and 14.4 thousand tons of vegetables out of 28.2 thousand tons were sold to the state. The remaining products were used to meet the needs of the local population. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the potato yield per hectare increased from 113 to 159 centners. Farms in Karabakh

grew onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, cabbage, carrots, watermelons, etc. Compared with 1966-1970, average annual potato production in 1981-1985, increased from 122.5 thousand tons to 189.8 thousand tons, vegetables from 364.5 thousand tons to 890.4 thousand tons [7, l. 91].

In the first half of the 1980s, it was hoped that the collective agreement would have an effective impact on the productivity of peasant labor. In 1983, 948 and 1988, more than 32 thousand people worked in units and brigades on the collective farms and state farms according to the contract method. The correct organization of the collective agreement had a significant impact on the material and socio-economic working conditions.

During the period 1969-1982, when Heydar Aliyev was in charge of the republic, one of the most important economic results was the dynamic development of agriculture and the increase in its role in the entire economy of the country and the republic. During this period, the intensification and improvement of production on a scientific basis played an important role in increasing the achievements of agriculture. The necessary renewal of agriculture at the level of deep reforms ensured unprecedented progress in its development. The volume of gross agricultural output in the republic in 1981-1985, increased by 2.6 times compared with the average level of 1966-1970, [22]. The volume of production in all areas of agriculture has increased significantly. For example, in 1981-1985. compared to 1966-70. the average annual production of grain increased from 710.5 thousand tons to 1239.5 thousand tons, cotton — from 327.7 to 861.4 thousand tons, tobacco — from 21.2 to 56.9 thousand tons, potatoes — from 122.5 to 189.8 thousand tons, vegetables — from 464.5 to 890.4 thousand tons, fruits and berries — from 82.8 to 317.5 thousand tons, grapes — from 232 to 1829.2 thousand tons, tea — from 9.2 to 29.2 thousand tons [24].

The most characteristic feature of the landscape of Karabakh is the presence and development of gardens. Gardening was practiced everywhere in Karabakh. All gardens — in collective farms and state

farms, as well as in private farms, were irrigated. The soil-climatic conditions of Karabakh make it possible to significantly expand the cultivation of perennial plants. Excluding vineyards, the volume of horticulture in 1970 increased by 4320 ha compared to 1960 and reached 11490 ha. In 1980, the area of orchards in Karabakh reached 10149 ha, and in 1985, 7547 ha [16]. Pears, apple trees, plums, cherries, blueberries, walnuts, hazelnuts, pomegranates, quince, cranberries, mulberries and other fruit trees were planted in Karabakh farms. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, despite the reduction in sown areas, as a result of complex measures taken by the leadership of the republic, both production volumes and labor productivity increased from year to year in Karabakh. For example, in 1960, 6.6 thousand tons of crops were harvested in the farms of Karabakh, in 1970 the same crop reached 11.1 thousand tons, in 1980 — 15.9 thousand tons, and in 1985 — 16.8 thousand tons. In those years, there was a large increase in labor productivity. In 1970, 15.6 centners of fruits and berries were harvested from each hectare, and in 1985 it increased to 42.1 centners. Compared to 1970, in 1985 the production of fruits and berries in Azerbaijan increased from 82.8 thousand tons to 317.5 thousand tons. In 1985, the area of fruit and berry orchards in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was 6125 hectares, the total production volume was 7.7 thousand tons, and the yield was 17.6 centners [19]. Labor productivity in Karabakh was higher than the level of the entire republic, and in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

Detailed information about the measures taken by our state towards the development of the mulberry tree in Karabakh, the importance of the mulberry tree and obtaining various products from it is given in the sources. Sources show that among the perennial plants planted in Karabakh since ancient times, a prominent place is occupied by the mulberry tree. This tree, which does not require much effort and has a high sugar content (32%), has been grown in Karabakh since ancient times. Various types of products are prepared from mulberry, including alcohol, bekhmez, irchal, etc., eaten fresh or dried and consumed at different times of the year. Shah

mulberry wood is used in furniture production due to the quality of firewood. At the same time, the mulberry leaf serves as a food base for the silkworm. The mulberry had a cool shade, incomparable taste and medicinal value. In connection with all these positive aspects, the mulberry tree has been planted on the territory of Karabakh since ancient times, and here you can find mulberry trees 150-200 years old.

Mulberry gardens were in all regions of Karabakh. About 60 percent of the mulberry gardens belonged to the Khojavend region. In 1971-1975, mulberry orchards were reduced by 219 hectares due to the planting of new types of mulberry orchards and the replacement of mulberry orchards with vineyards. In 1970, there were 3417 hectares of mulberry gardens in Karabakh, and in 1975 it decreased to 2760 hectares. In connection with specialization, mulberry gardens were canceled on the territory of Agdara region. Due to the planting of a new wind-resistant species on 1011 hectares, the volume of mulberry gardens in Karabakh in 1980 reached 3771 hectares [21]. During the year, the fruits of the mulberry tree were harvested 8 times. Although in the 1960s compared to the 1950s supplies of mulberry products have declined since the 1970s there is an increase in both production and productivity. In 1970, the mulberry harvest was 11274 tons, in 1975 it was 13298 tons, in 1980 it was 15485 tons, and in 1985 it almost doubled to 20682 tons [22]. The yield per hectare increased to 63.6 centners in 1985 against 41.8 centners in 1970. As a result of the research, it is known that over the course of the 20th century, the highest productivity of the mulberry tree was achieved in the late 1960s and early 1980s. 12 percent of agricultural products produced in Karabakh were fruits and vegetables. Most of the harvest of fruits, grapes, tobacco, vegetables, potatoes and gourds in Karabakh was obtained from personal subsidiary plots. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, viticulture, grain growing, vegetable growing, horticulture and other branches of agriculture in Karabakh developed dynamically on the basis of a new material and technical base and industrial technologies. This development is clearly seen from the table below (sales of agricultural products to the state of all categories).

*Table 2***Dynamics of development of agricultural territories**

| Product types | Unit of measure | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Grapes | Thousand tons | 102 | 309 | 408 | 426 |
| Tobacco | Ton | 759 | 696 | 1014 | 1236 |
| Cotton | Ton | 7983 | 6336 | 584 | 416 |
| Grain | Thousand tons | 26,1 | 30,2 | 31,5 | 35,4 |
| Potato | Ton | 1005 | 2244 | 121,5 | 1809 |
| Mulberry | Ton | 11274 | 14298 | 16595 | 20682 |
| Fruit | Thousand tons | 11,1 | 14,7 | 15,9 | 16,8 |
| Vegetables | Thousand tons | 5,1 | 10,5 | 14,4 | 15,0 |

Animal husbandry was one of the leading branches of agriculture in Karabakh. About 43 percent of agricultural products produced in the region accounted for livestock farms. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, animal husbandry developed dynamically in Karabakh. Karabakh was a large livestock region of the Azerbaijan SSR. The development of animal husbandry in the region has always been the focus of Heydar Aliyev, and as a result of his purposeful leadership, the development of animal husbandry in Karabakh, specialization and concentration, the transition to an industrial base and other measures have greatly contributed to this development. In the 1970s, 21 large inter-farm and collective-farm livestock complexes, 60 feed storage facilities were built and put into operation in Karabakh, an extensive program was implemented in the field of construction, reconstruction and equipping of livestock buildings with new equipment. During the period under review, the areas of irrigated meadows and pastures increased significantly. Thus, in 1970 the area of irrigated pastures was 702 ha, and in 1971 it was 1731 ha [22]. In 1971-1975, the construction of community farms in Karabakh was significantly expanded. So, in those years, cowsheds for 36 thousand places, pig farms

for 11 thousand places, sheep farms for 66 thousand places and poultry farms for 180 thousand places were built and put into operation. On behalf of the republican leadership, a lot of work has been done to improve the veterinary service of Karabakh, improve the breed of cattle, develop the fodder base, and provide the livestock industry with qualified personnel. In 1976-1980, mechanized livestock farms based on industrial technology were built and put into operation on the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh — cattle for 35430 places, pig complexes for 31000 places, sheep farms for 393000 places, poultry farms for 66000 places [32, p. 9-16].

At the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, in the 1970s, measures were taken to strengthen the fodder base for the development of animal husbandry in Karabakh. In the 1970s, new fodder crops were planted in Karabakh farms — corn, beets, carrots, alfalfa, barley and others. The areas of irrigated fodder plants were doubled, these areas were supplied with organic and mineral fertilizers, and the Karabakh farms were provided with complete equipment for mowing, incorporating and removing grass from the fields. Sheds and silos for storing hay bales were built and put into operation. Compared with 1965, in 1980 the area of fodder crops increased by 38.5%, and the production of fodder plants increased by 63.6% [32]. When conducting research, it became known that the role of the forage base in the development of animal husbandry is 70-75 percent. Therefore, in the 1970s, special attention was paid to this direction. As a result of proper agrotechnical care of the fields, the volumes and productivity of fodder plants have increased. Compared with 1975, in 1981 the collection of dry grass increased by 12000 tons, haylage by 150 tons, stubble and straw by 36000 tons, and silage by 30000 tons. The yield per hectare was 28.4 centners of dry grass, 63 centners of corn and silage, 109 centners of root crops, and 15.2 centners of barley. This meant about 2-3 times more than in 1970 [17]. In 1976-1981, 45 feed shops, 120 feed kitchens, 30 mechanized vitamin and feed mixing shops were built and put into operation in the livestock farm of Karabakh. All this indicates that the fodder base of Karabakh livestock is at a level that meets the requirements.

One of the measures implemented in Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s was to improve the breed composition of animals and provide farms with specialists. In the years 1970-1975 alone, the number of specialists working in agriculture increased by 30 percent. In 1975, 210 collective farm chairmen, 39 state farm directors, 33 independent farm managers, 165 agronomists, 129 livestock specialists, 255 zoo doctors, 735 state farm foremen, 71 engineering and technical personnel worked on the farms of Karabakh [32, p. 9-16]. One of the measures implemented in Karabakh was to improve the sex composition of cattle. The Karabakh zonal experimental station in Khankendi, the Karabakh experimental base in Aghdara, the breeding stations in Dashbulag and Garo, the breeding diagnostic room "Turshsu" have done a great job in combating diseases in the region and in obtaining new breeds and artificial insemination. Public livestock was mainly kept in well-maintained buildings. In most farms, labor-intensive processes such as shearing sheep, watering animals, feeding them, cleaning rooms and other work were mechanized. The farms were fully staffed with specialists who knew their job well, and the fight against animal diseases was intensified. Qualified specialists were entrusted with the maintenance of machines and units, electrical equipment in livestock farms. Cattle were fed according to the rules drawn up by experts. In 1978, another livestock farm was put into operation in Karabakh — the "Inter-farm livestock complex". These farms have contributed greatly to livestock production and increased productivity. The livestock complex developed on the basis of close ties with 45 livestock farms in Karabakh. In the 70s of the 20th century, the "Cattle breeding and inter-collective farm fattening union" operated in the Barda region, in the Beylagan "Inter-district livestock complex", in the Fizuli region "Association for fattening cattle and sheep breeding", in Jabrayil "Association for fattening", "Cattle Fattening Union" in Terter, "Incubator-Poultry Farm" in Gubadli, "Incubator-Poultry Station" in Khojavend, "Poultry Farm" in Hadrut, pig farms in Khankendi, Hadrut, Khojavend, Agdara, large modern livestock complexes built and commissioned into operation.

By the direct order of Heydar Aliyev, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, as a result of activities carried out in the livestock farms of Karabakh, the number of cattle in farms of all categories increased. So, in comparison with 1971, in 1985 the number of cattle increased from 258 thousand to 264 thousand, the number of sheep and goats increased from 798 thousand to 864 thousand, birds — from 486 thousand to 858 thousand [23]. It should be noted that, referring to the sources of the early 1980s, we can say that all regions of Karabakh were engaged in animal husbandry. However, the development of animal husbandry in the regions of Karabakh was not the same. For example, in the Fizuli region there were 38 thousand heads of cattle and 146 thousand heads of small cattle, in the Aghdara region there are 20 thousand heads of cattle and 59 thousand heads of small cattle, in the Barda region there are 18 thousand heads of cattle and 61 thousand heads 18 thousand heads of cattle and 21 thousand heads of small ruminants in the Kelbajar region, 15 thousand heads of cattle and 90 thousand heads of small ruminants in the Aghdam region, 14 thousand heads of cattle and 41 thousand heads of small ruminants, in Aghjabedi region 13 thousand heads of cattle and 147 thousand heads of small ruminants, in Jabrayil region 12 thousand heads of cattle and 54 thousand heads of small ruminants, in Beylagan region 12 thousand heads of cattle and 146 thousand heads of small cattle, in the Terter region 10 thousand heads of cattle and 37 thousand heads of small cattle, in Gubadli, Zangilan, Hadrut, Shusha regions there were 6-8 thousand heads of cattle and 10-20 thousand heads of small cattle livestock [10, l. 26-27].

One of the developing sectors of the Karabakh economy was cocoon growing. It is noted that cocoon and sericulture were developed only in 1969-1982, thanks to the leadership and care of Heydar Aliyev. Here reported on the implementation of the resolution adopted on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev on March 17, 1971 by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Republic “On measures for the development of sericulture in the Azerbaijan SSR” and adopted in April 1976 “On measures for the further intensification of sericulture in the

Azerbaijan SSR”. Silk production was mainly concentrated on the main plain of Karabakh.

As a result of the measures taken, the volume of cocoons sold to the state in Karabakh in 1969-1982 increased by more than 1.5 times. In 1969-1982 the production of cocoons increased by 1.8 times [5, l. 5].

Although collective farms and state farms in Karabakh, various inter-farm associations, as the main form in the farming system, play a decisive role in production, the need to meet the population’s need for food required an increase in the role and importance of auxiliary farms. In 1985, they produced 25.5 percent of all agricultural products produced in Karabakh. In the 1970s and 1980s, the number of livestock, especially sheep and goats, increased significantly along with the increase in land used by private farms. According to data at the beginning of each year, the number of cattle in the personal subsidiary plots of collective farmers, workers and employees in our republic increased from 180 thousand heads in 1970 to 228 thousand heads in 1985, the number of sheep and goats increased from 372 thousand to 456000, and the number of pigs increased from 4000 to 5000. During these years, the production of meat and milk in private farms has increased significantly. Most of the fruits, grapes, tobacco, vegetables, potatoes, melons and gourds were obtained from personal subsidiary plots. More than 30 percent of cattle, sheep and goats and 15 percent of pigs were kept on private farms.

In the 70s and 80s of the 20th century, a decrease in the number of bee colonies was observed among farm animals. In 1970, there were 27000 bee colonies in the farms of Karabakh, and in 1981 this figure dropped to 18000. In the years we are considering, along with an increase in the number of cattle, the production and supply of livestock products also dynamically developed at a natural pace [14, l. 21-22]. For example, in 1970 each cow produced an average of 1497 kg of milk during the year, and in 1985 this figure reached 2427 kg. The annual amount of wool sheared from each sheep increased from 2.8 kg in 1970 to 2.9 kg in 1985. Even in the dairy farms of the Khojavend region, there were cases of milk yield of 4300-5200 kg from each cow [11, l. 25]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, there

was a huge increase in the sale of livestock products to the state, which can be clearly seen from the following table (from farms of all categories):

Table 3

Dynamics of sales of livestock products

| Product types | Unit of measure | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Meat of cattle and poultry | Thousand tons | 21 | 30 | 30 | 33 |
| Milk and dairy products | Thousand tons | 51 | 66 | 84 | 93 |
| Egg | Million pieces | 24 | 30 | 35 | 33 |
| Wool | Tons | 1482 | 1737 | 1776 | 1815 |
| Cocoon | Tons | 249 | 399 | 417 | 438 |

According to our estimates based on sources, in the 1980s, Karabakh produced 320 kg of milk and 68 kg of meat per person per year, which far exceeded the figures for the entire republic. As a result of the research, it is known that in the mid-1980s, in terms of gross agricultural output per capita, Karabakh was ahead of the indicators for the entire republic. From our analysis, it became known that in 1985 the volume of agricultural production per capita in the republic as a whole was 588 manats, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 500 manats, in Karabakh — 640 manats, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 692 manats [11, l. 25-26].

As a result of the purposeful activity of Heydar Aliyev on the development of animal husbandry in the agriculture of the republic in 1979, compared to 1969, 1.5 times more meat, 1.5 times more wool, 2.2 times more eggs, milk yield were transferred to the country 2.4 times, the live weight of cattle sold to the state increased 1.4 times, in

general for 1969-1982, the total production of livestock in the farms of the republic increased by 2.1 times. During these years, there was a turning point in the development of sheep breeding, the development of the industry was mainly specialized in 3 zones, the number of sheep for 1969-1982 increased by 55% [11, 1. 25].

National leader Heydar Aliyev, who has always paid attention to the development of the region, said in one of his speeches that “in the late 1960s and early 1980s, the total national income increased by 2.5 times, the production of consumer goods increased by 3 times, gross agricultural output by 2.7 times, labor productivity increased by more than 2 times, efficiency and quality have increased, the face of Karabakh has completely changed, the living standards of the people living here have improved ... Behind all these figures is the hard work and unprecedented efforts of our people... Unfortunately, the huge potential created at that time was destroyed during the years of unrest. The tragedy of Nagorno-Karabakh, which Azerbaijan experienced, aggravated the situation” [15, p. 23].

Thus, the end of the 1960s — the beginning of the 1980s entered the annals of Azerbaijan as the brightest pages. Since all areas of the national economy developed dynamically during this period, Azerbaijan ranked 1st in the production of grapes, 2nd in the production of cocoons, 4th in the production of cotton, the material well-being of the population improved, the average monthly wage increased by 1.5 times, the national economy developed on a large scale and consistently, there was a great upsurge in the socio-economic life of Azerbaijan. National leader Heydar Aliyev in his speech “Azerbaijan at the crossroads of the 21st century and the third millennium. Appeal to the Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the advent of the new century and the third millennium (newspaper “Respublika”, December 20, 2000) said that “Today we can say with full confidence that the state sovereignty and statehood of Azerbaijan are economically independent, its foreign economic relations are systematically increasing, it contributes to the world economy. Gradually deepening integration relies on the potential of the national economy, which was laid in the late 1960s and early 1980s”... The obvious result of the development of Azerbaijan

during the Soviet period is that the potential created during this period created a solid foundation for the functioning of our republic as a fully independent state” [15, p. 23].

Academician J.B. Guliyev wrote in the “Odlar Yurdu Universitetinin Elmi Pedaqoji Xəbərləri” (Scientific and Pedagogical News of Odlar Yurdu University) in 1998, No. 1: “From the summer of 1969, when Heydar Aliyev was elected first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and headed the republic, a turning point began in the socio-economic and socio-political life of Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev led the Azerbaijan SSR for almost 22 years, during which time he contributed more to the national revival of Azerbaijan than anyone else in the 20th century. During these years, Heydar Aliyev laid the foundation for the sovereign Republic of Azerbaijan” [20, p. 4].

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev noted in one of his speeches that “Heydar Aliyev is a big part of history. All his actions and initiatives had one goal — to serve the people of Azerbaijan, strengthen our country, strengthen our independence, build a democratic society... There is no alternative to this policy in Azerbaijan... Today Azerbaijan lives without Heydar Aliyev. This is a great test for all of us, great sadness and pain for all of us. But what reassures us is that Heydar Aliyev’s ideas are alive, Heydar Aliyev’s policy is alive. Founded and created by him, modern Azerbaijan is growing stronger, lives and will live” [18].

CHAPTER III

STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION OF KARABAKH

In the 70s of the 20th century, such issues as the implementation of an effective social policy, including the principle of social justice, the creation of decent working conditions for every able-bodied person, the high social security of the population, the successful solution of the employment problem, the formation of an appropriate infrastructure of an optimal nature required accurate scientific approaches to work, required the use of advanced world experience. All this also clearly shows the importance of preparing a scientific concept of the implemented social policy, which is carefully thought out in advance to the smallest detail, and that its successful implementation occurs on the basis of a rather complex mechanism.

The socially oriented political strategy being implemented by Azerbaijan today, which created a unique model of development in the socio-economic sphere and demonstrated indicators of progress accompanied by great achievements, topped the rating table of the former USSR region in terms of growth rates of its economy in the late 1960s and early 1980s, and also occupied an exemplary position in terms of high efficiency. Among the main factors determining the great successes achieved are the successful elimination of social contradictions on economic grounds, the constant expectation of the principle of justice, and the creation of an equal system of social security for all sections of the population. In the context of maintaining macroeconomic stability, reducing poverty in the country, reducing unemployment to a minimum, continuously increasing financial resources allocated to social spheres from the state budget, developing human capital, social infrastructure and, as a result, further improving the standard of living of the population compared to previous years is one of the main realities characterizing this area of the country's activity. This also indicates that the development of the

country is built on a fairly perfect foundation, that it is able to adequately respond to the challenges of the time and allows you to constantly expand the scale of achievements achieved based on real results. The author of this development strategy is the national leader Heydar Aliyev, the architect of modern Azerbaijan, who dedicated his life to serving his people without compensation. In his philosophy of state building, the great leader identified the constant strengthening of the social security of the population as one of the priority areas of his multifaceted activities and, pursuing a targeted policy in this direction, achieved a reliable provision of a high standard of living for the people.

The economic growth of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in the late 1960s and early 1980s created conditions for further improvement in the well-being and life of the population. The total volume of production in the collective farms, state farms and personal subsidiary plots of Karabakh has more than doubled, and real per capita income has increased by more than 81 percent. The average monthly wages of workers and employees increased 1.4 times in the 1970s, and 1.3 times in the 1980s [35]. One of the main sources of increasing the real incomes of the population of Karabakh is the consistent increase in wages. Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, at the congresses of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the plenums of the Central Committee, specific tasks were put forward for the economic, social and cultural development of our republic, including its constituent part, Karabakh, and organizational measures were identified to further improve the well-being and life of the population. As a result of the measures taken in the 1970s to regulate and increase the wages of workers and employees in various areas of the national economy, the average monthly wages of workers and employees in Karabakh increased by more than 60 percent in 1985 compared to 1965. In 1960, the average monthly salary of workers and employees in Karabakh was 60 manats, in 1965 this figure reached 90 manats, in 1975 — 125 manats, in 1980 — 148 manats, in 1985 — 153 manats [8, 1. 26]. Monthly wages were higher in the collective and state farms of Nagorno-Karabakh, where incomes were higher, and in industrial

enterprises. For example, the average monthly salary of workers and employees at the state farm named after the XXII Party Congress of the Agdara region was 144 manats in 1975, 270 manats in 1980, and in 1985 almost doubled to 295 manats [41, p. 96]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, there was also an increase in the average monthly wages of Karabakh collective farmers.

In the period we are talking about, this increase has reached one and a half, two times. The high annual income of the collective and state farms of Karabakh had a strong impact on the wages of the collective farmers working there. In 1965, each employee working on collective farms and state farms was paid 2 manats 65 kopecks per day, in 1970 this figure was 3 manats 87 kopecks, in 1975 — 4 manats 42 kopecks, in 1980 — 5 manats 17 kopecks, in 1985 — 6 manats 12 kopecks. The average monthly income of agricultural workers was about 50 manats in 1960, 441 manats in 1970, 565 manats in 1975, 892 manats in 1980 and 976 manats in 1985 [41, p. 93]. In this regard, the average annual income of the rural population of Karabakh increased 2 times in 1965, 2.7 times in 1970, 3.5 times in 1976, 5.5 times in 1980 compared to 1960 [4, 1.99]. In the years under study, not only the average annual wages of collective farmers in Karabakh increased, but also their incomes, pensions, preferential and material funds of state assistance. As a result of the study, it became known that the average monthly wages of agricultural workers in Karabakh significantly exceeded the republic's national indicators. In the mountainous part of Karabakh, these differences were observed to a greater extent. For example, those working in agriculture in the republic in 1965 received 51.3 manats per month, in 1970 — 76.7 manats, in 1975 — 98.4 manats, in 1985 — 119 manats, and in the Karabakh region in 1968 year — 65 manats, in 1970 — 83 manats, in 1975 — 106 manats, in 1985 — 199 manats, and in the Upper part of Karabakh this figure was 78 manats in 1965, in 1970 — 90 manats, in 1975 — 115 manats, and in 1985 it reached 280 manats [39, p. 39].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the income of Karabakh residents from personal subsidiary plots of both collective farmers and workers and employees increased significantly. Interestingly, in the-

se years, the income from private farmsteads in Karabakh remained high both at the level of the entire union and at the level of the entire republic. As a result of the study, it became known that in 1970 collective farmers in the territory of the former USSR received 31.9% of their total income from their personal subsidiary plots. In 1975 this figure was 26.3%, in 1980 — 30%. If this figure for the whole republic was 32% in 1970, 43.9% in 1975, 45% in 1980, then in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan this figure was 34% in 1970, in 1975 year — 44.7 percent, in 1980 — 46.4 percent. This fact itself once again proves the concern of the leadership of the republic for the people of Karabakh. During the period we are talking about, other regions of Karabakh achieved high rates at the national level. For example, in comparison with 1960, in 1975 the volume of production per capita in the republic increased by 140.5%, in Karabakh — by 195%, in Nagorno-Karabakh — by 250% [15, p. 578]. In those years, the volume of industrial production in our republic was 229 percent, in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 255 percent, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 281 percent, the volume of capital investments in Azerbaijan as a whole was 219 percent, 318 percent in Karabakh, and 417 percent in Nagorno-Karabakh. percent, the volume of trade in our republic amounted to 240 percent, and in Karabakh 255 percent, the Nagorno-Karabakh part of it increased to 279 percent, the volume of personal services increased by 540 percent in the republic, by 548 percent in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and by 550 percent in Nagorno-Karabakh [28, p. 64].

Against the backdrop of recovering from the economic recession, one of the important points that National Leader Heydar Aliyev drew attention to in 1970-1982 was related to the principle of targeting in the field of social protection. As a result, various laws on social protection of certain categories of persons were adopted and aimed at implementation, one of the main goals of which was to provide state assistance to those who need social protection more. As a result, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, the amount of payments and benefits provided to the population by public consumption funds tripled in Karabakh. In these years, material assistance to the

elderly, the disabled, the temporarily disabled, veterans of labor and war, families with children who have lost the head of the family, and single mothers. In Karabakh, the number of persons receiving a pension from the state for old age and disability in 1960 was 42 thousand, in 1966 — 66 thousand, in 1970 — 81 thousand, in 1975 — 87 thousand, in 1980 — 96 thousand, in 1985 — 99 thousand people. In 1985, the number of old-age pensioners in Karabakh reached 20.4 thousand people. In 1980, compared with 1970, the number of collective farmers in Karabakh receiving a pension increased from 240 thousand to 270 thousand, old-age pensioners decreased from 36000 to 33000, pensioners due to sickness and disability decreased from 3000 to 2500 people, the number of people who lost their ability to work decreased from 1200 to 1100 people. In 1970-1980, the number of pensioners in our republic increased from 643 thousand to 987 thousand [2, 1. 4].

Based on the sources, we once again prove that the statements of Armenian ideologists about the socio-economic backwardness of the Armenian population living in Nagorno-Karabakh are completely false. Based on the sources mentioned above, we bring to your attention the following interesting figures and facts: the number of mothers with many children in Karabakh in 1965 was 18 thousand, in 1970 — 17 thousand, in 1975 — 15 thousand, in 1980 — 12 thousand. The number of mothers with four children was about 50% of all mothers with many children. According to the decree of the government of the former USSR “On improving the provision of benefits for pregnancy, childbirth and the care of a sick child” (June 26, 1973), women, regardless of length of service, were paid 100 percent of wages for pregnancy and childbirth, according to the decree of September 12, 1974 “On further improvement of material assistance to low-income families with children”, from November 1, 1974, each child under the age of 8 years, whose total income was less than 50 manats per month, from the account of each family member began to receive benefits in the amount of 12 manats [5, 1. 29]. In addition, according to the decree of the Soviet government “On strengthening state assistance to families with children” dated March 31, 1981, whose total work

experience was at least one year, a certain part of the salary was also paid to women who studied until the child reached the age of 1 year, holidays were given, the minimum level of the state bonus paid to single mothers was increased to 20 manats per month for each child, and the period of time paid for caring for a sick child was extended to 14 days [10].

Thus, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, as a result of important measures taken by our state, the amount of pensions assigned to the population increased 4.4 times, and the amount of benefits increased 3.3 times. During the years we are discussing, the amount of pensions for collective farmers in Karabakh has increased significantly in various indicators. For example, the old-age pension in Karabakh alone increased from 8 million manats in 1970 to 150 million manats in 1980 [27]. In Karabakh, the disability pension for collective farmers increased from 9000 in 1970 to 150000 in 1980, the sickness and disability pension increased from 750000 to 1200000, and the disability pension increased from 300000 to 450000. Compared to 1970, the amount of pensions and benefits received by Karabakh workers increased from 1200000 manats to 3 million manats. It is known from the conducted studies that the number of pensioners per 10000 people in the Nagorno-Karabakh region was higher than in the whole republic (14 percent) or compared to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (12 percent) [34]. These differences were also observed in the amount of allocated payments. However, the Council of People's Deputies of Nagorno-Karabakh very skillfully used its "powers in the field of social security". When assigning local and all-Union pensions, the regional department of social security took a twofold position, and the opinion of the medical and labor examination about the actually sick Azerbaijanis was always negative. As for the pension level, the most seriously ill Azerbaijanis were awarded the III degree, and the representatives of the Armenian nationality — the I degree, even if they were mildly ill. There were large differences in age distributions between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the same institution. In general, Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh have always been op-

pressed by Armenian nationalists in the field of social protection. Despite all this, the signing of the adopted decisions resulted in the effectiveness of the social policy implemented under the leadership of the national leader, and the coverage of a larger number of people in need of social assistance.

It should be noted that the collection of money capital and their lending is the main task of banks in a market economy. Their important task is to mediate between the borrower and the lender. Banks are not only intermediaries between industrial and commercial owners in borrowing and lending, but at the same time they turn money income and savings of the population into borrowed capital. In itself, money in the hands of the population is not capital. Because these funds were collected in order to meet the personal consumer needs of the owners. However, these funds can be converted into equity after being transferred to a bank. In this regard, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, a large increase in the number of savings banks, depositors and deposits was observed in Karabakh. Over the 15 years in question, the number of savings banks in Karabakh increased by about 30 percent, the number of depositors increased by 4 times, and the amount of deposits kept in banks increased by 5 times [41, p. 76]. All this is reflected in the table below:

Table 4

Number of savings banks and deposits in Karabakh

| The content of the work | Years | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
| Number of safe deposit boxes | 240 | 300 | 315 | 333 |
| Number of contributors (thousand) | 144 | 153 | 270 | 405 |
| Amount of deposits kept in cash desks (in thousands of manats) | 124491 | 204253 | 376770 | 652860 |
| Average amount per depositor (in manats) | 1851 | 2883 | 3753 | 4836 |

As a result of the research, it became known that in 1966-1980 in the Khankendi, Aghdara, Khojavend and Hadrut regions of Nagorno-Karabakh, despite the repeated increase in the deposit stored in deposit boxes, but in the Shusha region, where Azerbaijanis have lived since ancient times, this indicator decreased. For example, in those years, the savings of rural workers increased from 9 million to 14 million manats in the Khankendi region, from 4 million to 12 million manats in Agdara, from 5 million to 9 million manats in Khojavend, from 2 million to 5 million manats in Hadrut, but in the Shusha region, it decreased from 9 million manats to 2,5 million manats [25, p. 612]. This fact itself indicates that the Azerbaijanis living in Nagorno-Karabakh were treated like stepfathers and their social status was reduced. By the way, it should also be noted that in terms of the number of savings banks, and the number of depositors (in relation to the population), the amount of deposits kept in banks, and the average amount per depositor, the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan compared to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic or the level of the entire republic was in the first place. This very fact is an example of the fact that the concept of “socio-economic backwardness” of the Armenians is completely false.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, one of the important measures taken by the republican leadership in Karabakh was to create a correspondence between the consumer demand of the population living here and the supply, as well as the full satisfaction of the population’s need for food and non-food products. The increase in the purchasing power of the population of Karabakh, the relative development of the production of consumer goods, trade and public catering services led to an increase in trade in the region. On the territory of Karabakh, at the expense of special funds allocated in 1971-1981, 150 new trade facilities, 150 canteens and restaurants, 24 canteens, 3 department stores, 3 industrial goods stores, 231 catering establishments, 180 small retail outlets, 300 stalls.

By the way, we also note that the chronicle of human existence convincingly proved the fact that one of the most important factors accelerating the progress of any society and state is the imp-

lementation of a highly effective social policy. In such a situation, both society as a whole and the various layers and individuals that make up it act as interested parties in the development process, and at the same time, trying to make a kind of contribution to this process, expand their activities in the direction of its sustainable nature. This provides a more dynamic development process, a reflection of one of its main goals — material well-being in the life of every person in society, a rapid change in the standard of living of a citizen in a positive direction, an increase in income and their division according to the principle of justice. The architect of this or that dynamic concept of socio-economic development was National leader Heydar Aliyev.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the retail turnover in the Karabakh state and cooperative trade, including public catering, increased from 159 million manats to 354 million manats. In those years, the volume of trade and turnover in Karabakh increased from 81 million manats to 135 million manats [8, l. 25]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, there were well-organized commercial enterprises in Nagorno-Karabakh that provided complex cultural services to the population, but there were still shortcomings in this area. Thus, it was found that the goods were not distributed properly by the regional trade organizations, there were not enough goods in the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis, and the level of trade and public catering in these villages was much lower. Most of the goods sent to Shusha and villages inhabited by Muslims by the central trade enterprises of the region were of poor quality and did not satisfy the needs of the population. In the nomenclature of enterprises and organizations of trade and public catering, subordinate to the region, a dual position was revealed. The existing shops in the villages where the Azerbaijanis of Nagorno-Karabakh lived (if these ancient huts can be called shops) were not equipped with refrigerators and other technological equipment. The Khankendi trade department, provincial party and Soviet organizations did not try to eliminate these shortcomings and did not take effective measures. As a result of the study, it became known that in the 1970s and 1980s, the overall

indicators in Nagorno-Karabakh, both in terms of retail trade turnover per capita, the number of trade enterprises, and the area of trade stocks per capita, exceeded both at the level of the entire republic, and in comparison with Nakhchivan and other regions. For example, in 1981 alone, the number of retail trade enterprises per 10000 people in the republic was 28, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 24, in Karabakh — 30, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region — 42. The sales area of stores (in square meters) per 10000 people in the whole republic was 1127 square kilometers, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 1319, in Karabakh — 1435 square kilometers, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 1743 square kilometers. The volume of retail trade turnover per capita in the republic as a whole amounted to 617 manats, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 420 manats, in the whole of Karabakh — 619 manats, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 642 manats [1, p. 51]. Similar differences were observed in other periods.

Public catering establishments were of great importance in improving the cultural and living conditions of the population of Karabakh. One of the areas that Heydar Aliyev paid attention to during his time in power was catering in Karabakh. In 1970-1982, at the direction of Heydar Aliyev, new canteens, restaurants, kitchen plants, snack bars and buffets were created in Karabakh. Only in the late 1960s — early 1980s, 78 canteens, 107 tea houses and buffets were built in the villages of Karabakh [2, l. 4]. During this period, the existing facilities were rebuilt and extensively renovated. As a result of our research, we can say that when considering the process of locating catering establishments in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is known that here the Armenian leadership has taken a biased position. For example, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the location of public catering enterprises and the volume of services increased by more than 2,5 times in the Khankendi, Khojavend, Hadrut, Aghdara regions, and in the Shusha region this growth reached 1,9 times [23, p. 590]. The largest public catering establishments were established in Khankendi — the Good Service Salon, household enterprises, clothing and footwear repair shops, laundries and dry cleaners and other service points. According to the data for 1975, out of 69 million 394 thousand manats of trade

turnover in Nagorno-Karabakh, 27 million 767 thousand manats accounted for Khankendi trade enterprises [23, p. 591].

As a result of the wise policy of Heydar Aliyev, in accordance with the growth of industrial and agricultural production, as well as the real incomes of the population, the total volume of retail trade in state and cooperative trade in Karabakh exceeded the previous level by 2 times. At the same time, the region saw a large increase in the number of commercial enterprises. Their private and collective diversified subsidiary farms, as well as collective farm trade, played an important role in meeting the food needs of the Karabakh people. In the late 1960s — early 1980s the sale of goods on collective farm markets has tripled [8, l. 26].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, thanks to the care of Heydar Aliyev, public catering and cultural services for the population of Karabakh developed dynamically. This development can also be seen from the table below:

Table 5

Public catering and cultural services

| Service indicators | Years | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
| Number of state workshops and ateliers | 1125 | 1422 | 1665 | 1884 |
| Including in the village | 573 | 753 | 846 | 894 |
| Public catering services (thousand manats) | 7495 | 10520 | 58270 | 62460 |
| Including in the village | 2958 | 5991 | 28783 | 2974 |
| Number of employees in public service enterprises | 3459 | 4044 | 4737 | 51213 |
| Including in the village | 921 | 1410 | 1449 | 1491 |

Based on the research, it was established that the volume of household services per inhabitant of Karabakh in 1966-1970 was 13 manats [40, p. 4], and in 1971-1975 this figure increased to 18

manats [40, p. 18], in 1976-1980 it reached 25 manats [38, p. 96]. These figures are significantly higher than the national level. So, if the volume of household services per inhabitant in 1981-1985 for the entire republic was 20-30 manats, then in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic it reached 15-21 manats, in Karabakh — 25-35, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 31-41 manats [3, l.27]. As for the number of consumer service workshops per 10/000 people, this figure for the republic in 1981-1985 was 15-17 workshops, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 21 workshops, in Karabakh — 22-24 workshops, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region — 29-32 workshops. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of specialists with higher and secondary education, working in trade, public catering and consumer services in Karabakh, increased significantly [4, l.94]. So, in 1970 their number was 717, in 1975 — 1120 people (165 of them with higher education), in 1980 — 1380 people, in 1985 — 1734 people. About 60 percent of business employees were women. The average monthly salary of employees of public catering and trade enterprises increased in 1975 to 87 manats against 67 manats in 1965 [3, l. 27]. Unfortunately, the discriminatory policy of the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh showed itself here too. From the studies carried out, it became clear that almost 95 percent of the employees of commercial enterprises in Nagorno-Karabakh were Armenians.

It should also be noted that in 1970 there were 6,209 catering establishments in Azerbaijan. Public catering enterprises contributed to the improvement of the food supply of the population. Heydar Aliyev, who always kept this direction in the spotlight, gave priority to expanding the network of public catering enterprises and improving the culture of service.

The leadership of the republic used every opportunity to meet the needs of the Karabakh people in food and non-food products. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, food and non-food products were sold faster in Karabakh. In 1975 it reached 60 million manats against 24 million manats in 1965. In other words, the volume of industrial goods in the total turnover in 1965 was 47%, and in 1975 it increased to 60% [36, p. 104].

According to sources, it can be said that out of every 100 families in Karabakh, 80 had a radio, 90 a TV, 80 a refrigerator, 50 a washing machine, 30 a vacuum cleaner, 60 a sewing machine, and 10 had a car [24, p. 23]. In the 1970s and 1980s, prices for food and manufactured goods rose. Those who were in contact with Karabakh at that time will probably agree with this phrase, which I will say: In the 1980s, meat, butter, sugar and other products that were included in the list of Azerbaijan's strategic goods never decreased from the sales counters of Nagorno-Karabakh. This is the main indicator that Heydar Aliyev always kept Nagorno-Karabakh in the spotlight and created all sorts of conditions. In order to improve the living standards of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, our state has filled the markets with various goods to meet their growing demand. Already in 1985, the volume of trade in Nagorno-Karabakh increased 5.1 times compared to 1966. However, this figure was 4.8 times in Karabakh and 4.6 times in the republic as a whole [26, p. 32]. During this period, the growth rate of trade per capita in the country as a whole amounted to 2.7 times, in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 3.2 times, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 3.7 times. In those years, the sales area per 10.000 people in stores increased by 1.9 times in Azerbaijan, in the Karabakh region, which is part of it, by 2.2 times, in Nagorno-Karabakh, by 2.6 times. Also in 1986, the number of seats per 10000 people in public catering establishments decreased in our republic to 731, while in Karabakh as a whole it reached 768, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh region — 805 [32, p. 54].

The purposeful, consistent policy pursued by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev in 1970-1982 led to the prevention of an economic recession, the improvement of the country's financial situation, the improvement of the people's living standards, while at the same time establishing internal stability on a solid foundation and ensuring the security of citizens. Basing the ongoing social policy on real foundations, bringing economic development under the influence of market price regulators, foreign economic activity and other measures of this kind made it possible to survive the stage of socio-economic growth.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, housing construction grew rapidly in the cities and villages of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. First of all, the volume of capital investments in housing construction, the development of public utilities and landscaping, the comprehensive development of housing and communal services in Karabakh increased. In 1971-1975, 417 million manats were allocated, in 1976-1980 — 459 million manats, in 1981-1985 — 573 million manats. 969 million of the allocated funds were allocated for construction and installation works, and 450 million for utilities, major repairs, operation of various housing structures and mechanisms, improvement of residential areas, etc. [31, p. 16]. The area of housing construction is characterized by an ascending line. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, new comfortable apartments with a total area of 3.081 thousand square meters were commissioned in Karabakh at the expense of all financial sources. The dynamic development of housing construction in Karabakh in those years is clearly visible from the table below (in thousands of square meters).

Table 6

Housing construction in Karabakh

| Years | Number of apartments built | Including | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| | | Buildings of state and cooperative enterprises and organizations | Private apartments built with a public loan | Built on collective farms |
| 1966-1970 | 786 | 195 | 573 | 15 |
| 1971-1975 | 807 | 312 | 486 | 6 |
| 1976-1980 | 732 | 363 | 363 | 6 |
| 1981-1985 | 753 | 348 | 396 | 9 |

During construction in Karabakh, local raw materials were also used. The construction industry in Karabakh developed rapidly thanks

to the funds allocated by the leadership of the republic. As a result of calculations, it became known that the share of the Upper Karabakh economic region accounted for 15 percent of facing stone, 30 percent of building stone, 10 percent of saw stone, 10 percent of industrially important clay [7, l. 119]. An important role in this area was played by the Khankendi plant of building materials, Aghdam, Tartar sand and gravel, stone, marble quarries, brick factory. Khankendi, Askeran, Khojavend, Khojaly forestries and woodworking factories also accelerated the development of construction and landscaping work in Karabakh. More than 3000 individual apartments with an area of 1656000 square meters have been built for the workers and employees of Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as the rural intelligentsia. These apartments were built according to a new project and consisted of 2-3 floors. Only for 1976-1980 360 thousand workers and employees moved to new apartments, and their social status improved significantly [33, p. 46]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, new micro-districts and settlements were built in Karabakh, multi-storey residential buildings were erected, rural settlements were reconstructed and turned into urban settlements. As a result of the research, it is known that achievements in the field of housing construction in Nagorno-Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s were higher than in all regions of our republic. For example, if in Nagorno-Karabakh the area of housing per inhabitant reached 14.6 sq. m, while in Karabakh it decreased to 12.3 sq. m, in our republic this figure was 10.0 sq. m, and in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 9.5 sq. m [23, p. 575]. In addition, the pace of improvement of private housing stock in the cities of the republic amounted to 137.8 percent, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan — 107.4 percent, in Karabakh — 152 percent, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 167.5 percent. In 1961-1986, 4 million 200 thousand square meters of housing were built in Karabakh at the expense of all sources, including 369 thousand square meters of housing in 1985-1986. As a result, more than 36 thousand people have improved their living conditions. From our research, it became known that during the period under review, the area of housing per inhabitant in the territory of the former USSR was 14.9 sq. m, in the

Armenian SSR — 13.7 sq. m, in the Azerbaijan SSR — 10.9 sq. m, and in the city of Baku 11.7 sq. m, if in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic it was 9.5 sq. m, in general in Karabakh — 12,7 sq. m, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan this figure reached 14.6 sq. m [25, p. 210]. In these years, restrictions on the construction of private housing were lifted, favorable conditions for lending were created, and construction work was accelerated.

The improvement of the cultural and living conditions of the population of Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s is evidenced by the gasification works carried out here. During this period, a gas pipeline was built in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and almost the entire territory was gassed. On December 30, 1978, the Yevlakh-Khankendi gas pipeline was opened. Part of this pipeline, 107 km long, was laid in difficult mountainous conditions. The Southern Production Association for the construction of gas industry facilities, construction departments No. 3 and 10 of Azerbaijan and other teams took part in the construction of this gas pipeline. In the late 1970s the Yevlakh-Khankendi-Gorus-Nakhchivan gas pipeline was built and put into operation [32, p. 52]. The construction of these gas pipelines was considered an event of great importance for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Because after the construction of these pipelines, the work on gasification of the territory of the region accelerated. In 1971-1975, 1100 kilometers of gas pipelines were built on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and in 1976-1980 this figure doubled. In 1980, 2100 apartments in the city of Khankendi and 300 apartments in the city of Shusha were supplied with gas [9]. In 1981, 35000 apartments were supplied with gas in the towns and villages of Nagorno-Karabakh. In the 1980s, gasification in Nagorno-Karabakh increased 2 times in the city and 3 times in rural areas compared to the 70s. The gasification of apartments in Nagorno-Karabakh has been completed. The number of gassed apartments here increased 4.3 times in the late 1960s and early 1980s. Already in 1986, the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh was 100 percent supplied with gas. However, in the republic as a whole, this figure was 96.2 percent [4, p. 99].

The issue of supplying Karabakh with drinking water was completely resolved in the 1970s. In those years, old water pipelines were repaired in Karabakh, new pipelines were put into operation and engines were provided for pumping water. In 1985, the length of the network of street water pipelines in Karabakh reached 606 kilometers. Of these, 66 kilometers fell on the share of the city of Khankendi [8, 1.25].

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the supply of water supply to the apartments of the population of cities, districts and settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh was 2 times higher than the level of the entire republic. According to 1986 data, the percentage of improvement of the water supply system in the whole republic was 30.5%, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 7.4%, in Karabakh as a whole — 37.5%, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 45.5% [41, p. 48]. Nagorno-Karabakh has surpassed the level of the entire republic by 2 times in providing cities with sewerage. Every year, the leadership of the republic carried out all the necessary measures for the improvement of cities and villages of Karabakh, the construction and reconstruction of streets and parks, the repair and renovation of public utilities. In the 1970s, only 12 million manats were spent on landscaping, building parks, laying electricity and heat supply lines in Karabakh. Along with all the above successes related to housing construction, some shortcomings were also found in the region in these years. So, even in the villages of Nagorno-Karabakh, where Azerbaijanis lived, the housing problem remained acute. And the Armenian leadership informed the Center that the housing problem had been completely resolved. The quality of more or less construction work in the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis was at a very low level. In most of the villages of Nagorno-Karabakh, where Azerbaijanis lived, there were no public services. In the existing institutions, the quality of service was at a low level. While all the villages inhabited by Armenians were provided with gas, the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis were still without gas. According to information received by the center, these villages were “gasified”.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the leadership of the republic carried out important activities in the field of road construction, transport and communications in Karabakh. First, from year to year, the amount of funds allocated for the development of a network of highways of intrastate, local and republican significance, the construction, repair and maintenance of new roads increased. Against 1686000 manats in 1965, 3522000 manats were allocated in the 1970s, 358000 manats in 1975, 3972000 manats in 1980 and 6208000 manats in 1986 [18, p. 78]. At the expense of allocated funds, new asphalt roads were built in Karabakh. For example, in 1966, 2100 km of roads were built in the cities and villages of Karabakh, in 1970 — 2700 km, in 1975 — 2890 km, in 1980 — 2935 km, in 1985 — 2994 km [13, l. 60]. At the same time, motor roads were equipped with technical means of traffic control and communication facilities. However, it is regrettable to state that during the period in question, the Council of People's Deputies of Nagorno-Karabakh, regional road construction, repair and maintenance enterprises “forgot” about the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis when compiling a list of repair and construction work on road construction local importance.

In the 70s of the 20th century, on the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, the construction of the Aghdam-Khankendi railway began, connecting Baku with Khankendi. The railway line was laid out in mountainous terrain and abounded with many complex structures adapted to the landscape through which the highway passed. Tbilisi designers, teams of the Azerbaijan Vehicle Construction Trust, many auxiliary contractors from different cities of our republic took part in the construction. On January 12, 1979, this 26-kilometer railway was put into operation [29, p. 118]. The construction of this road was an important event in the economic and cultural life of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Because this road, being an economical vehicle, will play an important role in the region's relations with other regions of Azerbaijan and the former union. Rail transport reduces the cost of freight transportation by 6 times. The Aghdam-Khankendi railway was also used for passenger traffic.

In those years, the volume of cargo transportation in Karabakh by road increased every year. In 1965, 1500 thousand tons of cargo were transported, in 1970 — 2100 thousand tons, in 1975 — 3 million 578 thousand tons, in 1980 — 6 million 684 thousand tons, in 1985 it reached 9 million 808 thousand tons [8, 1.26]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, cargo turnover saw a threefold increase. Passenger transportation in 1965 reached 9 million people, in 1970 — 15 million people, in 1975 — 24 million people, in 1980 — 42 million people, in 1985 — 45 million. person [2, 1. 7]. In 1976-1980s, 900 cars and many auto parts were transferred to the Karabakh Motor Transport Association. A new car park and taxi fleets have been built on the territory of Karabakh. By the way, we note that in 1985 the fleet of trucks in Karabakh increased by 1.8 times, and in Nagorno-Karabakh — twice. At the republican level, this figure was 1.7 times. If in the whole republic the growth of vehicle fleets was 1.7 times, then in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan it increased 2.1 times, and in Nagorno-Karabakh — 2.6 times [3, 1. 26].

In these years, the automobile association operating in the regions of Karabakh achieved great success. So, in those years, new bus and taxi routes were organized, which led to an increase in labor productivity at Karabakh enterprises and an improvement in public services. In in those years, those years, the motor transport production association and its subordinate farms transported 486000 tons of cargo and 4725 passengers in excess of the plan. As a result of the continuous development of the national economy, continuous cultural services while preventing idleness, road transport in Karabakh has been further developed. The development of road transport in Karabakh is evidenced by the fact that if there were 17.5 cars per 1000 inhabitants of Azerbaijan, then in Nakhchivan — 17 cars, in the Karabakh region — 22.1 cars, and in its Nagorno-Karabakh region — 26.5 cars. By the way, we note that the number of transport workers increased every year [6, 1. 92]. In 1975, the number of transport workers in Karabakh was 4941 people, in 1970 — 6852 people, and in 1985 it reached 10701 people. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the volume of road

transport in the republic increased 3.6 times, while in Karabakh — 4.2 times, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 4.8 times. In addition, in the republic, the volume of passenger transportation by road increased 2.2 times, in Karabakh — 2.4 times, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 2.6 times, in the republic — 2.4 times — by taxi, in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 3.3 times, 4.2 times in Nagorno-Karabakh [21, p. 46]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the Aghdam-Khankendi railway station received 3806 freight cars at different times. In those years, 136000 cargoes and 68000 passengers were transported.

It is known from studies that the density of bus routes in Karabakh was 2.6 times higher than the average level in the republic. If in the late 1960s — early 1980s the length of bus routes in Karabakh increased by 6.5%, then in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic this figure increased by 4.5%, on a republican scale — by 4.8%, in Nagorno-Karabakh — by 8.2% [41, p. 91]. In the 1980s, the progress of air transport in Karabakh attracted attention. In 1980-1986, the volume of passenger transportation by air increased significantly. In 1980, 24 thousand passengers were transported by air in Karabakh, and in 1985 this figure reached 27 thousand. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, vehicles developed dynamically in Karabakh. A railway line with all kinds of facilities was put into operation in the city of Khankendi. At the same time, air transport has seen significant development. In recent years, improved paved roads have been built in Karabakh, connecting regional centers with the republic's highways. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, on the basis of the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, important measures were taken to develop communications in Karabakh. In order to increase the number of communication institutions and improve the services provided to the population by communication institutions, the amount of funds for the repair, protection and organization of new telephone, telegraph and postal communications has been increased compared to previous periods. In 1970-1975, 120 specialists with higher and secondary education were sent from Baku to Karabakh [20]. In just 5 years (1970-1975), the number of com-

munication workers in Karabakh increased from 2583 to 3084 people, and in 1985 it exceeded 6,000 people. For the development of communications in Karabakh in 1961-1975, a long-term loan was allocated in the amount of 2 million 388 thousand manats [12, p. 9]. In 1970-1982, 22554 telephone sets were transferred to Karabakh. In 1970-1986, the rate of development of fixed assets and capital investments in the field of communications in Karabakh doubled compared to our republic. In the mid-1980s, per capita communication output was 21 manats for the entire republic, 25 manats for the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and 29.5 manats for Nagorno-Karabakh. In 1970-1982, at the expense of special funds allocated by the state, 42 new communication enterprises were built and put into operation in Karabakh. Also, the newly created enterprises were provided with the necessary equipment. In these years, the number of postal and telegraph institutions in Karabakh increased from 294 to 336. In 1970-1983, 21141 telephone lines were installed for the population of Karabakh. The number of phones almost doubled to 47412. Of these, 29433 telephones were transferred to cities and 17979 to villages. It was estimated that in 1985 there were 10 telephones per 100 people in Karabakh, while in Nagorno-Karabakh the figure was 12.4. Of these, 29433 telephones were transferred to cities and 17979 to villages. It was estimated that in 1985 there were 10 telephones per 100 people in Karabakh, while in Nagorno-Karabakh the figure was 12.4. In general, there were 7.9 telephones per 100 people in the republic [38, p. 92]. Also in Karabakh, the coverage of families with apartment telephones was 34.7 percent, and in Nagorno-Karabakh this figure reached 42.4 percent. In the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, this figure was 30.1 percent, and in the whole country — 31.1 percent [12, l. 10]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the number of long-distance telephone calls in Karabakh increased from 1203000 to 2754000. As a result of the development of long-distance telephone communications, the number of long-distance telephone calls per capita in the republic amounted to 4.15%, in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 5.92%, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 7.69% [7, p. 117].

As a result of comprehensive measures put forward by Heydar Aliyev, significant progress has been made in the number of radio reception points in Karabakh. The number of radio reception points in Karabakh was 72783 in 1970, 88476 in 1975, 106056 in 1980 and increased to 123666 in 1985. The laying of the radio relay line expanded from year to year. The construction of the Baku-Shusha and Shusha-Nakhchivan radiotelephone lines gave a powerful impetus to the development of radio broadcasting in Karabakh. In the 1980s, the commissioning of a television studio in Khankendi allowed the people of Karabakh to watch Moscow and republican television programs. In 1965, there were 48000 televisions in the cities and villages of Karabakh, and in 1980 their number more than doubled and reached 105000, and in 1985 it reached 213000 [32, p. 52]. During the period in question, post, telegraph, radio and other means of communication developed rapidly in Karabakh. By the way, we note the sad fact that the cities, regions, towns and villages of Nagorno-Karabakh, with the exception of most villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis, are completely radioized, and communications have penetrated more and more into everyday life. In 1970, the population of Karabakh sent 15.300 letters through the postal service [26], in 1975 this number reached 34716, and in 1985 — 38682 [12, l. 11]. In addition, in 1970, 80010 newspapers and magazines were received from the Karabakh post office, and in 1982 the number of received newspapers and magazines more than tripled and reached 273834 copies. In these years, the amount of money transfers and postal pensions in Karabakh increased from 1428000 manats to 1527000 manats [13, l. 61].

The leadership of the republic has taken important measures in the field of protecting the health of the population of Karabakh. In order to strengthen the material and technical base of healthcare in Karabakh, develop the network of healthcare management and protect the health of the population, investments have increased year by year. In 1970-1975, the amount of funds allocated from the budget for health care in Karabakh reached 84 million manats, in 1976-1980 — 87 million manats, and in 1981-1985 — 93 million manats

[30, p. 76]. In general, in the 1960-1980s, more than 28 percent of all state funds in Karabakh were spent on health care. From the studies carried out, it became known that in the late 1960s and early 1980s, the funds allocated for health care in Karabakh were twice the level of the entire republic. Thanks to the allocated funds, medical institutions in Karabakh have expanded significantly. Medical assistance for the health of the population was strengthened, the number of doctors and paramedics in medical institutions increased significantly. Thus, in these years, 828 specialists with higher education and 2571 specialists with secondary education were sent to Karabakh. 27 new institutions providing outpatient care to the population have been built and put into operation. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, 75 new women's and children's clinics and polyclinics were built in Karabakh, equipped with all kinds of medical equipment. The health departments of Karabakh were provided with medicines, medical instruments and equipment [13, p. 59]. The dynamic development of health care in the late 1960s — early 1980s. seen from the table below.

Table 7

Health care system in Karabakh

| Indicators | Years | | | |
|--|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
| Number of hospitals | 84 | 96 | 96 | 96 |
| Number of beds in the hospital | 4725 | 4905 | 5295 | 5670 |
| Number of doctors | 720 | 1236 | 1488 | 1548 |
| Number of paramedical workers | 4185 | 5460 | 6657 | 6756 |
| Women's and children's consultations and polyclinics | 33 | 42 | 63 | 108 |
| Polyclinic providing outpatient care to the population | 129 | 132 | 138 | 156 |
| Number of doctors per 10000 population | 45 | 60 | 84 | 86 |
| Number of beds per 10000 people | 306 | 303 | 309 | 312 |

In these years, X-ray rooms, physiotherapy rooms and laboratories equipped with advanced and modern equipment were created in Karabakh. The number of medical and prophylactic departments in Karabakh reached 660 in 1985, of which 105 were stationary [23, p. 574]. A skin and venereal dispensary, tuberculosis and oncological dispensaries, a health education house, a sanitary and epidemiological station, a blood transfusion station, other polyclinics and outpatient clinics were opened here. The result of all this was that contagious and infectious diseases were eradicated in Karabakh, the incidence of dysentery and brucellosis significantly decreased. Our studies show that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the provision of hospital beds to the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the provision of medical personnel in all specialties and other areas, surpassed both the republic as a whole, and Karabakh and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. For example, in 1985, the number of beds per 10000 population was 97.8 in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 94.6 in the Nakhchivan region of Azerbaijan, 101.2 in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and 104.6 in Nagorno-Karabakh [16, l. 61]. According to the data for ten thousand people, the provision of medical workers in the whole country was 93.8, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 80.1, in Karabakh — 110.1, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 126.3. The number of highly educated medical workers per ten thousand people in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was 26.2 people, in Karabakh — 27.5, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 28.9 people [18]. During the period under study, a lot of work has been done in Karabakh in the field of protecting motherhood and childhood, improving the working and living conditions of women, and implementing recreational activities among children and adolescents. From the studies carried out, it became known that in Karabakh women made up 81 percent of medical workers, unlike all other sectors of the national economy. According to data for 1975, the average monthly salary of medical workers was 87 manats [38, p. 118].

The above indisputable comparative analyzes and facts are clear evidence that Heydar Aliyev has always paid special

attention to the socio-economic development of Nagorno-Karabakh. However, although the measures implemented in Nagorno-Karabakh in the health sector were rated as good, some shortcomings were also evident here. Thus, in the villages of Nagorno-Karabakh, where Azerbaijanis lived, as a result of the targeted policy of the Armenian leadership of the region, health care was in very poor condition. In those villages, there was not only a polyclinic, a hospital, and even a first-aid post. The few medical centers left from the past fell into disrepair due to neglect and were not provided with any medical equipment and medicines. However, the “authoritative documents” contained information about the “good” situation in these villages.

In the 1970s, large sums of money were allocated from consumer funds in Karabakh to provide children with preschool educational institutions, organize children’s recreation in summer pioneer camps, and provide assistance to mothers with many children and single mothers. During this period, all workers and employees who temporarily lost their ability to work received social insurance benefits.

It should be noted that the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan has rich natural beauty. Karabakh was famous for its health resorts, rest houses, high-rise buildings, medical places. Only in Nagorno-Karabakh there were 6 sanatoriums and recreation centers, as well as tourist centers for two thousand people. From this point of view, the city of Shusha, which was one of the most beautiful health resorts in Karabakh, was of great importance. In the Shusha sanatorium-resort complex, 650-700 people rested every shift [6, l. 90]. The Shusha resort was compared with the Swedish resort Davos. In 1975, the Shusha recreation center began to function as a sanatorium of all-Union significance. Thousands of people from all over the world came to Shusha for rest and treatment. Only in 1980, 8 thousand people rested and were treated in the Shusha sanatorium. Among those treated there were patients with chronic bronchitis, catarrh of the upper respiratory tract, the initial form of emphysema, the initial form of bronchial asthma, pleurisy, anemia, nervous disease, severe

fatigue, acute infectious diseases, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular diseases, inflammation of the bronchi and other diseases. The Turshsu spring was of particular importance in protecting the health of the inhabitants of Karabakh. Clean air, clean water, endless forests, cool and refreshing mountain rivers and springs of Karabakh determined the long life of the people living here. In 1970, the number of people living in Karabakh for more than 100 years exceeded the indicators of the entire republic. In general, the average life expectancy in Karabakh is 75 years [6, l. 93].

During this period, Heydar Aliyev paid great attention to improving the working conditions of workers and employees in Karabakh. The national economy was regularly equipped with new technology, the use of mechanization and the achievements of science in production, the partial use of automation of heavy, labor-intensive work led to an improvement in working conditions for workers. Maternity leave was paid to pregnant women before and after childbirth, a reduced working day was established for persons under 18 years of age, additional leave and a reduced working day were applied to workers in hazardous industries. The reduction of working hours and other important socio-economic measures were the result of Heydar Aliyev's concern for the population of the region in the 1970s while maintaining full wages on working days before the holidays.

In the 1970s, tourism and excursion organizations in Azerbaijan developed significantly compared to previous times. Dozens of tourist bases, complexes and hotels have been put into operation. At that time, the Trade Union of Azerbaijan had 22 health resorts for 12 thousand places, 12 tourist bases and complexes [7, l. 119]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the leadership of the republic implemented important measures to strengthen and develop the material and technical base of physical education and sports in Karabakh. For these purposes, 102000 manats were allocated in 1970, 144000 manats in 1975, 184000 manats in 1980, and 384000 manats in 1985 [28, p. 46]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, 1182 specialists in physical culture and sports with higher and secondary education were sent to

Karabakh. The number of professional athletes in the region in 1970 was 294 people, in 1980 it increased almost 3 times to 888 people, and in 1985 it reached 1482 people. During these years, 26 stadiums, 123 sports grounds, 739 volleyball and basketball courts, tennis courts, and two swimming pools were built and transferred to the use of athletes [6, 1.91]. From the studies it became known that in terms of the number of stadiums and sports grounds per capita, the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan occupies high positions either at the level of the entire republic, or if it is taken for Karabakh as a whole, or in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Just by looking at the number of stadiums, we can understand what is at stake. So, at that time there were 66 stadiums in the republic, 12 of which belonged to Nagorno-Karabakh [30, p. 77]. As a result of the measures taken by our state, the number of sports teams in Karabakh increased from 900 in 1971 to 903 in 1975, 909 in 1980 and 1350 in 1985. The number of athletes in Karabakh increased from 50 thousand in 1971 to 55 thousand in 1975 and up to 60 thousand in 1985 [41, p. 123]. At the end of the 1980s, there were 8020 sports teams in our republic, in which 2.3 million people regularly went in for sports.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's concerns, within the chronological framework of the period under study, cities, workers' settlements and villages in Karabakh were improved, public utilities were expanded, and this created conditions for improving the living conditions of the population. In 1970, 81% of the city's public housing stock was provided with running water, 79% with sewerage, 54% with central steam and heating system, and 93% with gas. And also passenger transportation increased by 10 times [28, p. 78].

The physical culture and sports teams of Karabakh were provided with the necessary equipment and inventory, the material and technical base for physical education and sports was strengthened. As a result, in 1971-1985, the number of athletes in Karabakh who received categories increased by more than 3 times. So, in 1971, the number of athletes of the II and III degrees was 15 thousand people, and the number of athletes of the I degree was 150

people, and in 1985 the number of athletes of the I degree reached 300 people, and the number of athletes of the II and III degrees reached 4 thousand people [14, p. 30]. At the end of the 1980s, there were 4.3 thousand masters of sports of the USSR in Azerbaijan. It is estimated that 80 percent of those involved in physical education and sports in Karabakh were women. In general, more than 20 percent of the population was engaged in physical education and various sports. The average monthly salary of those involved in physical culture and sports was 82 manats.

Analyzing all these truths very deeply and coordinating them with the interests of the general high progress of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev was constantly looking for new opportunities for the economic development of the republic as a whole, including Karabakh. In this regard, it should be noted the importance of the Politburo's acceptance of the proposal to radically expand the scope of medical and health tourism as an important area with great opportunities in the socio-economic development of Azerbaijan under its initiative and leadership. Heydar Aliyev wanted to turn the republic into one of the most famous medical, health-improving and tourist centers, directing the possibilities and efforts of Azerbaijan to the development of this direction.

Heydar Aliyev has always paid special attention to the recreation and health of children and youth in Karabakh. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, pioneer camps were created on the territory of Karabakh for the effective summer holidays of children, and its material and technical base was strengthened by our state. In these camps, the children not only had a good rest, but also went in for sports and prepared for work [6, l. 89]. Only during the summer vacations of 1979-1980 academic year, 8400 students of IX and X grades rested in the Shusha labor camp in Karabakh. 900 children rested in the Kraberd pioneer camp in the Khojavend region, and 1200-1300 children rested in the Yuri Gagarin pioneer camp in the Shusha region.

As a result of the concerns of Heydar Aliyev in 1970-1982, the appearance of the villages of Karabakh changed significantly.

In the villages, wide paved streets were built, and many urban-type houses were built. At night the streets were lit with electricity. The Karabakh villages had their own department store, a ten-year school and a hospital. In 1970, new bridges were built in the region, and television substations began to operate in regional centers.

In 1970-1980, the population of Karabakh increased from 626000 to 716000 people. The natural increase per thousand people decreased from 22.5 percent to 20 percent, the number of births decreased from 29 percent to 26.1 percent, and the number of deaths decreased from 6.7 percent to 6.1 percent. In 1926-1988, the population of Karabakh increased by 46 percent [5, p. 28]. Due to the losses in the war of 1941-1945 and the migration of the population to other regions of Karabakh, a decrease in population was observed in 1939-1959, and in 1970 the population in the region reached its previous level and exceeded this in subsequent periods. In those years, the share of the urban population in the total population of Karabakh increased from 50 percent to 53.8 percent. According to 1979 data, the number of people over 100 years old in Karabakh was 750 people [5, p. 28]. In the late 1980s, 2500 Azerbaijani citizens aged 100 were registered in our republic. In 1970-1980, there were changes in the national composition of the population of Azerbaijan [2, l. 4]. According to the 1989 census, more than 7 million people living in Azerbaijan were 6 million Azerbaijanis, 392.3 thousand Russians and 390.5 thousand Armenians. At that time representatives of 82 peoples lived in Azerbaijan. According to the 1975 census, Armenians in Azerbaijan made up 7.9 percent of the total population. According to the population census conducted on January 17-24, 1979, it became known that significant changes took place in the national composition of the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Comparisons showed that in 1970-1979 the number of Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region decreased by 4.6 percent, while the number of Azerbaijanis increased by 4.9 percent [23, p. 575]. How the national composition and population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region changed in those years can be seen from the table below:

Table 8

Population and ethnic composition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region

| Years | Population (persons) | Including | | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------------|-----|
| | | Azerbaijanis | | Armenians | | Other nationalities | |
| | | Absolute growth | % | Absolute growth | % | Absolute growth | % |
| 1939 | 150811 | 14115 | 9,4 | 132818 | 88,1 | 3878 | 2,5 |
| 1959 | 130406 | 17995 | 13,8 | 110053 | 84,4 | 2358 | 1,8 |
| 1970 | 150313 | 27179 | 18,1 | 121068 | 80,5 | 2066 | 1,4 |
| 1979 | 162181 | 37264 | 23 | 123076 | 75,9 | 1841 | 1,1 |

According to the 1979 population census, 25.9 percent of the total number of Armenians living in Azerbaijan were in Karabakh [24, p. 576]. As can be seen from the table above, the number of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh gradually decreased. In order to justify their evil intentions and create a positive opinion of themselves in the world community, Armenian nationalists put forward such an unfounded assertion that the decrease in the number of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh was due to the deterioration of their socio-economic situation, the situation in the region, their oppression in this region and other crazy statements. However, as a result of objective scientific research, it became known that the decrease in the number of Armenians and the increase in the number of Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh was due to the following factors: First of all, according to socio-demographic sources, the average number of children for Armenian women in Azerbaijan is 2.3, for Azerbaijani women — 3.1, for Russian women — 1.6 [11, p. 11]. The reproductive goal of Armenian women, or rather, their desire to have children, does not exceed 3, for Azerbaijani women this figure is 3.8, for Russian women — 2.5 [11, p. 12]. From the conducted studies, it became known that the number of children born among the Armenian po-

pulation of Nagorno-Karabakh was 34.4, in 1970 — 17.5, in 1979 — 17.2, which is significantly lower than the number of children born in Azerbaijani families. The “thesis” of the Armenian “experts” about a sharp deterioration in the age structure of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh is also completely wrong. The facts show that in 1979, 25.4 percent of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh were under 16 years old, and 21.9 percent were 20-39 years old [2, 1.4]. According to those involved in demography, these figures are among the highest in our republic. As elsewhere in the world, Nagorno-Karabakh is experiencing an aging population, which is a natural trend in demographic development, but in Nagorno-Karabakh this process is much slower. As for the opinion of the Armenian political scientists who have lost their objectivity, “artificially increasing the population of Azerbaijan by importing it from outside”, this idea is completely unfounded. Because, not only brought from outside, but also if the Azerbaijanis had not been evicted from Nagorno-Karabakh in various ways, during the years 1959-1979 the number of Azerbaijanis would probably have completely exceeded the Armenians.

In addition to all this, the decrease in the number of Armenians is also due to their tendency to migrate. According to studies, 34.4 percent of those who left for foreign countries from the territory of the former USSR were Armenians, and this figure is the first in the territory of the former Soviet Union [41, p. 9]. The decrease in the number of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and the increase in the number of Azerbaijanis began to worry the Armenian lobby and the Dashnaks. Firstly, newborn Azerbaijanis were not registered in Nagorno-Karabakh. Although they were given a birth certificate, this was done unofficially. Elderly Azerbaijanis were deregistered with false registrations of “moved” or “died”. Having created artificial problems, they forced them to leave the territory of Karabakh. At the same time, the regional statistical department provided exaggerated official data on the number of Armenians to higher organizations, and the Armenians who emigrated and died were not removed from the register. Back in the 1980s, the facts of passport registration of citizens of the Armenian SSR in Nagorno-Karabakh were established.

The Armenians, fearing that their fraudulent actions after 1980 would be revealed in the dynamics of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, in 1989, when the USSR population census was conducted, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh did not allow representatives of Moscow to enter the province. At the same time, when considering statistical data on the population of Nagorno-Karabakh after 1979, it is necessary first of all to take into account their authors [40, p. 51]. Because the Armenian authors falsified the materials of that period in accordance with their interests. In the NKAR, there were also large differences in the distribution of the population between regions. According to 1979 data, about 30 percent of the total population living in Nagorno-Karabakh lived in the Aghdara region, and 10 percent in the Shusha region. In 1980, over 25 percent of the population lived in Khankendi, which once consisted of several houses. The Armenians are mainly concentrated in the city of Khankendi [23, p. 577].

In the late 70s of the 20th century, the population was unevenly distributed among the regions of Karabakh. In some regions, the population lived more and therefore the population density per square kilometer was observed to be higher. For example, 110 thousand people lived in Aghdam, 93 people per square kilometer, in Hadrut 14 thousand people and 21 people per square kilometer, in Terter 70 thousand and 105 people per square kilometer, in Barda 89 thousand people, and 85 people per square kilometer, in Aghdara 45 thousand people, and 26 people per square kilometer, in Fuzuli there are 80 thousand people, and 59 people per square kilometer, Shusha has 19 thousand people and 63 people per square kilometer, in Aghjabedi 70 thousand people and 37 people per square kilometer, in Beylagan 60 thousand people, 50 people per square kilometer, in Khojavend there are 27 thousand people, and 34 people per square kilometer, in Zangilan there are 30 thousand people, and 40 people per square kilometer, in Gubadli 30 thousand people, and 34 people per square kilometer, in Jabrayil 45 thousand people, and 44 people per square kilometer, 40 thousand people lived in Kalbajar, and 28 people per square kilometer. As can be seen from the above, the population is more rarely settled in the

regions of Nagorno-Karabakh, which created conditions for a good life for them [22, p. 502].

The social-class structure of the population of Karabakh has also been updated. In the late 1980s, workers and employees made up 86 percent of the population, and collective farmers 13 percent. In 1970, 62 percent of the population of Karabakh lived in villages and 38 percent in cities, while in 1985 urban residents accounted for 28.3 percent of the total population, and villagers — 71.7 percent [37, p. 111]. As can be seen from the above facts, as a result of comprehensive measures implemented in the late 1960s and early 1980s, the material well-being of the population of Karabakh improved, and the working and living conditions of workers improved.

The national leader Heydar Aliyev, who created in the late 1960s and early 1980s a perfect model of social protection for the population of Karabakh, in one of his speeches explained the current situation: "... Over the years, the face of Azerbaijan has completely changed. Numerous buildings and cultural objects built in a modern architectural style have been erected here. Over the past 14 years, the volume of construction of residential buildings has increased on an incredible scale. ...The hard work and unprecedented efforts of the Azerbaijani people stand behind these figures. From a historical point of view, in a short period of time, Azerbaijan has rapidly developed its economy, created hundreds of large plants, factories and production areas. During these years ... Azerbaijan occupied one of the leading places in the USSR in terms of production. 350 items of products manufactured in our country were exported to 65 countries of the world... Over the years, the total national income has increased by 2.5 times. In the republic, industrial production, as well as labor productivity, doubled, and the production of consumer goods tripled. The volume of industrial output produced during these 14 years was equal to the volume produced during the previous 50 years. Gross output in agriculture also increased 2.7 times, productivity in this area, including labor productivity, more than doubled... Over these years, 21.3 billion manats were involved in the development of the national economy,

which is more than 1.5 times more than in the previous fifty years. More than 250 large plants, factories and production workshops were built. More than two million people have improved their living conditions... However, no matter how attractive these figures and these lifeless indicators may be, they cannot give a complete picture of the structural and qualitative changes that have taken place in the Azerbaijani economy. During these years, the foundations were laid for a number of new branches of the national economy for Azerbaijan” [17, p. 9].

The all-round integrated development of the economy of Karabakh played an important role in solving many important tasks, especially in improving the material well-being of the population. First of all, there have been big changes in the efficient use of labor resources in the region. The large-scale development of production, the creation of its powerful potential in all regions made it possible to double the number of employees in the national economy. In addition, the average monthly salary of workers and employees allocated from state funds and with benefits increased in 1985 compared to 1970 by more than 1.5 times — from 158 to 234 manats [30, p. 77]. During this period, there was an improvement in all other areas of the standard of living of the population. The provision of housing built and put into operation during this period is one of the most significant indicators of the improvement in his well-being. Thus, the socio-economic situation of Karabakh in the 70s and in the first half of the 80s of the twentieth century is a special historical stage, the highest peak in the development of all its regions until that time. Lagging behind in the main socio-economic indicators, Karabakh in a short time took first place not only among the cities and regions of Azerbaijan, but also among the union republics in the main quality indicators of development. As a result of the unprecedented development of these years, the economy of Karabakh never had the conditions for the full use of its natural resources and many other production possibilities, as it was at that stage. Karabakh has never risen to such a high level at any of its historical stages in terms of the versatility of the production direction of the national economy, in terms of greater improvement

of the structure. As a result of a more comprehensive development of the economy, the role of Karabakh in the distribution of social labor has expanded significantly, both in terms of the volume of imported and exported products. For the first time in the 1970s — the first half of the 1980s, a consistent line of development of such a large-scale organization of the national economy of Karabakh was implemented. In this regard, the irreplaceable historical significance of the great upsurge in the socio-economic life of Karabakh in this period should be assessed primarily by the fact that this radical turn was the basis for the future independence of the republic.

Thus, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, as a result of close attention and proper organization of Heydar Aliyev, important changes occurred in the socio-economic life and well-being of the population of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, income, purchasing power, trade, public catering, medicine, communications, everyday life, the level of services has increased, the supply of residential areas with water, gas and sewerage has improved. However, at that time, the Armenian leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh, adhering to its Armenian tradition, pursued a policy of preventing the improvement of the socio-economic situation of the Azerbaijanis living in the region and raising their intellectual level, using all dirty means as a strategic line.

CHAPTER IV

NEW STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CULTURE IN KARABAKH

The late 1960s — early 1980s occupy a very important place in the history of the Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the 20th century. Since during this period great successes were achieved in the field of socio-economic and cultural development of the region, the implemented measures led to an increase in the general cultural level of all the masses of the population of the region, a more complete satisfaction of their spiritual needs, accelerating the process of erasing important cultural differences between the city and the countryside, developing national culture, a new qualitative stage has begun. For this reason, one of the urgent tasks of historical science is the study and objective coverage of the experience of cultural construction achieved by our people.

In particular, it should be noted that after the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ample opportunities have opened up for the comprehensive development of our national culture, which is far from ideological doctrines and is focused on universal human values. In the period after our state gained independence, the strengthening of the cultural and moral potential of the people, the socio-cultural policy of the state is the result of rich experience gained in the late 1960s and early 1980s. As stated in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the twentieth anniversary of the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan: “Starting from the 70s of the last century, large-scale programs have been implemented in our republic in accordance with the strategy of the great son of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, aimed at creating a modern economic potential, enhancing social and cultural life, reviving national and moral values, have prepared the ground for ensuring our future independence” [7, p. 10]. In this regard, the study and research of the history of the development of culture is of great scientific importance.

At the same time, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, culture in Karabakh was significantly enriched, progressive steps were taken to popularize it in the republic and beyond. In Karabakh, great success was achieved in the development of general education schools and the completion of the transition to universal compulsory secondary education, the number of intelligentsia increased, the network of cultural and educational institutions expanded, rare examples in literature were created that were widely distributed, a wide readership, unique works of art reflecting national and spiritual values, played an exceptional role in the national awakening of the people. This is one of the factors that determine the relevance of the topic discussed in the chapter.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, serious attention was paid to education in order to ensure the concept of development of Azerbaijan, one of the first things Heydar Aliyev did was to ensure the consistent development of education.

Heydar Aliyev valued education as an important and attention-grabbing area from the point of view of shaping the dynamics of the development of society and the national system of thinking, and attached strategic importance to the educated and comprehensive growth of the new generation. It was necessary to have the will to resolve the situation in this area, which is usually considered an inertial system and the results of changes that have undergone changes in it are revealed years later.

With the serious efforts of the administration, the construction of schools has been significantly expanded throughout the republic — in cities, towns and villages, in the most remote places, including Karabakh. According to statistics, the number of secondary schools in Azerbaijan increased by 77% in 1968-1978. Already in September 1972, out of 4,204 general education schools in Azerbaijan, 1382 were secondary, 1843 were eight-year schools, and 979 were primary schools. There were 1 million 500 students in day schools. These figures meant great progress in the field of education compared to the previous year [24, p. 58].

Thanks to the attention and care of Heydar Aliyev, 849 general education schools were opened during these years, in which 445.2

thousand students studied, as well as many preschool institutions. The network of general education schools expanded 3 times — from 765 to 2117. In 10 years, almost all teachers have received higher education. Care for graduates who left for the countryside increased, teachers who distinguished themselves in their work were awarded honorary titles, and the reputation of a teacher in society increased significantly [24, p. 59].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, important events took place in the socio-economic life of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, as well as in cultural and spiritual life. During this period, the material, technical and educational base of children's institutions and schools in Karabakh was strengthened, and the quality of teaching was raised. Of course, the achievement of all these successes in Karabakh was the result of Heydar Aliyev's personal initiative and care. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, significant funds were allocated for the development of education and culture in Karabakh, and the volume of these funds increased every year. So, if in 1970 33 million manats were allocated [20, p. 81], then in 1971 35 million were allocated, in 1973 — 39 million, in 1974 — 45 million, and in 1975 — 49 million manats. In subsequent years, the volume of these funds increased [18, p. 9].

In 1976-1980, the leadership of the republic allocated 240 million manats for schools and education in Karabakh, and 270 million manats in 1981-1985 [19, p. 26]. In general, 600 million manats were allocated for the development of education, science and study in Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 70 permanent preschool institutions were built and put into operation in Karabakh with the allocated funds. If in 1970 there were 150 permanent preschool institutions in Karabakh, in 1985 their number reached 225. In just one year, i.e., in 1985, 210 thousand children studied in preschool institutions, or 2 times more than in 1970 [17, p. 71]. These institutions employed 2400 teachers and employees. 50 percent of teachers had higher education, 22 percent had secondary education. By the way, we note that in 1985 there were 85 preschool institutions in Nagorno-Karabakh, in which

more than seven thousand children studied. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 3 permanent preschool institutions were built and put into operation in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which was about 3 times less than those built in Nagorno-Karabakh. During the period under review, the number of permanent preschool institutions in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic increased from 65 to 73. The conducted studies revealed that Nagorno-Karabakh stood out in terms of providing the population with preschool institutions for children, both in comparison with the general indicators of the Karabakh region and on a national scale. This distinction was also evident when compared to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. As an example, in 1985, the coverage of the population by preschool institutions was as follows: 20 percent at the national level, 12 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 27 percent in the broader Karabakh region, and 35 percent in Nagorno-Karabakh [6, p. 32].

Unlike other regions of Azerbaijan, in Karabakh in the late 1960s and early 1980s, the construction of schools proceeded at a rapid pace. In 1971-1975, 60 schools were built in Karabakh (of which 51 were in villages), in 1976-1980 — 36 schools (of which 30 were in villages), and in 1981-1985 — 54 schools (of which 33 were in villages) were built and put into operation [26, p. 41]. With the increase in the number of secondary schools, there was a decrease in the count of eight-year and elementary schools. The decrease in the number of eight-year and elementary schools was reflected in the decrease in the total number of schools. For instance, while the overall count of schools in Karabakh was 809 in 1970, even after the construction of 150 new schools, the total number decreased to 715.

Starting from 1970, a school for children with disabilities was built and put into operation on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and in the 1974-1975 academic year, the number of such schools reached 6. The number of students in these schools increased from 180 to 788 [11, p. 11]. By the way, we note that the school for children with disabilities was opened in the 1950-1951 academic year, but at the end of the same year it stopped working, and in the 1970-1971 academic year the school started working again.

In addition, there were 30 evening (shift) general education schools in Karabakh, where lessons were taught to the older generation, without breaking away from the industry. It should be noted that at the end of the 1980s there were 88 evening (shift) schools in Azerbaijan. An average of 220000 pupils studied in secondary schools in Karabakh every year. The number of teachers in these schools in Karabakh increased from 13.6 thousand to 15.6 thousand [14, p. 19]. More than 80 percent of teachers working in secondary schools in Karabakh had a higher education, 3.3 percent had an incomplete higher education, and 15 percent had a secondary pedagogical education. 98 percent of schools had subject rooms and workshops. In 1985 there were 217 secondary schools in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with 6.3 thousand teachers and 64.8 thousand pupils. An interesting point is that while there were 296 students in each school in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 237 pupils in the all-Karabakh school, and 177 pupils in Nagorno-Karabakh school. At the same time, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic there were 10 children per teacher, in Karabakh — 9.2 children, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 8.5 children [22, p. 76]. In general, as a result of the study, it became known that Nagorno-Karabakh occupied a superior position in terms of the number of teachers and schools compared to the population at the level of the entire republic. This was the result of Heydar Aliyev's concern for the region. Only in 1970-1982, thanks to the great care of Heydar Aliyev, more than 17000 highly qualified specialists were trained for Azerbaijan in the most important higher educational institutions of the USSR. These specialists were sent to all regions of Azerbaijan, including Karabakh.

In 1972, the government decisions “On the completion of the transition of young people to general secondary education and the further development of general education schools” and in 1973 “On the further improvement of the working conditions of rural general education schools” led to the expansion of the educational network and a qualitative improvement in learning conditions, opening a new stage in the development education systems.

Heydar Aliyev, thanks to his innate talent, was able to capture the pulse of time. In order to ensure the harmonious development of all regions of Azerbaijan, including Karabakh in particular, and to provide the regions with the necessary and modern specialists, rural graduates began to be admitted to higher educational institutions without competition. This process began to be carried out on August 12, 1969 on the basis of the instruction of Heydar Aliyev and the order of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan.

In the 1975-1976 academic year, boarding schools began to operate in Karabakh with in-depth training in various subjects and curricula. In the 1975/1976 academic year alone, 35946 pupils studied at boarding schools in Karabakh.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, in addition to day schools, independent correspondence schools were organized in order to attract the working youth of Karabakh to education. 30 educational and consulting seminars were held in the collective farms and state farms of Karabakh, in which 12,141 pupils of district correspondence schools took part. Each year, these schools produced an average of 2700 graduates [15, p. 121]. For students of evening and cor-respondence schools, a reduced work week has been established. Pupils of class XI were provided with paid leave of 20 days, students of class VIII — 8 days, other classes — 4 days. In addition, 240 out-of-school children's institutions, palaces of pioneers and schoolchildren, 150 pioneer camps, a children's sports school, an amateur music and art school, children's parks, stations for young technicians and tourists, and children's libraries operated in Karabakh. In 1971-1975, the transition to general secondary education was completed in Karabakh. In connection with the construction of new schools in Karabakh, partial one-shift education was used, and in Nagorno-Karabakh, all schools taught in one shift. In 42 schools of Nagorno-Karabakh, meals were provided at the expense of special funds allocated by our state [13, p. 12]. The experience of schools in Nagorno-Karabakh in providing students with hot meals was approved by the collegium of the Ministry of Education of the Azerbaijan SSR.

Current indicators in the field of education in Karabakh in 1970-1980 are reflected in the following table:

Table 9

Status of education in Karabakh

| №№ | Name of districts | Number of schools | Number of students enrolled in the school | Number of preschool institutions | Number of children in children's institutions | Number of vocational schools | Number of students in vocational schools | Number of the seven-year music school | Number of students in the music school |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | Agdam | 89 | 30086 | 34 | 1265 | 1 | 3080 | — | — |
| 2 | Beylagan | 43 | 16476 | 10 | 680 | 1 | 360 | — | — |
| 3 | Zangilan | 61 | 10052 | 9 | 355 | 1 | 143 | 1 | 143 |
| 4 | Kalbajar | 77 | 12071 | 2 | 70 | — | — | 1 | 125 |
| 5 | Jabrail | 66 | 11648 | 9 | 377 | 1 | 392 | 1 | 321 |
| 6 | Fizuli | 75 | 25071 | 22 | 1145 | 1 | 431 | 1 | 217 |
| 7 | Gubadly | 63 | 10712 | 1 | 45 | 1 | 240 | — | — |
| 8 | Tartar | 59 | 14460 | 13 | 790 | 1 | 590 | 1 | 164 |
| 9 | Agjabadi | 61 | 20230 | 10 | 605 | 1 | 493 | — | — |
| 10 | Barda | 70 | 25135 | 17 | 816 | 1 | 489 | — | — |
| 11 | Agdara | 40 | 9800 | 27 | 1225 | 1 | 420 | 1 | 135 |
| 12 | Hadrut | 37 | 7140 | 10 | 505 | 1 | 330 | 1 | 95 |
| 13 | Shusha | 22 | 4075 | 7 | 565 | 1 | 324 | 1 | 451 |
| 14 | Khojavend | 37 | 7140 | 10 | 505 | 1 | 330 | 1 | 95 |
| 15 | Asgeran | 30 | 4108 | 10 | 609 | 1 | 450 | 1 | 125 |

In addition, the Pedagogical Institute, the Institute for the Improvement of Teachers, the Agricultural College, the Medical College, 2 music schools, secondary vocational schools, children's art

schools, a technical school, preschool children's institutions, and secondary schools operated in the city of Khankendi. During this period, 1269 students and pupils were educated in Aghdam educational institutions, such as the "Agricultural College", "Technical School of Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture", Musical and Medical Schools [27, p. 132].

It should also be noted that the development of intellectuals with a thinking brain, leading the nation forward, was part of the conceived concept of education. Because the need for educated personnel has increased in a changing and modernizing society. To this end, 5 new higher educational institutions that meet the requirements of the time were created in the republic in a short time, and their material and technical base was strengthened. The first steps were taken to exchange students with foreign countries. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, 23 new faculties and 72 new departments were created in the higher schools of Azerbaijan. Several faculties, about 40 research laboratories and departments of modern specialties were opened at the Azerbaijan State University alone. The number of recipients of higher education has increased from 70000 to 100000. Already in 1980, there were 75 secondary vocational schools in the republic that trained specialists in more than 140 different specialties [24, p. 9].

During this period, the number of young people studying outside the republic sharply increased. From the mid-1970s, 800-1000 people were sent to study at the prestigious universities of the USSR, from the beginning of the 1980s — 1000-1400 young people. Thanks to this initiative, more than 15 thousand young Azerbaijanis were trained as specialists, studying up to 250 specialties in more than 170 prestigious universities of the USSR [5, p. 70]. Our study shows that 2000 Karabakh people were trained and received various specialties in the higher educational institutions of the USSR.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the vocational education system in Karabakh developed rapidly. In 60 secondary schools in Karabakh, pupils were taught various professions. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the number of students receiving special technical training in Karabakh schools increased by 20 percent. Every year, on av-

erage, more than 2700 pupils mastered more than 100 professions in industry, construction, transport, agriculture, consumer services and other areas. The material and technical base of vocational schools has been strengthened every year. It should be noted that the Shusha cultural and educational school was one of the technical schools operating in Karabakh at that time. It should be noted that this school was established in 1921 as the Shusha Teachers' Seminary, and since 1931 it was called the Pedagogical College. Since the 1927/28 academic year, the Armenian department also began to operate at the school. In 1938, the school was named after M. Azizbekov. Primary school teachers, library and cultural and educational workers, leaders of the pioneer detachment were trained at the school. In the 1984-1985 academic year, 643 students studied at the Shusha cultural and educational school and 65 teachers worked. In 1921-1986, up to 8 thousand specialists with secondary education graduated from the school [21, p. 141].

In the 1970s, 8 schools operated in Karabakh, which trained secondary specialists in the field of economics, education, culture, health and other fields. More than 3.5 thousand students studied in these technical schools. During the year, these schools produced more than 900 specialists. In the mid-1980s, the educational building and hostel of the Shusha Pedagogical College were put into operation. Scholarships for students in the years under review were increased by 3 times. Already in 1985, the number of technical schools in Karabakh reached 9, and the number of students in them reached 3.9 thousand compared to 3.6 thousand in 1970. It should also be noted that out of 6 technical schools operating in Karabakh during the specified period, 2.4 out of 3.9 thousand students received education in Nagorno-Karabakh. In 1985, there were 4 technical schools in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, in which 2.2 thousand students studied.

In the 1970s and 1980s, higher education in Azerbaijan was further developed and new higher educational institutions began to operate. So, in 1971, on the basis of the Pedagogical Institute of Languages, the Institute of the Russian Language and Literature, the Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages were established, in 1972

the branch of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical Institute became the Nakhchivan Pedagogical Institute, in 1976 — the Azerbaijan Civil Engineering Institute, and in 1981 were organized by the Ganja Technological Institute. These universities have done important work to meet the demand for specialists in Karabakh. The Khankendi Pedagogical Institute (KhPI), established in Karabakh on the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, was of great importance in terms of meeting the need for teaching staff in the region and nearby regions [1, p. 142]. The Khankendi Pedagogical Institute was established as a branch of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical Institute by the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR on November 23, 1973. About 500 students were admitted to the institute every year, 300 of them received full-time education. In 1980, 2 thousand students studied at KhPI. In 1985, the number of students at this institute reached 2100. Teaching here was conducted in Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian languages. In those years, the number of students at the Nakhchivan Pedagogical Institute was 2100 people [13, p. 71].

Since 1969, preparatory departments for workers, collective farmers and those discharged from the army have been created at universities. Since the 1970s, higher schools began to train specialists in new areas of knowledge necessary for production and scientific and technological progress — in automatic control systems, electrical engineering, biochemistry, communications engineering and other progressive specialties. At the end of the 1980s, there were 4,534 secondary schools, 182 vocational schools, 77 technical schools and 17 higher schools in Azerbaijan [27, p. 51]. In those years, the educational level of the population continued to rise. In the late 1980s, out of 1000 people over 15s, 129 had higher education, 146 had secondary education, 425 had general secondary education, and 190 had incomplete secondary education. In addition to all this, in the villages of Nagorno-Karabakh inhabited by Azerbaijanis, no new schools were built, old ones were not repaired. Schools were not provided with the necessary equipment, textbooks and qualified specialists. Since there was a school in Nagorno-Karabakh that

connected several villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis, and school-children were not provided with transport, most of the students did not go to school. The Department of Education of Nagorno-Karabakh took a twofold position on the issue of placement of pre-school and out-of-school children's institutions. Also, the Armenian nationalists, who headed the regional department of education, came to the conclusion that there would be no future education in the Azerbaijani language, and for no reason closed schools with the Azerbaijani language of instruction.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, educational institutions and the media played an important role in raising the knowledge and cultural level of the population living in Karabakh. Of particular importance was the role of libraries in the development of cultural and educational institutions. In Karabakh, as in other regions, important measures were taken to develop library work. The decision "On the state of libraries in the republic and measures to improve them", adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on June 17, 1967 and the decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU of May 8, 1974 "On increasing the role of libraries in the communist education of workers and scientific and technological progress" played an important role in the development of librarianship [9, p. 91]. The volume of funds invested in the construction of new library buildings in Karabakh increased by 2.5 times compared to the previous period. In 1970, 638 independent state libraries operated in Karabakh, of which 503 belonged to villages. That year there were 3976000 books in these libraries. 1600000 such books were placed in rural libraries [16, p. 52].

In the 1970s, library work in Karabakh entered a new stage of its development. After the decision "On the further development of librarianship in 1976-1980" was adopted, a plan for the centralization of libraries was developed. In accordance with this plan, the organization of the Centralized Library System (CLS) began in Karabakh in the 1970s. Compared to previous years, the library fund was replenished with new literature, the number of readers and turnover increased significantly.

In 1970-1975, 27 new type library buildings were built and put into operation in Karabakh. In 1975, the number of public libraries in Karabakh reached 665, and their book fund reached 4 million 188 thousand. In 1976-1980, the centralization of public libraries in Karabakh was completed with the direct participation and organizational and methodological assistance of the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan and the Republican State Library named after M.F.Akhundov. In the regions of Karabakh, CLS began to work on the basis of new technological principles. As a result of centralization in 1980, 665 libraries were merged in Karabakh [8, p. 151]. There were 4 million 188 thousand printed units in their fund. The number of readers in libraries has increased significantly compared to the previous period. In the 1980s, 308 thousand readers used the libraries of Karabakh, which is 10.4% more than in 1975. During the year, readers used 10404 copies of books in the public libraries of Karabakh.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the composition of the librarians in Karabakh improved significantly. The Library Department of BSU, the Baku Cultural and Educational College, the Shusha Cultural and Educational School accepted students out of competition to the libraries departments of Karabakh and provided the region with qualified personnel. In the 80s, the library network in Karabakh developed very rapidly. Thus, the number of public libraries in Karabakh was 665 in 1980, 690 in 1984 and 698 in 1985. The book fund increased from 4 million 188 thousand in 1980 to 4 million 680 thousand in 1985 [10, p. 63]. Along with public libraries, 700 club libraries, 48 medical libraries, 400 school libraries, 86 industrial enterprises, collective farm and state farm libraries, 68 trade union libraries operated in Karabakh. As a result of the research, it became known that in terms of the number of books, Nagorno-Karabakh surpassed both at the level of the entire republic and the libraries of Karabakh as a whole, as well as Armenia and the former USSR and per capita in settlements with libraries. For example, in 1985, if in Nagorno-Karabakh there were 10.2 library books per person, then in our republic — 5.8 books, in the

Common Karabakh — 8 books, and in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 7.1 books [12, p. 82]. If at the end of the 1980s the population of Karabakh was provided with public libraries by 98 percent, then in Nagorno-Karabakh — 100 percent, in the whole republic — 94 percent, in Nakhchivan — 98 percent. In addition, the number of public libraries per 10 thousand people in the territory of the former USSR was 4.8, in the Armenian SSR — 4.1, in Azerbaijan — 6, in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 9.5, and in Nagorno-Karabakh this figure reached 13. As can be seen from the facts, in terms of the number of libraries per capita, Nagorno-Karabakh exceeded the level of the republic by more than 2 times. In addition to all this, the existing libraries in the villages where the Azerbaijanis of Nagorno-Karabakh lived were not fully provided with Azerbaijani-language literature. From the conducted studies, it became known that approximately 80 percent of the books in the libraries of the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis were in Armenian, 10 percent in Azerbaijani and 10 percent in Russian [9, p. 144].

At the end of the 1980s, there were 4605 public libraries in Azerbaijan, the number of books and magazines in which increased from 23 million copies in 1970 — to 45.3 million copies in the late 1980s.

During the period under study, the leadership of the republic paid special attention to the development of clubs as cultural and educational institutions of Karabakh. The clubs played an important role in raising the cultural level of the people. Because there showed cinema and theater, amateur associations operated, important meetings. Of the 1638 people who worked in the clubs of Karabakh, only 88 people had a secondary education, the rest were specialists with higher education.

In the late 1960s to the early 1980s, thanks to special funds allocated by the republic's leadership, club construction in Karabakh significantly increased. Thus, during this period, 240 clubs were built and put into operation by the people of Karabakh. In 1970, 250 clubs operated in Karabakh, in 1975 their number reached 360, in 1980 — 461, and in 1985 — 490. During the study period, the number of clubs in our Republic increased from 2146 to 3680, and

in the Nakhchivan Republic of Azerbaijan from 166 to 255. As a result of the study, it turned out that the number of clubs in Nagorno-Karabakh was 3 times higher than the level of the entire republic, and in terms of population, it was about 4.5 times higher than in Armenia. So, in 1985, the number of clubs per 10 thousand people reached 4.8 in the USSR, 5 in the Republic of Azerbaijan and 3.8 in Armenia, but in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was 10 and 15 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region [19, p. 84]. It is known from studies that in the mid-1980s, out of 32 settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh with a population of 300 to 500 people, 31 were provided with clubs. At the republican level, the share of such settlements provided with club premises has reached 40 percent. Clubs existed only in 319 out of 746 large settlements of Azerbaijan [18, p. 151].

Cinema played an important role in the ideological and political education of the population. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the development of the cinema network in Karabakh further improved. In this regard, the increase in the number of clubs was of great importance. There were even summer cinemas in the regional centers. One of the important measures implemented by our state in Karabakh was the full provision of the region with film equipment, vehicles and film cassettes. It is known from the conducted studies that in 1980 the film equipment of Karabakh accounted for 15 percent of the existing film equipment throughout the republic. That year there were 2002 film equipment in our republic, 246 of which belonged to Karabakh. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 163 cinema club were created in our republic, 86 of them were located in Karabakh [23, p. 16]. In 1980-1985, the number of cinema equipment in our republic increased from 2002 to 2167, and in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan from 246 to 332. By the way, we note that in 1985, out of 332 cinema equipment in Karabakh, 206 operated on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. In the 1980s, the average viewing of film screenings in our republic was 60 million, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan — 3 million 100 thousand, in Karabakh — 10 million, in Nagorno-Karabakh — 3 million 300 thousand. The number of cinema equipment per 10000 people reached 5.4 in the

former USSR, 3 in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2.9 in Armenia, 6 in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and 11.2 in Nagorno-Karabakh [4, p. 28]. Also, in terms of film viewing, the Nagorno-Karabakh region retained the first place. Let us note only one fact: despite the fact that the population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was almost 2 times higher than the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, in 1985 the number of people who took part in film screenings in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic reached 3 million 166 thousand, and in Nagorno-Karabakh 3 million 259 thousand [19, p. 76]. All this was achieved as a result of the care shown by the leadership of the republic to Nagorno-Karabakh.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, museums played an important role in carrying out cultural and educational work among the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, 18 new museums were opened at the expense of special funds allocated by state. The number of museums in Karabakh has increased from 9 to 27. 4 art galleries and 2 branches of Baku museums have been opened in Karabakh. The number of visitors to the museum has grown every year. Thus, in 1970 the number of visitors to the museum in Karabakh was 108 thousand people, in 1980 it reached 325 thousand people, and in 1985 it reached 394 thousand people [20, p. 88]. Mass scientific works, traveling exhibitions, meetings with war veterans and labor heroes held in the museum were highly appreciated by the population. In addition to the exposition in the museums operating in Karabakh, thematic and traveling exhibitions dedicated to important events and significant days were organized annually. An exhibition hall, a children's art gallery, commemorative plaques to figures of literature and art were opened in the museums of Karabakh. A local museum of local lore also operated in Karabakh, its funds grew richer, and the expositions were constantly updated. At the end of the 1980s, 124 museums operated in Azerbaijan [3, p. 6].

In the 1970s, several special decisions were made on the development of the city of Shusha. One of them was the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan dated November 4, 1976 "On

measures for the further development of the resort complex in the city of Shusha” [28, p. 31]. Heydar Aliyev said in one of his speeches that Shusha is a city of monuments. It is necessary to carefully protect everything connected with the rich history of the region, to restore ancient buildings. Among the architects and sculptors of ancient Shusha are Mir Mohsin Navvab Karabagi, Mammadyar, Usta Kanbar Karabagi, Mashadi Aligulu, Kabla Akbar from Karabakh, Mashadi Khaspolad, Karbalai Safikhan Karabagi and other beautiful pearls of art by other masters — “Ganja Gates”, the mosque “Govkharaga”, “Khan gizi spring”, Ibrahim Khan’s divan, houses of Natavan, Asad Bey, Ugurlu Bey, Haji Gulu’s mansion, Mehmandarov’s residential complex, “Gara Buyukkhanyim” castle, Mirsiyabov’s caravanserai, “Heydar’s Turbe”, Saatly Mosque, the walls of the fortress and other historical monuments occupy a unique place in the history of the architectural culture of Azerbaijan due to their nationality and variety of forms. Preserving them and passing them on to future generations is one of the most important tasks. Our studies show that there are 327 historical monuments per square kilometer on the territory of Shusha.

By decision of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR No. 280 of August 10, 1977, the city of Shusha was declared a historical and architectural reserve. According to this decision and registered in Shusha 187 historical monuments, 549 ancient buildings, paved streets with a total length of 1203 meters, 18 surrounding springs, 15 mosques, 6 caravanserais, 3 tombs, 2 madrassas, 2 castles, 2 churches, fortress walls, 21 monuments created in Soviet times, 987 stone streets, 190 security zones, 9 fortress constellations are protected and restored. At the end of the 1980s, more than 6500 historical, archaeological and architectural monuments were under state protection in Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev, a world-famous historical figure, a genius who values science, art and artists, came to Shusha on January 12, 1979 and paid tribute to the graves of outstanding historical figures of Shusha and visited historical monuments there. On the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, historical monuments of the city of Shusha were restored and were built new buildings.

On January 14, 1982, Heydar Aliyev, together with more than 400 figures of literature, art and science of Azerbaijan, participated in the opening of the 20-meter mausoleum of M.P. Vagif. Then Heydar Aliyev also visited the historical and cultural monuments of Shusha and gave the necessary instructions for the restoration of some monuments. In a short time, the house-museums of Uzeyir Hajibeyov and Bulbul were opened here and the Natavan monument was erected. On the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, a large hotel, multi-storey residential buildings and administrative buildings were built in Shusha, and the city of Shusha became a resort city of the all-Union level. July 28, 1982 H.A. Aliyev, together with family members, came to Shusha and took part in the poetry festival of M.P. Vagif and in the opening of a number of monuments. Among them, he noted that he was satisfied with the restoration and organization of the madrasah where Vagif taught, the art gallery, the house-museum of Uzeir Hajibeyov, the mosque, the bust of Kh.B. Natavan and other objects. In those years, the construction and restoration of historical monuments was successfully carried out in Karabakh. One of these structures was built in 1978 at the request of the Armenian population of Aghdara region. This monument was built on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the resettlement of Armenians to Aghdara. The numbers “1828-1978” and “150” are engraved on the monument in large size. However, since this monument shed light on some “dark issues”, in 1985 the Armenians began to destroy the monument, especially to remove the numbers.

The theater was one of the most popular means of cultural and educational work in Karabakh. In those years, the Khankendi Drama Theater named after M. Gorky operated in Karabakh. Along with this theater, there were also amateur drama clubs in the regions of Karabakh. In 1982, the Khankendi Drama Theater named after M. Gorky was awarded the Order of Honor for its services. 4 people from the theater troupe were awarded the title of People’s Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR, and 10 people were awarded the title of Honored Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR. Those years also saw a significant increase in the number of people coming to the theater. Thus,

in 1970, the number of theatergoers in Karabakh was 204 — 202 thousand [2, p. 81]. It should be noted that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of theatergoers in Nagorno-Karabakh increased from 67 thousand to 76 thousand. In 1985, there were 20 state theaters operating in Azerbaijan. [27, p. 96]. If we carry out a simple mathematical analysis based on statistical data, we will see that if throughout the republic there is 1 State Drama Theater for every 350 thousand people, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan there is 1 State Drama Theater for every 275 thousand people, in all of Karabakh there are 256 thousand people, and in Nagorno-Karabakh there was 1 State Drama Theater for every 162 thousand people. As for the general level of theatergoers, Nagorno-Karabakh turned out to be 30 percent higher than the level of the entire republic [2, p. 6]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 36 schools of ideological work and party activists, 216 schools of concrete economics, and 2421 schools of communist labor were created in Karabakh. In the cities, towns and villages of Karabakh there were 2175 schools and theoretical seminars, 162 public universities, 585 schools of other mass forms of party propaganda. In Karabakh, 400 students from public universities took courses and training in different regions of the USSR. In Karabakh, 150 thousand workers were covered by all forms of political and economic education. More than 2,000 people studied in specific economic schools, economic seminars and public universities of economic knowledge, and about 60 thousand people studied in productive labor schools. In 1980, 6 thousand people were engaged in propaganda in Karabakh. 3900 of them took part in the “Propaganda-Efficiency and Propaganda Five-Year” movement. More than 5400 propagandists worked in Karabakh according to personal creative plans [25, p. 89]. With the help of propagandists, hearers developed personal and collective plans for increasing productivity and quality of work, complex personal accounts of efficiency and quality, and personal savings accounts.

Information on the number of cultural and educational institutions in Karabakh by region during the period under review can be obtained from the following table:

*Table 10***Number of cultural and educational institutions in Karabakh**

| № | Name of districts | Number of clubs | Number of libraries | Number of cinemas | Number of cultural centers |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Aghdam | 27 | 71 | 24 | 13 |
| 2 | Beylagan | 25 | 34 | 19 | 7 |
| 3 | Zangilan | 23 | 35 | 22 | 8 |
| 4 | Kelbajar | 27 | 55 | 17 | 9 |
| 5 | Jebrail | 49 | 58 | 28 | 10 |
| 6 | Fizuli | 30 | 40 | 25 | 12 |
| 7 | Gubadly | 23 | 47 | 25 | 8 |
| 8 | Terter | 23 | 50 | 17 | 8 |
| 9 | Aghjabedi | 23 | 34 | 18 | 2 |
| 10 | Barda | 43 | 53 | 17 | 9 |
| 11 | Aghdara | 62 | 51 | 27 | 12 |
| 12 | Hadrut | 22 | 41 | 33 | 11 |
| 13 | Shusha | 12 | 20 | 20 | 3 |
| 14 | Khojavend | 41 | 40 | 38 | 10 |
| 15 | Askeran (Khankendi) | 31 | 36 | 37 | 14 |

In the early 1980s, the Council for the Study of Public Opinion and Social Research was created under the Karabakh's district committee of the party. The Council studied the situation with the cases of workers in construction organizations and light industry enterprises, and conducted a special survey among future graduates of high schools and vocational schools. The analysis of the data obtained played an important role in solving the personnel issue in the national economy of Karabakh. In the 1970s and 1980s, days of open letters were held with the participation of all departments, organizations and law enforcement agencies of Karabakh. Serious preparations were made for such events in advance. Local newspapers or radios, as well as community or-

ganizations, provided information about the location and theme of these events. In order to collect proposals and questions on the eve of the “open letter day”, together with the heads of relevant organizations, representatives of regional and city party committees, correspondents of republican and regional newspapers, secretaries of party organizations, special situational and received letters from committees and heads of enterprises were analyzed. In those years, question and answer evenings were also held in the regions of Karabakh. In these evenings, issues related to communications, transport, the work of commercial enterprises, strengthening labor discipline and improving the quality of products were discussed. Over the course of the year, more than 150 days of open letters and question-and-answer evenings were held in Karabakh, each of which was attended by more than 6 thousand people. However, economic and cultural achievements in Karabakh cannot be called only the success of the “ideological work” carried out in the region. Of course, these achievements should be assessed as a result of Heydar Aliyev’s care for the region.

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, a mass information network developed in Karabakh. The press played an important role in educating the population, raising its cultural level, and increasing its social and political activity. At that time, 18 newspapers were published in Karabakh, 8 of which belonged to Nagorno-Karabakh. Of the 8 newspapers published in Nagorno-Karabakh, 6 were published in Armenian, 1 in Azerbaijani and 1 in Russian. Among them were the newspapers “Yukselish”, “The Path of Lenin”, “Zangilan Communist”, “Golden Cattle Breeder”, “Kolkhozchu”, “Vanguard”, “Speed”, “The Path of Communism”, “Sovetakan Karabakh” (“Soviet Karabakh”), “Metaxagorst” (“Silk maker”), “Karmir Drosh” (“Red Banner”), “Barekamutyun” (“Friendship”), “Ashkhatan” (“Labor”), “Koltitesakan” (“Collective Farm Girl”), “Shusha” and “Soviet Karabakh” were distributed in large quantities in the regions of Karabakh. There was also an increase in the annual circulation of newspapers. Thus, in 1970, 81 million copies of newspapers were published in Karabakh, and in 1985, 9 million copies increased to 90 million copies. In those years, Karabakh residents subscribed to various union-scale magazi-

nes, including those published in Armenia. If in 1965 the population of Karabakh bought 21 million 466 thousand copies of magazines, then in 1980 this number increased to 36 million 277 thousand, and in 1985 exceeded 42 million [19, p. 192].

In those years, thanks to the care of Heydar Aliyev, union and republican radio broadcasts were received in Karabakh. Local radio broadcasts in the Armenian language were consistently broadcast and received in all settlements and villages of Nagorno-Karabakh. For a small part of the day, a program was broadcast in Azerbaijani in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijani television programs were received in Karabakh. Local television programs were also broadcast here. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting Institute gradually improved. Radio Azerbaijan broadcast 37 hours of programs in different languages on 1 program — “Araz” and “Stereo” every day on different waves. At that time, Azerbaijan International Radio was created. The Azerbaijani media widely propagated the Soviet way of life and official ideology against the backdrop of universal and national values. At that time, the Karabakh branch of the Azerbaijan Writers’ Union operated in the region. Prose writers, poets, and playwrights were engaged in scientific creativity here. The printing house created in Karabakh played an important role in the publication of works and various literature. In 1971-1980, 240 books were published in Karabakh with a total circulation of 1500000 copies, of which 366000 copies (66 titles) were in Armenian [9, p. 90].

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were 17 mosques on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, but they were destroyed by Armenian vandals, turned into warehouses and offices, and in 1970 only two of them survived. One of Heydar Aliyev’s unparalleled services to our people was the adoption of the “Decision on the restoration of mosques” in Nagorno-Karabakh (November 4, 1976) and the “Regulations on religious associations in the Azerbaijan SSR” (September 13, 1976). From that time on, the restoration of our mosques in Shusha began.

In 1970-1982, the repertoire of the Karabakh State Song and Dance Ensemble and the Karabakh State Variety Orchestra expan-

ded. Groups capable of performing songs and dances of all the peoples of the USSR toured Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, the North Caucasus, Arkhangelsk, Rostov, Baikal-Amur, and Moscow.

As in other areas of our culture, Shusha, considered the crown of Karabakh, was also the natural conservatory of Azerbaijan, the cradle of musical art. Shusha musicians created the history of Azerbaijani music and presented it to the whole world. It is no coincidence that in the 19th century there were 22 musicologists and 38 singers in Shusha. In recognition of Azerbaijani music throughout the East, in the Transcaucasus, there were the great merits of Sureya Sadraddin gizi Qajar, Abdulbagi Zulalov, Mashadi Jamil Amirov, Suleyman Alesgarov, Kechechi oghlu Muhammad, Hamid Malibeyli, Mashadi Mahammad, Zulfugar Hajibeyov, Haji Husi, Soltan Hajibeyov, Rashid Behbudov, Khan Shushinsky, Seyid Shushinsky, Segah Islam, Bulbul, Hamid Gurbanov, Zabul Gasim and others. In the 1970s, an ensemble of folk instruments and a drama club operated in the Shusha district house of culture.

In the 1970-1980s, among the talented artists of Karabakh, works of art created by Rovshan Bayramov, Tofiq Zeynalov, Valeh Mamedov and others aroused great interest. The art gallery, located in the 10-room Zohrabbekovs' house in Shusha, exhibited more than 500 works of art. Paintings by both local republican artists and world artists are exhibited here. The works of Karabakh artists were exhibited at international exhibitions. In 1985, "Street in Shusha", "Years Past", "Mosque in the Old City", "Afternoon", "Shahdag" and other works were successful at the Moscow exhibition. Most of the works depicted were about Shusha, its unique beauty, mountains, nature, roads.

Since the 1970s, on the personal initiative of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, all material and cultural monuments of Karabakh have been re-registered. Attention was paid to their research, protection and effective use. In the 1970s, employees of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, under the leadership of M. Huseynov, continued archaeological excavations

in the territory of Karabakh, and ancient material and cultural traces and objects found in this area proved that primitive people lived here.

The late 1960s — early 1980s were characterized as an important period of Azerbaijani science. Scientific institutions operated in Karabakh — Khankendi Zonal Experimental Station, Scientific Experimental Base of the Karabakh Institute of Genetics and Selection, “State Breeding Station for Breeding Pheasants and Turachs” in the Barda region, “Azerbaijan Research Forestry Agroforestry Institute”, “Experimental Reclamation Station”, “Karabakh School of Carpet Weaving” (Shusha, Barda, Agjabedi, Jebrail, Gubadly), “Stud farm” in Agdam, “Zonal experimental station” in Terter region, Nagorno-Karabakh branch of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Turshsu state breeding station, Karabakh branch of the Azerbaijan Agricultural Technical Association. The Khankendi Agricultural-Industrial Association and other departments developed new inventions and put forward effective proposals to achieve high labor productivity in the national economy of the region. These administrations have deeply studied, discovered and developed the natural resources of Karabakh. The efforts of Karabakh botanists were aimed at studying the flora of the region and expanding its use in the national economy, studying issues of physiology and plant protection, and helping to solve the problem of increasing the productivity of agricultural plants. At the same time, in those years, important work was done in Karabakh in the field of preparing the biological basis for increasing the productivity of farm animals. Expanding the scope of research in the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, the State Planning Committee, and scientific and economic departments has expanded the use of reserve sources for the development of the economy of Karabakh.

Thus, the late 1960s — early 1980s were an important period in the development of the culture of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. As a result of Heydar Aliyev’s far-sighted policy of national awakening, suitable opportunities opened up in Karabakh for the de-

velopment of education, science, press, literature and art. The moral wealth and human resources potential of Karabakh have increased even more. As a result of the concerns of the leadership of the republic, culture in Karabakh developed dynamically. Such steps, decisively carried out by Heydar Aliyev, prepared a solid foundation for independent Azerbaijan, cultivating the scientific and intellectual potential in the republic.

CHAPTER V

HEYDAR ALIYEV'S STRUGGLE AGAINST ARMENIA'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS TO THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION OF AZERBAIJAN

At the beginning of the 19th century, after the “Armenian Province” was purposefully created on the territory of Azerbaijan with an area of 9 thousand square kilometers, Armenians living in different regions of the world were resettled here. At the beginning of the 19th century, after the “Armenian Province” was purposefully created on the territory of Azerbaijan with an area of 9 thousand square kilometers, Armenians living in different regions of the world were resettled here, the ancient lands of Azerbaijan were annexed to this territory from time to time, piecemeal, and already at the beginning of the last century, the “State of Armenia” was created on our land with a territory of 29 thousand square kilometers [12, p. 218]. Throughout the 20th century, Armenia and its “far-sighted” statesmen and Armenian politicians made unfounded territorial claims against Azerbaijan. The Armenians, who failed to separate Karabakh from Azerbaijan in 1918-1920 and 1920-1940, returned to this issue again in 1950-1960. In 1948-1953, 150 thousand Azerbaijanis living in the Armenian SSR were forcibly deported from their native lands, and their human rights were grossly violated [1, l. 7]. Thousands of Azerbaijanis, especially children and old people, could not withstand the sudden climate change and died. After the lands inhabited by Azerbaijanis for thousands of years were devastated, Armenians were resettled here from abroad. An interesting point is that our compatriots deported to Azerbaijan were prevented by all means from being accommodated in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. In fact, it would be fairer if the Azerbaijanis deported from the mountainous regions of the Armenian SSR were resettled in Nagorno-Karabakh, the natural conditions of which correspond to the

region from which they were deported. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

One autumn day in 1945, M.S. Bagirov met in Stalin's reception with two members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) — Armenian Anastas Mikoyan and Georgian Lavrentiy Beria. Both of them state that the issue of South Azerbaijan has already been resolved and in the near future the territory of Azerbaijan will expand significantly. Bagirov, showing generosity, will not object to the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, and some of the northwestern regions of the republic (Balaken, Zagatala, etc.) to Georgia. Bagirov replies that it is not time to talk about this yet [24, p. 293].

After this, the head of Armenia G. Arutyunov, undoubtedly with the consent of Stalin, submitted for discussion to the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) a proposal to withdraw Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast from the Azerbaijan Republic and transfer it to the Armenian SSR. A copy of the extract is sent to Bagirov with a request to express his opinion. Bagirov's response letter, in which Arutyunov's arguments are culturally and reasonably rejected, is stored in state archives. True, he writes that the Azerbaijani side may agree to the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (with the exception of the Shusha region) to Armenia, but only on the condition that they, in turn, return the territories that they once took from Azerbaijan [17, p. 89]. In our opinion, only the determination of Mir Jafar Bagirov in this matter, as well as the failure of Stalin's policies in South Azerbaijan, made it possible to temporarily overcome the threat of territorial expansion.

After this, in December 1947, by decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the "voluntary-forced" deportation of the Azerbaijani population from some regions of the Armenian SSR to the Kur-Araz Plain of Azerbaijan began. This was a tragic page in the migration of Azerbaijanis from their homeland during Soviet times. As the historian E. Ismailov wrote, "even when the resettlement policy lost its intensity, the gradual, albeit slow exodus of the Azerbaijanis, who fully felt the second-class status of their position in Armenia,

became inevitable. The main consequence of the resettlement hype around the Azerbaijani population of the Armenian SSR was in the 1950-1980s its accelerated migration to Azerbaijan, which has become a constant trend” [24, p. 300].

Armenian nationalists, who felt that the public atmosphere had somewhat softened with the beginning of Khrushchev’s “moderation”, again raised the “Karabakh issue”. Moreover, voluntaristic changes in the administrative-territorial borders of the RSFSR in connection with Nikita Khrushchev’s transfer of Crimea to Ukraine led to separatist tendencies in other republics. It should be noted that at the beginning of 1960, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan received an appeal entitled “To the President of Soviet Azerbaijan,” published in the newspaper “Baikar” (“Struggle”), published in Boston (USA). In this appeal, consisting of rhetoric and demagogy, representatives of the Armenian lobby in America proposed to transfer Nakhchivan and Karabakh to Soviet Armenia in connection with the 40th anniversary. Territorial claims were veiled by the demographic problems of the Armenian people. The appeal noted that the transfer of two autonomous regions of Azerbaijan to Armenia “will be of great importance, for example, for one million Armenians living abroad, this wonderful “gift” will expand the opportunities for several hundred thousand emigrated Armenians to immediately return to their homeland... instead of Yerevan, repatriates will be able to freely settle in Nakhchivan and Karabakh, Armenian autonomous regions that have relations with Baku only from the administrative side” [19, p. 60].

Veli Akhundov instructed the Central Committee to urgently prepare a comprehensive response that would protect the interests and territorial integrity of the republic. A special group was created consisting of historians, lawyers, cartographers, employees of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers. At that time, the director of the Institute of History of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Professor Aliovsat Guliyev, actively assisted in this matter... Work on the certificate was completed in a short time. Together with all the necessary applications

(archival certificates, maps, etc.), the certificate was sent to the CPSU Central Committee [8, p. 170].

Through joint efforts, the Azerbaijani side managed to repel the attacks of Armenian nationalists (the largest of whom was Anastas Mikoyan, a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee, a person close to the country's leadership).

In the second half of the 1960s, a new attack began. Heydar Aliyev recalled this much later, during a conversation with a group of Azerbaijani writers:

“I remember the decision came from Moscow in 1966 or 1967. Akhundov called me to the Central Committee. By the decision of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan Akhundov and the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia Kochinyan were instructed to discuss and report on this issue (on the transfer of the autonomous regions of Azerbaijan to Armenia). What did this mean? This meant that they offered Armenia a solution to an issue under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan...

We sat and thought. I told Veli Akhundov: you know, you should go to Moscow and meet with Brezhnev. He went and managed to convince Brezhnev to cancel this decision” [8, p. 171].

In the mid-1960s, Azerbaijani intelligence services discovered several underground nationalist groups. Thus, the Irevan emissaries of the secret “Union of Armenian Youth” intended to create their own organizational structures on the territory of the autonomous region. A youth group consisting of high school students in the city of Khankendi distributed leaflets calling for the unification of all “Armenian territories,” including Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhchi-van. The head of foreign intelligence, General I. Huseynov, recalled that in June 1965, a man named B. Ulubabyan, who was the secretary of the branch of the Union of Writers of Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, sent a letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union about the “annexation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region to the Armenian SSR”. The letter was signed by a number of responsible

party and Soviet workers of Armenian nationality in the region, including members of the regional party committee — Chairman of the Khankendi City Council S. Shakaryan, editor of the regional newspaper “Soviet Karabakh” L. Gasparyan, head of the regional department of culture A. Manucharov and others. In connection with this incident, the leadership of the State Security Committee in the republic informed the leadership of the republic about all processes. Urgent measures were taken to suppress the activities of provocateurs” [21, p. 57].

It should be noted that such separatist manifestations and outbreaks of social discontent often occurred in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in the 60s of the twentieth century. The former chairman of the USSR State Security Committee, Vladimir Semichastny, who worked as the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan in the 60s, recalled this in a conversation with Russian journalist A. Karaulov: “...What is happening now in Nagorno-Karabakh (meaning 1989 — N.M.) happened then, there were rumors, gossip, in a word, unhealthy quarrels around Karabakh, but the issues were resolved one way or another, they did not reach the extreme level that we see now... I spoke at the regional party conference, and countless questions were raised there” [24, p. 26].

In the report of the State Security Committee of Azerbaijan for 1967, Heydar Aliyev, who gave a detailed analysis of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, noted that “in many cases, politically harmful and antisocial actions in the region are carried out by individuals” and were carried out under the influence and with the direct participation of nationalist elements of the Armenian SSR. This is evidenced by a number of facts over the past five years: Some people from Armenia came to Khankendi and spread rumors about the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region to Armenia in the near future; collected signatures for a specially prepared appeal on this matter; a large number of nationalists brought and distributed “Appeal to the Armenians of Karabakh” and other provocative printed materials...”.

Former head of the 5th Main Directorate of the State Security Committee of the USSR F. Bobkov, analyzing the roots of the Karabakh conflict in the book “State Security Committee and Power”, rightly sees one of the main reasons in the ardent nationalist propaganda of Dashnaksutyun ideologists. The party leadership of Armenia actually gave the go-ahead for such activities. The following is an excerpt from the memoirs of a man who spent 15 years dealing with ideological issues in the State Security Committee of the USSR, and for this reason his views are considered worthy of attention: “The theory of the exclusivity of the Armenian nation has been instilled in the population of the republic since childhood. For example, in a textbook intended for grades 7-8 of secondary school, the question is asked: which countries have Armenian schools in their capitals, and at that time it becomes known that there is no such school in the capital of the USSR, but there are in some foreign countries. Among the members of the Young Guard organization, which fought against the Nazis during the war, only Zhora Harutyunyants was mentioned. No other names were named, not even the leaders of the organization. If the discussion was about outstanding Soviet musicians, artists, cultural and scientific figures, then usually only the names of Armenians were mentioned. Of course, Dashnak propaganda fell on fertile ground.

I talked about this with Demirchyan when I was in Armenia. Our long and difficult conversation did not yield any results, the head of the Communist Party of Armenia stubbornly repeated: “Nothing bad is happening here!”. Before leaving, I also met with him and brought new facts that Dashnaks are actively moving to the territory of the republic. Demirchyan reacted somewhat differently. At the next plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia, he called on the communists to fight the influence of the Dashnaks, but things did not go beyond this formal action, with the exception of several articles that were published with difficulty. For the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh, such inaction turned into a disaster” [18, p. 313].

The special services of Azerbaijan did not remain idle: they regularly informed higher authorities about the negative processes taking place in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In the

archives of the Ministry of National Security of the Republic there are many letters and certificates signed by Heydar Aliyev and other State Security Committee leaders sent to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, allied bodies, containing numerous signals about individuals and groups inciting national hatred and spreading the seeds of enmity.

For example, material No. 10480 dated June 6, 1967, submitted by Heydar Aliyev, addressed to the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan V.Y. Akhundov. This four-page document provides detailed information about the founders and participants of various nationalist organizations, the seizure of leaflets from them, the identification and suppression of the activities of the Union of Patriots of Artsakh, and preventive measures against members of the group.

In another archival document addressed to the first secretary (10579, June 26, 1967), Heydar Aliyev reports that 300 leaflets printed on photographic paper containing “demands for the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and fabrications of a nationalistic nature” were distributed in Khankendi. It is further reported that an operational group was sent to Khankendi to find out those who prepared and distributed the leaflets.

Unfortunately, this or that State Security Committee signal caused a rather slow reaction in the party leadership of Azerbaijan, especially Armenia. According to the fair remark of Philip Bobkov, both the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and local authorities believed that manifestations of nationalism, provocations and the fight against terrorism are the prerogative of the State Security Committee, “they are security officers because they prevent such actions and do not allow them, no, if this happened, let them do it themselves solve the problem. No one wanted to delve into the essence of the matter and understand that the catastrophe could only be prevented through explanatory work directed against Dashnak propaganda” [18, p. 312].

Heydar Aliyev had to face this serious problem from the first day of assuming the post of chairman of the Republican State Security

Committee. On July 3, 1967, mass riots occurred in Khankendi due to blood feud and dissatisfaction with the court. Three Azerbaijanis were accused of murdering Nelson Movsesyan, the 8-year-old son of one of the leaders of the collective farm in the Khojavend district of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Auditions took place in Khankendi. Auditions took place in Khankendi. The court “proved” that two people were directly involved in the death. As a result, one of them was sentenced to death, and the other to 15 years in prison. The third accused was acquitted. The court hearing took place in the summer cinema “Khankendi”, located in the park named after Aziz-beyov. During the trial, the relatives of the deceased child began to spread rumors about the capture of the judge, began to incite a schism and demanded the death penalty for all three. When the guards brought the defendants, they threw stones and eggs at them, and once they nailed haymaking to the roof of the prisoners’ car.

On the day of the verdict, a large crowd — about eight thousand people — gathered in the park, around the summer cinema. Dissatisfied with the “soft” decision of the judicial panel, the relatives of the victims were able to provoke the crowd into a riot, which led to dire consequences. First, someone disabled the police car so that it could not take away the prisoners. Then the angry crowd started a fight with law enforcement officers, broke down the doors of the cinema, entered the hall and demanded that the soldiers guarding the prisoners hand them over. Security soldiers tried to get the attackers to sit down and fired several warning shots, but were responded to by throwing stones at them. After that, right there, in the cinema hall, an insane crowd grabbed two prisoners, crushed their heads and inflicted many stab wounds. Then they threw their dismembered bodies into the street and began to abuse the corpses.

Zohrab Mamedov, acquitted by the court, faced a more terrible fate. The prisoner managed to hide in his car, but the rioters found out about this, attacked the car, overturned it and set it on fire. Z.Mamedov was burned alive. They pulled the burnt corpse out of the car and brought it to the rest of the corpses, threw it on previously prepared boards, doused it with gasoline and set it on fire.

In the materials of the investigative cases of the State Security Committee Archives of Azerbaijan, there are spitting details about the abuse of burned corpses, which were driven through the streets with medieval fury in order to terrorize the Azerbaijani population of the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. More than ten policemen and guard soldiers were seriously injured. The Republican State Security Committee opened a criminal case together with the prosecutor's office. Heydar Aliyev created an experienced brigade under the leadership of Colonel Firudin Bagirov and took control of this work. In addition, Heydar Aliyev himself went to Khankendi and stayed there for 15 days. The investigation into the case lasted almost a year, as a result of which a large group of 20 Armenians were brought to criminal responsibility.

On the eve of the trial of the organizers of the riots, the situation in Khankendi escalated again. The State Security Committee of Azerbaijan received information that relatives of the defendants are preparing for new protests in order to influence the court's decision. Committee Chairman Heydar Aliyev decided to send a team of operatives to the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in order to identify the causes of possible provocations and neutralize their activities.

Arif Zeynalov recalls that when he was included in this operational brigade, he had just returned from Kyiv, from the State Security Committee school. Heydar Aliyev believed that it was better for a young employee to test his theoretical knowledge in practice and start with difficult work.

“Before leaving, Heydar Aliyev called us and said: “Work honestly, expose all provocateurs. Also, do not spend the night in Khankendi. As soon as you finish work, immediately go to Agdam. You can expect everything from them. I gave instructions to the first secretary of the Aghdam district committee, so that there will be no problems with your accommodation and food. Try to spend your daytime somehow... We worked there for several weeks. We reported this matter to Heydar Aliyev every day” [29, p. 22].

Meanwhile, the trial of the organizers and activists of the Khankendi events began in Baku. 14 people were sentenced to va-

rious terms of imprisonment, five people were sentenced to death. The sentences were executed for three.

During the investigation, a resident of Irevan named Grigoryan was detained. He reports that weapons are stored in a secret place and that terrorist acts are allegedly being prepared against the party and Soviet assets of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region for “allowing” the arrest of so many people by a group of people. The State Security Committee report for 1967 states that “as a result of the measures taken by the committee, the information was verified, as a result of which four Kalashnikov assault rifles, two company machine guns, a Nagant, a Mauser, spare parts for machine guns, etc. were discovered in the vicinity of Irevan”.

In addition, it was decided to strengthen the leadership of the State Security Committee of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Heydar Aliyev objected to the appointment of a person of Armenian nationality to the post of chairman of the regional department of the State Security Committee, and he managed to convince Moscow to make a decision that satisfied everyone: to send a representative of Russian nationality to this position. The candidacy was chosen by Heydar Aliyev himself: Bystrov was a trusted local employee who had worked under his leadership for a long time.

State Security Committee employees often had to participate in resolving territorial disputes between residents of border regions. Meanwhile, the initiator of conflicts has always been the Armenian side. State Security Committee veteran Mamedali Sarajov talks about one such “locally significant” conflict: “In 1968, a conflict occurred between residents of the village of Tagalar in the Gadabay region and residents of the Shamsheddin region of Armenia. At the instigation of the extremists, the Armenians declared their rights to part of the lands of the village of Tagalar and even demanded that the Azerbaijani population leave this village. The leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia at that time held a meeting in Ijevan, and I was the head of the Ganja branch of the State Security Committee Azerbaijan and participated in the negotiations. Unfortunately, the meeting did not bring any

results then. The only result was that the first secretary of the Shamsheddin district party committee (if I'm not mistaken, his last name was Avakyan), who was actually the cause of the conflict, was dismissed from his post at the request of the Azerbaijani side. True, it was necessary to fire the first secretary of the Gedabey district party committee, who was not at fault in this case. However, the tension between the parties was not completely resolved. Soon after this, Heydar Aliyev became the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. In September 1969, he arrived in Gazakh and met at the border with the head of Armenia Kochinyan. They held a series of meetings and negotiations in Irevan and then in Ganja, as a result of which the conflict was resolved. Residents of the village of Tagalar remained in their homes, although our leaders had long been thinking about their resettlement and even built a new village far from the village.

Another factor that brought “headaches” to the Azerbaijani special services was the rise of the Dashnaktsutyun party's agents. After the weakening of the “Iron Curtain” and an increase in the flow of tourists from the USSR to the West and in the opposite direction, Dashnak agents, who, under the guise of tourists, received specific tasks from their patrons on the other side of the ocean, opened their doors to Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. The State Security Committee archive contains a secret letter sent to the head of the 2nd department of the 2nd main directorate of the State Security Committee under the USSR Council of Ministers, Heydar Aliyev (2II-383, February 7, 1962). The letter stated that “at the end of November 1961 in Lebanon, a representative of American intelligence who specially came here held a secret meeting with the leaders of the “Foreign Bureau” of the Dashnak party... [8, p. 171]. The Foreign Bureau made a number of decisions: Preparing the agency to carry out subversive activities and sending them to the Armenian SSR from border countries through illegal repatriation channels; Tourist groups heading to the USSR and individual Armenians going to visit their relatives were used for espionage purposes; prevent the expected repatriation of Armenians to the Soviet Union, using all

means, including committing terrorist acts against persons actively helping repatriation” [8, p. 171].

At the top of the document there is a resolution by Heydar Aliyev on the preparation of specific measures to study and disclose connections of foreign Dashnak organizations, as well as instructions on the arrest of spies if they are sent from the Azerbaijani side of the USSR border.

According to Philip Bobkov, “Although Baku is an international city, the Dashnak party worked very actively towards the stratification of the population of Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev and I often discussed the problem of spreading the influence and agents of the Dashnak. Preventing the destructive activities of Dashnaktsutyun and creating a counter-effect has always been the focus of Heydar Aliyev’s attention.

Many years later, as the president of independent Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, in a conversation with prominent Azerbaijani writers, analyzed the causes of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, he recalled that in order to prevent Armenian nationalists from claiming the territory of Azerbaijan, defending their position in the highest circles of power had to face great difficulties.

In 1948-1953, not a single person from the Azerbaijanis resettled from the Armenian SSR was allowed into the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of the Azerbaijan SSR. On the contrary, under the guise of “internal transfer” in 1949, 132 Azerbaijani families (549 people) were resettled from the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region to the Khanlar region of the Azerbaijan SSR [26, p. 34]. The implementation of a policy of genocide by the Armenian Dashnaks against our compatriots, their expulsion from their ethnic historical lands was part of the creation of “Great and Withoutturkic Armenia”. In order to create a numerical majority of Armenians, under various pretexts, secret and overt methods, Armenians were resettled in the deserted Azerbaijani villages left in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region.

In the 1960s, Armenia’s unfounded territorial claims against Azerbaijan continued. In those years, thanks to the help of Moscow

and the indecisiveness of the Azerbaijani leadership, an Armenian lobby was created in Azerbaijan. Armenian nationalism is deeply rooted in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Hundreds of Azerbaijanis living here began to secretly and openly displace and expel their ancestors from the lands. Dozens of Azerbaijanis became victims of Armenian terrorism. Even the perverted Armenian gangs did not hesitate to commit murder. On the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, our toponyms of ancient Oghuz-Turkic origin were replaced by Armenian names. In such a situation, the leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan took the position of an observer and took measures to strengthen the “friendship of peoples”. Under pressure from the center, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan SSR, by its resolution of May 7, 1969, approved the decision to transfer more than 2 thousand hectares of Azerbaijani land to Armenia, but Heydar Aliyev, appointed first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan on July 14, 1969, as a result of his hard work did not allow implementation of this decision. In the 1950s and 1960s, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was preserved [11, p. 128].

In the modern history of Azerbaijan, the beginning of a turning point was laid in 1969. On August 5 of the same year, H.A. Aliyev spoke at the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and gave a deep and comprehensive analysis of the republic’s economy, noting that there are serious shortcomings in economic management, cultural development, ideological work and showed ways to eliminate them. At the August plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, tasks were put forward to strengthen state labor discipline and improve the moral and psychological climate in the republic. Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, at the congresses of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, plenums of the Central Committee, and periodically convened meetings, specific tasks and organizational measures for the economic, moral and socio-cultural development of the republic were determined [16, p. 13]. Heydar Aliyev significantly strengthened the governance system in the republic in a short period. He be-

gan a serious fight against bribery and corruption. In the history of the Soviet government, for the first time in a socialist society, he boldly declared the existence of such negative situations as abuse of office and corruption, the importance of fighting them, and began a decisive fight against these situations. Heydar Aliyev had great influence in the leadership of the USSR. In 1976, he was elected as a candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and skillfully used the opportunities provided by this position in the name of the development of Azerbaijan [23, p. 36].

In addition to socio-economic and cultural issues, one of the constant concerns of Heydar Aliyev as the first secretary of the republican party organization, especially in the first periods of his activity, was to counter and prevent Armenian separatism, which himself witnessed. Heydar Aliyev had to deal with manifestations of separatism immediately after he was elected first secretary of the Central Committee. In the mid-60s of the 20th century, after attempts to force the separation of Nagorno-Karabakh again failed, the Armenians changed tactics and exposed the “old” maps of the late 1920s, declaring a number of border lands of Azerbaijan “ancient Armenian lands”, they demanded their return to Armenia. Later, Heydar Aliyev recalled that “they took out the old maps — maps from 1928 or 1929. Negotiations continued for two or three years. These negotiations were conducted not only by Veli Akhundov, but also by Mammad Iskandarov, Anvar Alikhanov and second secretary Elistratov. Unfortunately, as a result of these negotiations, in May 1969, the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan decided that these border lands allegedly belonged to Armenia and should be transferred to it. As soon as I was elected leader of Azerbaijan in July, I analyzed this issue for a month and abandoned this decision. They tried very hard to implement this decision, but I did not allow it. I also know how this decision was made back then. There is no need to talk about this now. But by this I want to say that he (meaning Vali Akhundov — N.M.), without a doubt, did not want these lands to be given to them. However, pressure from above, from Moscow, pressure from both the right and the left combined led to this decision” [7].

In one of his interviews, Heydar Aliyev recalls his meeting with the leadership of Armenia on a specific solution to the issue during this period: “A month after being elected first secretary, in September 1969, I called Anton Kochinyan, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia, and told him that I wanted to meet with him. Our meeting took place on the border of the Gazakh and Ijevan regions. I raised this issue directly and suggested that Kochinyan take practical, concrete actions to dissuade the nationalists in Armenia from their territorial claims. I believe that our meeting was fruitful. Because the events that worried us did not occur between our republics at a later time” [14, p. 71].

The famous Azerbaijani poet, writer-publicist Hidayat writes in his book “7 Letters to Irevan”: “The former first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia A. Kochinyan in an interview in 1988 stated that the Karabakh “issue” was raised several times during his leadership, but the influence of Heydar Aliyev and his harsh words in the center did not allow this issue to be resolved. Even M.A. Suslov summoned Kochinyan and said: “Enough of Armenian nationalism,” and this became the end point for Armenian nationalism and the Karabakh “problem” during the time of L.I. Brezhnev. Maybe that’s why the death of L.I. Brezhnev was greeted in Irevan as a holiday” [6, p. 23].

In the book “Interview with an Intelligence General”, I. Huseynov, shedding light on the terrorist acts committed by Armenian vandals in Karabakh in the 70s of the twentieth century, writes: “The 1970s were characterized by the fact that Armenian nationalists openly raised the issue that the territory of Karabakh historically belongs to Armenia”. The main role in this “activity” belonged to part of the intelligentsia and youth of the province. Their actions were led by nationalist circles in Irevan. To achieve their criminal goals, they collected weapons and ammunition, distributed leaflets, and tried to create a secret nationalist youth group. It was during this period that the State Security Committee of Azerbaijan completed the work of exposing R. Danielyan and members of his terrorist group, who threw a grenade at a group of people of Azerbaijani nationality in June 1971 in

the city of Khankendi. In 1972-1974, in the region alone, according to materials from the State Security Committee of Azerbaijan, the actions of 35 persons of Armenian nationality were prevented, and some of them were given an official warning” [20, p. 57].

The above-mentioned criminal incident was briefly reflected in the report of the Nagorno-Karabakh Department of the State Security Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Center for 1972: “On June 18, 1971, a grenade exploded in front of the Karabakh hotel, as a result of which five people of Azerbaijani nationality were seriously injured. One of them died. As a result of operational search activities carried out by the regional department of internal affairs and the special department of the Khankendi garrison, 8 people of Armenian nationality were arrested. During the search, a large amount of weapons and ammunition was seized from them. Due to the lack of necessary materials, the case was closed”.

From our analysis it is clear that the case of the grenade explosion was first considered by the prosecutor’s office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, and then was transferred to the autonomous department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the republic. They arrested some of the ringleaders and then released them (allegedly due to lack of evidence) under pressure from local residents. Over the course of several months, six volumes of material were collected, but this did not change anything. Heydar Aliyev considered this issue in the Bureau of the Central Committee and decided to transfer the case to the “committee members” for investigation. Thus, the case of the grenade explosion on behalf of Heydar Aliyev was entrusted to Akram Salimzade.

Akram Salimzade notes in his memoirs: “I started work. The folders are dirty, all sorts of hieroglyphs are in Armenian... The investigation was conducted in Azerbaijani by a senior lieutenant.

I asked the head of our department to provide translators to translate all these materials from Azerbaijani and Armenian into Russian. In addition, since the conversation is mainly about people of Armenian nationality, I suggested including a person who knows the Armenian language among the investigators.

Safar Aliyev was placed at my disposal. He lived in Armenia and graduated from high school in Armenian. And among the investigators they singled out Sasha Shkitov. The next morning the translators began work. They translated all the materials for me. I reviewed the materials and realized that this case could be opened. It was simply done incompetently. Probably, the Armenians did not read what the Azerbaijanis wrote, and the Azerbaijanis did not read what the Armenians wrote.

We started working. Soon we arrested Eduard Danielyan, nicknamed “Pshka”, Valerik Agadzhanian, Slavik Agadzhanian. A total of 8 people were arrested in the case.

Valerik Agadzhanian was the first to be caught. From the case materials it is clear that during a conversation with his accomplices he made the following statement: “You threw grenades at the Azerbaijanis in vain”.

There is a hotel “Karabakh” in Khankendi. All physical education teachers from nearby regions, including Fizuli, Shusha and others, were invited to participate in the seminar held there. In the evenings, a large group of Azerbaijanis, young people, stood at the main entrance of the hotel, talking. Their only “sin” was that they were Azerbaijanis. The Armenians, who stole an RQ-42 grenade from some military unit, hid behind a building and from there threw the grenade at the Azerbaijanis. One person died on the spot, another had to have his leg amputated, and the rest were injured.

We managed to “disarm” Valery Agadzhanian. I called Valeria to investigate. His words “you threw grenades at the Azerbaijanis in vain” became a clue for us. The only way for others to “come out” was through him.

The investigation establishes that several years before this incident, in 1967, mass riots occurred in Khankendi in connection with the trial in the case of the boy’s death. Then 25 people were arrested, among them was Danielyan’s older brother. Although they sentenced him to death, they later commuted it to 15 years in prison. Thus, Danielyan took revenge for his brother. It should be noted that a little later, in the 80s, when the Karabakh conflict began, this same Danielyan lost

his way, torturing and killing Azerbaijanis. When we organized a face-to-face meeting between Danielyan and Agadzhanian, a fight broke out between them. And we recorded it all on tape... The court sentenced Danielyan-“Pshka” to 15 years in prison. At the same time, he was accused of killing a second Azerbaijani. Since he had not reached the age of majority, he was given a short prison term. Valerik Agadzhanian was given 10 years in prison, the rest were given 5-6 years for failure to timely report information about crimes committed. At that time, two of them were called up for military service. They were brought from the unit... Heydar Aliyev was very pleased with the progress of the investigation. Then they gave me some kind of reward” [20, p. 41].

Only two years later, Armenian nationalists committed an even more terrible and noisy terrorist attack in the capital of the Soviet Union. In 1973, three explosions occurred in Moscow: In a store on 25 Oktyabr Street (now Nikolskaya), Dzerzhinsky Square, and in the metro — between the Izmailovsky Park and Pervomaiskaya stations. As a result of the terrorist attacks, 29 people were killed.

Nobody wanted to draw political conclusions from the terrorist attack. No one wanted to delve into the essence of the matter and understand that only explanations against Dashnak propaganda could prevent trouble. Leaders at the center and locally did not want to understand that this would not be the end of the matter. Even a few years later, when nationalist tendencies began to expand in the republic, when the Dashnaks began to more actively introduce their ideology into Armenia, the local leadership did not provide them with the necessary resistance, and, it seems, this was not accidental [18, p. 311].

Heydar Aliyev knew better than anyone about the danger of strengthening nationalist sentiments within the party nomenklatura of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Therefore, the First Secretary of the Central Committee decides to strengthen the leadership of the autonomous region with proven personnel. In the fall of 1973, Heydar Aliyev proposed electing Boris Sarkisovich Gevorgov, who worked as the first secretary of the district party com-

mittee in Baku, as the first secretary of the party committee of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. On October 12, 1973, the Plenum of the Nagorno-Karabakh Regional Committee of the CPSU of Azerbaijan was held. By the decision of the plenum, Gurgen Melkumyan was relieved of the post of first secretary and member of the bureau of the regional committee of Nagorno-Karabakh. Boris Gevorkov was elected instead. Melkumyan was transferred to work in the Trade Union Council [22, p. 15].

It should be noted that Gevorkov worked in his position until February 23, 1988, when he was dismissed from the post of first secretary “due to mistakes made in his work” at the plenum of the Nagorno-Karabakh regional party committee. He was replaced by Genrikh Poghosyan, a convinced separatist and secret millionaire [28, p. 17].

In 1975, at the plenum of the regional party committee, the first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region party committee made a critical speech against nationalist elements trying to undermine political stability in Nagorno-Karabakh. Specific facts and names were named, including the name of Zori Balayan. Gevorkov criticized attempts to present Dashnak Andranik as a national hero. Heydar Aliyev recalls the results of this speech as follows: “Nationalist elements rose again, and first of all, various actions were launched against Gevorkov, as well as the party committee of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Telegrams were sent to Moscow and other places, the situation was heating up. After 2 months, we met with Demirchyan in Moscow and talked for 4 hours. I told him that the problems of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region should be resolved by the leadership of the region and Azerbaijan. The interference of individuals in the affairs of Karabakh will only harm our common relations, and we cannot allow this... This time events calmed down again” [15, p. 71].

By the way, we note that some intellectuals, Armenians by nationality, recognize the true face of Armenian extremists. One of them is the writer Marietta Shaginyan. Writer Marietta Shaginyan came to the Days of Soviet Literature, held in Baku in 1975. She vi-

sited Ganja, and Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and held meetings with many representatives of the Armenian intelligentsia holding nationalist views. After returning to Baku, Heydar Aliyev received her at his home. The writer shared a number of observations with him. First of all, Shahinyan stated that Armenians live very well in Azerbaijan, “they are fed like a kidney in butter”. Secondly, before arriving in Baku, she lived in a hotel in İrevan. A group of famous cultural figures of Armenia came to see her. She was shown a letter with a request to transfer Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region to Armenia and asked her to sign a completed application. Shaginyan not only rejected them, but also advised her compatriots to abandon this harmful and unworthy intention. Thus, Heydar Aliyev was once again convinced that the Armenian separatists had not abandoned their intentions.

In the mid-70s of the 20th century, the Armenians again raised this issue in order to realize their dirty intentions. Thus, in February 1976, leaflets were distributed in the Gorus branch of the Armenian Pedagogical Institute and the Yerevan Polytechnic Institute with an appeal to the 25th Congress of the CPSU on resolving the issue of annexing the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic to Armenia. At the same time, the New York Times published an article by former member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia Khanzadyan. In his article, he demanded that the Soviet government “return Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, which previously belonged to Armenia”. At the same time, a letter from communist E. Ohanesyan was sent to the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In the letter, he demanded to “return” to Armenia the Shamkhor, Dashkasan, Khanlar, Shau-myan districts and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region that belonged to Azerbaijan. The Armenian press, pedagogical, popular science and fiction literature of this period are characterized by cases of idealization of the past, feelings of national arrogance, as well as exaggeration of the issue related to the borders of “Great Armenia”. In many of these works, territorial claims to neighbors, mainly

the peoples of Turkey and Azerbaijan, are felt. The idea is being propagated that Karabakh, Nakhchivan and other regions are “local provinces of historical Armenia.” These trends can be observed in the book “Armenian Folklore” published in Moscow (compiled and translated by G. Karapetyan). The author shamelessly asserted that “the city of Shusha is a fortress city of Artsakh, historically part of Armenia” [22, p. 58].

The famous academician Igrar Aliyev, one of the outstanding scientists of Azerbaijan, recalled that in early 1978 Heydar Aliyev called him and said: “The Armenians raised the issue of transferring Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia to the country’s leadership. A meaningful report on this issue needs to be prepared”. The academician reminded the party leader that such a report was prepared by Mirjafar Bagirov immediately after the Great Patriotic War, and he himself participated in its preparation. Igrar Aliyev asked to find this document in the depths of the party’s archive.

“The next day, Heydar Aliyev received me again. He handed me the reference that we wrote 30 years ago. In the few minutes that we talked, I felt how much this problem bothered him. Within a month, I prepared an extensive report on the history of Nagorno-Karabakh and presented it to the Central Committee. The next day, the main provisions of the certificate were discussed and approved at a meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee. He seemed to like the document and after discussions expressed his gratitude to me. Later I learned that Heydar Aliyev managed in time to prevent another provocation of Armenians against the Azerbaijani people...” [3, p. 13].

By the way, at the end of 1987, after Academician Aganbekyan’s speech in the Parisian newspaper *L’Humanité*, Igrar Aliyev remembered his letter, edited it and sent it to the then head of the republic, Kamran Bagirov. The scientist recalls with great regret that I did not see any prompt reaction from the management; soon the events that became known to everyone became heated.

Heydar Aliyev, who received a group of Azerbaijani writers at the Presidential Palace on November 10, 1999, remembered the

events of twenty years ago: “In 1977, the new Constitution of the USSR was adopted. A constitutional commission was appointed, Brezhnev was its chairman, we were its members, and I was the representative of Azerbaijan.

Commission meetings were held from time to time. These (discussions — N.M.) were led by the Secretary of the Central Committee — Academician Ponomarev. Brezhnev did not take such an active part. One day I came to Moscow for a commission meeting. I saw that a lot of letters were received saying that “it is necessary to withdraw Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan and transfer it to Armenia”. I saw that Ponomarev said that a commission should discuss this — he was also influenced by the Armenians. Do you understand what the fact that it will be referred to the commission for discussion means?

Even the day before the commission meeting, no matter how much I objected to it, nothing happened, but I still went to Brezhnev. I told him what it was, it couldn't be! If you give Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, we will leave the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Brezhnev saw the situation and called Ponomarev, demanding that this issue be removed from the agenda!” [7, p. 368].

It is not difficult to imagine how Armenia mourned when Heydar Aliyev was elected a member of the Politburo and he became one of the leaders of the union government. After a long time, Gevork Kirakosyan, one of the leaders of the Dashnaksutyun party, shamelessly and openly stated: “If we do not eliminate Heydar Aliyev, Karabakh will not be our homeland, but a prison. Along with Armenia, Heydar Aliyev shook the Armenian lobby around the world... We need to think about this...” [6, p. 51].

When the events around Nagorno-Karabakh began, the idea, openly provoked by Gorbachev's ideologists, spread in the central media that the main cause of the conflict was the backwardness of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in the socio-economic sphere and the violation of the rights of the Armenian population by the leadership of the republic. Of course, this was a lie, fabricated in order to discredit Heydar Aliyev and justify the inability of the central government to regulate interethnic problems.

Explaining all these or those issues, Heydar Aliyev, in a conversation with A. Karaulov, spoke in detail about the socio-economic indicators of the development of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in the 1970s and 1980s, and listed what was created and built in Nagorno-Karabakh during his leadership: "...a railway to the center of the region, a beautiful railway station in Khankendi, a new airport — we have organized regular flights between Khankendi, Baku and Irevan. I called Demirchyan, and we agreed that the flights would be operated by Aeroflot of Azerbaijan and Aeroflot of Armenia. You can see how we have thought through all these issues down to the smallest detail. Large enterprises were created: A shoe factory, an electrical plant, capacitors for the electronics industry, agricultural machinery factories and other factories were built. Important measures were taken in the field of agriculture. Two large reservoirs with power plants and irrigation canals were built, greatly improving the water supply of the two areas. Grape production increased from 50-60 thousand tons in the early 70s to 120-130 thousand tons in 1980. Livestock production increased almost 2 times [13, p. 165]. This was a lot for a small province with a population of 170 thousand people. Much work has been done in the social and moral sphere. We created a pedagogical institute in Khankendi. Perhaps in such a small province this was not necessary, but we fulfilled the request of the creative intelligentsia. Classes were conducted in Armenian. I have already said that residential buildings, schools, and clinics were built; The drama theater was rebuilt and equipped with new equipment. We built a large house for Political Education — I was personally present during the construction. New monuments were erected. There was a large church in the city of Shusha. It was destroyed in 1918. We invited craftsmen from Armenia and completely restored it. Cultural ties between Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and Armenia have strengthened. We have created the opportunity and conditions for this. Heads of Armenian ministries and departments, theater and concert groups, cultural figures, and scientists often came to the autonomous region. All talk about any restrictions is completely groundless" [25, p. 217].

Of course, after reading these lines, you are once again convinced that Marietta Shahinyan's statement "Armenians in Azerbaijan feed like kidneys in butter" is true.

Sometimes it can be very frustrating: How much money was poured into Nagorno-Karabakh in the 70s of the 20th century, it would be good if some additional funds were allocated to other regions of Azerbaijan. But this comes to our minds now, but at that time everyone lived in a single country and sincerely thought about the common good. In addition, Heydar Aliyev, as a sincere, patriotic business executive, worked for the development of all regions of the republic and did not discriminate among his compatriots on the basis of nationality.

To keep the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region under constant control, Heydar Aliyev usually traveled to Nagorno-Karabakh twice a year, and each time he was greeted with great cordiality and a smile.

Below is a chronicle of just a few visits of the First Secretary of the Central Committee to the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region:

On October 27, 1973, Heydar Aliyev made a speech in Khan-kendi, when he presented the challenge Red Banner of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committee of the Komsomol.

A little later, on November 23, 1973, he again went to Khan-kendi to participate in the ceremonial meeting of the Nagorno-Karabakh regional committee of the CPSU and the regional council of workers' deputies on the occasion of the anniversary of the autonomous region. Heydar Aliyev arrived in the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region together with the entire party leadership of the republic. He made an extensive speech at the meeting and in his speech listed the work done in the region over the last three years of the Ninth Five-Year Plan: a shoe factory in Khankendi, producing 3.5 million pairs of shoes per year, a musical instrument factory in Shusha, and an initial winery on the

state farm named after the XXII Party Congress in the Agdara region were launched. Factories for processing lead and souvenir products are being built, and the construction of a bridge across Khachinchay is nearing completion. The Sarsang water hub, built on Tartarchay, became one of the largest five-year plan structures in the republic.

There were 5 secondary technical educational institutions and 204 secondary schools in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. On November 22, the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR decided to transform the branch of the Azerbaijan Pedagogical Institute in Khankendi into an independent pedagogical institute.

On January 12, 1979, a new station of the Azerbaijan Railway (Khankendi station) was marked on the map of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. A two-story station building, an administrative building for the freight yard, a rest house for locomotive crews and the necessary station equipment were built here. The road from Agdam, more than 26 km long, crossed mountain rivers and irrigation canals; several bridges were built on the road. After the construction of this station, the autonomous region received the opportunity to connect with many settlements of the republic and the whole country by a more profitable means of transport. As a result, the cost of products produced in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region decreased by more than six times. Heydar Aliyev, who arrived in Khankendi, made a speech during the opening of the road.

“I remember well how we opened this line,” said Bakhtiyar Suleymanly, a State Security Committee veteran. “At that time I worked as the head of the regional department of the Mingachevir zone of the State Security Committee. A large number of local residents gathered at the station and a large rally took place. They rejoiced at the opening of the new line and expressed gratitude to the leadership of the republic. They changed the name of the route “Baku-Agdam” to “Baku-Khankendi” [6, p. 38].

After the opening, Heydar Aliyev talked with the leadership of the region, and we went to Shusha. Heydar Aliyev inspected the city,

inquired about the state of construction of the Vagif mausoleum, then we arrived at the Palace of Culture, and he had a long conversation with the leadership of the city's party committee about the importance of the improvement of Shusha, the fact that this city is the ancient cradle of our culture, the holy hearth of our culture" [6, p. 41].

Alexander Ivanov clarified that Heydar Aliyev always paid attention to the socio-economic development of Nagorno-Karabakh and the attitude of the Armenians living there: "Even if Heydar Aliyev did not visit some region of Azerbaijan (visiting 80 regions is not an easy task), he certainly visited Nagorno-Karabakh at least twice a year. He understood the importance of Karabakh. I witnessed how the Armenians greeted him. One day, the car of the first secretary of the Central Committee could not drive up to Shusha. He came to the opening of the monument to Vagif. ZIL is a unique car with an automatic transmission. It turned off during the ascent from Khankendi to Shusha. It was snowing heavily in the morning, and the paths leading to the mausoleum were covered with ice. ZIL stopped in place, without moving. Local residents, the majority of whom were Armenians, saw this, picked up the car and carried it in their arms for some time. That's how they treated him, they respected him".

On January 15, 1982, Heydar Aliyev arrived in Shusha with a large group of literary and artistic figures for the opening of the mausoleum of the outstanding Azerbaijani poet Vagif. On that day, Azerinform journalists proudly wrote in their reports from the scene: "His body was buried in a rocky place, and a majestic mausoleum was erected on it (authors — architects corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR A. Salamzade and E. Khanukov, sculptor A. Mustafayev). This is a quadrangular tower, covered on the outside with red Karabakh marble, and on the inside with white marble. In the center is a sarcophagus carved from black marble — light penetrates through the mesh railing into the tomb. From the wall at the back of the hall, a white marble bust of Vagif looks out at those entering. After this, this mausoleum will become an integral part of the image of old and young Shusha".

On January 15, 1982, Heydar Aliyev took part in the opening of the new House of Poetry in Shusha, and then held a meeting of the party activists of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In his speech at the meeting, Heydar Aliyev noted changes in the socio-economic appearance of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in recent years: “The speakers at today’s meeting spoke with gratitude about the railway and gas pipeline built in Khankendi. The construction of vitally important social and cultural facilities, the construction of a water supply system, the creation of a Pedagogical Institute and other works are already a reality.

Of course, the solution to these issues was not easy; it was achieved by investing a large amount of funds and great efforts of the republican and union authorities. However, all this has already been decided, and now we are truly proud of our autonomous region — the Republic of Azerbaijan. You live well. The welfare of workers is growing every year. During the conversation (with residents of Khankendi and Shushi — N.M.) I was interested in whether there were any complaints or objections, but I was answered only with gratitude and satisfaction” [7, p. 367].

Despite all this, the more Heydar Aliyev did for the development of Nagorno-Karabakh, the more negatively he was viewed in certain circles of Armenia, which did not abandon its plan to seize this fertile corner of Azerbaijani land. Our fathers gave it only one name — ingratitude.

In one of his speeches, Heydar Aliyev commented on his attitude towards the “Armenian question”: “From July 14, 1969 to December 3, 1982, I was the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. During this period, not an inch of Azerbaijani territory was transferred to Armenia. It is a fact. Although there were attempts to acquire land by Armenia in isolated cases... They didn’t say anything openly, they told me through some leaders that we need to clarify the map of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as if certain mistakes were made here in the 1920s. And I told everyone that our border is known and there is no need to change anything. I remember there was a gold mine on the border with the Kelba-

jar region. The Armenians crossed our land under the pretext of searching for gold there. As soon as I found out about this, I instructed the Council of Ministers of the Republic and the administration of the Kelbajar region to immediately remove them, and we resolved the issue” [14].

And when the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict began, and a little later, Heydar Aliyev was sure that in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region itself, of course, they did not think about this issue: “I met with residents of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region many times, visited all districts of the region, and talked a lot with Armenians. Not a single person said that Karabakh should be given to Armenia. Let me remember one fact. It was the 50th anniversary of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. The region was awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples. In my speech there, as always, I said one phrase in the form that Armenian nationalists understand: “Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region is an inseparable part of Azerbaijan and will remain an inseparable part...” [14].

In this historic anniversary speech, Heydar Aliyev repeatedly emphasized the inviolability of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and Azerbaijan. He did not forget to mention that Khankendi, the center of the province, is one of the ancient cities of Azerbaijan: “Over time, a small area called Khankendi has now turned into one of the most beautiful cities of the Azerbaijan SSR...” Writer-publicist Hidayat, who lived in Irevan at that time, recalls that this speech aroused the obvious anger of Armenian nationalists.

I. Ismailov, who once worked as the chairman of the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan, writes in his memoirs: “In the summer of 1982, I came to a reception with Heydar Aliyev and said that the Armenian nationalists had gone beyond their capabilities, had lost their way, and we needed to take action and put them in their place. And he told me: “You know what is happening in Moscow, what major forces are behind this. I would do anything if I could. They don’t allow it”. He was a candidate member of the Politburo, a close friend of Brezhnev, but despite this he had difficulty resisting Armenian extremism... In general, in the late 70s and early 80s, unimaginable things happened.

As soon as Armenians were among the criminals, a problem arose. As soon as someone was tried, at that moment an order was received from the USSR Prosecutor General's Office, where former Assistant Prosecutor General Mizaryan from Baku worked, to either cancel the court verdict or change it in the direction of mitigating the consequences. In addition, we were talking about a large amount of money. We are talking about bribery and corruption. However, if here they took one thousand or two thousand rubles, then in the central law enforcement agencies they took millions. In general, I am sure that Heydar Aliyev was removed from the leadership of Azerbaijan and sent to Moscow not because they loved him very much, but in order to solve the "Armenian question" here and give Karabakh to the Armenians" [7, p. 71].

A number of special decisions were made for the development of the city of Shusha. Restoration of the city's historical monuments and construction of new buildings began. A large mausoleum was erected over the grave of Molla Panah Vagif. The house-museums of Uzeyir Hajibeyov and Bulbul have been opened. A statue of Natavan was installed [27, p. 416]. A large hotel, multi-storey residential buildings and administrative buildings were built in the city. Shusha became a resort city of the all-Union level.

From our research it became known that the provision of population in Nagorno-Karabakh has always been higher than the average for the Azerbaijan SSR. In 1973, a pedagogical institute was opened in Khankendi on the basis of a branch of the Azerbaijan Pedagogical Institute. In 1979, a railway was built here from Agdam [9, p. 187].

Heydar Aliyev well understood the intentions of the Armenian nationalists, attached great importance to the economic and socio-cultural development of the border regions, and took care of them. In the 1970s, at the instigation of the Armenians, the center raised the issue of the hopelessness of the Kelbajar region, the resettlement of the population from here and the distribution of land between the republics as summer pastures. Against this background, Heydar Aliyev managed, since 1977, to prepare and implement measures to expand the potential capabilities of this region. The economy has

recovered significantly. The hateful intentions of the center and the Armenian nationalists were stopped [9, p. 91].

During the period under study, women's councils, street, district, school parent committees, councils of labor veterans, voluntary people's groups and other mass amateur organizations functioned effectively in Azerbaijan, including in the Karabakh region. In the 70s of the 20th century, important achievements were achieved in the field of humanities and social sciences in Azerbaijan. In general, generalizing works related to the history of Azerbaijan and the history of Karabakh, which is part of it, were published.

In the 1970-1980s, the rapid development of political life in Karabakh, significant progress in the work of the legislative body, local councils, socio-political organizations, creative unions were closely connected with the personality of Heydar Aliyev, his multifaceted managerial talent, political and state activities.

Thus, in the 1970s, thanks to the multifaceted party and state administration of Heydar Aliyev, the socio-political life of Azerbaijan became very rich. People's activity in the work of government bodies and public organizations has increased. The main attention of the state, local Soviets, trade unions, Komsomol, intelligentsia, and creative organizations was focused on the implementation of policies aimed at the economic, social and cultural progress of the republic, the national awakening of the people, and this gave effective results.

The leadership of Azerbaijan by an innately gifted, far-sighted, contemplative, pragmatic politician who loved his people with endless love led to a rapid rise in the socio-political, economic and cultural life of the republic. In the 1970s, thanks to the policy of national awakening of our state, suitable opportunities opened up for the progress of education, science, printing, literature and art. The spiritual wealth and human resources of Azerbaijan continued to grow, and the study and promotion of the country's cultural heritage, history and language expanded. These processes taking place in Azerbaijan — dynamic development in the economic, political, social spheres, development of national and moral values — have not escaped the attention of Moscow. Using historical experience, the

Center raised the “Nagorno-Karabakh problem” to keep Azerbaijan at bay. When the 1977 Constitution was being prepared, Moscow received hundreds of applications for the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. As a result of the intensive and effective activity of Heydar Aliyev, who led Azerbaijan at that time, Armenia’s next territorial claims were skillfully prevented.

In the 70s of the 20th century, issues of unfounded territorial claims of Armenians were widely analyzed in the speeches of Heydar Aliyev. In one of his speeches, national leader Heydar Aliyev commented on the events of the 70s: “It is natural that all the lands of Azerbaijan belong to Azerbaijan. Even most of the lands that are now located on the territory of Armenia belong to Azerbaijan. Zangezur is completely Azerbaijani land. At one time, the majority of people living here were Azerbaijanis. However, after the establishment of Soviet power, in 1920, when the borders of the republic, which was part of the Soviet Union, were established, part of the lands of Azerbaijan were transferred to Armenia. Having created an autonomous, that is, private, province in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Center used this institution to divide Azerbaijan in the future [4, p. 366].

... You should know this, you are a historian, you should know that in Soviet times they wanted to annex Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia for many years. I once led Azerbaijan for 14 years. During this period and before, Armenian nationalists and extremists repeatedly put forward proposals to Moscow and sent letters to it, saying that “Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Armenia, the Armenians are the majority there, it should belong to Armenia”. We then stopped them. Personally, I consider it an honor that I prevented this issue several times when I was the head of Azerbaijan for 14 years ... [4, p. 365].

... In 1977, a new Constitution of the Soviet Union was created. You know that the first Constitution of the Soviet Union was created in 1936, it was called the “Stalin Constitution”. However, in 1977, in connection with the change of power in the country, due to some changes, the process of creating a new Constitution, the “mother law”, was launched, and in connection with this a large commission

was created. The head of this commission was Brezhnev, then head of the Soviet Union. I was also a member of this commission. ...

Committee meetings were held from time to time. The discussions were led by the then Secretary of the Central Committee, Academician Ponomarev. Brezhnev often did not attend meetings. One day I came to Moscow for a commission meeting. Ponomarev told the meeting participants that “Nagorno-Karabakh should be removed from Azerbaijan and transferred to Armenia”. I heard Ponomarev say: “The commission should discuss this” — he was also influenced by the Armenians. This fact itself showed that the secretary of the committee defended the interests of the Armenians. At the same time, the issue was resolved in favor of the Armenians by pro-Armenian forces in the center, and then the following decision was made: “Refer this issue to the Commission for discussion”. Do you understand what this means? [27, p. 465].

I then saw that the majority in the Constitutional Commission wanted to make this decision. I categorically objected several times. Then I talked face to face with Brezhnev two or three times on this issue, asking, what are you doing? If this happens, we will leave the Soviet Union. I declare this today. Brezhnev picked up the phone and called Ponomarev, saying: “Take this issue off the agenda...” [10, p. 192].

... You see, with such bold steps I prevented them. Don't get me wrong, I'm talking about what happened. Then I stopped them. But it was difficult to prevent this. But I was able to do this, I prevented this with my will and at the cost of my life and blood, defending the national interests of the Azerbaijani people.

... At the end of 1982, I was taken from here to Moscow for a big job. Before leaving Baku, I gave some advice to the people here. I said: the first thing to do is to always keep the Nagorno-Karabakh issue in the spotlight. ...

By the way, I want to clarify one more question. The Armenians have always escalated the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. Therefore, when I led Azerbaijan, it must be said clearly, we created more economic conditions for Nagorno-Karabakh and made the de-

velopment of their economy a priority. Because the question was constantly raised that Nagorno-Karabakh is being suppressed in Azerbaijan and Armenians cannot develop in Nagorno-Karabakh. To preserve the integrity of Azerbaijan and protect its entire territory, at that time we paid even more attention to Nagorno-Karabakh. True, then some amateurs accused me of why I did it. I still say it, I used to do it. I did this because, firstly, it was necessary to resettle the Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh, and secondly, let's not allow Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenians to raise this issue, guided by small details [4, p. 367].

After the start of this conflict, I was again accused in the press, in the press of the USSR, that when I led Azerbaijan, I allegedly oppressed the Armenians, changed the demographic situation there, took certain measures to force the Armenians to leave there, and the number of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh decreased. Just as their numbers have decreased in other parts of Azerbaijan, their numbers have also decreased in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenians talked about this even at the time when these issues were discussed at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, their representatives, even the President of the Armenian Academy of Sciences Ambarsumyan — we once elected him an honorary member of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, among other things, to strengthen friendship we elected him member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences — he mentioned my name. I still remember this statement: “Heydar Aliyev consistently cleared Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan of Armenians”. This did not surprise me, but what surprised me was that at that time in Azerbaijan many still blamed Aliyev and agreed with these words: Yes, Heydar Aliyev had a bad attitude towards Nagorno-Karabakh. Therefore, now the Armenians want to annex Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia” [23, p. 76].

In our opinion, the above profound speech by national leader Heydar Aliyev represents a program of great scientific research and will probably soon find its solution.

As we mentioned above, Heydar Aliyev, who always paid attention to Nagorno-Karabakh, visited the region at least once a year,

met with the population and listened to them. Heydar Aliyev, who resolved the “Nagorno-Karabakh issue” in the Center, although with great difficulty, visited Khankendi on January 12, 1979 [5, p. 96]. I (Nazim Mamedov) am a living witness of those events. Many even expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that Heydar Aliyev did not stop in Terter and Aghdam, but went straight to Khankendi, since they were not aware of the events. How could they know that in such a situation, dominated by a totalitarian regime, someone could arbitrarily lay claim to their land. Of course, the Center also had certain interests and goals in this matter. Yes, at that time Heydar Aliyev went straight to Khankendi and an extraordinary meeting of party “activists” was held in the regional party committee [9, p. 189]. Surely there will be living witnesses who will read and confirm what I wrote. Heydar Aliyev looked calm at the meeting. But his face showed his inner uneasiness. I will not describe everything that happened at the meeting. I can only say that Heydar Aliyev raised all the “activists” of the region (of course, they were all Armenians) and said his word. His last words at the meeting were: “I can send you to our beloved Armenia at any time... Open your eyes and look at me carefully. I understand your selfish intention well. As long as I am alive, you will not be able to achieve this vile goal of yours”. Thus, as a result of the purposeful political activities of Heydar Aliyev in the 1970s, unfounded territorial claims of Armenia against Azerbaijan were decisively prevented [9, p. 190].

One of Heydar Aliyev’s greatest merits was a clear and specific definition of the essence of Armenia’s aggressive policy against Azerbaijan. On February 23, 2001, Heydar Aliyev stated during discussions of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem in the Milli Majlis: “We say — I introduced this formula into people’s consciousness — the Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: And what do others say — the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Because everyone believes that this is a conflict not between two countries, but between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. I have said many times: if this is so, let Armenia step aside. What we agree on with Nagorno-Karabakh, what we can do, is our personal problem. We

can solve this problem very quickly. However, Armenia occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and now Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia is a country. They have been one country for 11 years. But no one wants to know this bitter truth” [2].

On October 3, 1993, the Azerbaijani people elected Heydar Aliyev as President of the Republic by a majority vote on an alternative basis. On May 12, 1994, a ceasefire was declared at the front. As a result of a successful foreign policy, conditions were created to strengthen stability within Azerbaijan.

CHAPTER VI

HEYDAR ALIYEV AND PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF SHUSHA

The development of the city of Shusha has always been the focus of national leader Heydar Aliyev. In the 70s of the 20th century, on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan adopted 2 decisions on the preservation and restoration of historical monuments of Shusha. The first of them was the decision “On measures for the further development of the Shusha resort complex”, adopted on November 4, 1976, and the second was “On declaring Shusha a historical and architectural reserve” dated August 10, 1977. As a result of measures taken since then, the ancient historical monuments of Shusha have been restored, preserved and passed on to future generations.

The national leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, in one of his speeches expressed deep affection for Shusha, the crown of Karabakh. “Shusha is a dear city, dear land, dear fortress, dear monument not only for the people of Shusha, but also for all Azerbaijanis, for every citizen who loves his Motherland and nation” [14, p. 3].

It should be noted that Shusha is one of the rare and unique pearls of the ancient urban culture of Azerbaijan. The city of Shusha, a miracle of the creative genius of the Azerbaijani people, has a rich and glorious historical past. Shusha, a symbol of the historical traditions of the people to which it belongs, was created in one of the oldest settlements included in the sphere of the ancient Khojaly-Gadabey culture (second half of the second millennium — beginning of the first millennium BC) and became a permanent settlement. Ancient settlements around Shusha, including the Shusha Cave on the famous Jidir-duzu plain, prove that these places are one of the oldest human sites on the territory of Azerbaijan. Shusha is an extremely sacred place for the Azerbaijani people, dear as a shrine [1, p. 22].

Because this charming corner of the world has been the center of all Karabakh in all historical periods. For the plain-mountain Karabakh and for all Azerbaijani lands during a long historical period, Shusha, which is a fertile meadow on top of high, towering mountains, was popular among people, in the thinking and literature of the people, as “Shish Gaya” (High Rock) [2, p. 41]. Closer to the middle of the 18th century, when the era of independent khanates began on the territory of Azerbaijan, the ancient place of Shusha entered a new stage of development. The outstanding statesman of Azerbaijan, Karabakh’s Khan Panahali Khan Javanshir, turned Shusha, founded in early 1750, into a powerful fortress and called it “Panakhabad”. The capital of the Karabakh Khanate was moved to Shusha. In 1756-1823, Shusha, the capital of the Karabakh Khanate, one of the powerful khanates of Azerbaijan, developed rapidly [4, p. 71]. In addition to the fact that the city was a military-political center, it became one of the most important craft, trade and cultural centers of Azerbaijan. In the 18th century, Shusha, one of the capitals of Azerbaijan, emerged as a typical Azerbaijani city and retained its historical appearance until it was occupied by Armenian vandals in 1992. However, we note that from the moment of its creation, the population of Shusha consisted only of Azerbaijanis. The names of all blocks, streets, historical monuments, buildings and sources in the city belonged to the Azerbaijanis who created this city and its indigenous population [8, p. 8].

In the 1970s, more attention was paid to the economic and cultural progress of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. The development of the city of Shusha has always been the focus of national leader Heydar Aliyev. Thus, in one of his speeches he stated that “Shusha is a city of monuments. It is necessary to protect everything connected with the rich history of the region and restore ancient buildings here” [6]. On the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, a number of special decisions were made for the comprehensive development of the city of Shusha, rich in beautiful architectural monuments. One of them was the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Republic

dated November 4, 1976 “On measures for the further development of the resort complex in the city of Shusha.” In accordance with this decision, the “Azerdovlatlayihe” Institute developed a “Master Plan” for the city. The project reflected the work to be completed in the city of Shusha until the year 2000. The “General Plan” includes 2 nine-story residential buildings with 45 apartments, a tourist base with 300 places, a household building, a children’s sanatorium with 400 places, the building of the Ministry of Azergaznaglyyat with 40 apartments in the south — west of Shushi, the construction of the cable car is planned Jydyr-Duzu-Tophana, Shusha-Khankendi and other improvement works [13]. However, it is with regret that we have to especially note one fact that the Armenian leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and the Regional Council of People’s Deputies used their powers to destroy palaces and mansions, mosques and baths that reflected Turkism and Islamism, built by Khurshid Banu, Govhar Agha, Jafargulu Khan, Ugurlu-Bey, Farzalibey, Najafgulu Agha, Haji Gulu, Shafi Bey, commercial and industrial centers built by Mirsiyabov and Fayazov, under the name of “development of the Shusha resort complex”. Heydar Aliyev, who was informed of this bitter truth, immediately expressed his attitude to the issue and on August 10, 1977, by resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR No. 280, the city of Shusha was declared a “Historical and Architectural Reserve” [15].

Indeed, the city of Shusha, a land of mountains, is rich in beautiful architectural monuments that are relics of centuries. We will not be mistaken if we say that Shusha is a living monument. Because here are beautiful artistic pearls that reflect our historical past — “Alagapy”, “Chanakkala”, “Ganja gapysy”, “Govharaga Mesjiti”, “Khan gyzy bulagy”, “Boyuk Meydan bulagy”, “Rasta Bazaar”, “Hajigulularyn Mali-kanesi”, “Zohrabbeyovun Malikanesi”, “Bulbulun Ev-Museyi”, “Saatly Mesjiti”, “Mirsiyabovun Karvansarasy”, “Heydar Turbesi”, fortress walls give the city a special beauty. These works of art, which are the works of Mir Mohsun Navvab Karabaghi, Mamedyar, Usta Kanbar Karabaghi, Mashadi Aligulu, Karabagly Kabla Akbar, Masha-

di Khaspolad, Karbelai Safikhan Karabaghi and other Azerbaijani artists from ancient Shusha, who are among the architects and artists of Azerbaijan, and these works of art are unique in the history of Azerbaijani architectural culture due to their national diversity. In the city of Shusha, rich in historical monuments, there are 327 historical monuments per square kilometer [12, p. 170]. Since 1977, 198 ancient historical monuments of the republican level, occupying 190 hectares of the city, have been declared a “Historical and Architectural Reserve” and registered with the Ministry of Culture of the Azerbaijan SSR. After the above-mentioned “Decision” of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1977, 549 ancient buildings, paved streets 1,203 meters long, 18 surrounding springs, 15 mosques, 6 caravan-serais, 3 tombs, 2 madrassas, 2 castles were included in the protected area of the city of Shushi, churches, fortress walls and towers, 21 historical monuments built during the Soviet period were taken under protection and restored by the state [18, p. 32].

On the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, in September 1977, the Institute of Art and Architecture of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR developed a comprehensive “Action Plan” to further improve the preservation of historical architectural monuments in Shusha. Specialists, scientists, departments, enterprises and public organizations of the Ministry of Culture were involved in the implementation of the plan. In October 1977, the Office of the State Historical and Architectural Reserve was created in the city of Shusha [3]. In order to restore and develop cultural monuments and develop the resort complex, the “Society for Voluntary Assistance to the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Shushi”, consisting of the local population, was even organized. The “society” had about 40 primary organizations. Thus, 236 historical and architectural monuments of Shushi were registered and protected, and the resort complex of the city began to develop [17, p. 128].

In 1976-1982, several historical monuments were completely restored in the city of Shusha. One of them is the restoration of the “Ganja Gapysy” (Ganja Gate), which attracts attention with its beauty and splendor. During the restoration, the national features of the “Ga-

nja Gapysy”, located at the entrance to the city, were preserved. For the first time in Azerbaijan, an “Achyg Muzey” (Open Museum) was organized in the security zone of the Ganja Gapysy. The museum exhibited decorative stones with national patterns, cornices on doors and windows, inscriptions carved on various stones, columns and other architectural examples left to us by our great-grandfathers [14, p. 274].

During the years under study, the sources of the Shorbulag, Meydan, Hamamgabagi quarters, a mosque, the building of a former real school, the sources of the quarter, part of the fortress walls in the Saatly quarter, and the Shirin Su bathhouse, which were excavated and restored. It is no coincidence that on January 12, 1979, National Leader Heydar Aliyev came to Shusha, where he took part in the opening of a number of restored monuments and gave valuable advice for further work. In a short period, serious progress was observed in the restoration of beautiful examples of architecture and historical monuments of Shusha. The restoration of the mansions of Zohrabbeyov and Haji Gulu, Ashaghi Mecheti (Lower Mosque), the walls of the Fortress, the opening of home museums of Vagif, Natavan, Navvab and other historical figures took place in the late 70s — early 80s. During this period, the house-museum of U. Hajibeyov was reconstructed and repaired, a statue of the poetess Natavan was installed in front of her house, and the ancient “Fortress Walls” that once protected Shusha from enemies were restored [16, p. 44].

In addition to all this, in the 70s of the 20th century, a secondary school building with 1176 seats, a cinema “Azerbaijan” with 600 seats, a summer cinema, a 9-storey hotel with 100 seats, residential buildings were built in Shusha, residential buildings were built and put into operation for 36 and 40 apartments, 2 boarding houses with 70 beds each, as well as other cultural and community facilities. During this period, next to the Dashalty aqueduct and the factory of oriental national musical instruments, parks were built and put into operation by the local population: “Gift Building”, “Garden of Communes”, “Pioneers”, “Ganjlik” and “Natavan” [5]. In accordance with the “master plan”, a large number of construction and landscaping works

were carried out in Shusha in the 70s. The results of the mentioned years are the improvement of the famous sanatorium “Isa Bulagi”, the mineral spring “Turshsu”, the construction of the “Water Gallery” on the territory of the sanatorium. In general, 20 million manats were allocated for construction work and improvement of Shusha in 1976-1982, which was 2 times more than in 1971-1975, and 10 times more than in 1965-1969. All this was connected with the attention of National Leader Heydar Aliyev to our Motherland, its past, and love for our historical monuments. As a result of this great love and attention, Heydar Aliyev visited the city of Shusha twice in 1982 [12, p. 156]. Heydar Aliyev, who arrived in Shusha on January 14, 1982, first took part in the opening of the 20-meter mausoleum of M.P. Vagif, built from local marble. Then more than 400 figures of literature, art and science of our republic took part in the opening of this monument. At the same time, Heydar Aliyev inspected the restored historical and cultural monuments provided for by the “General Plan” [9, p. 56].

Heydar Aliyev, a genius man who values science, art and the creators of art, came to Shusha for the second time this year — July 28, 1982 — with members of his family and took part in the opening of a number of monuments and cultural objects. Heydar Aliyev took part in the poetry festival of M.P. Vagif, visited the madrasah where the poet taught, the art gallery, the home museum of U. Hajibeyov, mosques, the bust of Kh.B. Natavan and expressed satisfaction with the work done. Heydar Aliyev gave instructions on the upcoming work, identified specific tasks and organizational measures [10, p. 29].

Thus, as a result of the measures carried out by our great leader Heydar Aliyev with great foresight, the historical monuments of the city of Shusha were restored, a large hotel, multi-storey residential buildings, administrative buildings were built, and Shusha became a resort and city of the all-Union level. However, it is very unfortunate that the paradise of Azerbaijan, our ancient Oguz-Turkic land of Shusha, was captured by Armenian vandals in 1992, and our ancient historical monuments were destroyed and burned [7, p. 3].

It is unfortunate that Shusha, the land of ancient monuments associated with Armenia's unfounded territorial claims to Azerbaijan, was captured by Armenian vandals on May 8, 1992. Then 27 industrial and construction enterprises, 103 cultural and educational centers, 31 villages and towns, 249 historical monuments and museums of Shusha fell into the hands of Armenian bandits. In general, during the Karabakh war, 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands were occupied by Armenia [5, p. 2]. As a result of the occupation, more than 900 settlements, 6000 production facilities, 180000 residential buildings with a total area of 9000 square meters, 1,010 educational institutions, 4545 cultural and educational centers, 667 medical institutions, 927 libraries, 464 historical monuments and museums, more than 40 thousands of museum exhibits, more than 100 archaeological monuments, 6 state theaters and concert studios were destroyed by Armenian vandals [11, p. 194].

CHAPTER VII

SOCIO-CULTURAL PROGRESS IN THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION OF AZERBAIJAN

Under the leadership of the Azerbaijani visionary leader Heydar Aliyev, at the congresses of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, plenums of the Central Committee, periodically convened meetings and organizational events, specific tasks for the economic, social and cultural development of the Azerbaijan Republic were put forward, and measures were identified to further improve the well-being and daily life of the population. As a result, over the period 1965-1985, the total volume of production in Nagorno-Karabakh more than doubled, the real income of the population increased by 81 percent, and wages increased from 90 manats to 154 manats [15, l. 9]. In the years under study, along with the average annual wage of the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, due to an increase in state funds, their income, pensions, preferential and material assistance increased. An interesting fact is that income from private farmsteads in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region remained high both at the level of the entire union and at the level of the entire republic. From research it became known that in 1980, income from personal subsidiary plots in the USSR amounted to 31.9 percent of total income, in our republic — 45 percent, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan — 44 percent, in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region — 46.4 percent [13, l. 7]. As a result of Heydar Aliyev's concern for the social development of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, the development of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in all respects has always exceeded the level of the entire republic. For example, in 1975, compared to 1960, the volume of production per person increased in the republic as a whole by 140.5 percent, and in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region — by 250 percent. In those years, the volume of industrial production in

our Republic was 229 percent, in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of Azerbaijan 281 percent, the volume of capital investments in Azerbaijan as a whole was 219 percent, in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region 417 percent, the volume of trade turnover in our republic was 240 percent, in its Nagorno-Karabakh parts — 279 percent, the volume of household services throughout the republic increased by 540 percent, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — by 550 percent [3, 1.7].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the volume of payments and benefits provided to the population through consumer funds in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region tripled, financial assistance was provided to the elderly, disabled, temporarily disabled, labor and war veterans, families with children who have lost the head of the family and assistance to single mothers increased every year. As a result of the measures implemented in the corresponding years, the amount of pensions paid to the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region increased by 4.4 times, and the amount of benefits increased by 3.3 times [9, 1.29]. As a result of the study, it became known that the number of pensioners per 10000 people in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region population was 14 percent higher than the national level and 12 percent higher than the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [29]. However, the study shows that the regional department of social protection and medical and labor examination took a biased position against Azerbaijanis when distributing internal payments in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. The Muslims of the province have always been subject to oppression by Armenian nationalists in the field of social welfare.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the improvement in the financial well-being of the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region can be judged by the volume of cash deposits kept in the savings banks of the region's residents, as well as by the increase in the number of depositors and savings banks. Thus, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of savings banks in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region increased from 88 to 111, the nu-

mber of depositors increased from 48000 to 135000, the amount of deposits increased from 3149000 manats to 217620000 manats, the amount of deposits per depositor increased from 617 manats to 1612 manats [13, l. 11]. As for the number of savings banks and the amount of deposits, the lowest indicator was observed in the Shusha district of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. For example, in 1985 alone, the amount of savings of rural workers in the Khankendi region amounted to 14 million manats, and in the Shusha region this figure was 2.5 million manats [5, l.7].

The leadership of the republic has allocated special funds to meet the needs of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh for food and non-food products, the development of trade and public catering, as well as in 1971-1981, 54 trade enterprises, 54 canteens and restaurants, 8 snack bars and buffets, 1 department store, 1 industrial goods store, 77 catering establishments, 59 small trade enterprises, 98 tent trading kiosks for use were built and put into operation here population of the province [6, l.10]. In 1971-1985, the volume of retail turnover of cooperative trade in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region from 53.7 million manats increased to 118.8 million manats, and the volume of trade and turnover reached 45774 thousand manats from 27315 thousand manats [4, l. 76]. As a result of the research, it became known that Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was in first place at the level of the entire republic in terms of indicators in the field of trade. For example, in 1981, the number of retail trade enterprises per 10 thousand people was 28 in the republic, 24 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 42 in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. The retail area of stores per 10000 population was 1127 (km²) in the republic as a whole, 1319 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 1743 in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. The volume of retail trade turnover per capita amounted to 617 manats in the republic as a whole, 420 manats in Nakhchivan, 642 manats in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [8, l.13].

During these years, the number of service workshops and hotels in the region increased from 325 to 628, expenses for services in pu-

blic catering establishments increased from 2495 thousand manats to 21465 thousand manats, and the number of employees in consumer service establishments — from 1153 up to 17071 [2, p. 28]. As a result of research, it became known that in 1985 the volume of household services per resident was 30 manats throughout the republic, 21 manats in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 41 manats in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. At the same time, the number of consumer service workshops per 10000 population was up to 17 workshops in the republic, 21 workshops in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 18 workshops in Agdam and 32 workshops in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [4, 1.73]. Thus, in terms of the number of workshops, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was almost 2 times higher than the republican level, and this figure clearly proves that the head of our state has always kept the region in the spotlight. 60 percent of workers in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region trade enterprises were women, and 95 percent were Armenians [14, 1.5].

The leadership of the republic used all opportunities to meet the needs of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh for food and non-food products. In the 1970s and 1980s, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region trade kiosks were never without meat, butter, sugar and other products included in the list of strategic goods of Azerbaijan. Our state has filled the market with the necessary products to raise the standard of living of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and satisfy their growing demand. Even in 1985, the volume of trade turnover in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region increased by 5.1 times compared to 1966. Although this figure turned out to be 4.6 times throughout the republic. In these years, the growth rate of per capita trade turnover increased by 2.7 times throughout the republic and by 3.7 times in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [5, 1.4].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 483 million manats were allocated for housing construction, development of public utilities and improvement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, with the help of which 1027.9 thousand square meters of new

and improved apartments were built and transferred to the local population in the region [6, 1.6]. In addition, in the late 1960s and early 1980s, more than 1000 individual apartments were built in the province, totaling 552000 square meters. As a result, during 1976-1980, 126 thousand residents of the region moved to new and improved apartments, their social situation improved significantly. As a result of the research, it became known that achievements in the field of housing construction in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in the late 1960s — early 1980s were higher than in all regions of the former USSR and our republic. Thus, in 1985, the housing area per inhabitant was 14.6 square meters in the territory of the former USSR, in the Armenian SSR — 13.7 square meters, in the Azerbaijan SSR — 10.9 square meters, in the city of Baku — 11.7 square meters, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic — 9.5 square meters, then in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of Azerbaijan this figure reached 14.9 square meters [6, 1.6].

In 1978, the construction of the Yevlakh-Khankendi gas pipeline was completed. In 1986, gas was supplied to all villages in the region. Although the remote mountain villages of Azerbaijan were still thirsty for gas. In 1986, gas supply throughout the republic was 96.2 percent, and in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region this figure reached 100 percent. Drinking water supply in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was fully implemented in the 1970s. Both in terms of the provision of water supply systems and the construction of sewerage networks, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region exceeded the level of the entire republic by 2 times. Only in 1985, the percentage of improvement of water supply systems was 30.5% in the republic, 7.4% in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 39.8% in Baku, 45.5% in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [14, 1.5]. In the 1970s, 4 million 544 thousand manats were allocated only for landscaping, construction of parks, laying power lines and heat supply in the region. Despite all this, housing construction work and improvement of villages in the region where Azerbaijanis lived were at a very low level. In the late 1960s —

early 1980s, 6080000 manats were allocated for the development of the highway network in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Using allocated funds, a road with a length of 4,593 km was built in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. However, it is regrettable to note that during the period under review, regional road construction, repair and maintenance enterprises of the Council of People's Deputies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region "forgot" the villages where Azerbaijanis lived when compiling a list of repairs and construction of local roads. On January 12, 1979, the Agdam-Khankendi railway with a length of 26 km, built on the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, was put into operation [2, 1.78]. During this period, the development of road transport in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region can be judged by the fact that in terms of the number of cars per 10 thousand people in our republic there were 17.5 cars, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic — 17, in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region — 26.5. From the studies conducted, it is also known that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the volume of cargo transportation by road increased in the republic by 3.6 times, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region — by 4.8 times. Also, the density of bus routes in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was 2.6 times higher than the average level for the republic [4, 1.75].

In the 1970s, the republic's leadership implemented important measures to develop communications in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In 1970-1975, 41 specialists were sent from Baku to Nagorno-Karabakh. Our state allocated 796 thousand manats to the region and provided 7518 telephone sets [14, 1.9]. In 1970-1982, 14 new modern postal and telegraph facilities were built and put into operation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, their number increased from 98 to 112. In the 1970s, 7047 telephone lines were laid in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, and the number of telephone sets reached 15,804 [7, 1.8]. In the early 80s in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region there were 12.4 telephones per 100 people, which was equal to 7.9 at the republican level. Also, telephone penetration of the population of

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region reached 42.4 percent. In the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic this figure was 30.1 percent, and at the level of the entire republic — 31.1 percent. The number of long-distance telephone calls amounted to 4.15 percent throughout the republic, 4.9 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 7.69 percent in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [13, 1.10].

In 1970-1981, radio relay lines Baku-Shusha and Shusha-Nakhchivan were built, and a television studio was commissioned in Khankendi [16, 1.11].

During the mentioned years, protecting the health of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh has always been the focus of attention of the Azerbaijani leadership. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 89.825 thousand manats were allocated for the development of healthcare in the region, 1133 specialists with higher and secondary education were sent [17, p. 61]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of women's and children's clinics and clinics in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region increased from 11 to 36, the number of clinics providing outpatient care to the population from 43 to 52, the number of beds from 1575 to 1890, the number of doctors increased from 240 to 516 [17, 1. 62].

X-ray rooms of medical institutions in the region were provided with modern devices, consumables, medical equipment and medicines. As a result of all this, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region took first place at the level of the entire republic in terms of health care indicators. For example, in 1985, the number of beds per 10 thousand people was 97.8 in the republic, 94.6 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 104.6 in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of Azerbaijan. According to data per 10 thousand people, the supply of medical personnel was 93.8 in the republic as a whole, 80.1 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 126.3 in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic there were 26.2 medical workers with higher education per 10 thousand people, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region —

28.9 people [14, 1.6]. Despite all this, healthcare in the villages of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, where Azerbaijanis lived, was in very poor condition.

In the 70s of the 20th century, physical education and sports developed rapidly in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Thus, during these years, with funds allocated by our state in the amount of 297.9 thousand manats, 12 stadiums, 51 sports grounds, 313 volleyball, basketball, tennis courts, 2 swimming pools were built and put into operation in the region [7, 1. 8]. All these measures carried out by our state in the region have led to the protection of public health, longevity and an increase in population.

Thus, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, as a result of close attention of Heydar Aliyev, important changes took place in the socio-economic life, everyday life, well-being of the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of the Azerbaijan SSR, income, purchasing power, trade, public catering, medicine, communications, the level of household services has increased, and the supply of residential premises with water, gas and sewerage has improved. As a result of comparisons, it became known that in the 70s and 80s, as in previous periods, in terms of socio-economic and cultural development, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was in first place at the level of the entire republic. All this shows that the concept of “backwardness” of the socio-economic situation of the population living in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region is completely false, designed to cover up Armenia’s unfounded territorial claims to Azerbaijan on a global scale.

In addition to the socio-economic life of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, important changes have also occurred in cultural and spiritual life. During this period, the material, technical and educational base of children’s institutions and schools in Nagorno-Karabakh was strengthened, and the quality of teaching increased. Of course, the achievement of all these successes in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was the result of the personal initiative and care of Heydar Aliyev. 260 million 431 thousand manats were allocated for the development of education, science and knowledge in Nagorno-

Karabakh Autonomous Region [18, 1.84]. Over the indicated 15 years, 25 permanent preschool institutions were built and put into operation in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, the number of which increased from 60 to 85 [15, 1. 11]. In the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 8 preschool institutions were built, the number of which increased from 65 to 73 [8, 1.12]. From research it became known that Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region is in first place in the republic in terms of the provision of the population with preschool institutions. Thus, in 1985, this figure was 20 percent at the level of the entire republic, 12 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and 35 percent in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [35, p. 46].

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, 50 new school buildings were built and handed over to the local population in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In 1985, there were 205 schools in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, with 34.4 thousand students and 3.9 thousand teachers [15, 1. 12]. Our state's concern for the province can also be seen in the fact that the number of schools and teachers, compared to the population of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, exceeded the level of the entire republic. So, if in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region there were 177 students per school and 8.5 children per teacher, then in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic there were 296 students per school and 10 children per teacher [30, p. 280]. During the period under review, the practice of providing free hot meals to students in 42 schools in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was approved by the Board of the Ministry of Education of the Azerbaijan SSR and began to spread.

In 1985, 6 technical schools and 5 vocational schools operated in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [15, 1.11]. The Pedagogical Institute was opened in the city of Khankendi on November 23, 1973 on the initiative of national leader Heydar Aliyev [36, p. 16]. This higher educational institution has done a lot of work to meet the needs of educational institutions for highly educated personnel. However, it is regrettable to note that the Armenian le-

adership of Nagorno-Karabakh treated the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis as a stepfather; new schools were not built in these villages, old ones were not repaired, and existing schools were not provided with the necessary equipment and qualified personnel. Even the Armenian nationalists who headed the regional education department came up with the concept that there would be no future education in the Azerbaijani language, and closed Azerbaijani-language schools.

Cultural and educational institutions also played an important role in improving the knowledge and cultural level of the population living in Nagorno-Karabakh. At the expense of special funds allocated by the leadership of the republic, 52 new public libraries were built and put into operation in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In the mentioned years, the number of libraries in the region increased from 179 to 231, and the book fund increased from 1 million 154 thousand to 1 million 600 thousand. As a result of the study, it was established that the indicators of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in terms of the provision of libraries in settlements, the number of books and libraries per capita were in first place both at the level of the entire Union and at the republican level. For example, if in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1985 there were 10.2 books per person, then in the Azerbaijan SSR this figure was 5.8, and in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic — 7.1. At the same time, 105.6 percent of settlements in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region were provided with public libraries, at the level of the entire republic — 94.4 percent, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic — 98.4 percent. In addition, the number of public libraries per 10 thousand people in the former USSR was 4.8, in Armenia 4.1, in Azerbaijan 6, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of the Azerbaijan SSR it reached 13 [12, 1.31]. In addition to all this, the existing libraries in the villages where Azerbaijanis lived in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region were not fully provided with literature in the Azerbaijani language. It is known from interrogated Azerbaijanis that 80 percent of the books in the libraries of villages in the area where Azerbaija-

nis lived were in Armenian, 10 percent in Russian and 10 percent in Azerbaijani [1, 1.26].

In those years, great progress was also made in club construction in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 69 clubs were built and put into operation in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region using special funds allocated by the republic's leadership, and the number of clubs increased from 198 to 267 [3, 1. 9]. Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was in first place in the Union in terms of the number of clubs. Thus, the number of clubs per 10000 people was 4.8 in the USSR, 5 in Azerbaijan, 3.8 in Armenia, 15 in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of Azerbaijan [22, p. 120]. At the same time, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region took first place in the number of film installations and viewing of film shows. Thus, the number of movie cameras per 10000 people reached 5.4 in the territory of the former USSR, 3 in Azerbaijan, 2.9 in Armenia and 11.2 in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of the Azerbaijan SSR [21, p. 260]. At the same time, statistics on viewing film shows by the population of the region also showed that it is in first place in the entire republic. All this was achieved as a result of the care shown by the leadership of the republic to Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region.

The role of museums in carrying out cultural and educational work among the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region is great. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 6 new museums were opened in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region using special funds allocated by our state. The number of museums in the region increased from 3 to 9. During this period, 2 art galleries and 2 branches of Baku museums were opened in Nagorno-Karabakh. The number of museum visitors grew every year. Thus, in 1970, the number of people who came to the museum in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was 35 thousand people, in 1980 — 103 thousand people, and in 1985 — 130 thousand people [5, 1.6].

As a result of the purposeful political activity of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, the process of national self-awareness of the people in Azerbaijan has significantly expanded, free thinking and

working conditions have been created for our creative intelligentsia. During the years when Heydar Aliyev led our state, he paid more attention to the cultural progress of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In the 1970s, several special decisions were made to develop the city of Shusha. One of them was the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan dated November 4, 1976 “On measures for the further development of the resort complex in the city of Shusha”. Heydar Aliyev in one of his speeches said that Shusha is a city of monuments. It is necessary to protect everything connected with the rich history of the region and restore ancient buildings. Among the architects and artists of ancient Shusha are Mir Mohsun Nawab Karabaghi, Mamedyar, Usta Kanbar Karabaghi, Mashadi Aligulu, Kabla Akbar from Karabakh, Mashadi Khaspolad, Karbelai Safihan Karabaghi and the pearls of other fine masters of art — “Ganja Gate”, “Govharaga” Mosque, “Spring” “Khan gyzy”, Divan of Ibrahim Khan, Houses of Natavan, Asadbey, Ugurlubey, “Mansion of Haji Gulu”, “Residential complex of the Mehmandarovs”, Castle “Gara Buyukhanim”, Caravanserai of Mirsiyabov, “Heydar’s Turba”, Saatli Mosque, Walls of the Fortress and monuments of other historical places occupy a special place in the history of architectural culture of Azerbaijan due to their national diversity of forms. Preserving them and passing them on to future generations is one of the most important tasks [20, p. 34].

On the territory of Shusha there were 327 historical monuments per square kilometer. By decision of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR No. 280 of August 10, 1977, the city of Shusha was declared a historical and architectural reserve. According to this decision, 187 historical monuments, 549 ancient buildings, paved streets with a total length of 1203 meters, 18 surrounding springs, 15 mosques, 6 caravanserais, 3 tombs, 2 madrassas, 2 castles, 2 churches, fortress walls, 21 monuments created in Soviet times, 987 stone streets, 190 security zones, 9 fortress constellations, which are protected and restored in Shusha [37, pp. 262-263]. In Azerbaijan at the end of the 1980s, more than 6500 historical, archaeological

and architectural monuments were under state protection. Heydar Aliyev, a world-famous historical figure, a genius who values science, art and the creators of art, came to Shusha on January 12, 1979 and paid tribute to the graves of prominent historical figures of Shusha and examined historical monuments here. In the 70s of the 20th century, on the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, historical monuments of the city of Shushi were restored and new buildings were built. On January 14, 1982, Heydar Aliyev, together with more than 400 figures of literature, art and science of Azerbaijan, took part in the opening of the 20-meter mausoleum of M.P. Vagif. Then Heydar Aliyev examined the historical and cultural monuments of Shushi and gave the necessary instructions for the restoration of some monuments. In a short time, the house-museums of Uzeyir Hajibeyov and Bulbul were opened here, and a statue of Natavan was installed.

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During the period under review, the construction and restoration of historical monuments was successfully carried out in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. One of these structures was built in 1978 at the request of the Armenian population of Aghdara region. This monument was built on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the resettlement of Armenians to Aghdara. The numbers “1828-1978” and “150” are engraved on the monument in large size. However, since this monument shed light on some “dark issues”, in 1985 the Armenians began to destroy the monument, especially to remove the numbers.

In the 1970-1980s, the theater was one of the most popular means of cultural and educational work in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. At that time, the Khankendi Drama Theater named after M. Gorky operated in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Along with this theater, amateur drama clubs also operated in the regions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region.

The media network in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region also developed rapidly. In 1985, 8 newspapers were published in the

region with a circulation of 30 million copies. Of these, 6 were in Armenian, 1 in Azerbaijani and 1 in Russian [14, 1.7].

Thus, the late 1960s — early 1980s became an important period in the development of culture in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region of the Azerbaijan SSR. As a result of Heydar Aliyev's far-sighted policy, suitable opportunities opened up in Nagorno-Karabakh for the development of education, science, the press, literature and art. The moral wealth of the province and human resources have increased even more. Thanks to the care of our state, culture in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region has developed dynamically.

CHAPTER VIII

HEYDAR ALIYEV AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF KHANKENDI

From the history of the city of Khankendi. Khankendi is an ancient settlement of Azerbaijan, one of the 11 developed cities of republican subordination. The city of Khankendi is the last station of the Yevlakh-Khankendi branch of the Baku-Tbilisi railway, on the edge of the Yevlakh-Lachin-Nakhchivan road, on the banks of the Gargar River, at the eastern foot of the Karabakh ridge, 329 km from Baku. The climate is moderately hot. The average temperature is 0.20, in July 22.40, annual precipitation is 535 mm. Khankendi is one of the cities of Azerbaijan with a modern, developed industrial complex, transport and developed culture. In those years, in the city of Khankendi there were the Khankendi Pedagogical Institute, an institute for advanced training of teachers, an agricultural technical school, a medical school, 2 music, secondary, vocational, and children's art schools, a technical school, a historical and geographical museum, a drama theater, concert halls, and the Nagorno-Karabakh branch. Azerbaijan Writers' Union, Provincial Library, winter and summer libraries, palace of culture, sports ground, recreation park, recreation center, song and dance ensemble, shops, catering establishments and other cultural and community facilities. In Khankendi, regional newspapers were published in Armenian "Sovetakan Karabakh" ("Soviet Karabakh") and in Russian "Sovetsky Karabakh" ("Soviet Karabakh"), and a local radio studio operated [45, p. 49].

In Khankendi there were 8 hospitals with 800 beds, 35 child and maternity centers, 2 skin and venereal, tuberculosis dispensaries, a sanatorium-epidemiological station, 250 doctors, 550 medical workers, dozens of beautiful and tall administrative buildings. According to 1979 data, the population of Khankendi was 38948

people. According to the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, as of January 1, 2008, 53.1 thousand people lived in the city of Khankendi, and 1.8 thousand people lived in the village of Karkijahan [63, p. 45].

Administratively, the city of Khankendi includes the city of Khankendi and the village of Karkijahan. The territory of the city of Khankendi is 8 square kilometers. Khankendi is located at an altitude of 830 meters above sea level. As is known, the famous resort of Kislovodsk is also located at this altitude. In terms of its weather and climatic conditions, Khankendi can be compared with the most beautiful resorts in the world. However, it is very unfortunate that the city of Khankendi, subordinate to Azerbaijan, which has inexhaustible natural resources, large infrastructure, resort tourism resources and is a center of science and culture (coverage area of the city), was occupied by Armenia.

Material and cultural samples discovered during archaeological excavations in the mounds of Khankendi make it possible to find out that the region has an ancient history, the occupation of the population, what animals they hunted, types of crafts, what areas of crafts were developed, religious ideology, art, customs and traditions of the population, forms of government, etc. Stone sledgehammers, copper dagger tips, stone awls, arrowheads, bone tools, gold beads and pendants, ceramic samples, bones of various animals, etc. were found in the Khankendi mounds. The samples of materials and culture found here, first of all, testify to people's belief in an afterlife. According to their beliefs, a person does not die, he only changes his world and lives forever in the next world. As a person left this world and lived in the eternal world of the next world, he was provided with livestock, household implements, jewelry, clothing, weapons and other valuable things and these things were placed in his grave. Even during the period of population stratification, when the leaders of the clan died, one or two of his servants were killed and buried with him so that they would serve him in the next world. Thus, it will not be a mistake to say that the Khankendi mounds were a "treasure" for studying the past of the region.

From the material and cultural samples discovered in the Khankendi mounds, it became known that the people who lived here were engaged in various fields of agriculture, cattle breeding and crafts. New sectors of the economy, such as horticulture and vegetable growing, arose on the territory of Khankendi. Favorable natural and geographical conditions of Karabakh created conditions for the development of livestock farming. As a result of archaeological excavations, remains of barley, wheat and millet were discovered in household wells and jars, which indicates the development of grain farming. During this period, viticulture and winemaking appeared in the region.

Animal bones found in the mounds of Khankendi indicate the development of livestock farming here. The population was mainly engaged in breeding small cattle. Horse breeding also occupied an important place in the economy. The horse was used as a means of transportation and harness. The development of cattle breeding created conditions for increasing intertribal trade while meeting the population's needs for meat and dairy products. The development of sheep farming in the region expanded the production of woolen fabrics.

Stone sledgehammers, copper dagger tips, arrowheads, slings and bone tools found in Khankendi indicate the widespread use of metal, but the stone tools found prove that the art of stone processing was able to maintain its position to a certain extent. At the same time, all this allows us to say that in the Middle Bronze Age, hunting was a secondary occupation of the population of Khankendi. By the way, we also note that at that time the population hunted deer, goitered gazelles, wild boars, and kulans. Arrows, bows, spears, slings and traps were used during this period. Gold beads, ceramic samples, dagger tips, paintings of various contents on dishes and jewelry, geometric patterns, images of animals and plants in the mounds of Khankendi indicate the development of primitive art [68, p. 58].

Khankendi is an ancient settlement and one of the developed cities of Azerbaijan. The area of the city is 29,12 square kilometers,

the population is 53.1 thousand people. Currently it is occupied by the Armenian armed forces [30, 1.32; 43].

Oikonym Khankendi means “Khan’s village”. The name Khankendi can be found in other regions of Azerbaijan. Toponyms with the name “Khankendi” are available in Ismailli, Shamakhi, Gubadli and other regions [47, p. 238].

The famous city of Khankendi, which has developed rapidly in a short period of time, is considered one of the young cities of Azerbaijan. Unlike Nakhchivan, Ganja, Barda, Gabala, Darband, Sheki, Shamkir, Shabran, Baku, Shamakhi, Beylagan, Tabriz, Ardabil and other ancient Azerbaijani cities with thousands of years of history, Khankendi is considered a young city [67, p. 2]. Indeed, Khankendi is an ancient settlement of Azerbaijan, and primitive people lived here, as in other parts of Azerbaijan. Khankendi existed as a village consisting of several houses in later socio-economic formations. Research shows that at the end of the 18th century, the heads of the Karabakh Khanate — the khans — chose Khankendi as their place of residence for recreation. To create maximum conditions for the activities of the Khanate, the settlement was built 10 kilometers from Shusha, the capital of the Karabakh Khanate, relatively at the foot of the mountain. Ibrahimkhalil Khan’s choice of Khankendi as his personal mansion was due to the favorable natural and geographical conditions of the area. Of great importance in this was the flow of the river in the upper part of the village (Kerkijahan River), surrounded by dense forests, and most importantly, the proximity of such large settlements as Agdam, Khojaly, Malibeyli, Karkijahan, Shusha, Khalfali. Even thoroughbred horses and dairy cattle that belonged to Ibrahimkhalil Khan were kept in Khankendi. According to the records of Mirza Jamal Javanshir, 6 mansions remained from the late Ibrahim Khan, one of which is the construction of Khan Baghi (Khan’s Garden), not far from Shusha [48, p. 48]. In the first years, the khan’s family and his relatives lived in the new settlement, so it was popularly called “Khan kendi” (“Khan’s village”). After a short time, the newly built settlement received the name Khankendi [67, p. 35].

From the research conducted, it became known that in 1813 not a single Armenian or Russian family lived in Khankendi, but already in 1847 houses were registered in which 80 Armenian and 52 Russian families lived. Even an Armenian church was built in Khankendi at that time [21, 1.45]. After a large Russian regiment, the Sinja Regiment (“Polk Sinja”), was stationed in Khankendi in 1847, the development of the region became the focus of the tsarist government.

On September 18, 1923, the name of Khankendi, an ancient Azerbaijani settlement, was Armenianized by an ardent enemy and renamed Stepanakert in honor of Stepan Shahumyan. On October 6, the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan approved this decision. It should be noted that only 68 years later, in 1991, the historical name Khankendi was returned to itself. After this, the Armenian leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh prioritized the socio-economic development of Khankendi. The number of Armenians here was artificially increased. Thus, in Khankendi, 398 Azerbaijanis lived in 85 households, and 981 Armenians lived in 226 households [14, 1.5]. At the beginning of the 19th century, not a single Armenian lived here. In subsequent periods, the process of increasing the number of Armenians in Khankendi continued at a rapid pace.

Development of industry in Khankendi. The development of the regions of Azerbaijan has always been the focus of attention of national leader Heydar Aliyev during his leadership of our Republic. For the development of Nagorno-Karabakh, which has modern industry, diversified agriculture and a broad social structure, the republican administration allocated 483 million manats in 1971-1985, which is 2.8 times more than in the previous fifteen years [71, p. 23]. As a result of the research, it became known that over the past 20 years (1965-1985), the volume of fixed assets per capita has increased 4 times. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, fixed assets with a total value of 470 million manats, 15 industrial enterprises and other production areas were put into operation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [89, p. 44].

As a result of the research, it became known that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, when considering the volume of funds al-

located to the national economy of the regions of our Republic as a whole, after the cities of Baku and Sumgait, the volume of funds allocated to Khankendi was in 3rd place. However, in order to justify their unfounded territorial claims, win over public opinion and create an image of a traditional tormentor, the Armenian Dashnaks argued that the republican administration did not pay attention to the city of Khankendi and that economic development indicators in the city were at a lower level than in others cities. All this is nothing more than baseless nonsense. Because in those years, in terms of capital investments only per capita, the city of Khankendi was ahead of other cities in our republic.

It is worth noting just one fact: in 1923, capital investments for the construction of new industrial enterprises in Nagorno-Karabakh amounted to 1 million manats, while in the late 1960s — early 1980s, annual capital investments reached 30-35 million manats [72, p. 100]. Undoubtedly, 80% of these funds were directed to the development of industry in Khankendi. Because the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh had the “right” to do so.

In the 1970s and 1980s, industry developed dynamically in the city of Khankendi. According to statistics from the 1980s, 52 modern industrial enterprises operated in Nagorno-Karabakh, producing hundreds of types of products [89, p. 71]. In these years, industrial enterprises in Khankendi produced silk products, electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, capacitors, musical instruments, furniture, decor-ative signs and souvenirs, building materials, decorative tiles, shoes, construction goods, meat and dairy products, confectionery, and also produced flour products, cognac, alcohol, wine and other products. In the mid-1980s, in Nagorno-Karabakh, 35 types of industrial products were awarded the State Quality Mark, of which 26 were consumer goods. In 1983, the volume of industrial production in Khankendi increased by 912 times compared to 1923 [49, p. 42].

In the 70s and 80s of the twentieth century, 218 new industrial enterprises were put into operation in Azerbaijan, 15 of which were in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region [87]. One

of such enterprises created in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region is the Khankendi Shoe Factory named after the 50th anniversary of the USSR. The production enterprise, founded in 1970, was put into operation in 1972 [1, 1.16]. The Khankendi shoe factory project was developed in Kyiv on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev. Specialists from Baku, Mingachevir, Moscow, Krasnodar, Odessa, and Ganja took part in its construction and installation of equipment. The plant's workshops are equipped with machines and equipment imported from Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Moscow, Leningrad, Baku, Tbilisi, Odessa, Kursk, and Orel. If in the first years of operation the factory produced 8.4 thousand pairs of shoes, then in 1980 the production volume increased almost 5 times to 4 million 181 thousand, and in 1985 it reached 4 million 514 thousand [20, p. 21].

One of the industrial enterprises created in the region in the 70s of the twentieth century on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev is the Khankendi Construction Materials Plant. Marble blocks produced here were widely used in more than 160 cities of the former USSR. High-quality sawn stone, brick, facing tiles, marble blocks produced at the plant have gained fame throughout the Union. From year to year, the Khankendi Construction Materials Plant increased both production volumes and labor productivity. Only in 1982, compared to 1975, the volume of production increased by 5.5 times, and labor productivity by 3.5 times [59, p. 113].

In the 70s of the last century, based on local raw materials in the city of Khankendi, the volume of production of products from silk fabrics, a wide variety of knitwear, clothing and other finished products increased. At the same time, on the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, new branches of the "Karabakh Silk Factory" operating in the city of Khankendi, which was the second largest silk factory in Azerbaijan, were created [84, p. 92]. The silk mill was equipped with new equipment, and the amount of allocated funds was increased 3 times. As a result, production volume increased many times. It would be appropriate to mention only one fact: in 1975, compared to 1929, the production of the "Karabakh Silk Factory" increased

250 times [50, p. 315]. The volume of total production at the enterprise increased from year to year. Thus, in 1965-1970, the plant produced products worth 24.603 thousand manats, and in 1981-1985 it increased to 42.217 thousand manats [52, p. 146]. In the 1980s, the Karabakh Silk Factory produced 12 types of silk fabrics. The Karabakh silk factory produced 36 percent of the products of the Azerbaijani silk industry [87, p. 146]

The products produced here were known not only throughout the Union, but also in Japan, Italy, Hungary and other countries. The silk factory eliminated the shortage of raw materials by purchasing it from the states of Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and neighboring regions of Azerbaijan near Nagorno-Karabakh. About 3000 workers worked at the plant, of which 52 percent were women [82, p. 98]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, there was a dynamic development of the production of silk fabrics in the city of Khankendi. Thus, in the 1960s, the Karabakh silk factory produced 2259000 square meters of fabric, and in 1985 it increased to 16864000 square meters [87, p. 216].

The city of Khankendi was the second center of silk production in Azerbaijan. The city of Khankendi accounted for two-thirds of the light industry products of Nagorno-Karabakh and about 25 percent of the silk industry products of our republic [9, 1.29].

At that time, the Khankendi Electrical Engineering Plant occupied an important place in the city's industry. In the 1970s, another production building of the plant with an area of five thousand square meters was built and put into operation [58, p. 86]. While previously the plant only produced table fans and household heaters, the late 1970s saw significant progress in its product range. Already in the mid-1970s, the plant began producing modern electric lamps for lighting public buildings, household and medical buildings. In the early 1980s, the enterprise produced 14 types of products [72, p. 87]. In 1960-1970 production increased more than 32 times [24, 1.5]. In 1962, the plant produced products worth 212 thousand manats, and in 1985 this figure exceeded 25 million [79]. In the 80s, the Khankendi Electrotechnical Plant specialized in the

production of lamps. In 1976-1980 alone, labor productivity at the plant increased 4 times. The plant's products were successfully demonstrated at the Leipzig Fair along with other exhibits of Azerbaijan. Products manufactured at the plant were exported to all republics of the former USSR and 14 countries of the world [72, p. 86]. Residents of Moscow and Kyiv bought 30% of the products produced at the enterprise. In 1985, the number of clients of the Khankendi Electrical Engineering Plant reached 2500. Only in 1985, the Khankendi Electrical Engineering Plant exceeded the plan by 35% and produced 500 thousand manats more than planned [51, p. 179].

In 1971-1985, the Khankendi Electrical Engineering Plant was provided with new machines and equipment, and the process of comprehensive mechanization and automation of the enterprise was accelerated.

In the 70s of the 20th century, one of the industrial enterprises created in Khankendi on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev was the construction of a plant for the production of lamps for fluorescent lamps. This plant operated at the Khankendi Electrical Engineering Plant; its comprehensive mechanization created conditions for an annual increase in production. Thus, in 1970, the plant produced 474 thousand units of lamps, in 1980 this number reached 780 thousand, and in 1985 it increased 2.1 times and reached 1 million 19 thousand units [89, p. 165].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, one of the dynamically developing industries in the city of Khankendi of the Azerbaijan SSR was the wine industry. In those years, 5 new wineries were built and put into operation in Nagorno-Karabakh [49, p. 40]. Our state has fully carried out the work on electrification and mechanization of winemaking enterprises built in Nagorno-Karabakh, provided them with new machines, equipment, devices based on the application of scientific and technical achievements here. As a result, the plant increased its production volume and began to produce high-quality products that meet international standards. In 1985, wine production at the Khankendi factories increased

4.5 times compared to 1960 [86, p. 71]. And cognac production increased in 1980 almost 5 times compared to 1960 [72, p. 19]. The material and technical base of viticulture and winemaking in the region had been strengthened and developed every year. High-quality products produced in the city of Khankendi were exported to 15 republics of the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and other countries. In the 1980s, in general, the wine processing enterprises of Nagorno-Karabakh provided 12-17 percent of the total output of the wine industry of Azerbaijan [49, p. 84].

In the 70s of the 20th century, one of the newly created industrial enterprises of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was the Karabakh Brewery. This plant, whose foundation was laid in 1969, was built very quickly and went into operation in 1970. In 1971, the plant produced 171 thousand deciliters of products, and in 1980 — 205 thousand deciliters [89, p. 121].

At that time, Nagorno-Karabakh was seeing great progress in the development of 5 local production complexes of local industry. Among them, especially noteworthy is the name of the Shusha Factory of Oriental Musical Instruments, the only one in Azerbaijan operating in Shusha. Musical instruments produced at the plant were exported to Central Asia, as well as to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries [89, p. 39].

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In the late 1960s and early 1980s, large reserves of marble, tuff, granite, felisite, limestone and other valuable and rare building materials were discovered in the mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh. In 1976-1985 new industrial quarries were opened in the region [89, p. 137].

In the early 1980s, a conveyor with a production capacity of 50 thousand square meters was launched at the Khankendi building materials plant. In 1985, the plant's output increased by 3.5 times compared to 1980 [72, p. 98]. 30 new modern stone-cutting machines worked in the marble and stone quarries of Nagorno-Karabakh. Marble, felisite, granite facing tiles produced here were sent to hundreds of cities of the former USSR.

The forests of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan are rich in beech and thick-leaved tree species. Since ancient times, various household items have been made from the firewood of these precious and unique trees. The furniture workshop, which began in 1928 as a small workshop in Khankendi, later turned into a large factory. In the 1960s, a large furniture factory equipped with modern equipment was put into operation in Khankendi. In the 1970s, several branches of this plant were created. The Khankendi furniture factory was known as a large specialized enterprise in the former Soviet Union. The products produced here — furniture, tables, chairs, armchairs, beds, cabinets, sideboards, rugs, household items and other products — were sold in the territories of the former union and brought high income to the company. The enterprise's production volume increased from year to year at a high rate. Compared to 1960, the plant's production volume in 1985 increased 5.9 times [13, l. 4].

At the direction of Heydar Aliyev, one of the developing industries in the city of Khankendi of the Azerbaijan SSR in the late 1960s — early 1980s was the garment factory named after M. Azizbekov. In the 1970s, additional buildings were built at the garment factory, and old machines were replaced with new ones. The functioning of such a plant in Khankendi and providing it with the necessary conditions was the result of the great care shown by National Leader Heydar Aliyev to the region. Because hundreds of people worked at this enterprise, and they were provided with the necessary wages. The products manufactured by the factory were very popular not only in our republic and in the territory of the former USSR, but even outside the Union. The production volume at

the factory increased from year to year. Thus, in 1975, the volume of total production at the factory was 91.6%, and in 1985 — 121.8% [57, p. 95].

Carpet weaving was an ancient and beloved art of Karabakh women. The secrets of this delicate art were carefully guarded and passed on from generation to generation. In the 1970s, new branches of the carpet weaving factory were established in areas of the Karabakh region where Armenians lived more concentratedly. The carpet weaving factories of the city of Khankendi were equipped with new machines and equipment. The carpets produced here have gained fame in the former USSR, England, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, the Arab Republic of Egypt and other foreign countries due to their original and beautiful patterns, excellent creative style and exceptional durability. Carpets produced in Khankendi were sold on world markets at very high prices and brought large profits to the provincial budget. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 90 percent of the carpets produced at the Khankendi carpet factory were produced with a quality mark [77]. Also in the mentioned years there was a large increase in carpet production. Thus, in 1985, compared to 1970, production at the Khankendi carpet factory increased by 35% [79].

One of the industrial sites built in the region in the late 1960s — early 1980s was the new cheese shop of the Khankendi dairy plant. At that time, all the workshops of the dairy plant operating in Khankendi were equipped with new automatic devices and the workshops were mechanized. Compared to 1960, in 1970 the amount of funds allocated for the construction and reconstruction of the Khankendi dairy plant was 52.4% more. As a result of the care shown by our state and its head Heydar Aliyev, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the city of Khankendi experienced a huge increase in the production of milk and dairy products, cheeses, fatty cheeses and butter. Thus, in 1988, compared to 1968, the production volume at the Khankendi Milk and Milk Products Combine plant increased almost 3 times [71, p. 61].

The only workshop in the republic for the production of dry whey operated at the dairy plant in the city of Khankendi. Equipment

purchased by our state from abroad was installed in this workshop. In terms of the level of production of milk and dairy products per capita, the city of Khankendi occupied one of the first places among the cities of the Azerbaijan SSR. The products produced here not only satisfied the needs of the local population, but were also sent to Armenia and other regions of the Union [31, 1.5].

The Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan is rich in construction raw materials. Therefore, various branches of the building materials industry based on local raw materials were created and developed here. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, new lime, sawmills, brick and ceramic workshops were created on the territory of Khankendi [27, 1.8], and rapid development of enterprises equipped with the necessary and modern equipment was observed. Thus, compared to 1960, the production of lumber increased in 1985 by 4 times, lime by 1.4 times, and brick by 6 times. All this gave a powerful impetus to the expansion of construction and improvement works in the city of Khankendi [54, p. 22].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, mills for the production of flour and flour products, confectionery shops, meat plants, sausage shops and other enterprises were built and put into operation in the city of Khankendi.

The development of energy-intensive sectors required an increase in electricity production in Azerbaijan. In the 70s of the 20th century, based on the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, important work was carried out to fully supply the region with electricity. The supply of electricity to Nagorno-Karabakh from the Mingachevir hydroelectric power station via the Agdam-Khankendi high-voltage power transmission line was increased. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, electricity production in Nagorno-Karabakh increased by more than 46.3 times. Thus, in 1970, the production of electrical energy in the region reached 1.6 million kilowatt-hours, in 1980 this number increased to 45.9 million kilowatt-hours, and in 1985, thanks to dynamic construction, it increased to 74.1 million kilowatt-hours. As a result of the research, it is known that the city of Khankendi took first place among the entire republic in terms of the amount of

electricity per capita. Let us note just one fact: in 1985, electricity production in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic reached 69.1 million kilowatt-hours. From the studies conducted, it is known that in 1985, in the cities of Nakhchivan, Barda, Ganja, Terter, Agdam, 237 kilowatt-hours of electricity were consumed per person, and in the city of Khankendi this figure was twice as much. All this gave a powerful impetus to the development of energy-intensive areas, especially industry, and the improvement of the material well-being of the population of the city of Khankendi [64, p. 49].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the republic's administration implemented special measures to develop the region's energy industry and built a high-voltage power transmission line with a length of 1,300 kilometers. Nagorno-Karabakh is the only region in Azerbaijan with tripartite electricity supply. Such a supply ensures a more reliable power supply to the region [72, p. 80].

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the construction of energy facilities in Nagorno-Karabakh gained momentum. The Sarsang hydroelectric power station not only produces enough electricity, but this complex hydraulic facility had the ability to irrigate new crops and perennial crops on 120 thousand hectares of the Karabakh plain. By the way, we also note that the 130-meter spillway dam of the Sarsang reservoir is one of the highest dams in the world. The Sarsang hydroelectric power station, which annually produces 125 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, was included in the unified energy system of Transcaucasia [87].

Thus, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, as a result of the personal initiative and persistent activity of the head of our Republic, Heydar Aliyev, the industry of the city of Khankendi of the Azerbaijan SSR developed extremely quickly and dynamically. Khankendi's industry grew by 249 percent in 1980 and by 300 percent in 1985 compared to 1970 [71, p. 58].

As a result of the research, it was established that in these years the industrial indicators of Khankendi were superior to other cities of our Republic. Over 15 years, the industry of Khankendi in terms of production growth exceeded the republican level by 3 times [82,

p. 103]. At the end of 1985, the value of industrial production funds in Khankendi increased by 55.6 percent compared to 1980, which is 46.5 percent more than the figure for the republic as a whole. In 1985, Khankendi's industry employed more than 50 times more people than in 1923, of whom 52 percent were women. In terms of the number of industrial workers per 10 thousand people, the city of Khankendi was almost 2 times larger than Nakhchivan, Barda, Agdam, Shemakha, Fuzuli and other cities. In terms of industrial employment, the city of Khankendi was second only to the cities of Baku and Sumgait. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the basis of the industrial complex of the city of Khankendi was electrical engineering, sericulture, mechanical engineering, electric power, production of building materials, textiles, furniture, footwear, meat and dairy and other successfully developing industries [25, 1.6].

In the years under study, the level of employment of the population of the city of Khankendi in public production was quite high. The employment structure of the population gradually improved. The rapid development of the city of Khankendi, the creation of industrial enterprises, their branches, workshops, the increase in the number of people working at home, as well as measures taken by the leadership of the republic in other areas, ensured the employment of the working population in the city more efficiently and fully. The result of this was that in 1985, the average per capita income of the population of the city of Khankendi amounted to more than 1113.5 manats, which is 97.8 manats more than in the entire republic and 170.4 manats more than in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic [64, p. 128]. There are thousands of objective studies and convincing facts about the development of the city of Khankendi. Probably, the Armenian lobby, trying to falsify our history, either does not know the above historical facts or deliberately falsifies them.

World politician Heydar Aliyev, in one of his speeches, expressed his attitude towards the development of industry in the late 1960s — early 1980s: “In the late 1960s — early 1980s, industry in Azerbaijan developed dynamically. Over these years, 213 new large industrial enterprises were commissioned, more than 250 large plants, factories

and production workshops were built, labor productivity in industry increased by 2.1 times, production by 3.3 times, profit by 3.2 times, the provision of industrial and production personnel with funds increased 1.4 times, 451 products were awarded the state quality mark. Industrial products produced in our country were exported to 65 countries around the world, and the material well-being of our people improved significantly [64, p. 128].

Social structure, welfare and lifestyle of the population. In comparison with other cities of Azerbaijan, the allocation of a large amount of financial resources to the city of Khankendi, analysis of the socio-economic situation in the city based on sources, that it is higher than other cities, to prove the falsity of the thesis of the Armenian ideologists “On the backwardness of the welfare and lifestyle of the Armenian population living in the city of Khankendi”, based on research, based on archival documents and works of Armenian authors, to prove the fact that the concept of “economic development of Khankendi” is connected with Armenia” is fake and is one of the most important problems of our time.

Although Khankendi was built as a recreation center for the Karabakh khans, in the 20th century the city began to develop as a new industrial and cultural center of Azerbaijan. At that time, this development received great support from the resources of the entire Azerbaijan Republic. For this reason, the economic, political and cultural development of the city of Khankendi began to proceed faster than in other cities of Azerbaijan. Referring to the studies of G.M. Babayan, M.A. Gasparyan, B.S. Gevorkov and other Armenian authors, we can say that during the years of Soviet power the city of Khankendi grew rapidly, and the population increased approximately 20 times. Thus, in the city of Khankendi in 1926 there lived 3.2 thousand people, and in 1985 — 60 thousand [55, p. 72]. In the 1920-1970s, this figure in Shusha, the ancient cultural center of Azerbaijan, increased approximately 1.4 times (from 5.1 thousand to 7.3 thousand), and in Khojaly — 1.3 times [64, p. 69].

World-famous travelers and writers Boris Lapin and Zakhar Khatsrev came to Azerbaijan in 1937 and visited Karabakh. Their

opinion about the city of Khankendi attracts more attention. Thus, from an essay published about the city of Khankendi in the magazine «Новый мир» (“New World”), we read: “Khankendi resembles the character of the humble, simple and brave mountains of Karabakh. The streets seem hidden in the tree branches... The interior of the houses is clean. Khankendi is a beautiful city. Life in the city is fun and prosperous. The population is studying, every 2-3 passers-by are schoolchildren, students or course participants. People living here always try to fulfill their desires... [55, p. 72].

Despite the small “age” of the city, in a short period of time it stood on a par with the large cities of Azerbaijan. The city of Khankendi, located approximately 830 meters above sea level, is, in the figurative expression of Marietta Shahinyan, an “oxygen plant”. The city is characterized by unique climatic conditions, sharp changes in pressure and temperature. The entire city of Khankendi is surrounded by greenery. Cypresses, poplars, dols, lindens, mulberries, pines and beautiful pines, planted here from the shores of the Black Sea, decorate the appearance of the city and delight everyone who sees it.

During the period before the beginning of 1970, the volume of production per capita increased throughout the republic by 140.5 percent, and in the city of Khankendi — by 250 percent. Also, the volume of industrial production was 229 percent in the whole of the republic, 281 percent in the city of Khankendi, the growth of capital costs was 219 percent in the whole of the republic, 417 percent in the city of Khankendi, the volume of trade turnover was 240 percent in the whole of the republic, 279 percent in in the city of Khankendi, consumer services — 540 percent throughout the republic; in the city of Khankendi there was an increase of 550 percent [7, 1.21].

At the same time, in the 20-60s of the last century, the Armenian leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh consciously treated the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis as their stepfather; social facilities were practically not built in any village, as a result of which dozens of Azerbaijani villages were devastated and destroyed. In 1945-1960, the material standard of living of Azerbaijanis living in Nagorno-

Karabakh continued to remain low. The wages they received were below the subsistence level.

The economic growth of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in the late 1960s and early 1980s created the conditions for further improvements in the well-being and daily life of the population. Let us note just one fact: during 1965-1985, the total volume of production on collective farms, state farms and private farms in the region more than doubled, and real per capita income increased by more than 81 percent [81]. The average monthly wage of workers and employees increased 1.4 times in the 1970s and 1.3 times in the 1980s. One of the main sources of increasing the real income of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh was the consistent increase in wages. Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, at the congresses of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the plenums of the Central Committee, specific tasks were put forward for the economic, social and cultural development of our republic, including its integral part — Karabakh, and organizational measures were identified to further improve the well-being and daily life of the population.

Our research shows that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, income from personal farms of both collective farmers and workers and employees in Nagorno-Karabakh increased significantly. It is interesting that in these years, income from private farmsteads in the region remained high both at the level of the entire union and at the level of the entire republic. As a result of the research, it became known that in 1970, collective farmers in the territory of the former USSR received 31.9 percent of the total income from their personal farms. In 1975, this figure was 26.3 percent, in 1980 — 30 percent. This figure for the republic as a whole was 32 percent in 1970, 43.9 percent in 1975 and 45 percent in 1980. In the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, this figure was 34 percent in 1970 and 44.7 percent in 1975, 46.4 percent in 1980 [44, p. 51]. This fact once again proved the concern of the republic's leadership for the population of the region. During the period under review, at the level of the entire republic, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, where

Armenians were more concentrated, high indicators were achieved in other sectors.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the volume of payments and benefits provided to the population in public consumption funds in Khankendi increased threefold [11, 1.2]. During these years, material assistance to the elderly, disabled people, temporarily unable to work, labor and war veterans, families with children who have lost the head of the family, and single mothers increased from year to year. In 1970-1980, as a result of important measures taken by our state, the amount of pensions paid to the population increased by 4.4 times, and the amount of benefits by 3.3 times [46, p. 32].

In 1980, the number of pensioners per 10000 population in Khankendi was higher than the national level (14 percent) or compared to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (12 percent). These differences were also observed in the amounts of allocated pensions. However, the Council of People's Deputies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region very skillfully used its "powers in the field of social security" [4, 1. 2]. When assigning local and trade union pensions, the regional department of social protection took a dual position; the conclusion of the medical labor examination on real sick Azerbaijanis was always negative. As for the pension level, the most seriously ill Azerbaijanis were assigned III degree, and persons of Armenian nationality — I degree, even if they were mildly ill. Within the same institution, there were large differences in age distributions between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. In general, persons of Azerbaijani nationality in the city of Khankendi have always been subject to harassment by Armenian nationalists in the field of social security.

The improvement in the financial well-being of the region's population in the years we studied can be judged by the number of depositors in the savings banks of the region's residents, as well as the increase in the number of deposits and savings banks [83].

In 1966-1980, despite the repeated increase in deposits in savings banks in Khankendi, Aghdara, Khojavend and Hadrut districts of Karabakh, this figure decreased in the Shusha region, where Azer-

baijanis were more concentrated. For example, in those years, the savings of rural workers in the Khankendi region increased from 9 million to 14 million manats, and in the Shusha region they decreased from 9 million manats to 2.5 million manats [71, p. 28]. This fact itself shows that Azerbaijanis living in the region were treated like stepfathers, and their social status was low.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, one of the important measures implemented in the city of Khankendi was to create a match between the consumer demand of the population living here and the supply, as well as to fully satisfy the population's demand for food and non-food products. The increase in the purchasing power of the population in the city of Khankendi, the relative development of the production of consumer goods, trade and public catering led to an increase in trade turnover in the city. In 1971-1981, on the territory of Khankendi, using allocated funds, 166 new trade and public catering enterprises were built and put into operation for citizens [15, l. 190].

In 1971-1985, the turnover of retail goods, including public catering, in state and cooperative trade in Khankendi doubled. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, although there were well-organized commercial enterprises in Khankendi providing comprehensive cultural services to the population, there were still shortcomings in this area. Thus, it was found that goods were not distributed properly by regional trading organizations; in villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis, there were not enough trade goods, and the level of trade and public catering in these villages was significantly lower. Most of the goods sent by the central trading enterprises of the region to Shusha and villages populated by Azerbaijanis were of low quality and did not satisfy the needs of the population. A dual position in the nomenclature of enterprises and organizations of trade and public catering subordinate to the province has been revealed. Existing stores in the villages where Azerbaijanis lived in the region were not equipped with refrigerators and other technological equipment. The Khankendi trade department, regional party and Soviet organizations did not try to eliminate these shortcomings and did not take effective measures.

Public catering establishments were of great importance in improving the cultural and living conditions of the population of Khankendi. In the 1970-1980s, special attention was paid to the creation of new canteens, restaurants, factory kitchens, snack bars and buffets in the city of Khankendi [39, 1.4]. During this period, existing facilities were rebuilt and overhauled. When considering the process of locating public catering establishments, it turns out that here, too, the Armenian leadership has taken a biased position. For example, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the location of public catering establishments and the volume of services increased by more than 2.5 times in Khankendi, Khojavend, Hadrut, Aghdara districts, and in the Shusha district this growth reached 1.9 times [38, 1.4]. The largest public catering enterprises were created in the city of Khankendi. According to 1975 data, out of 69 million 394 thousand manats of trade turnover in Nagorno-Karabakh, 27 million 767 thousand manats were accounted for by trading enterprises in Khankendi [74, p. 96].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, as a result of the tutelage of Heydar Aliyev, public catering and cultural services for the population developed dynamically. Based on the study, it was established that the volume of household services per resident of the city of Khankendi was 13 manats in 1966-1970, this figure increased to 18 manats in 1971-1975 and 25 manats in 1976-1980. These indicators significantly exceed the national level. So, if in 1981-1989 the volume of household services per capita in the republic as a whole was 20-30 manats, then in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic it reached 15-21 manats, and in the city of Khankendi — 31-41 manats. As for the number of consumer service workshops per 10 thousand people, this figure was 15-17 workshops throughout the republic in 1981-1986, 21 workshops in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 29-32 workshops in the city of Khankendi [41, 1. 4].

According to our research, about 60 percent of workers in commercial enterprises in Khankendi were women. The average monthly wage of workers in public catering and trade enterprises increased in 1975 to 87 manats against 67 manats in 1965 [16, 1.9]. The disci-

minatory policy of the provincial administration manifested itself here too. From the study it became clear that Armenians make up almost 95 percent of the employees of commercial enterprises in the city of Khankendi.

Heydar Aliyev, always focused on the development of the region, filled the markets with a variety of products to raise the standard of living of the population of the city of Khankendi and satisfy its growing demand. Even in 1986, the volume of trade turnover in Khankendi increased by 5.1 times compared to 1966. However, this figure turned out to be 4.6 times throughout the republic. During this period, the rate of development of trade turnover per capita was 2.7 times in the republic, in the city of Khankendi of Azerbaijan — 3.7 times [89]. In those years, in Azerbaijan, the retail space per 10 thousand people in stores increased by 1.9 times, and in the city of Khankendi, which is part of it, by 2.6 times. Also in 1949, the number of places per 10 thousand people in public catering establishments in our republic decreased to 731, while in Khankendi it reached 805 [40, l. 27].

Thanks to the care of Heydar Aliyev, housing construction in Khankendi grew rapidly in the late 1960s and early 1980s. First of all, housing and communal services and improvement of the city of Khankendi were developed, the volume of capital investments for the comprehensive development of housing and communal services was increased. In 1971-1985, 185 million manats were allocated. The area of housing construction was characterized by an ascending line. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, new comfortable apartments with a total area of 328.5 thousand square meters were put into operation in the city of Khankendi at the expense of all financial sources [71, p. 31].

Our research shows that local raw materials were also used during construction in Khankendi. Thanks to the funds allocated by the leadership of the republic, the construction industry in the region developed rapidly. As a result of the study, it became known that the Nagorno-Karabakh economic region in our republic accounts for 15 percent of facing stone, 30 percent of building stone, 10 percent of

saw stone, 10 percent of industrially important clay. The Khankendi building materials plant, sand and gravel, stone and marble quarries, and a brick factory played a major role in this area. Thanks to the care of Heydar Aliyev, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, new microdistricts, settlements, and multi-storey residential buildings were built in the city of Khankendi. As a result of the study, it became known that achievements in the field of housing construction in the city of Khankendi in the late 1960s — early 1980s were higher than in all cities of our republic. For example, in the city of Khankendi, the housing provision per resident reached 14.6 square meters, while in our republic this figure was 10.0 square meters, and in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 9.5 square meters [69]. In addition, the level of improvement of private housing stock in urban areas was 137.8 percent in the republic, 107.4 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan and 167.5 percent in the city of Khankendi [78].

In general, during the period under review, 1 million 400 thousand square meters of housing were built in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. As a result, more than 12 thousand people improved their living conditions. From our research it became known that if during the period under review the housing area per inhabitant was 14.9 square meters in the territory of the former USSR, in the Armenian SSR — 13.7 square meters, in the Azerbaijan SSR — 10.9 square meters and in the city of Baku — 11.7 square meters, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 9.5 square meters, but in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan this figure reached 14.6 square meters [35, 1. 7]. Restrictions on individual housing construction have been lifted, favorable conditions for lending have been created, and construction work has accelerated.

Sustainable supply of fuel to the regions has always been the focus of Heydar Aliyev's attention. In particular, one of the important events of that period was the gasification of Nagorno-Karabakh and the city of Khankendi. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, an improvement in the cultural and living conditions of the population of the city of Khankendi can be seen in the implementation of gasification

work here. On December 30, 1978, the Yevlakh-Khanken-di gas pipeline was opened. Part of this 107 km long pipeline was built in the mountains under difficult conditions. At the end of the 1970s, the Yevlakh, Khankendi-Gorus-Nakhchivan gas pipelines were built and put into operation. The construction of these gas pipelines was considered an event of great importance for the residents of Khankendi. Because after the construction of these gas pipelines, work on gasification of the city territory accelerated. In total, in 1980, 2,100 apartments in the city of Khankendi and 300 apartments in the city of Shusha were gasified. In 1981, 35 thousand apartments were supplied with gas in the cities and villages of Upper Karabakh. In the 1980s, gasification in the city of Khankendi doubled compared to the 1970s. The tasks of gasification of apartments in the city of Khankendi have been completed. The number of gasified apartments here increased by 4.3 times in the late 1960s — early 1980s [72, p. 80]. Already in 1986, the city of Khankendi was 100 percent supplied with gas. However, this figure for the republic as a whole was equal to 96.2 percent [35, l. 7].

At that time, the leadership of Azerbaijan also paid special attention to the issue of water supply to the city of Khankendi. It is no coincidence that the issue of drinking water supply to the city of Khankendi was completely resolved in the 1970s [37, l.96]. During this period, water supply to apartments of Khankendi residents was 2 times higher than the republican level. According to 1986 data, the percentage of improvement of the water supply system was 30.5 percent throughout the republic, 7.4 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 45.5 percent in the city of Khankendi [62]. In terms of sewerage supply to cities, the city of Khankendi exceeded the level of the entire republic by 2 times.

The leadership of the republic has implemented all the necessary measures to improve the city of Khankendi, construct streets and parks, reconstruct, repair and update public utilities. In the 1970s, 2 million 611 thousand manats were spent only on landscaping, construction of parks, laying lighting and heating lines in the city [80]. Along with all the above successes in housing construction, in the

mentioned years, some shortcomings also emerged in the region. In villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis, the housing problem was still acute. But the Armenian leadership of Upper Karabakh informed the Center that the housing problem has been completely resolved. The quality of construction work in villages populated to varying degrees by Azerbaijanis was at a very low level. In most of the villages of Nagorno-Karabakh, where Azerbaijanis lived, there were no economic facilities. And in existing institutions the quality of service was low. Although all villages inhabited by Armenians were supplied with gas, there was still no gas in villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis. However, according to the center, these villages were “gasified” It should also be noted that the Council of People’s Deputies of Nagorno-Karabakh had the rights to manage construction work in the region, and they used these rights very “effectively” and specifically “forgot” about the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis. The goal was to create favorable conditions for the migration of Azerbaijanis in order to realize their vile intentions in the future.

The city of Khankendi also took important measures in the field of road construction, transport and communications. First of all, the amount of funds invested in the city of Khankendi for the development of a network of on-farm, regional, national and republican highways, construction, repair and maintenance of new roads has increased from year to year. Using the allocated funds, new asphalt roads were built in the city of Khankendi.

In the 70s of the 20th century, on the personal initiative of Heydar Aliyev, the construction of the Agdam-Khankendi railway, connecting Baku with Khankendi, began. On January 12, 1979, this 26-kilometer railway was put into operation [59, p. 95]. In those years, the volume of freight traffic in the city of Khankendi increased from year to year.

By the way, we note that in 1985 the fleet of trucks in the city of Khankendi doubled. At the level of the entire republic, this figure was 1.7 times [71]. As a result of the continuous development of the national economy, continuous cultural services, and the prevention of downtime, road transport in the city has received further

development. The development of road transport in the city of Khankendi can be judged by the fact that there were 17.5 cars per 1000 residents of Azerbaijan, while in the city of Khankendi — 26.5 cars, and in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 17 cars [32, p. 26]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the volume of road transport throughout the republic increased by 3.6 times, and in the city of Khankendi — by 4.8 times [12, l.28]. In addition, the volume of passenger transportation by car increased by 2.2 times throughout the republic, in the city of Khankendi by 2.6 times, by taxi throughout the republic by 2.4 times, and in the city of Khankendi by 4.2 times [12, l.28]. From the studies conducted, it is known that the density of bus routes in the city of Khankendi was 2.6 times higher than the average level for the republic. If in the late 1960s — early 1980s the length of bus routes in the city of Khankendi increased by 8.2 percent, then in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic this figure increased by 4.5 percent, and at the level of the entire republic — by 4.8 percent [33, l.131].

The progress of air transport in Nagorno-Karabakh also attracted attention in the 1980s. In 1980-1986, the volume of passenger traffic by air increased significantly. If in 1980 8 thousand passengers were transported by air in the region, then in 1985 — 9 thousand. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, transportation facilities developed dynamically in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the city of Khankendi, a railway line with all types of economic facilities was put into operation. At the same time, there was also a marked development in air transport. During these years, improved paved roads were built connecting the regional centers of the region with the highways of the republic.

The development of communications in the city of Khankendi was one of the main issues that Heydar Aliyev had in mind during this period. On his instructions, long-term loans in the amount of 329 thousand manats were allocated for the development of communications in the city of Khankendi in the 1970s [59, p. 124]. In 1970-1982, 4519 telephone sets were delivered to the region. In 1970-1979, the rate of development of fixed assets and investments in the field of communications in Khankendi increased twice as much

as in the republic. In the mid-1980s, the volume of communications products per capita was 21 manats throughout the republic, and in the city of Khankendi — 29.5 manats [82, p. 143]. The number of telephones has almost doubled. According to estimates, in 1985 in Khankendi there were 12.4 telephones per 100 people. At the republic level, this figure was 7.9. Also in the city of Khankendi, the provision of families with apartment telephones reached 42.4 percent. In the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic this figure was 30.1 percent [69], and at the level of the entire republic — 31.1 percent. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the number of long-distance telephone calls in the city of Khankendi doubled. As a result of the development of long-distance telephone communications, the number of long-distance telephone calls per capita amounted to 4.15 percent in the republic and 7.69 percent in the city of Khankendi [14, l. 189].

The laying of the radiotelephone line expanded year by year. The construction of the Baku-Shusha and Shusha-Nakhchivan radiotelephone lines gave a powerful impetus to the development of radio broadcasting in Khankendi. In the 1980s, the commissioning of a television studio in Khankendi allowed residents of Nagorno-Karabakh to watch programs from Moscow and republican television.

During the period under review, mail, telegraph, radio and other means of communication developed at great speed in the city of Khankendi. With the exception of most of the villages where Azerbaijanis lived, the cities, districts, towns and villages of Nagorno-Karabakh were completely radio-connected, and communications have increasingly penetrated into everyday life.

Based on the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, important measures were taken to protect the health of the population of Khankendi. Thus, in order to strengthen the material and technical base of the healthcare system of the city of Khankendi, develop the healthcare management network and protect the health of the population, investments increased from year to year. In 1970-1975, the amount of funds allocated from the budget for healthcare in the region reached 8 million 111 thousand, in 1976-1980 — 9 million 818 thousand, and in 1981-1985 — 11 million 760 thousand manats [88].

From the research conducted, it became known that the funds allocated for healthcare in Khankendi were twice as high as the funds allocated both in the republic and in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Thanks to the allocated funds, treatment and preventive institutions in the city of Khankendi were significantly expanded. Medical care for public health has been enhanced, and the number of doctors and medical personnel in medical institutions has increased significantly. So, in those years, specialists with higher and secondary education were sent to Khankendi. New institutions providing outpatient care to the population were built and put into operation. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the city's medical institutions were equipped with all types of medical equipment, new women's and children's consultations and clinics were built. Khankendi health departments were provided with medicines, medical materials and equipment [8, 1.28].

As of January 1984, in Khankendi there were 9 hospitals with 900 beds, 2 dispensaries (dermal and venereal tuberculosis), a sanitary and epidemiological station, 250 doctors, 600 mid-level medical workers [39, 1.3]. Research shows that approximately a third of all hospitals in Nagorno-Karabakh, one of two beds, one of two doctors and one third of mid-level medical workers operated in Khankendi. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, X-ray rooms, physiotherapy rooms and laboratories equipped with advanced and modern equipment were created in the city of Khankendi, and the number of treatment and preventive departments doubled. A skin and venereal dispensary, a tuberculosis and oncology dispensary, a health education center, a regional sanitary-epidemiological station, a blood transfusion station, and other clinics and outpatient clinics were opened here. The result of all this was that infectious diseases were eradicated in the city of Khankendi, dysentery and brucellosis significantly decreased. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the city of Khankendi was superior in terms of provision of the population with hospital beds, medical personnel of all specialties and in other areas, both at the level of the entire republic and in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. For example, in 1985, the number of beds per 10 thousand people was 97.8

in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 94.6 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and 104.6 in Khankendi. Based on the calculation for ten thousand people, the provision of medical workers was 93.8 in the republic as a whole, 80.1 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 126.3 in Khankendi. In the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic there were 26.2 medical workers with higher education per ten thousand people, in the city of Khankendi — 28.9 people. From the studies conducted, it became known that in the city of Khankendi, unlike all sectors of the national economy, women accounted for 81 percent of medical workers [10, 1.17; 39, 1.3].

Although the health measures implemented in Khankendi were assessed as good, some shortcomings were also evident. Thus, the work of health care in the villages of Nagorno-Karabakh populated by Azerbaijanis was in a very deplorable state. In those villages there were not only no clinics, no hospitals, not even a primary outpatient clinic. The few medical centers left from the past fell into disrepair due to neglect and were not provided with either medical equipment or medicines.

The Karabakh region of Azerbaijan has rich natural beauty. Nagorno-Karabakh became famous for its sanatoriums, rest houses, multistorey buildings, and medical places. There were 6 sanatoriums and recreation centers here, a 2,000-person sanatorium. In this regard, the city of Shusha, which is one of the most beautiful health resorts in the country, is of great importance. Every shift, 650-700 people rested at the Shusha sanatorium-resort complex. The Shusha resort was compared to the Swedish resort Davos. In 1975, the Shusha recreation center began to function as a sanatorium of all-Union significance. Thousands of people from all over the world came to Shusha for rest and treatment. In 1980 alone, 8 thousand people rested and were treated in the Shusha sanatorium. Among those treated were patients diagnosed with chronic bronchitis, catarrh of the upper respiratory tract, the initial form of pulmonary emphysema, the initial form of bronchial asthma, pleurisy, anemia, nervous diseases, severe fatigue, acute infectious diseases, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular diseases, inflammation of the bronchi and

other patients. The Turshsu spring was of particular importance in protecting the health of the population of the city of Khankendi. The clean air of Nagorno-Karabakh, the purest water, endless forests, mountain rivers and springs that bring coolness and freshness have determined the long life of the people living here. In 1970, 239 people lived in Nagorno-Karabakh for more than 100 years, and in 1979 — 280 people, of which more than 70 percent were women. In general, the average life expectancy in Karabakh during this period was 75 years [82, p. 19].

In the city of Khankendi, a large amount of funds was allocated to strengthen and develop the material and technical base of physical education and sports. The number of sports facilities in the city increased in 1985 compared to 1970 by 5.5 times [2, 1.16].

In these years, a new stadium, sports grounds, volleyball, basketball, tennis courts, and two swimming pools were built and handed over to athletes [42, p. 22]. As a result of the research, it became known that in terms of the number of stadiums and fields per capita, the city of Khankendi stood in high positions, both at the level of the entire republic and in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic [25, 1.4].

Physical education and sports groups of the city of Khankendi were provided with the necessary equipment and supplies, and the material and technical base for physical education and sports was strengthened. As a result, in 1971-1985, the number of athletes who received ranks in the city of Khankendi increased more than 3 times [76].

In the 1970-1980s, the population of the Upper Karabakh region of the Azerbaijan SSR increased from 150.3 thousand to 182.4 thousand people. The natural increase per thousand people decreased from 22.5 to 20 percent, the number of births decreased from 29 to 26.1 percent, and the number of deaths decreased from 6.7 to 6.1 percent [71, p. 42]. In 1926-1988, the population of Nagorno-Karabakh increased by 57.1 thousand people or 45.6 percent. Due to losses in the war of 1941-1945 and migration of the population to other regions, in 1939-1959 there was a decrease in population in

the region (20.4 thousand people), and in 1970 the population of the region reached its previous level and in subsequent years periods has overcome it. During the study period, the share of the urban population in the total population of Nagorno-Karabakh increased from 50 percent to 53.8 percent. According to 1979 data, the number of 100-year-olds in the region was 280 people. At the end of the 1980s, 2,500 Azerbaijani citizens aged 100 years were registered in our republic [82, p. 21].

According to the population census conducted on January 17-24, 1979, it turned out that significant changes had occurred in the national composition of the population of Upper Karabakh. Comparisons showed that in 1970-1979 the number of Armenians in the region decreased by 4.6 percent, and the number of Azerbaijanis increased by 4.9 percent [82, p. 22].

According to the 1979 census, Nagorno-Karabakh accounted for 25.9 percent of the total number of Armenians living in Azerbaijan. The number of Armenians in the region gradually decreased. In order to justify their unfair intentions and create a positive opinion about themselves in the world community, Armenian nationalists around the world put forward such an unfounded claim that the decrease in the number of Armenians in the mountainous part of Karabakh is associated with a deterioration of the situation with their socio-economic situation in this region, about their oppression here and other meaningless statements. However, as a result of objective scientific research, it became known that the decrease in the number of Armenians and the increase in the number of Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh occurred due to the following factors: Firstly, according to socio-demographic studies, the average number of children for Armenian women in Azerbaijan is 2.3, for Azerbaijani women — 3.1, for Russians — 1.6. The reproductive goal of Armenian women, or more precisely, their desire to have children, does not exceed 3 children, this figure is 3.8 for Azerbaijani women and 2.5 for Russian women. From the studies conducted, it became known that the number of children born among the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh was 34.4

per 1000 people, which is significantly lower than the number of children born in Azerbaijani families. The “theses” of Armenian “experts” about the sharp deterioration in the age structure of the region’s population are completely incorrect. Facts show that in 1979, 25.4 percent of the total Armenian population of Upper Karabakh were under 16 years of age, and 21.9 percent were 20-39 years old. According to demographers, these indicators are among the highest in our republic. As throughout the world, the region is experiencing a process of population aging, which is a natural trend in demographic development, but this process is much slower. As for the opinion of Armenian political scientists who have lost their objectivity, “increasing the population of Azerbaijan by artificially attracting it from outside,” this idea is completely unfounded. Because, not only brought from outside, but also if the Azerbaijanis had not been evicted from the region in various ways, during 1959-1979 the number of Azerbaijanis would probably have completely exceeded the Armenians [85, p. 192].

The decrease in the number of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and the increase in the number of Azerbaijanis began to worry the Armenian lobby and Dashnaks. Firstly, newly born Azerbaijanis were not registered in the province. Although they were given a birth certificate, they did so unofficially. Elderly Azerbaijanis were removed from the register, allegedly they “moved” or “died”. By creating artificial obstacles, they pushed them to migrate from the region. At the same time, the regional statistical department provided higher-level organizations with exaggerated official data on the number of Armenians; Armenians who emigrated and died were not removed from the register. Back in the 1980s, facts of passport registration of Armenian citizens of the Armenian SSR in the region were discovered. The Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh did not allow Moscow representatives to visit the region during the 1989 USSR census, fearing that fraudulent acts they committed after 1980 would be revealed in the population dynamics of Nagorno-Karabakh. At the same time, when considering statistical data on the population of Nagorno-Karabakh after 1979, it is necessary first of all to take into

account their author. Because Armenian authors falsified materials of that period in accordance with their interests.

Large differences in population distribution were observed between the regions of Nagorno-Karabakh. According to 1979 data, about 30 percent of the total population living in the region belonged to the Agdara region, and 10 percent to the Shusha region. More than 25 percent of the population lived in Khankendi, which once consisted of several houses. The Armenians were mainly concentrated in the city of Khankendi. Detailed information about the total population and national composition of the Nagorno-Karabakh regions of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1979 can be obtained from the table below [70, p. 49].

Table 11

Population in the regions of Karabakh in 1979 — total number and national composition

| Names of districts | Total population (people) | Including | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------|-----------|------|---------------------|-----|
| | | Azerbaijanis | | Armenians | | Russians and others | |
| | | People | % | People | % | People | % |
| Khankendi | 38948 | 4303 | 11,0 | 33898 | 87,0 | 747 | 1,9 |
| Askeran | 20094 | 5231 | 26,0 | 14772 | 73,5 | 91 | 0,5 |
| Hadrut | 14792 | 2239 | 15,1 | 12489 | 84,4 | 64 | 0,5 |
| Agdara | 44586 | 7050 | 15,8 | 37050 | 83,0 | 486 | 1,1 |
| Khojavend | 27742 | 5486 | 19,7 | 21986 | 79,2 | 270 | 0,7 |
| Shusha | 16019 | 12955 | 80,8 | 28881 | 17,9 | 183 | 1,1 |
| in NKAO | 162181 | 37264 | 23 | 123076 | 75,9 | 1841 | 1,1 |

In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the social and class structure of the region's population was updated. At the end of the 1980s, workers and employees made up 86 percent of the population, and collective farmers — 13 percent. In 1970, 62 percent of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh lived in villages and 38 percent in cities, while in 1985 urban residents made up 28.3 percent of the total population, and those living in villages — 71.7 percent [22, l. 40].

Thus, as a result of Heydar Aliyev's concerns, important changes took place in socio-economic life and well-being of the population of the city of Khankendi, income level, purchasing power, trade, catering, medicine, communications and consumer services improved, the supply of water supply systems, gas supply and sewerage in residential areas. However, at that time, the Armenian leadership of the region implemented a policy of preventing the improvement of the socio-economic situation of the Azerbaijanis living here and increasing their intellectual level, using all dirty means as a strategic line.

As of January 1985, the provision of agricultural products to the population of Khankendi was in first place throughout the republic. Thus, in that year, the volume of agricultural production per capita amounted to 588 manats throughout the republic, 501 manats in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 692 manats in the city of Khankendi [22, l. 40].

Dynamic development of culture: Our national leader Heydar Aliyev, in his speech at the opening of the Agdam-Khankendi railway on January 12, 1979, said that "Khankendi is one of the dynamically developing cities of Azerbaijan... In a short time, the appearance of the city completely changed. There are many buildings and cultural monuments built here in a modern architectural style... In addition to the economy of the city of Khankendi, education, science and culture also received great development there, a secular theater, a modern school and a democratic press were created, illiteracy was eliminated, complete secondary compulsory education was introduced, a developed network of educational institutions was created... I can say with full confidence that the commissioning of the Agdam-Khankendi railway will serve to further develop the productive forces of the region and improve the standard of living of the residents living here [60].

The years 70-85 of the 20th century were an important period in the development of the culture of the city of Khankendi in Azerbaijan.

Under the leadership and care of Heydar Aliyev, education, science, press, literature and art flourished in the city, human resour-

ces increased, the network of higher and secondary specialized education expanded, and the material and technical educational base of children's institutions and schools was strengthened.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, important advances were made in the socio-economic life of Khankendi, as well as in its cultural life. During this period, the material, technical and educational base of children's institutions and schools in the city of Khankendi was strengthened, and the quality level of teaching increased. Also in the city of Khankendi, significant funds have been allocated for the development of education and culture, and the volume of these funds had increased every year [61].

In 1976-1980, 38 million manats were allocated for schools and education in Khankendi, in 1981-1985 — 40 million manats. In general, 260 million 431 thousand manats were allocated for the development of education, science and the development of knowledge in Nagorno-Karabakh in the late 1960s — early 1980s. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 25 permanent preschool children's institutions were built and put into operation in Nagorno-Karabakh using allocated funds, 5 of which belonged to the city of Khankendi. If in 1970 there were 60 permanent preschool institutions in the region, then in 1985 their number reached 85. In just one year, that is, in 1985, twice as many children were enrolled in preschool institutions as in 1970. These institutions employed 250 teachers and serving. 50 percent of teachers had higher education, 22 percent had secondary education [66, p. 138]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 3 permanent preschool institutions were built and put into operation in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which was approximately 8 times less than what was built in Nagorno-Karabakh. At that time, the number of permanent preschool institutions in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic increased from 65 to 73. Research shows that the city of Khankendi has distinguished itself in providing the population with preschool institutions, both at the level of the entire republic and in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. For example, in 1985, the provision of the population with preschool

institutions was 20 percent at the republican level, 12 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and in the city of Khankendi this figure reached 35 percent [28, l. 8].

Unlike other regions of Azerbaijan, the construction of schools in Khankendi proceeded at a rapid pace. In 1971-1985, 2 schools were built in Khankendi, in 1976-1980 — 1 school, in 1981-1985 — 1 school [82, p. 131]. As the number of secondary schools increased, the number of eight-year and primary schools decreased. The decrease in the number of eight-year and primary schools affected the decrease in the total number of schools. Since 1970, a school for children with disabilities was built and put into operation in the city of Khankendi, and in the 1974-1975 academic year the number of such schools reached 2. The number of students in these schools increased from 60 to 296 [82, p. 136]. In addition, in the city of Khankendi there was an evening (shift) general education school, where representatives of the older generation studied without interrupting their work [85]. More than 80 percent of teachers working in secondary schools in Khankendi had higher education, 3.3 percent had incomplete higher education, and 15 percent had secondary pedagogical education. In 98 percent of schools there were subject rooms and workshops [82, p. 138].

In 1985, there were 217 secondary schools in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, with 6.3 thousand teachers and 64.8 students. An interesting aspect is that in Nakhchivan AR there were 296 students in each school, and in Khankendi there were 177 students. At the same time, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic there were 10 students per teacher, and in Khankendi — 8.5 students [23, l.9]. In general, as a result of the study, it turned out that in terms of the number of teachers and schools, the city of Khankendi had a superior position compared to the population at the republican level. And this was the result of the care shown by the leadership of the republic to the city of Khankendi.

In the 1975-1976 academic year, boarding schools with in-depth education in various subjects and programs began to operate in the city of Khankendi [2, l.16].

In the city of Khankendi, independent correspondence schools were organized in order to attract young people working in industry, transport, construction and other sectors to education. In addition, in the city of Khankendi there were out-of-school children's institutions, a palace of pioneers and schoolchildren, 50 pioneer camps, a children's sports school, a school of music and art, children's parks, a station for young technicians and tourists, and children's libraries [19, 1.7].

In 1971-1975, the transition to general secondary education was completed in the city of Khankendi. Due to the construction of new schools, classes in Khankendi were held in one shift. In 42 schools in Nagorno-Karabakh, including 8 schools in the city of Khankendi, students were provided with meals using special funds allocated by the state. The experience of schools in Nagorno-Karabakh in providing students with hot meals was approved by the board of the Ministry of Education of the Azerbaijan SSR. Unfortunately, this practice was applied only to one school in the city of Shusha, and the villages of the region populated by Azerbaijanis were not applied.

The vocational education system also developed rapidly in Khankendi. Students were taught various professions in 8 secondary schools in the city. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of vocational school students in Khankendi schools increased by 20 percent. Every year, on average, more than 300 students mastered more than 100 professions in industry, construction, transport, agriculture, consumer services and other areas [35, 1.7].

In the 1970s, educational institutions operating in the city of Khankendi trained mid-level specialists in economics, education, culture, healthcare and other fields. More than a thousand students studied in these technical schools. Over the course of a year, these technical schools graduated more than 250 specialists. In those years, scholarships for students were increased threefold [82, p. 139].

On the initiative of Heydar Aliyev and the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR dated November 23, 1973, the Khankendi Pedagogical Institute was created as a branch

of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical Institute. Every year, about 500 students were admitted to the institute, of which 300 received full-time education. In 1980, 2000 students studied at the Khankendi Pedagogical Institute. In 1985, the number of students at this institute reached 2100. Teaching here was conducted in Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian languages [3, 1.1].

Educational institutions and the media played an important role in increasing the knowledge and cultural level of the population living in Khankendi. The role of libraries in the development of cultural and educational institutions is of particular importance. Important measures were taken to develop library work in the city of Khankendi. The resolution “On the state of libraries in the republic and measures to improve them”, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on June 17, 1967, as well as the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee “On enhancing the role of libraries in the communist education of workers and scientific and technological progress” dated May 8, 1974 played a role important role in the development of librarianship. The amount of funds invested in the construction of new library buildings in the city of Khankendi was increased by 2.5 times compared to the previous period. In the 1970s, librarianship in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region entered a new stage of its development. After the decision was made on the “further development of librarianship in 1976-1980”, a plan for the centralization of libraries was developed. In accordance with this plan, in the 70s, the organization of the Centralized Library System (CLS) was started in the city of Khankendi [22, 1.4]. Compared to previous years, the library collection has been replenished with new literature, and the number of readers and circulation have increased significantly.

In 1970-1975, a new type of library building was built and put into operation in the city of Khankendi [71, p. 16]. In 1975, the number of public libraries in the city of Khankendi increased, and their book stock reached 440 thousand [22, 1.4]. The number of readers in libraries has increased significantly compared to the previous period. In the 1980s, 27.8 thousand readers used the city

libraries of Khankendi, which is 10.4% more than in 1975 [88, p. 162].

As a result of the research, it became known that the library supply of Khankendi, the number of books and libraries per capita, was superior both at the level of the entire republic and in comparison with Armenia and the former USSR. For example, if in Khankendi in 1986 there were 10.2 library books per person, then in our republic — 5.8 books, in Agdam — 6.1 books, in Terter — 5.9 books, in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 7.1 books [53, p. 12].

At the end of the 1980s, if Khankendi was 100 percent provided with public libraries, then throughout the republic this figure was 94.4 percent, and in Nakhchivan — 98.4 percent. Moreover, if in the former USSR the number of public libraries per 10 thousand people was 4.8, in the Armenian SSR — 4.1, in Azerbaijan — 6, then in the city of Khankendi this figure reached 13. As can be seen from the facts, the number of libraries per capita in the city of Khankendi exceeded the republican level by more than 2 times. In addition to all this, the Azerbaijanis of the city of Khankendi were not fully provided with Azerbaijani-language literature. From the research conducted, it became known that approximately 80 percent of the books in libraries were in Armenian, 10 percent in Azerbaijani and 10 percent in Russian [29, l. 31].

In those years, special attention was paid to the development of clubs at cultural and educational institutions in the city of Khankendi. Clubs played an important role in raising the cultural level of the people. Because films and theater were shown here, amateur associations operated and important meetings and gatherings were held.

Thanks to special funds allocated by the leadership of the republic, the construction of clubs in the city of Khankendi has expanded significantly. So, in those years, 2 clubs were built and handed over to the population of Khankendi for use [71, p. 94].

As a result of the study, it became known that the number of clubs in the city of Khankendi was 3 times higher than the level of the Republic of Azerbaijan and approximately 4.5 times higher than

in Armenia. Thus, if in 1985 the number of clubs per 10000 people reached 4.8 in the USSR, 5 in the Republic of Azerbaijan and 3.8 in Armenia, while in the city of Khankendi this figure was 15 [26, p. 16]. In the mid-1980s, 31 out of 32 settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh with a population of 300 to 500 people were provided with club facilities. At the republican level, the share of such villages provided with club premises has reached 40 percent. Clubs existed only in 319 of 746 large settlements in Azerbaijan [71, p. 93].

Cinema played an important role in the ideological and political education of the population. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, the development of the cinema chain in Khankendi further improved. The increase in the number of clubs was of great importance in this regard. There were even summer cinemas in the city. One of the important events implemented by our state in the city of Khankendi was the full provision of the region with film equipment, motors and films.

In 1980, Nagorno-Karabakh cinema cameras accounted for 10 percent of existing cinema cameras throughout the republic. That year, 2002 cinema cameras operated in our republic, 202 of which belonged to Nagorno-Karabakh. During this period, 30 cinema cameras operated in Khankendi. Compared to neighboring cities (Agdam, Terter, Shusha, etc.), this figure was 2 times higher. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 163 cinema cameras were created in our republic, of which 36 belonged to Nagorno-Karabakh. In those years, of the cinema cameras created in Nagorno-Karabakh, 11 were installed in the city of Khankendi. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of cinema cameras in our republic increased from 2004 to 2167, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — from 170 to 206 [65, p. 159]. In the 1980s, the average number of film screenings in our country was 60 million per year, while in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic it reached 3 million 100 thousand, and in Nagorno-Karabakh — 3 million 300 thousand, of which a third, that is, 1 million 80 thousand were to the share of the city of Khankendi. The number of cinema cameras per 10000 people reached 5.4 in the former USSR, 3 in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2.9

in Armenia, 11.2 in Nagorno-Karabakh, 12.5 in the city of Khankendi [36, 1.42]. Also, at the level of film viewing, the primacy of Nagorno-Karabakh and the city of Khankendi was preserved. We note just one fact: despite the fact that the population of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was almost twice the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, in 1985 the number of people who took part in film shows in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic reached 3 million 166 thousand, and in Nagorno-Karabakh 3 million 259 thousand [75, p. 127]. All this was achieved as a result of the care shown by the leadership of the republic to Nagorno-Karabakh as a whole and the city of Khankendi.

The role of museums in carrying out cultural and educational work among the population of the city of Khankendi was also great. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 2 new museums were opened in the city of Khankendi using special funds allocated by our state. The number of museums in the city increased from 2 to 4. An art gallery and branches of Baku museums opened in Khankendi. The number of museum visitors grew every year. Thus, in 1970, the number of museum visitors in the city of Khankendi was 15 thousand, in 1980 it reached 45 thousand people, and in 1985 it reached 60 thousand people [17, 1.6]. Mass scientific works, traveling exhibitions, meetings with war veterans and labor heroes held in the museum were highly appreciated by the population. In addition to exhibitions in museums operating in Khankendi, thematic and traveling exhibitions dedicated to important events and significant days were organized annually. The museums of the city of Khankendi had an exhibition hall, a children's art gallery, and were displayed memorial plaques to figures of literature and art. In the city of Khankendi there was also a local history museum, the funds of which grew richer, and the exhibitions were constantly updated. At the end of the 1980s, there were 124 museums operating in Azerbaijan [56, p. 82].

In those years, the construction and restoration of historical monuments was successfully carried out in Nagorno-Karabakh. One such structure was built in 1978 at the request of the Armenian

population of the Agdara district. This monument was built on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the resettlement of Armenians to Agdara. The numbers “1828-1978” and “150” were engraved on the monument in large size. However, since this monument shed light on some “dark issues”, in 1985 the Armenians began to destroy this monument, especially the numbers [89, p. 281].

In the 1970-1980s, one of the most popular means of cultural and educational work in the city of Khankendi was the theater. At that time, the Khankendi Drama Theater named after M. Gorky operated in the city. Along with this theater, amateur drama groups also operated in Khankendi. In those years there was a significant increase in the number of people coming to the theater. Thus, in 1970, the number of theatergoers in the city of Khankendi was 48 thousand, and in 1985 their number reached 56 thousand [6, 1.2]. If we carry out a simple mathematical analysis based on statistical data, we will see that if throughout the republic there was 1 State Drama Theater for every 350 thousand people, then in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan there was 1 State Drama Theater for every 275 thousand people, and in Nagorno-Karabakh for every 162 thousand people there was 1 state drama theater. In terms of the total number of theatergoers, Nagorno-Karabakh and its city of Khankendi were 30 percent higher than the level of the entire republic.

A mass media network also developed in the city of Khankendi. The press played an important role in educating the population, raising its cultural level, and increasing its social and political activity. During the period under review, 6 newspapers were published in the city of Khankendi in the Armenian language, 1 in the Azerbaijani language and 1 in Russian [34, 1.6]. Of these, the newspapers “Sovetakan Karabakh” (“Soviet Karabakh”), “Metaxagorst” (“Silkworm”), “Karmir Drosh” (“Red Banner”), “Berekatyun” (“Friendship”), “Ashkhatan” (“Labor”), “Koltitesakan” (“Collective Farmer”), “Shusha” and “Sovetskiy Karabakh” (“Soviet Karabakh”). There was also an increase in the annual circulation of newspapers. Thus, in 1970, 27 million copies of the

newspaper were published, and in 1985, 3 million copies increased to 30 million copies [65, p. 160].

At that time, the Khankendi branch of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union was operating. Prose writers, poets, and playwrights were engaged in scientific creativity here. The printing house established in Khankendi played an important role in the publication of works and various literature. In 1971-1980, 84 books were published in Khankendi with a total circulation of 500 thousand copies, of which 366 thousand copies (66 titles) were in Armenian. Most of the published works were also in Russian, and a small number were in Azerbaijani [13, 1.4].

In Khankendi, the city administration, using the concept of "ideological front," suppressed many traditions of the Azerbaijanis. The Novruz holiday, which in ancient times entered the daily life of our people, glorifying hard work and nobility, having a certain international character, was strictly prohibited to Azerbaijanis living in Khankendi. Azerbaijanis living in the city celebrated this holiday secretly. Here, 21 "socialist" holidays and rituals have become official "traditions". Religious ceremonies were openly suppressed. Despite the ideological counter-propaganda of the Armenian administration of the city of Khankendi against Islam, the Azerbaijanis living here secretly celebrated religious holidays and rituals. Our people tried to preserve their national traditions. One of Heydar Aliyev's unparalleled services to our people was his adoption of the "decision to restore mosques" in Nagorno-Karabakh (November 4, 1976). From that time on, the restoration of our mosques in Shusha began [73, p. 157].

In the city of Khankendi, the repertoire of the State Song and Dance Ensemble and the State Variety Orchestra "Karabakh" has become even richer.

In the 70-80s of the 20th century, the architectural appearance of the city of Khankendi was expanded. During this period, on the central square of the city, according to the design of the famous architect G. Majidov, the building of the Regional Party Committee was commissioned. In 1972, according to the design of the architect

N. Kangarli, the building of the Regional Executive Committee was built [71, p. 157]. It is a pity that these beautiful buildings, built at the expense of our people, house the administration of the separatist regime.

On the initiative of national leader Heydar Aliyev, material and cultural monuments in Nagorno-Karabakh have been re-registered since the 1970s. Attention was paid to their research, protection and effective use. However, the strong pressure of the “dominant ideology” had a negative impact on the development of social sciences. Armenian vandals tried to falsify Oghuz-Turkic monuments of ancient history, especially in Nagorno-Karabakh. Even under the name of “improvement” of Shusha, the ruling circles of the region destroyed our ancient material and cultural monuments. In the 1970s, employees of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, under the leadership of M.Huseynov, continued archaeological excavations on the territory of Khankendi, and ancient material and cultural traces and objects found in this area proved that primitive people lived here.

Scientific institutions operating in the city of Khankendi — Khankendi Zonal Experimental Station, Karabakh Scientific Experimental Base, Nagorno-Karabakh Branch of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh Branch of the Agrotechnical Union, Khankendi Agricultural-Industrial Union and other departments to achieve high labor productivity in the field of the national economy of the region, invented and put forward effective proposals [16, l.6]. These departments have deeply studied, discovered and developed the natural resources of Nagorno-Karabakh. The efforts of Khankendi botanists were aimed at studying the flora of the region and expanding its use in the national economy, studying issues of physiology and plant protection, and helping to solve the problem of increasing the productivity of agricultural plants. At the same time, in these years, important work was done in the field of preparing the biological basis for increasing the productivity of farm animals in the region. The expansion of the scope of research in the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, the State Planning Committee,

and the departments of science and economics has expanded the use of reserve sources for the development of the economy of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Thus, the late 1960s — early 1980s became an important period in the development of the culture of the city of Khankendi. As a result of the far-sighted policy of Heydar Aliyev, suitable opportunities for the development of education, science, press, literature and art have opened up in the city of Khankendi. The moral wealth of the city and human resources have increased even more. As a result of the care of our state, culture in the city of Khankendi developed dynamically. Already in the mid-80s of the 20th century, the city of Khankendi became one of the cities of Azerbaijan with a developed culture. In Khankendi there were a Pedagogical Institute, an Institute for Advanced Training of Teachers, an Agricultural College, a medical school, 2 music colleges, vocational schools, children's art schools, a technical school, a Historical and Local Lore Museum, a Drama Theatre, Concert halls, the Khankendi branch of the Azerbaijan Writers' Union, Libraries, winter and summer libraries, palaces of culture, sports grounds, recreation parks, holiday homes, song and dance ensembles, shops, catering establishments, 15 secondary schools with more than 10 thousand children, 8 hospitals with 800 beds, 35 maternity hospitals, 2 skin and venereological dispensary, tuberculosis dispensary, sanitary-epidemiological station, hundreds of beautiful and tall administrative buildings and other cultural and community facilities. Unfortunately, the policy of aggression launched by Armenia against Azerbaijan since 1988 led to the occupation of the city of Khankendi, the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh as a whole and seven adjacent regions (only 20 percent of our lands). Our precious cultural assets were destroyed by the enemy. During the war, 20 thousand Azerbaijanis became disabled, 4861 people became prisoners and hostages, and the number of our refugees and internally displaced persons exceeded 1 million people [63, p. 128]. As a result of the encroachment of Armenians on the lands of Azerbaijan, 11 monuments of world, 223 national and 453 historical and cultural monuments of local significance were occupied, reflecting the

centuries-old history and glorious past of the Azerbaijani people, where there were also important archaeological monuments, caves, historical architectural reserves of unique beauty, ancient cemeteries, palaces. In the territories occupied by Armenia there are 1025 schools, 798 sanatoriums, 22 museums and their branches, 6 art galleries, 85 children's music schools and their branches, 4 theaters, 100 thousand valuable exhibits, 2 concert institutions, 1892 buildings of cultural and artistic institutions, were looted, 1,240 rare carpets of world significance, 9 historically significant palaces, 40 thousand museum treasures and exhibits, 44 temples, 9 mosques, 927 libraries, 4.6 million books and valuable historical manuscripts were burned and appropriated [65, p. 163].

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SHUSHA DISTRICT

During the period 1969-1982, when Heydar Aliyev led Azerbaijan, one of the most important economic results was the dynamic development of agriculture in the republic and the increase in its role in the economy. During this period, intensification and improvement of production on a scientific basis played an important role in increasing agricultural achievements. The necessary renewal of agriculture at the level of deep reforms ensured unprecedented progress in its development.

Shusha is one of the regions of Azerbaijan with fertile soil, favorable climatic conditions and water resources. This natural-geographical position of the Shusha district created conditions for the development of agriculture. The leading directions in the economic region were the development of grain growing, viticulture and livestock farming. 57 percent of the products produced in the Shusha district were crop products, and 43 percent were livestock products [3, 1.3].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the leadership of the republic implemented important measures to develop agriculture in the Shusha district. Of great importance in this was the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and the Council of Ministers “On measures for the further development of the national economy of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region” [23, p. 95], adopted in May 1973 in order to improve the entire economy and culture of the Shusha district. First of all, in accordance with the decisions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, the Shusha district party committee developed an “Action Plan” for the development of agriculture.

In 1970, 10 million manats were allocated for the development of agriculture in the Shusha district and strengthening its material

and technical base [19, p. 112]. These funds were 4 times less than the funds allocated to Agdara, Khojavand and other regions of Nagorno-Karabakh. The funds allocated by the republican leadership to the region were distributed by the regional Council of People's Deputies — Armenian deputies, who, distributing funds for the development of agriculture, showed a paternalistic attitude towards the Shusha district, where more Azerbaijanis lived.

A long-term loan in the amount of 1 million manats was allocated for the development of agriculture in the Shusha district in 1970-1979. In 1980-1985, the loan amount was increased to 1.5 million manats [13, 1.330]. In general, specific tasks were assigned to the departments included in the Shusha regional agro-industrial complex: the agricultural department of the district executive committee, producing agricultural and livestock products, the Shusha regional Agrarian-Production Association, industrial enterprises for processing agricultural raw materials, which were part of the Shusha Territorial-Production Association of State Farms, regional agricultural authorities, regional agricultural chemical office, transport enterprises and construction organizations, agricultural colleges and vocational schools.

In addition to all this, for the development of agriculture in the Shusha district, reclamation and irrigation work was further expanded. For these purposes, the state allocated 25 thousand manats in 1970, 26 thousand manats in 1975 and 40 thousand manats in 1980 [11, 1.211]. Many important water management structures and canals have been built in the area. It is worth noting that the relief of the Shusha district is diverse. The region's groundwater and surface water resources are extensive. The Upper Karabakh region, which belongs to the Kur-Araz water basin, consists of the Gargarchay, Khachinchay and Tartarchay irrigation networks. Also, since these rivers originate from a height of up to 3500 meters, they quickly flow across the plain and create energy reserves [20, p. 171]. The water resources of this region were not only used as a source of energy, but were also of great importance for the irrigation of the lowland areas of Nagorno-Karabakh. The purity of the water of these rivers,

originating from mountain waters, allowed the population to use them in the household. In the mountainous regions of Karabakh, in many places groundwater came to the surface in the form of spring water, which was used for drinking and domestic needs.

The Communist Party of Azerbaijan and its first secretary Heydar Aliyev have always paid special attention to the issue of providing water to agriculture in the Shusha district. It is no coincidence that in 1970-1981, 55 thousand manats were allocated for irrigation and land reclamation work in the Shusha region alone [29, p. 218].

Artesian wells with a depth of 100-400 meters were dug in the collective and state farms of Shusha in the 70s of the twentieth century at the expense of funds allocated on the basis of the instructions of Heydar Aliyev. At the same time, only in 1971-1975s these funds were used to transfer 10 mechanical units for pumping water from rivers flowing from the deep valleys of the region [10, l.39].

It should be especially noted the importance of the Terter reservoir for those times in meeting the water needs of Karabakh as a whole. Heydar Aliyev, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, always paid attention to the construction of the Sarsang reservoir, built on the Terter River. Even in 1970, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Azerbaijan Republic adopted a special resolution “On measures to accelerate the construction of a reservoir and main canals on the Terter River”. Construction work on the Sarsang reservoir was completed in 1976. Heydar Aliyev participated in the opening of this complex and called this huge structure a “construction site of friendship”. More than 95 million manats were spent on the construction of the Sarsang reservoir, which is almost equal to all the funds spent on the construction of economic facilities in the republic in the sixth five-year plan. During construction, 20 million cubic meters of concrete and cement were poured, more than 2,800 tons of metal structures and technological equipment were installed, and underground tunnels more than one kilometer long were built [18, p. 176]. The Sarsang reservoir, with an area of 35 square kilometers, holds 560 million cubic meters of water. This water was discharged onto the fields of

collective and state farms in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region through canals with a total length of about 100 kilometers. Two main canals were built here. The first channel is the right channel with a length of 75 kilometers, and the second is the left channel, the length of which is 25 kilometers [24, p. 542]. It was planned to irrigate 120 thousand hectares of new agricultural crops and perennial plants from the water of the Sarsang reservoir [18, p. 48].

In the 1970s, the Upper Karabakh Canal was restored. In those years, the network of inter-district canals and the construction of internal canals were expanded. Thanks to special funds allocated by the state, in 1976-1981, large inter-district state canals with a length of 388.5 km and internal canals with a length of 348 km were built and put into operation in the region [32, p. 59]. Even to irrigate the province's farms, an irrigation system called "artificial rain" was used, which prevented water loss and increased plant productivity.

In order to develop agriculture in the Shusha district, from 1970 to 1980, irrigation and reclamation work was carried out at the required level, and the volume of irrigated land was increased from 242 hectares to 250 hectares. From our research it became known that the irrigated lands belonged to the collective farms of Shusha, since the state farms of the Shusha region were engaged in livestock breeding [16, 1.9].

One of the measures implemented by the leadership of the republic to develop agriculture in the Shusha district was to better equip collective and state farms in the region with agricultural machines and other technical means. The level of technical equipment of Shusha farms has increased significantly. In 1971-1981, 20 agricultural machines were sent to work on collective and state farms in the region. In these years, the number of tractors in the Shusha district increased from 102 to 104, grain harvesters from 29 to 37, and the number of trucks from 81 to 96 [4, 1.205].

At the same time, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, hundreds of tractor plows for plowing land, various seeders, grain threshers, silage cutters, grain cleaning machines, sprayers, sprinklers, etc. were sent to the Shusha district. The gradual improvement of technical

means, an increase in their power and the intellectual nature of their management were one of the factors that influenced progressive changes in agricultural work. The technical base of agriculture in the Shusha district was completely updated every five years due to special funds allocated by the state.

In the 70s of the 20th century, scientific and technological progress in the Shusha district intensified, since farms were equipped with relatively more advanced equipment and mechanisms, and the level of energy equipment in production and labor increased. In 1971-1981, 15 electric motors and 14 technical engines were transferred to the collective and state farms of Shusha for operation. At the same time, the number of electric motors used in the farms of the Shusha district increased from 25 to 39, and the number of mechanical motors — from 25 to 35 [22, p. 78]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the comprehensive mechanization of farms in the Shusha district and the consistent strengthening of the agro-industrial complex by the leadership of the republic created conditions for reducing costs, increasing labor productivity, and dynamic development of agriculture.

The development of the productive forces of agriculture in the Shusha district required improving the professional qualifications of rural workers. The role of vocational schools operating in the region was great in meeting the needs of the Shusha district for personnel. During the period under study, 5 vocational schools operated in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. Among them, vocational schools No. 21 and No. 159 in Khankendi, school No. 129 in Agdara, school No. 72 in Shusha, vocational school No. 125 in Khojavend taught the younger generation the secrets of vocational training. And in Hadrut a branch of the Khojavend vocational school No. 125 was created [27, p. 86]. In 1971, these vocational schools trained 480 skilled workers and 500 qualified specialists; in 1975, the number reached 2966, and in 1980, 3118. In those years, there were 5 technical schools in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, one of which, the Khankendi Agricultural school, trained agricultural specialists [14, 1.172]. The vocational schools and technical schools

operating in Nagorno-Karabakh not only taught the secrets of science to students studying here, but also applied the acquired knowledge in practice. After graduating from school, the graduate began working on collective and state farms in the Shusha district as a specialist who knew his job.

Directly on the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, in order to provide all villages of the republic with qualified personnel, the number of students in higher and secondary specialized educational institutions increased from year to year. Only in 1965-1980, the leadership of the republic sent 15 qualified personnel to work on collective and state farms in the Shusha district. In those years, the number of qualified personnel in the region increased from 610 to 677 people [26, p. 29-31].

The result of all this was that profound changes in property relations occurred in the agriculture of the Shusha district. The role of state ownership in agriculture gradually increased. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of collective farms in the Shusha district was halved as a result of consolidation and transformation into state farms. So, in 1970 there were 7 collective farms in Shusha, and in 1985 their number was reduced to 5. At that time there were only 608 collective farms in Azerbaijan [36, p. 271]. In those years, the number of state farms in the Shusha district also tripled. In 1970, there were 2 state farms in Shusha, but in 1980 their number increased to 4, and in 1985 to 5. In 1985, there were 805 state farms in Azerbaijan. The transformation of collective farms into state farms in the Shusha district caused a number of negative situations. The outflow of population from the countryside to the city increased, and problems with employment arose.

One of the measures implemented by the leadership of the republic in the Shusha district was to improve the supply of chemicals in order to implement mandatory measures against pests, diseases and weeds of agricultural plants. At the same time, organic and cultural fertilizers were supplied to the collective and state farms of Shusha to increase soil fertility. Priority attention was paid to veterinary care, compliance with sanitary rules, combating livestock diseases,

and improving its breed composition. The supply of collective and state farms in the Shusha district with fertilizers and chemicals against pests increased from year to year. Thus, in 1970, 1000 tons of fertilizers were supplied to the Shusha district, and in 1980 this figure doubled to 2000 tons [23, p. 97]. All this increased soil fertility, prevented erosion, salinization and increased productivity in the farms of the Shusha district.

It should be noted that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the agro-industrial complex of Nagorno-Karabakh included 33 collective farms, 40 state farms, 6 inter-farm unions and 5 livestock complexes of industrial enterprises. In the 1970s, the intensification, specialization and concentration of agricultural production in the Shusha region, the expansion of inter-farm cooperation and agro-industrial integration were one of the important factors in the development of agriculture.

At that time, scientifically based measures were implemented in the field of specialization of agriculture in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the 1970s, the process of deepening the division of labor in agriculture accelerated. When making structural changes in the region's agriculture, the natural-geographical position of the region, climate, soil composition, etc. were taken into account. For example, in Nagorno-Karabakh, cotton cultivation ceased in the mid-1970s. Cotton plantations were replaced by vineyards. Tobacco cultivation has been stopped in Shusha, Hadrut, Khojavend and Khankendi regions. Mulberries were planted only in the mountainous areas of the Agdara region [29, p. 218].

In the 70s of the 20th century, state farms in the Shusha and Khojavend districts stopped planting potatoes. Potatoes were mainly grown in the Khankendi and Agdara regions. Although all farms in Nagorno-Karabakh were engaged in growing grain, in the Shusha district, grain growing decreased by 3 times. Also, since 1974, the state farms of the Shusha district have completely stopped growing grain. Since 1972, the cultivation of vegetables on state farms in the Shusha district has decreased. Since the 1970s, due to the natural geographical position of Shusha, rain-fed plants have been grown here. No grapes were planted on the state farms of Shusha; only 2

hectares of grapes were planted on the collective farms. Since 1970, the Shusha district was exempted from the cocoon production plan [34, p. 272]. In the 1970s, the main leading areas of agriculture in the Shusha district were beekeeping, poultry farming, horticulture and livestock breeding.

Thus, in 1969-1982, thanks to the personal principled position of Heydar Aliyev, comprehensive measures were consistently implemented in the agriculture of the Shusha region. Thus, scientific achievements and best practices were applied in production; work has been completed to provide collective and state farms with qualified personnel; all farms in the region carried out work on electrification, mechanization, irrigation, land reclamation, and specialization; construction, installation and landscaping works were carried out in the villages; wages were fully funded; the amount of funds allocated by the state increased from year to year; all Shusha farms were provided with equipment, seeds, breeding animals, machinery, material resources and other resources necessary for the agricultural sector, and as a result of the state's care, agriculture in the Shusha region developed dynamically and at a high pace.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, agricultural land in the Shusha district changed little in volume. So, in 1970, this land area was 2.7 thousand hectares, and in 1985 it increased to 5 thousand hectares [37, p. 38]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, agricultural land in the Shusha district changed little in volume. So, in 1970, this land area was 2.7 thousand hectares, and in 1985 it increased to 5 thousand hectares [37, p. 38]. From the research conducted, it became known that the lands of collective farms decreased, and the lands of state farms increased. In the Shusha district, 80 percent of the land suitable for agriculture belonged to collective farms, 15 percent to state farms, 5 percent to the state forest fund, etc. [37, p. 40]. In the Shusha district, arable agricultural land increased from 1.8 thousand hectares in 1965 to 4.4 thousand hectares in 1975 and to 5 thousand hectares in 1985 [37, p. 52].

In 1980, the distribution of arable land between the regions of Upper Karabakh was uneven. Thus, the Agdara district was allocated

35 percent of the entire arable land of the region, the Khojavend district — 30 percent, Khankendi — 20 percent, Hadrut — 10 percent, Shusha district — 5 percent. Since 1980, the process of leaving the lands of Nagorno-Karabakh without sowing (for restoration) began. In 1980, 1.1 thousand hectares were left fallow in the region's economy, in 1985 — 0.8 thousand hectares, in 1986 — 1.8 thousand hectares of land [34, p. 270]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the sowing of areas of agricultural plants in farms of various categories in the Shusha region was carried out as follows [34, p. 272].

Table 12

Area under agricultural crops

| Years | Total sown area (thousand ha) | Including | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | | Cereal crops (in thousand ha) | Melon crops (in ha) | Potatoes (in ha) | Forage crops (in ha) |
| 1966 | 1,8 | 1,0 | 37 | 65 | 720 |
| 1970 | 2,7 | 1,4 | 42 | 60 | 1226 |
| 1975 | 4,4 | 0,5 | 59 | 49 | 3444 |
| 1980 | 4,7 | 0,4 | 60 | 50 | 3816 |
| 1985 | 5,1 | 0,5 | 65 | 50 | 4015 |

In those years, the intensification of the production of fodder crops in the Shusha district remained one of the most important tasks in the development of agriculture. In 1970, fodder crops occupied more than 1226 hectares of land in the Shusha district, which accounted for about 45 percent of the total sown area of the district. More than half of the fodder crops planted in Shusha were irrigated. In 1961-1968, attention to this area was weak and feed farming remained on the sidelines. Based on the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, since 1970, attention has been paid to increasing the forage crop, changing the varietal composition of plants, improving the technology of planting and harvesting, and only high-yielding forage varieties were planted. In 1985, compared to 1970, the area sown

with forage plants increased by 1789 hectares. In those years, grain yield in the Shusha region increased almost 2 times [38, p. 53].

It should be noted that at that time, grape cultivation occupied a very small part of the Shusha region, and the cultivation process was gradually reduced. Thus, in 1965, 13 hectares of grapes were planted in Shusha farms, in 1970 it decreased to 7 hectares, and in 1975 — to 2 hectares. Only collective farms in the district were engaged in growing grapes. The area also experienced a decline in grape harvest. Thus, in 1965, 4 tons of grapes were delivered to the state, but in 1975 this figure dropped to 2 tons [33, p. 19].

In the 70-80s of the 20th century, tobacco was grown among industrial crops in the agriculture of the region. As we mentioned above, as a result of the policy of specialization pursued by the leadership of the republic in the field of agriculture, tobacco cultivation was stopped in the Hadrut, Khojavend and Shusha districts in 1965, and in Khankendi in 1973. Since 1974, tobacco had been grown in the region only in the Agdara district [9, 1.78].

In the 1970s and 1980s, vegetable and potato growing were considered one of the main branches of agriculture in the Shusha district. Potatoes and vegetables were grown in almost all farms in the Shusha district. Potatoes were planted on 62 hectares in 1965, 60 hectares in 1970, 49 hectares in 1975, 51 hectares in 1980, 60 hectares in 1985 [30, p. 32]. There had been an increase in vegetable cultivation in the area. So, in 1965, 37 hectares were planted, in 1970 — 42 hectares, in 1975 — 59 hectares, in 1985 — 65 hectares. Potato sales to the state in 1965 amounted to 128 tons, in 1970 — 13 tons, and in 1985 increased to 26 tons [20, p. 127]. The supply of vegetables reached 235 tons in 1965, 307 tons in 1970, 447 tons in 1975 and 586 tons in 1985 [26, p. 246]. In the Shusha district in these years, an increase in vegetable yields was observed. Thus, in 1965, 101 centners were collected from each hectare of farms in the region, in 1975 this figure reached 147 centners, and in 1985 — 160 centners [34, p. 135]. We also note that the above figures do not include potatoes and vegetables obtained from private farms. Potatoes and vegetables collected from farms were mainly used to

meet the needs of the region's population, and the remainder was sold to the state. Our research shows that only 10 percent of the harvested potatoes and 40 percent of the vegetables were sold to the government. Unfortunately, facts of transportation of freshly harvested vegetables through secret routes to Armenia have also been revealed.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, potato yield per hectare in the Shusha district increased from 28 to 55 centners per year. Shusha farms grew onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, cabbage, carrots and others. Compared to 1966-1970s average annual potato production in 1981-1985 increased from 844 tons to 1513 thousand tons, vegetables — from 1351 tons to 2012 thousand tons [5, l.82].

The most characteristic feature of the landscape of the Shusha district of Azerbaijan is the presence and development of orchards. Gardening was practiced in all parts of the district. All gardens planted on collective and state farms, as well as on private farms, were irrigated. The soil and climatic conditions of Shusha make it possible to significantly expand the cultivation of perennial plants. The volume of horticulture, not counting vineyards, in 1970 increased by 60 hectares compared to 1960 and reached 360 hectares [2, l.10]. The size of Shusha gardens reached 750 hectares in 1980 and 740 hectares in 1985. Shusha farms grew pears, apples, plums, cherries, blueberries, walnuts, hazelnuts, pomegranates, quince, cranberries, mulberries and other fruit trees. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, despite the reduction in cultivated areas, as a result of comprehensive measures implemented by the republican leadership, both production volume and labor productivity in the Shusha region increased from year to year. For example, in 1960, 160 tons of crops were harvested on farms in the region, in 1970 this harvest reached 180 tons, in 1980 — 280 tons, and in 1985 — 290 tons [15, l. 18]. In those years there was a large increase in labor productivity. In 1970, 16 centners of fruits and berries were collected from each hectare, and in 1985 this figure increased to 42 centners. Compared to 1970, in 1985 the volume of fruits and berries in Azerbaijan reached 317.5 thousand tons out of 82.8 thousand tons [24, p. 187]. In 1985, the area of fruit and berry gardens in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was

6125 hectares, the total volume of production was 7.7 thousand tons, the yield was 17.6 centners [24, p. 336]. Labor productivity in the Shusha region was higher than the level of the entire republic, and also compared to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. All this was the result of the care shown by the leadership of Azerbaijan towards the region and the district as a whole.

Mulberry Shah-tut occupies a prominent place among the perennial plants planted in the Shusha district of Azerbaijan. This tree, which does not require much effort and has a sugar content of 32%, has been grown in Shusha since ancient times. Various types of products are prepared from mulberry, including alcohol, bahmaz, irchal, etc., eaten fresh or dried and consumed at different times of the year. Shah-tut wood is used in furniture production due to its qualities. At the same time, the mulberry leaf serves as food for the silkworm. Mulberry Shah-tut had a cool shade, incomparable taste and medicinal value. Thanks to all these positive aspects, Shah-tut has been planted in the Shusha region since ancient times, and here you can find mulberry trees 150-200 years old [39, p. 122].

After 1970, there was no increase or decrease in the area of Shah-tut mulberry gardens in the Shusha district. Thus, during this period, mulberry Shah-tut mulberry gardens were sown on 18 hectares of land in the district. On average, 100 tons of crops were harvested from the gardens each year. As a result of the research, it turns out that the greatest productivity of the Shah-tut mulberry throughout the twentieth century was achieved in the 1970s and 1980s. Fruits and vegetables accounted for 15 percent of agricultural products produced in the region [17, l.19]. Most of the harvest of fruits, grapes, vegetables, potatoes and melons in the Shusha district was obtained from private farms. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, on the basis of a new material and technical base and industrial technologies, grain growing, vegetable growing, fruit growing and other branches of agriculture dynamically developed in the Shusha district. This dynamics is clearly visible from the table below (sales of agricultural products to the state of all categories) [20].

*Table 13***Sales of agricultural products in the Shusha region**

| Types of products (tons) | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Grape | 4 | 2 | — | — |
| Grain | 1049 | 343 | 450 | 480 |
| Potato | 49 | 39 | 50 | 60 |
| Mulberry | 100 | 98 | 104 | 92 |
| Fruits | 180 | 270 | 280 | 190 |
| Vegetables | 307 | 447 | 470 | 550 |

Livestock farming was one of the leading branches of agriculture in the Shusha district. Livestock farms accounted for 43 percent of agricultural production in the district [13, 1.88]. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, livestock farming developed dynamically in the Shusha district. The Shusha district specialized in the production of meat, milk, fruits and vegetables under the conditions of a nationwide division of labor. Approximately one part of the total production of these products in the republic was accounted for by the district. Shusha was one of the largest livestock-raising regions of the Azerbaijan SSR. The development of livestock farming in the region has always been the focus of Heydar Aliyev, as a result of his focused leadership, the path of development of livestock farming in the Shusha district, specialization and concentration, transition to an industrial base and other measures have made a great contribution to this development. In the 1970s, a large inter-farm industrial-type collective farm livestock complex and feed warehouses were built and put into operation in the Shusha district, and a broad program was implemented in the field of construction, reconstruction and equipping livestock buildings with new equipment. During the period under review, the area of irrigated meadows and pastures in the Shusha district increased significantly and reached 1226 hectares in 1970, 3744 hectares in 1975 and 1.8 thousand hectares in 1985 [13, 1.331]. According to 1985

data, the area of land suitable for agriculture in the Shusha district was 20.9 thousand hectares, of which 0.3 thousand hectares were used for haymaking, 16.7 thousand hectares for pastures, and 3.8 thousand hectares for plowing, perennial plantings 0.1 thousand hectares. Also, in these years, fodder crops were sown on 41 percent of the region's irrigated lands, which stimulated the development of livestock farming. In 1971-1975, the construction of social farms for the development of livestock farming was significantly expanded in the Shusha district. Thus, during these years, cowsheds for 3000 places, pig farms for 300 places, sheep farms for 9000 places and poultry farms for 22,000 places were built and put into operation [12, l.113]. The leadership of Azerbaijan has taken important measures to improve veterinary services in the region, improve the breed of cattle, develop the feed supply, and provide the livestock industry with qualified personnel.

In 1976-1980, mechanized livestock farms using industrial technology were created on collective and state farms in Shushi using special funds allocated by the republican leadership; a livestock farm for cattle with 3000 places, a pig farm with 28000 places, a sheep farm with 6000 places, and a poultry farm with 7000 places were built and put into operation [10, l.40].

In the 1970s, measures were taken to strengthen the feed base for the development of livestock farming in the Shusha district. New fodder crops were planted on farms — corn, beets, carrots, alfalfa, barley and others. The area of irrigated fodder plants has been doubled. These territories were provided with organic and mineral fertilizers. Also, farms in the Shusha district were provided with complete equipment for mowing, tying and transporting grass from the fields. During this period, sheds and silo wells for storing haystacks were built and put into operation. Compared to 1965, in 1980 the area under fodder crops increased by 40 percent, and the production of fodder plants increased by 70 percent [16, l.10]. From the studies conducted, it turns out that the feed supply plays a key role in the development of livestock farming. Therefore, in the 70s, special attention was paid to this area. As a result of proper

agrotechnical care of fields, the volume and productivity of forage plants has increased. Compared to 1975, in 1981 the collection of dry grass increased by one thousand tons, haylage by 22 thousand tons, stubble and straw by 350 thousand tons, and silage by 3.5 thousand tons. The yield per hectare was 30 centners of dry grass, 60 centners of corn and silage, 100 centners of fruit-root plants, 20 centners of barley [4, 1.206]. This meant about 2-3 times more than in 1970. In 1976-1981, at the Shusha livestock farm, at the expense of special funds allocated by the republican leadership, 5 feed mills, 12 feed kitchens, 4 mechanized vitamin and feed mixing shops were built and put into operation. All this indicates that the livestock feed supply of collective and state farms in the Shusha region meets the requirements.

One of the measures implemented in the Shusha district was to improve the breed composition of animals and provide farms with specialists. In 1970-1975 alone, the number of specialists working in agriculture increased by 30 percent. In 1975, 70 collective farm chairmen, 13 state farm directors, 11 independent farm managers, 55 agronomists, 43 livestock specialists, 85 veterinarians, 245 farm foremen, 27 technical engineers worked on the farms of Nagorno-Karabakh [14, 1.173]. As a result of the study, it became known that in terms of the number of specialists with higher and secondary education working in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, it was in first place at the level of the entire republic. About 25 percent of the above-mentioned experts were from the Shusha region.

One of the measures implemented in the Shusha district during the period under study was the improvement of the breed composition of cattle. Much work was done by the Karabakh zonal experimental station in Khankendi, the Karabakh experimental base in Margushavan, the Dashbulag and Garo breeding stations, the selection and diagnostic room "Turshsu", which were improved with funds allocated by the republican leadership and fully staffed with specialists to combat diseases in Shusha district, as well as in obtaining new breeds and artificial insemination.

In the district, public livestock were kept mainly in well-maintained buildings. On most farms, labor-intensive processes such as shearing sheep, watering animals, feeding them, cleaning the premises and other work were mechanized. The farms were fully staffed with specialists who knew their business well, and the fight against animal diseases was intensified. Qualified specialists were entrusted with the maintenance of machines and units, electrical equipment in livestock farms. The cattle were fed according to rules drawn up by specialists. In 1978, on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, another livestock farm was put into operation in the region — the “Inter-farm livestock complex” [5, 1.83]. These farms have provided great services in animal husbandry and productivity. The livestock complex was created on the basis of close ties with the livestock farm of the Shusha district. As a result of measures taken by the leadership of the republic in the livestock farms of the Shusha region in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the number of cattle in farms of all categories increased. Thus, compared to 1971, in 1985 the number of cattle increased from 6776 to 7016 heads, the number of sheep and goats increased from 21676 to 22616 thousand heads, the number of pigs increased from 1047 to 1152 heads, and the number of poultry increased from 3506 to 7669 heads (excluding birds on private farms). It should be noted that more than 30 percent of cattle, sheep and goats were kept in private farms in the Shusha district.

In the 70s and 80s of the 20th century, a decrease in the number of bee colonies was observed among agricultural living organisms. In 1970, there were 311 bee families, in 1976 — 242 bee families, in 1981 — 169 [24, p. 335]. In the years under review, in addition to the increase in livestock numbers, there was naturally also a dynamic development in the production and supply of livestock products. For example, if in 1970 each cow produced an average of 2119 kg of milk, in 1970 — 2564 kg of milk, then in 1985 this figure reached 2691 kg [6, 1.35]. The annual amount of wool sheared per sheep increased from 3.1 kg in 1970, to 3.3 kg in 1975 and 3.4 kg in 1985. In dairy farms of the Shusha district, there were even cases of milking 4500-5300 kilograms of milk from each cow [28]. Our research shows that

the Shusha district ranked first among the regions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in terms of the volume of milk milked from each cow, the volume of wool obtained from each sheep, as well as the volume of meat and cocoons delivered to procurement points. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, in the Shusha region there was a large increase in the sale of livestock products to the state, which is clearly visible from the table below (for farms of all categories) [6, 1. 34-35; 24, 1.5; 8, 1.36].

Table 14

Sales of livestock products in the Shusha district

| Type of product | Unit of measurement | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Cattle and poultry | Ton | 191 | 194 | 205 | 250 |
| Milk and dairy products | Ton | 1088 | 1466 | 1578 | 1691 |
| Thousand eggs | Thousand pieces | 97 | 189 | 201 | 256 |
| Wool | Ton | 22 | 28 | 35 | 46 |
| Cocoon | Ton | 20 | 22 | 25 | 28 |

Our analyzes show that in the 1980s, Nagorno-Karabakh produced 325 kg of milk and 75 kg of meat per person per year, which was 2 times higher than the figures for the entire republic [3, 1.4]. As a result of the research, it became known that in the mid-1980s, in terms of gross agricultural output per capita, Nagorno-Karabakh was generally ahead of the entire republic. In 1985, the volume of agricultural production per capita was 588 manats throughout the republic, 500 manats in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and 695 manats in the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan [13, 1.332].

There was also an increase in the average monthly wage of collective farmers in the Shusha district. During that period, it doubled. The high growth in annual income of collective and state

farms in Shusha had a strong impact on the wages of collective farmers working here. In 1965, each worker working on collective and state farms was paid 2 manats 65 kopecks per day, in 1970 this figure was 3 manats 87 kopecks, in 1975 4 manats 42 kopecks, in 1980 5 manats 17 kopecks, in 1985 this figure increased to 6 manats 12 kopecks. If in 1960 the average monthly income of agricultural workers was about 50 manats, then in 1970 it was 441 manats, in 1975 — 565 manats, in 1980 — 892 manats, in 1985 — 976 manats [34, p. 135]. In this regard, the average annual income of rural workers in the Shusha district doubled in 1965, 2.7 times in 1970, 3.5 times in 1976 and 5.5 times in 1980 compared to 1960. Due to the increase in state funds in the years under study, not only the average annual wage of collective farm peasants in the region increased, but also their income, pensions, preferential and material assistance. As a result of the study, it became known that the average monthly wage of agricultural workers in the Shusha district was significantly higher than the national indicators.

The rich raw materials resources of the Shusha district of Azerbaijan have created conditions for the development of the region's diversified industry. Industrial products produced in the district were exported to many countries around the world. However, we note that in the 50-60s of the 20th century in the Shusha district, despite the development of industry, contradictory situations arose. Thus, there was a noticeable violation of state discipline at enterprises, a delay in the process of reconstruction of old fields, serious shortcomings of the Armenian leadership of the region and district, their attention to quantity rather than quality of products. Administrative Emirati management methods, a paternalistic attitude towards Azerbaijani workers working in enterprises, prevailing voluntarism in the location of industrial enterprises, the exclusion of villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis from this list, and other similar negative situations were noted. National leader Heydar Aliyev, who gave an objective assessment of that period, said in one of his speeches that in 1960, Azerbaijan's industry exceeded the pre-war level, and the volume of production was 2.8 times higher than the industry of the 1940s. In the

1950-1960s, new industrial areas were formed, energy and hydraulic engineering construction expanded. Without detracting from the significance of the historical path traveled by Soviet Azerbaijan during the post-war five years, it is important to note that negative trends in the development of the republic's economy began to appear already in the 60s. Azerbaijan lagged behind the indicators of the Union in terms of the pace of development of national income, volume of production in industry and agriculture, development of scientific and technological progress, and social productivity. During this period, gross mistakes were made in the deployment of production forces. Therefore, it was necessary to find a way out of the current situation, develop fundamentally new conceptual approaches to economic development in the future, carry out radical structural changes in the national economy, and apply new methods to agricultural and economic incentive work [2, 1.12].

Thus, in the 1950-1960s, new industries were formed in the Shusha region, although contradictory, fluctuating and unstable, as a result of which production increased significantly, eliminating the problem of unemployment. In order to strengthen its economic base, the center made Azerbaijan its raw material base and accelerated the plunder of our underground and above-ground resources. The manufactured industrial products were transported to Russia and Armenia.

After coming to power in Azerbaijan, national leader Heydar Aliyev paid special attention to the socio-economic development of Shusha. In the seventies, new water and gas pipelines were built in Shusha. A new hotel, a communications house, a musical instrument factory, a new bakery, a carpet artel, a leather artel, and an artel for the production of silk scarves were built and put into operation here (Azerbaijan magazine, 1988, No. 10, pp. 155-158).

Particular attention was paid to increasing the production of consumer goods in the Shusha district. In order to more efficiently use labor resources, the network of branches of the Karabakh Silk Factory in the villages of the region where Armenians lived was significantly expanded. By the way, we note that in the 80s of the 20th century, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was the se-

cond center of our republic for silk production. The silk industry of Nagorno-Karabakh accounted for 67 percent of the light industry of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and 25 percent of the silk industry of our republic [15, 1.20].

The sawmill was one of the industrial enterprises created in the Shusha district during this period. Firewood was harvested from useless and dead trees in the forests of the region, and at the same time the plant produced charcoal from dead trees. The plant's products were sent not only to the territory of the region, but, as in previous years, the regional administration secretly and openly sent them to neighboring Armenia. In 1965-1970, such or similar industrial enterprises were created in the state farms of the Shusha district [7, 1.6].

Butter and bakery factories, which are the main industries of the Shusha district, were also based on local raw materials. The increase in the number of cattle in the region and the improvement of its breed, every year the expansion of the sale of grain supplies to the state created conditions for increasing the production of various types of flour products, cow butter, cheese and feta cheese. This increase can be seen from the following table: [6, 1.35].

Table 15

Dynamics of milk and flour products production in Shusha district

| № | Types of products (tons) | 1950 | 1960 | 1965 | 1970 | 1985 |
|---|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | Cattle butter | 25 | 145 | 209 | 222 | 225 |
| 2 | Cheese and fatty cheese | 26 | 103 | 91 | 215 | 216 |
| 3 | Bread products | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

The figures in the table above refer only to products produced in Shusha. Butter, cheese and baked goods produced by peasants were not included here. According to our calculations, in 1980, the products of the Shusha district creamery accounted for 4 percent

of the total industrial output of the region, and bakery products — 2 percent [1, 1.140].

Other industries also operated in the Shusha district — the Department of Consumer Services, a local industrial enterprise, a publishing house, a food products enterprise, and a construction trust [21, p. 101]. The local industrial complex in Shusha was based exclusively on local raw materials and gradually developed and strengthened. Various cotton fabrics, building materials and other products were produced here from local raw materials. The share of local industry in the total industrial production of the Shusha district in 1966 was 1.4%, in 1970 — 1.6%, in 1985 — 1.8% [33, p. 20].

In the Shusha district, the food industry was dominated by auxiliary industries that were supposed to meet the needs of the population of the region — dairy, meat, baking, confectionery and other industries [12, 1.114]. The only dry whey production workshop in our republic operated at the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region dairy plant. Imported equipment is installed in the milk powder shop at the dairy plant. According to calculations, in 1985, in terms of the level of production of the most important types of food products per capita, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region occupied one of the first places among the economic regions of the Azerbaijan SSR [25, p. 16]. The main factor for this was that the district is rich in raw materials, as well as the result of the care of the republic's leadership for the region.

From the research conducted, it became known that the development of the agricultural sector of the Shusha district created conditions for the development of industry. Because the industrial areas of the province developed mainly due to agricultural products and local raw materials. As of December 1985, industrial production in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region amounted to 2.8 percent of the total production volume of the republic, 1.6 percent of production assets and 2.8 percent of workers in industry. Capital investments in the production of products in the economic region increased, the volume of production per capita amounted to 29.5 manats in the region versus 21 manats in the republic as a whole. Over the past 20 years,

more than 30 industrial enterprises have been created in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, and production volume has increased 3 times over the year, exceeding the republican level [25, p. 248].

In the Shusha district per capita, the food industry grew by 65.9 percent, light industry — by 24.2 percent, forestry and woodworking industry — by 1.7 percent, production of building materials — by 1.5 percent [17, 1.20]. In terms of comparative volume of industrial output, the food industry predominated. This is primarily due to the development of the region's agricultural sector. Meat and dairy plants, fruit and vegetable plants, canneries, bakeries, milk and dairy products factories in Shusha have received strong development in terms of product production and its quality indicators at the level of the entire republic.

Sewing, carpet factories, a musical instrument factory, mechanical engineering, electrical, repair and technical plants, a passenger car service station and its branches in the Shusha district of Nagorno-Karabakh have received strong development [31, p. 41]. At that time, the construction industry in the Shusha region developed using local raw materials. In general, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region produced 15 percent of facing stone, 30 percent of building stone, 10 percent of saw stone and 10 percent of technical clay in our republic [13, 1.335]. In the Shusha district, forestry and woodworking factories, furniture workshops played an important role in the development of the diversified industry of our republic.

The construction of high-voltage power lines and thus the creation of networks in the field of electricity supply played an important role in the infrastructure of the Shusha district. In the 1971 — early 1980s, 1.4 times more funds were allocated for the development of energy in the Shusha district than in 1965-1970s [34, p. 137]. Although much of it is mountainous, a 25-kilometer high-voltage power transmission line was built in the district in the late 1960s and early 1980s. Already in 1985, the length of high-voltage power lines in the Shusha district reached 350 kilometers [35, p. 36]. The Sarsang hydroelectric power station played an important role in providing the district with electricity. It should be noted that the Shusha district

was equipped with three-way electricity. Tripartite power supply in our republic was assigned only to Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. In 1970-1985, electricity production in the Shusha district increased 2.5 times [36, p. 41]. Compared to 1970, this increase was 9 times. In total, 1.6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity were produced in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in 1970, and in 1986 it reached 57.8 million kilowatt-hours. At that time, 23.2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity were produced in our republic, and 24.1 million kilowatt-hours in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. In terms of the volume of electricity per capita, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was in first place at the level of the entire republic. Electricity per capita in the region was 2.5 times higher than the level of the entire republic and almost 2 times higher than in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic [17, 1.21]. Of course, this very fact is a solid response to the Armenian nationalists who falsified our history.

CHAPTER X

HEYDAR ALIYEV AND INCREASING THE SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF SHUSHA

As a result of the attention and care of national leader Heydar Aliyev, the economic growth of the Shusha region of Azerbaijan has created conditions for further improvement of the well-being and daily life of the population. The total volume of production on collective farms, state farms and private farms in the Shusha region almost doubled, and real per capita income increased by 80 percent [4, 1.649]. The average monthly wage of workers and employees increased by 1.5 times in the 1970s, and by 1.3 times in the 1980s. One of the main sources of increasing real incomes of the region's population was the consistent increase in wages. Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, at the congresses of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, plenums of the Central Committee and meetings convened from time to time, specific tasks were put forward for the economic, social and cultural development of our republic, including Nagorno-Karabakh, which was its integral part, as well as the Shusha district. As a result of measures taken in the 1970s to regulate and increase wages of workers and employees in various sectors of the national economy, the average wage of workers and employees in Shusha in 1985 increased by more than 60 percent compared to 1965. If in 1965 the average monthly salary of workers and employees in the Shusha region was 60 manats, then in 1975 this figure was 90 manats, in 1975 — 125 manats, in 1980 — 148 manats, in 1985 it reached 153.5 manats [16, 1. 23]. Monthly wages were higher in state farms and industrial enterprises of Shusha, where incomes were higher.

There was also an increase in the average monthly wage of collective farmers in the Shusha region. Then this growth reached 1.5-2 times. The high growth in annual income of collective and state

farms in the Shusha region also had a strong impact on the wages of collective farmers working here. If in 1965 each employee of collective and state farms was paid 2 manats 65 kopecks, then in 1985 it increased to 6 manats 12 kopecks [1, 1.38]. If the average monthly income of agricultural workers in 1960 was about 50 manats, then in 1985 it reached 976 manats [6, 1.29]. In this sense, the average annual income of rural workers in the region and Shusha district increased in 1980 compared to 1960 by 5.5 times. Due to the increase in public funds in the years under study, not only the average annual wage of rural workers in the region increased, but also their income, pensions, preferential and financial assistance. As a result of the study, it became known that the average monthly wage of agricultural workers in Shusha was slightly higher than the national indicators. For example, those working in agriculture throughout the republic received a monthly salary of 51.3 manats in 1965 and 119 manats in 1985, while in the Shusha district it fluctuated in the corresponding years from 60 to 130 manats and reached 280 manats [28, p. 92].

In the Shusha district, the incomes of both collective farmers and workers and employees from their personal farms have increased significantly. It is interesting that in these years, income from private farmsteads in the Shusha district remained high both at the level of the entire union and at the level of the entire republic. As a result of the research, it became known that in 1970, collective farmers in the territory of the former USSR received 31.9 percent of the total income from their personal farms. In 1975, this figure was 26.3 percent, in 1980 — 30 percent. This figure throughout the republic was 32 percent in 1970, 43.9 percent in 1975, 45 percent in 1980, and in the Shusha district of Azerbaijan this figure was 35 percent in 1970, 45 percent in 1975, and in 1980 — 47 percent [3, 1.3].

Our research shows that the Armenians who govern Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as provincial deputies, have always shown a step-motherly attitude towards the Shusha district, and relatively low indicators were obtained in the overall results. For example, compared to 1960, in 1975, per capita production increased by 140.5 percent throughout the republic, by 150 percent in the Shusha di-

strict and by 260 percent in Nagorno-Karabakh as a whole. In those years, the volume of industrial production in our republic was 229 percent, in the Shusha region 230 percent, in Nagorno-Karabakh 281 percent, the volume of capital investments in the republic as a whole was 219 percent, in Shusha 220 percent, in the region as a whole 420 percent, or the volume of trade turnover amounted to 240 percent in Azerbaijan as a whole, in Shusha — 245 percent, in Nagorno-Karabakh — by 280 percent, at the same time, the volume of household services increased by 540 percent in the republic, by 545 percent in Shusha and by 560 percent in Nagorno-Karabakh region [31, p. 76]. All these or other facts are hundreds and are a firm answer to the fact that the concept of “socio-economic backwardness” of the Armenians who settled in the region in the 19th century is false.

In the Shusha region, the volume of payments and benefits provided to the population from public consumption funds increased by 2.5 times, and in the region as a whole — by 3 times [30, p. 16]. During these years, material assistance to the elderly, disabled people, temporarily unable to work, labor and war veterans, families with children who have lost the head of the family, and single mothers increased from year to year. In the Shusha district, the number of recipients of general pensions from the state was 986 people in 1960, 1104 people in 1966, 1368 people in 1970, 1578 people in 1975, 2184 people in 1985 [10, 1.119].

It should be noted that the number of mothers with many children in the Shusha district was 450 people in 1965, 463 in 1970, 387 in 1975 and 31 in 1980. The number of mothers with four children was about 50 percent of all mothers with many children. According to the state decree “On improving the provision of benefits for pregnancy, childbirth and caring for a sick child” (June 26, 1973), 100 percent of wages for pregnancy and childbirth are paid to women regardless of length of service, “On further improvement of financial assistance to low-income families with children” According to the decision of September 12, 1974, from November 1, 1974, a benefit was introduced in the amount of 12 manats for each child under 8 years of age,

whose total income per family member is less than 50 manats per month [8, 1.29].

In addition, according to the state decree “On strengthening state assistance to families with children” dated March 31, 1981, women with a total work experience of at least one year, as well as annual leave with payment of a certain part of the salary for the maintenance of the child until he reaches one year of age, the minimum amount of the state bonus paid to single mothers was increased to 20 manats per month for each child, and the period of time paid for caring for a sick child was increased to 14 days. Thus, as a result of important measures implemented by our state in the 1970s and 1980s, the amount of pensions paid to the population increased by 4.4 times, and the amount of benefits by 3.3 times [15, 1.7]. In those years, the size of pensions for members of collective farms in the Shusha region increased significantly according to various indicators. For example, in the Shusha region alone, the old-age pension increased from 400 thousand manats in 1970 to 608 thousand manats in 1980. The size of disability pensions for members of collective farms in the Shusha region increased from 4000 in 1970 to 9000 in 1980, the size of the sickness and disability pension increased from 45000 to 59000, the size of the disability pension increased from 20000 to 40000 [11, 1.7]. Compared to 1970, the amount of pensions and benefits received by workers in the Shusha region increased from 50000 manats to 98000 manats [8, 1.30]. In general, the size of pensions received by the population of the Shusha district was almost two times lower than in other districts of the region.

In terms of the number of pensioners per 10 thousand people, Nagorno-Karabakh turned out to be better than the level of the entire republic (14 percent) or compared to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (12 percent). These differences were also observed in the amount of allocated pensions [5, 1.3]. However, the Council of People’s Deputies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region still very skillfully used its “powers in the field of social security”. The Nagorno-Karabakh Social Security Administration took an ambivalent position in the province as a whole, distributing local and tra-

de union pensions, and the Medical Expertise's opinion about actual sick Azerbaijanis was in most cases biased. As for the degree of pension, the most seriously ill Azerbaijanis were defined as belonging to the III degree, and persons of Armenian nationality — to the I or II degree, even if they were mildly ill. There were large differences in age benefits between Armenians and Azerbaijanis working at the same enterprise. In general, the Azerbaijani population of the Shusha region has always been subjected to oppression by Armenian nationalists both in the field of social security and in other areas, and the Armenian character showed itself here too.

In subsequent years, the improvement in the financial well-being of the population of the Shusha district can be judged by the volume of deposits kept in the district's savings banks, as well as the increase in the number of savings and savings banks.

Table 16

Financial well-being of the population of the Shusha district

| The content of the work | Years | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| | 1966-1970 | 1971-1975 | 1976-1980 | 1985 |
| Number of savings banks | 8 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Number of depositors (thousands) | 6 | 8 | 11 | 14 |
| Amount of deposits kept in cash registers (in thousands manats) | 9062 | 9522 | 9683 | 2546 |
| Average amount per depositor (in manats) | 150 | 122 | 120 | 60 |

It should be noted that only in 1975 there were 100 savings banks in the region, the number of depositors of which reached 66 thousand people, the amount of invested money reached 64751 thousand manats, and the amount of money per depositor reached 991 manats [2, 1.9]. In 1966-1980 in Khankendi, Agdara, Hadrut and

Khojavend regions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Okrug, despite an increase in the amount of savings kept in savings banks, this figure decreased in the Shusha region, where Azerbaijanis mainly lived. For example, in those years, the savings of the population in the Khankendi region increased from 9 million to 14 million manats, and in the Shusha region they decreased from 9 million manats to 2.5 million manats. Moreover, if in Nagorno-Karabakh each depositor was entitled to 991 manats, then in the Shusha region this figure was equal to 120 manats [29, p. 184]. This fact itself shows that the Azerbaijanis living in Nagorno-Karabakh were treated like stepfathers and their social status was low [25, p. 91]. At the same time, research shows that only one of the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis in Khankendi, Hadrut, Khojavend, and Agdara districts of the region had a savings bank.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, one of the important measures implemented in the Shusha district was to create a match between the consumer demand of the population living here and supply, as well as to fully satisfy the population's demand for food and non-food products. The increase in the purchasing power of the population of Shusha, the relative development of the production of consumer goods, trade and public catering led to an increase in trade turnover in the region. In 1971-1981, at the expense of the population of the region, 5 new trading enterprises, 5 canteens and restaurants, 2 buffets, 7 catering establishments, 5 small trading enterprises, 8 tent trading kiosks were built and put into operation by special funds allocated by the republican administration. During this period, the number of commercial enterprises in the Shusha district increased from 20 to 25, the number of shops, canteens and restaurants increased from 18 to 23, the number of snack bars and buffets increased from 28 to 30, catering establishments increased from 20 to 27, specialized stores increased from 2 to 3, small shops from 65 to 72, convenience stores from 20 to 25, other retail stores from 65 to 72, tent trading kiosks from 32 to 43 [22, 1.211].

In 1971-1985, the turnover of retail goods in the Shusha district in state and cooperative trade, including public catering, increased

from 4 million manats to 10 million manats. In those years, the volume of trade and commodity turnover in the Shusha district reached from 2 million manats to 3 million manats [19, 1.26]. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, there were well-organized commercial enterprises in the Shusha district providing comprehensive cultural services to the population, but there were still shortcomings in this area. Thus, it was discovered that trade organizations in the region incorrectly distributed goods among the districts; in villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis, there was a shortage of trade goods, and also that the level of trade and public catering services in these villages was significantly lower. Most of the goods sent by the central trade bodies of the region to the villages of the district where Azerbaijanis lived were of poor quality and did not meet the needs of the population. A dual position in the nomenclature of trade turnover of subordinate enterprises and trade and public catering organizations in Nagorno-Karabakh has been revealed. Existing stores in the villages of the region where Azerbaijanis lived were not equipped with refrigerators and other technological equipment. The Nagorno-Karabakh Trade Department, regional party and Soviet organizations did not try to eliminate these shortcomings and did not take effective measures.

It is appropriate to clarify one issue: during the study it became known that both in terms of the volume of retail trade turnover per capita, and in the number of retail trade enterprises, as well as in terms of trade area of stores per capita, the general indicators in Nagorno-Karabakh in the 1970s and The 1980s exceeded the level of the entire republic, Nakhchivan and other districts. For example, in 1981 alone, the number of retail trade enterprises per 10 thousand people was 28 in the republic, 24 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and 40 in the region. The retail area of shops (in square kilometers) per 10 thousand people was 1127 in the republic, 1319 in Nakhchivan and 1730 square kilometers in Nagorno-Karabakh. The volume of retail trade turnover per capita amounted to 617 manats throughout the republic, 420 manats in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 642 manats in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region. It should also be noted that the indicators in the Shusha di-

strict were at the national level [4, 1.649]. Similar differences were observed in other periods.

Public catering enterprises were of great importance in improving the cultural and living conditions of the population of the Shusha region. In the 1970s and 1980s, special attention was paid to the creation of new canteens, restaurants, factory kitchens, snack bars and buffets in the Shusha region. Only in the late 1960s — early 1980s, 2 canteens, 3 teahouses and a buffet were built in the Shusha district [32, p. 52]. During this period, existing facilities were rebuilt and overhauled. Considering the process of locating public catering establishments, it turns out that here too the Armenian leadership took a biased position. For example, in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the location and volume of public catering establishments in Khankendi, Khojavend, Hadrut, Agdara districts increased by more than 2.5 times, while in the Shusha district this growth reached 1.9 times [16, 1.2].

In the Shusha district, public catering and cultural and consumer services for the population were dynamically developing. This development can be clearly seen in the table below:

Table 17

Public catering and cultural services in the Shusha district

| Indicators | Years | | | |
|--|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
| Number of workshops and ateliers providing public services | 40 | 55 | 65 | 75 |
| Catering services (thousand manats) | 300 | 460 | 2018 | 2596 |
| Number of people working in consumer services enterprises | 110 | 120 | 165 | 180 |

If in 1966-1970 the volume of household services per resident of the region was 12 manats, then in 1971-1975 this figure increased to

16 manats, and in 1976-1980 it reached 35 manats. These indicators significantly exceed the national level. Thus, if in 1981-1986 the volume of household services per capita in the republic as a whole was 25 manats, then in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic it reached 18 manats, in Shusha — 24 manats, and in the region as a whole — 35 manats. As for the number of consumer service workshops per 10000 people, in 1981-1986 this figure was equal to 17 workshops in the republic, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 21 workshops, in the Shusha region — 20 workshops, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region — 30 workshops [8, l. 30].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, in the Shusha district the number of specialists with higher and secondary education working in trade, catering and consumer services enterprises increased significantly. So, if in 1970 their number was 40, then in 1975 it reached 120 (of which 11 had higher education), in 1980 — 165, in 1985 — 180 [10, l.119].

About 60 percent of workers in commercial enterprises in the Shusha region were women. The average monthly salary of workers in public catering and trade enterprises increased in 1975 to 87 manats compared to 67 manats in 1965. The discriminatory policy of the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh manifested itself here too. From the research conducted, it became clear that almost 90 percent of the employees of trade enterprises in the region were Armenians [14, l.98].

The leadership of the republic used all opportunities to satisfy the demand of the population of Shusha for food and non-food products. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the sale of non-food products in the Shusha district was carried out at a faster pace. Compared to 500 thousand manats in 1965, in 1975 it reached 1.5 million manats. In other words, the volume of industrial goods in the total trade turnover was 40 percent in 1965, and in 1975 it grew to 60 percent [19, l.26].

According to 1980 data, in the Shusha district, out of 100 families, 60 had a radio, 70 televisions, 60 refrigerators, 40 washing machines, 25 vacuum cleaners, 45 sewing machines and 7 cars [21,

l. 11]. During the 1970s and 1980s, prices for food and industrial goods rose. Those who were in contact with Nagorno-Karabakh at that time will probably agree with my words: in the 1980s, meat, butter, sugar and other products included in the list of strategic goods of Azerbaijan never decreased from the provincial trade kiosks. And this is the main indicator that the leadership of the republic constantly paid attention to the economy of the region and provided the region with all conditions. To raise the standard of living of the people of the province, our government has filled the markets with a variety of products to meet its growing demand. Already in 1985, the volume of trade turnover in Nagorno-Karabakh increased 5.2 times compared to 1966. Although throughout the republic this figure turned out to be 4.6 times, and in the Shusha district — 4.7 times. During this period, the rate of development of trade turnover per capita was 2.7 times throughout the republic, in the Shusha district — 2.8 times, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 3.8 times. Over these years, the retail space in stores per 10 thousand people has increased in Azerbaijan by 1.9 times, in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, which was part of it, by 2.7 times, and in the Shusha district by 2 times. Also in 1985, the number of places per 10000 people in public catering establishments in our republic reached 731, while in the Shusha district it reached 740, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 809 [12, 1.28].

Housing construction grew rapidly in the towns and villages of the Shusha district of the Azerbaijan SSR. First of all, the volume of capital investments in housing construction, development of public utilities and landscaping, and comprehensive development of housing and communal services in the Shusha district had been increased. For these purposes, 13 million manats were allocated in 1971-1975, 15 million manats in 1976-1980, and 151 million manats in 1981-1985. 27 million of the allocated funds were allocated for construction and installation work, and 15 million for public utilities, major repairs, operation of various housing facilities and mechanisms, improvement of residential areas, etc. The housing construction area was characterized by an ascending line. In the late 1960s — early

1980s, new apartments with a total area of 100000 square meters were commissioned in the Shusha district at the expense of all financial sources [15, 1.5]. The dynamic development of housing construction in the Shusha district in the years we examined is clearly visible from the table below (in thousands of square meters).

Table 18

Housing construction in the Shusha district

| Years | Number of apartments built | Including | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| | | Buildings of state and cooperative enterprises and organizations | Private apartments built with government loans | Built in villages |
| 1966-1970 | 29 | 11 | 17 | 1 |
| 1971-1975 | 30 | 14 | 15 | 1 |
| 1976-1980 | 29 | 15 | 12 | 2 |
| 1981-1985 | 32 | 15 | 16 | 1 |

Our comparative analysis shows that in 1960-1980, housing construction in the Shusha district was 2 times less than in other districts of the region. Local raw materials were also used in construction work carried out in the Shusha district of Azerbaijan. Thanks to the funds allocated by the leadership of the republic, the construction industry in the district developed at a rapid pace. According to research, in the republic as a whole, the Nagorno-Karabakh economic region accounted for 15 percent of facing stone, 30 percent of building stone, 10 percent of saw stone and 10 percent of industrially important clay [24, p. 628]. The Khankendi building materials plant, sand and gravel, stone and marble quarries, and a brick factory played a major role in this area. Khankendi, Askaran, Khojavend, Khojaly timber processing plants also accelerated the development of construction and landscaping work in the Shusha

district. In 1960-1980, more than 140 individual apartments with an area of 100000 square meters were built for workers, office workers and rural intelligentsia of the Shusha district. These apartments were built in a new style and consisted of 2-3 floors. In 1976-1980 alone, 10 thousand workers and employees moved to new apartments, and their social status improved significantly. In the late 1960s and early 1980s, new settlements were built in the Shusha district, multi-storey residential buildings were built, rural settlements were reconstructed and turned into urban settlements. Research shows that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, achievements in the field of housing construction in the Shusha district were lower than in all districts of the region. However, the region's achievements in the field of housing construction exceeded the national level. In general, if the provision of housing per resident in the region reached 14.6 square meters, then in the republic this figure was 10.0 square meters, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 9.5 square meters, in the Shusha district — 10.5 square meters. In addition, the level of improvement of the private housing stock was 137.8 percent in the republic, 107.4 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan, 140 percent in the Shusha district and 167.5 percent in the region as a whole [32, p. 44].

In 1961-1985, 175 thousand square meters of living space were built at the expense of all sources in the Shusha district, including 9 thousand square meters of living space in 1985. As a result, more than 1,700 people improved their living conditions. Our research shows that during the period under review, the housing area per inhabitant was 14.9 square meters in the territory of the former USSR, 13.7 square meters in the Armenian SSR, 10.9 square meters in the Azerbaijan SSR, 11.7 square meters in the city of Baku, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic it was 9.5 square meters, in the Shusha district — 11.5 square meters, and in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan this figure reached 15 square meters. Restrictions on individual housing construction were lifted, favorable conditions for lending were created, and construction work was accelerated [13, p. 19].

The improvement in the cultural and living conditions of the population of the Shusha district can be seen in the implementation of gasification works here. In the 70s of the 20th century, at the direction of Heydar Aliyev, gasification of the Nagorno-Karabakh region began. On December 30, 1978, the Yevlakh-Khankendi gas pipeline was opened. Part of this 107 km long pipeline was built in the mountains, under difficult conditions. At the end of the 1970s, the construction of the Yevlakh-Khankendi gas pipeline was completed and put into operation. The construction of these gas pipelines was considered an event of great importance for the residents of the Shusha district. Because after the construction of gas pipelines, gasification of the region accelerated. In 1971-1975, a 100-kilometer gas pipeline was built in the region, and in 1976-1980 this figure doubled [14, l.99]. In 1981, 3000 apartments were supplied with gas in Shusha. In the 1980s, gasification in the Shusha region doubled compared to the 1970s. Already in the early 1980s, the tasks of gasifying apartments in Shusha were completed. Here, the number of gasified apartments has increased 4 times compared to the late 1960s — early 1980s [15, l. 16]. Already in 1986, the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh was 100 percent supplied with gas. Although this figure for the republic as a whole turned out to be 96.2 percent.

Drinking water supply to the Shusha region was fully implemented in the 1970s. In those years, old water pipelines were repaired in the area, new pipelines were connected and engines were installed to pump water. In 1985, the length of the water supply network along the streets of Shusha reached 325 kilometers [16, l.3].

In general, in the 80s of the 20th century, the water supply to apartments in the region was almost 2 times higher than the level of the entire republic. According to 1985 data, the percentage of improvement of the water supply system was 30.5 percent throughout the republic, 7.4 percent in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 45.5 percent in Nagorno-Karabakh [2, l.10]. Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region exceeded the republican level in providing cities with sewerage by 2 times. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the republican leadership consistently carried out all the necessary measures to improve the

Shusha district, build streets and parks, reconstruct, repair and update public utilities. In the 1970s, 500 thousand manats were spent in the region only on landscaping, construction of parks, laying lighting and heating lines [8, 1.31]. Along with all the above successes in housing construction, in the mentioned years, some shortcomings also emerged in the region. As in previous years, during this period the housing problem remained acute in the villages of the Shusha district. And the Armenian leadership of the region informed the Center that the housing problem has been completely resolved. More or less, the quality of construction work carried out in the villages of Shusha, where Azerbaijanis lived, was at a very low level. In general, most of the villages in the region where Azerbaijanis lived did not have public service facilities. In existing facilities, the quality of service was low. Although all villages inhabited by Armenians were supplied with gas, most villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis still lacked gas. According to information provided to the center from the regional administration, these villages were “gasified”.

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, important activities in the field of road construction, transport and communications were carried out in the Shusha district. First of all, the amount of funds invested by the leadership of the republic for the development of a network of on-farm, regional, national and republican roads, construction, repair and maintenance of new roads increased from year to year. Thus, against 65 thousand manats in 1965, in 1975 130 thousand manats were allocated, in 1980 — 200 thousand, in 1986 — 325 thousand manats [5, 1.4]. With the allocated funds, new asphalt roads were built in the Shusha district. For example, in 1966, 65 kilometers of roads were built in the cities and villages of Shusha, in 1970 — 85 kilometers, in 1975 — 80 kilometers, in 1980 — 50 kilometers, in 1985 — 125 kilometers. At the same time, highways were equipped with technical means of traffic control and communications [32, p. 130]. However, it is regrettable to note that then the Council of People’s Deputies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, when compiling a list of road construction, repair and operational activities of local importance, deliberately “forgot” most of the villages in the region

where Azerbaijanis lived. This process was a traditional continuation of the processes of the previous time.

In those years, the volume of freight transport in the Shusha district by road increased from year to year. Thus, in 1965, 50000 tons of cargo were transported, in 1970 this number reached 75,000 tons, in 1980 — 346000 tons, and in 1985 — 410000 tons. There was a threefold increase in the volume of cargo turnover in the late 1960s and early 1980s. Passenger traffic reached 445 thousand in 1970, 500 thousand in 1975, 1 million in 1980 and 1.5 million in 1985 against 313 thousand in 1965 [4, 1.650].

In 1976-1980, a new fleet of trucks and taxis were built on the territory of Shusha. By the way, we note that in 1985 the fleet of trucks in the Shusha district doubled. At the national level, this figure was 1.7 times. If throughout the republic the increase in parking lots was 1.7 times, then in the Nagorno-Karabakh region as a whole it increased by 2.5 times [6, 1.31]. In these years, the Shusha Motor Transport Production Association and its subordinate enterprises transported 30 thousand tons of cargo and 380 thousand passengers over the plan. As a result of the continuous development of the national economy, continuous cultural services, and the prevention of idleness, road transport in the region has developed even more. The development of road transport in the region can be judged by the fact that in Azerbaijan there were 17.5 cars per 1000 inhabitants, and in the NKAO — 26 cars, in the Shusha district — 18 cars, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 17 cars. By the way, we note that the number of transport workers increased every year. In 1975, the number of transport workers in the Shusha district was 150 people, in 1970 — 225 people, and in 1985 — 350 people. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, the volume of road transport increased throughout the republic by 3.6 times, in the Shusha district — by 3.5 times, and in the region as a whole — by 4.8 times [12, 1.30]. In addition, the volume of passenger transportation by car increased in our republic by 2.2 times, in the Shusha district by 2 times, in the region by 2.6 times, taxi transportation in our republic — by 2.4 times, in the Shusha district — by 2.2 times, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan — 4.2 times. Studies show that the density of bus

routes in the province was 2.6 times higher than the national average. In general, the length of bus routes in NKAO increased by 8 percent in the late 1960s — early 1980s, while in Shusha it increased by 4 percent, in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic this figure increased by 4.5 percent, and at the level of the entire republic by 4.8 percent [21, 1. 12].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, important measures were taken to develop communications in the Shusha region. In order to increase the number of communication institutions, repair, security and organization of new telephone, telegraph and postal communications, and improve services to the population by communication institutions, the republican leadership increased the amount of funds compared to previous periods. In 1970-1975, 6 specialists with higher and secondary education were sent from Baku to Shusha. In just 5 years (1970-1975), the number of communication workers in the Shusha region increased from 74 to 136 people, and in 1985 it exceeded 175 people [21, 1.13].

A long-term loan in the amount of 75 thousand manats was allocated for the development of communications in the Shusha region in 1961-1975. In 1970-1982, 77 telephone sets were transferred to Shusha [21, 1.13]. In 1970-1986, the pace of development of fixed assets and investments in the communications sector in the Shusha region increased twice as much as in the republic. In the mid-1980s, the volume of communications products per capita was 21 manats throughout the republic, 22 manats in Shusha and 29 manats in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan as a whole [16, 1.2].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, a new communications enterprise was built and put into operation in the Shusha region using special funds allocated by the state. Also, the newly created enterprise was provided with the necessary equipment. In those years, the number of postal and telegraph institutions in the Shusha district increased from 9 to 10. In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 744 telephone lines were installed for the population of Shusha. The number of telephones almost doubled and reached 1,448. It is estimated that in 1985 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region there were 12 telephones per 100 people, in Shusha — 9 telephones; at the republican level this figure was 8 telephones.

In the Shusha region, significant progress has been noted in the number of radio receiving points. The number of radio receiving points in the Shusha region was 1608 in 1970, 2008 in 1975, 2741 in 1980 and increased to 3206 in 1985 [16, 1.25].

In these years, the construction of a radiotelephone line in the Shusha region expanded from year to year. The construction of the Baku-Shusha and Shusha-Nakhchivan radiotelephone line on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev gave a powerful impetus to the development of radio broadcasting in the Shusha region. In the 1980s, the commissioning of a television studio in Khankendi allowed residents of the Shusha district to watch programs from Moscow and republican television. If in 1965 there were 1.5 thousand television sets in the Shusha district, then in 1980 their number more than doubled, to 2.5 thousand, and in 1985 reached 4.5 thousand [28, p. 70].

During the period under review, post, telegraph, radio and other means of communication developed at great speed in Shusha. With the exception of most of the villages where Azerbaijanis lived, the cities, towns and villages of the region were completely radioified, and communications increasingly penetrated into everyday life. If in 1970 the population of the Shusha region sent 494 letters by post, then in 1975 this number reached 918, and in 1985 — 993. In addition, if in 1970 1958 newspapers and magazines were received from the Shusha district post office, then in 1982 the number of newspapers and magazines increased to 9748. In these years, the amount of money transfers and pensions in the Shusha region by post increased from 35 thousand manats to 49 thousand manats [3, 1.5].

Important measures were taken in the field of protecting the health of the population of the Shusha district. In order to strengthen the material and technical base of the district's healthcare, develop a network of healthcare institutions and protect the health of the population, the leadership of the republic annually increased the volume of investments. In 1970-1975, the amount of funds allocated from the budget for healthcare in the Shusha district reached 2 million manats, in 1976-1980 — 2.5 million manats, and in 1981-1985 — 3 million manats [17, 1.61].

Overall, in the 1960s and 1980s, more than 28 percent of the social funds allocated for Shushi were spent on health care. Conducted studies show that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, funds allocated for healthcare in the Shusha district were 2 times less than funds allocated to other areas of the region [11, 1.8]. Due to the allocated funds, treatment and preventive institutions were significantly expanded. Medical care for public health was strengthened, and the number of doctors and paramedical personnel in medical institutions increased significantly. Thus, in those years, 25 specialists with higher education and 80 specialists with secondary education were sent to the Shusha district. 3 new institutions providing outpatient care to the population were built and put into operation.

Table 19

Dynamic development of healthcare in the Shusha district

| Indicators | Years | | | |
|--|-------|------|------|------|
| | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 |
| Number of hospitals | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Number of beds in the hospital | 170 | 180 | 185 | 190 |
| Number of doctors | 19 | 25 | 39 | 49 |
| Number of paramedical workers | 134 | 130 | 240 | 250 |
| Women's and children's clinics and clinics | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Clinic providing outpatient care to the population | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Number of doctors per 10000 people | 15 | 21 | 31 | 39 |
| Number of beds per 10000 people | 94 | 100 | 102 | 101 |

During this period, X-ray rooms, physiotherapy rooms and laboratories equipped with advanced and modern equipment were created in the Shusha region. In 1985, the number of treatment and preventive institutions in the Shusha region was increased to 25, of which 5 were inpatient [23]. A skin and venereal dispensary, a tuberculosis and oncology dispensary, a health education center, a regional sanitary-epidemiological station, a blood transfusion station, and other clinics and outpatient clinics were opened here. The result of all this was that contagious diseases have been eliminated in the Shusha region, and the incidence of dysentery and brucellosis has significantly decreased. Our research shows that in the late 1960s — early 1980s, the provision of hospital beds for the population of the region, the supply of medical personnel of all specialties and other areas was higher, both at the level of the entire republic and in comparison with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic [31, p. 46]. For example, in 1985, the number of beds per 10 thousand people was 97.8 in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 94.6 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, 101 in the Shusha region, and 104.6 in the region. According to data per ten thousand people, the provision of medical workers in the republic as a whole was 93.8, in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic — 80.1, in Shusha — 95, and in Nagorno-Karabakh — 126.3. In the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic there were 26.2 medical workers with higher education per ten thousand people, in the Shusha region — 27 people, in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Okrug — 28.9 people [15, 1.7]. In those years, a lot of work was done in the Shusha region in the field of maternal and child health, improving working and living conditions for women, and implementing health-improving activities among children and adolescents. Studies show that in Shusha, unlike all sectors of the national economy, women make up 81 percent of medical workers. According to 1975 data, the average monthly salary of medical workers was 87 manats [17, 1.62].

Although the health measures implemented in Nagorno-Karabakh were assessed as good, some shortcomings were also evident. Thus, healthcare in the villages of the region where Azerbaijanis lived was

in an unsatisfactory condition. In some of these villages there was no clinic, no hospital, or even a first aid station. The few medical centers left over from the past were destroyed due to neglect and were not provided with medical equipment or medicines [26, p. 216].

The Shusha district of Azerbaijan has rich natural beauty. The area was famous for its health resorts, rest houses, multi-storey buildings, and medical places. There was a sanatorium and recreation center here. The clean air of Shusha, the purest water, endless forests, mountain rivers and springs that bring coolness and freshness have determined the long life of the people living here. In 1970, 70 people lived in the Shusha district for more than 100 years, and in 1979 — 80 people, of which more than 70 percent were women. In general, the average life expectancy in the Shusha district was 75 years. This is 5 years more than in the republic as a whole [31, p. 81].

Important measures were taken to strengthen and develop the material and technical base of physical education and sports in the Shusha region. For this purpose, 2782 manats were allocated as fixed assets in 1970, 3443 manats in 1975, 10579 manats in 1980 and 15092 manats in 1985 [9, 1.91].

In the late 1960s — early 1980s, 30 specialists in physical education and sports with higher and secondary education were sent to Shusha. The number of sports specialists in the region in 1970 was 8 people, in 1980 it increased to 29 people, and in 1985 it reached 55 people [29, p. 46].

During these years, a stadium, sports ground, volleyball and basketball courts, tennis courts, and a swimming pool were built in Shusha and handed over to athletes. At that time, there were 70 stadiums in our republic, 2 of which belonged to the Shusha district. As a result of measures taken by the state, the number of sports teams in the Shusha district increased from 30 in 1971 to 31 in 1975, 33 in 1980 and 50 in 1985. The number of people involved in sports in the district reached 5013 people. By the way, we note that at the end of the 1980s, there were 8020 physical culture and educational groups in the republic, in which 2.3 million people regularly went in for sports [32, p. 216].

Physical education and sports groups of the Shusha district were provided with the necessary equipment and supplies, and the material and technical base for physical education and sports was strengthened. As a result, in 1971-1985, the number of athletes who received ranks in the Shusha district increased more than 3 times [15, 1.6]. So, if in 1971 the number of athletes of II and III degrees was 350, and the number of athletes of I degree was 4, in 1981 the number of athletes of II and III degrees was 1201 and the number of athletes of I degree was 12 people, then in 1985 the number of athletes I degree reached 9 people, the number of athletes of II and III degrees reached 1401 people. At the end of the 1980s, there were 4.3 thousand USSR masters of sports in Azerbaijan. According to estimates, 80 percent of those involved in physical education and sports in the Shusha region were women. Overall, in 1985, more than 20 percent of the population was involved in physical education and various sports. The average monthly salary of those involved in physical education and sports was 82 manats [9, 1.93].

The recreation and health of children and youth in the Shusha district have always been the focus of attention. To effectively conduct children's summer holidays in the district, pioneer camps were created and its material and technical base was strengthened. In these camps, children had a good rest, played sports and prepared for work. During the summer holidays of the 1979-1980 school year alone, 2885 students of grades 9 and 10 rested in the Shusha health-improving labor camp of the Shusha district. During this period, 200 children from other regions of Nagorno-Karabakh rested annually in the Yuri Gagarin pioneer camp of the Shusha district [20, 1.31].

Our analysis shows that in 1979, 16019 people lived in the Shusha district, of which 13,000 people (82 percent) were Azerbaijanis, 2800 people (17 percent) were Armenians, and the rest were representatives of other nationalities. However, at the beginning of the century, Armenians made up a very small part of the population of Shusha [27, p. 90]. The increase in the percentage of Armenis in Shusha, on the one hand, was associated with the step-by-step

attitude of the Armenian leadership towards villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis, and on the other hand, it was associated with the purposeful resettlement of Armenian families to this mysterious corner of Azerbaijan, which has no equal in the world. Let us note that in the Shusha district there were 42 people per square kilometer, in the Hadrut district — 23 people, in the Khojavend district — 34 people, in the Agdara district — 26 people. Sparse population is the basis of a good life. It should also be noted that a significant part of the territory of Shusha was illegally separated from time to time and annexed to the territory of Khankendi.

Thus, as a result of the far-sighted policy of Heydar Aliyev, important changes took place in the socio-economic, national composition, life and well-being of the population of Shushi, income level, purchasing power, trade, public catering, medicine, communication and consumer services, as well as water supply, improved, gas and sewerage of residential areas. In addition to all this, as a result of the policies of the Armenian leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh, the consumer needs of the population of Shushi were not properly met, and the level of services remained low, especially in rural areas. The environment began to become polluted. Although the nominal population has increased, the annual growth rate has decreased.

CONCLUSION

With the return to power of national leader Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan in 1993, the foundation of independent state building was laid and further developed in the country. Heydar Aliyev managed to preserve and strengthen statehood, stabilize the situation and move to a market economy.

Heydar Aliyev brought the right voice of Azerbaijan to the whole world in prestigious international organizations, and thus our independence was preserved, our state developed, became recognized and influential. As a result of his foresight, the Republic of Azerbaijan, which based its foreign policy on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, became the leading state in the world. One of Heydar Aliyev's most important achievements in the field of foreign policy was that he brought Azerbaijan out of isolation from the Turkic world. He restored our traditional friendly relations with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, liberated along with Azerbaijan.

As a result of the efforts of Heydar Aliyev, on May 12, 1994, through the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group and Russia, a "truce" agreement was signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Azerbaijan joined the NATO Partnership for Peace program. In September 1994, national leader Heydar Aliyev proclaimed to the whole world the truth about Azerbaijan from the rostrum of the 49th and 2000th anniversary sessions of the UN [1, p. 176].

At the OSCE Lisbon Summit held in December 1996, 53 of the 54 OSCE member states supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in the Declaration on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the Republic of Azerbaijan was brought out of a deep and comprehensive crisis in the first stage, covering 1993-1997, and the foundations for integration into the market and world economy were created. Then the land was returned to its owners — the peasants. First of all, a legal framework for privatization was created. The transfer of land to peasants contributed to the development of agriculture. At the same time, the privatization of small and medium-sized production and service enterprises under va-

rious subordination was begun. The oil industry played an important role as an advanced sector of the economy. The oil industry could play an important role in the development of other sectors of the economy, attracting foreign investment into the country's economy and expanding domestic investment opportunities. Taking into account the role of the oil factor in the economic development of the country and ensuring independence, Heydar Aliyev defined his oil strategy. After the signing of the "Contract of the Century" on September 20, 1994, the volume of foreign investment in the country's economy increased from year to year. In 1996-1997, the country's economy emerged from the crisis and began to develop steadily [15, p. 101].

In 1997, Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova created an organization called GUAM with the goal of accelerating economic growth, improving people's well-being and deepening lucrative trade relations. The next OSCE summit, held in Istanbul in November 1999, played an important role in strengthening Azerbaijan's participation in international relations [19, p. 362].

The launch of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport link "New Silk Road" within the framework of the EU TRACECA program played an important role in the development of the country's economy. In September 1998, the International Conference "The Great Silk Road" was held in Baku. At this conference the "Baku Declaration" was adopted. The Headquarters of the Great Silk Road was created and it was decided to locate it in Baku.

In 1999, an agreement was signed on the transportation of oil via the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, and the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan was created. The funds collected in this fund were also to be directed to other areas of the Azerbaijani economy. To effectively use the fund for the economic and social well-being of the republic, a special program was prepared [14, p. 32].

Already at the beginning of the 21st century, Azerbaijan established trade relations with 140 countries of the world. Italy, Russia, England, Turkey, the USA, Turkmenistan, Germany, Greece, Kazakhstan, Israel, France, Japan, Malaysia and Iran accounted for more than 80% of trade relations [8, p. 1; 18, p. 47].

According to the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE), on January 25, 2001, the national flag of our country was raised in front of the residence of the Council of Europe, located in the French city of Strasbourg. Thus, Azerbaijan was accepted as a full member of the Council of Europe. At the autumn session of PACE, held on September 24, 2001, another important document was adopted, confirming the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan [12, p. 76; 13, p. 5]. The importance of this document also lies in the fact that it is an international legal document that gives Azerbaijan the right to resort to any means to liberate its territories from occupation.

At the Trabzon Summit of the Presidents of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia, held on April 30, 2002, an Agreement was signed between the republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey “On the organized fight against terrorism, organized crime and other crimes” [6, p. 533].

During this period, Azerbaijani consulates were opened in 20 countries, relations with neighboring Iran, Russia and Turkey improved, Azerbaijan’s position in the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, NATO and other influential organizations was further strengthened. At the Prague NATO summit held in November 2002, our country was accepted as an associate member of the Parliamentary Assembly of this organization, and the fact that Armenia is a terrorist state was brought to the attention of the world.

As a result of the successful policy of Heydar Aliyev, the United States became a strategic partner of Azerbaijan, and the 907th amendment to the “Law on the Protection of Freedom” was repealed [7, p. 179]. On March 30, 2002, the ban imposed by the United States on the sale of weapons to Azerbaijan was lifted, and until 2020, our army was provided with weapons and ammunition purchased abroad.

On May 23, 2001, Heydar Aliyev signed a historic decree that opened a new stage in the organization of Azerbaijanis around the world. According to this order, on November 9-10, the First Congress of World Azerbaijanis was held in Baku, which was attended by 1,105 representatives from 36 countries and 906 guests [6, p. 478]. The Milli Majlis adopted the “Law on the state policy of the Republic

of Azerbaijan regarding Azerbaijanis living abroad". On July 5, 2002, the State Committee for Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad was created.

On October 15, 2003, under the far-sighted and wise leadership of Heydar Aliyev, Ilham Aliyev, who had many years of comprehensive experience in statehood, was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan [19, p. 196].

With the election of Ilham Aliyev as President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a new stage in the state's foreign policy began. This stage builds on the foundations of the previous period and is its continuation. The activities of Ilham Aliyev, the political successor and worthy follower of Heydar Aliyev, in 2003-2009 are characterized by the continuation of legal and state construction in Azerbaijan. Thus, the II Congress, held on March 16, 2006, and the III Congress, held in July 2011, played a big role in strengthening the unity of Azerbaijanis around the world [6, p. 479]. At the congresses, important decisions were made to further strengthen ties between Azerbaijanis living abroad and our country, bring the truth about Azerbaijan to the world community, and improve diaspora building.

In December 2003, the participation of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in the World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva became his first foreign visit. As a result of the effective active foreign policy pursued during the presidency of Ilham Aliyev, many bilateral, regional and international meetings were held in the country. During this period, the country was visited at various levels by heads of state and government of many countries. Azerbaijan also acted effectively in the direction of mediation in eliminating contradictions between countries. The country's international relations have expanded, its role in the world has increased, and its position has strengthened.

The elections of a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council occupy an important place in the foreign policy of Azerbaijan. Back in 2003, when Ilham Aliyev was the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in his historic speech at the UN General Assembly, he made proposals regarding the working mechanism of

the UN, and also put forward the idea of electing one of the Eastern European countries as a member of the UN Security Council [5].

On October 24, 2011, in the elections of a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2012-2013, the Republic of Azerbaijan received votes from 155 of the 193 UN member states. The non-permanent membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the UN Security Council lasted from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013. During this period, Azerbaijan became one of 15 states that determine world politics. It is also noteworthy that Azerbaijan became the first country in the South Caucasus and Central Asia to be elected as a member of the Security Council [6, p. 197].

The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, which opened on October 30, 2017, is considered the shortest and most reliable road connecting Europe with Asia. The successful completion of the construction of this road, which will be used by China, Kazakhstan, the countries of Central Asia and Europe, is considered as another serious achievement of Azerbaijan [4]. On June 12, 2018, the opening ceremony of the TANAP (Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline) took place in the city of Eskisehir, Turkey. The construction of this pipeline was an important step in transporting Azerbaijan's gas resources to Europe [5].

The political and economic development provided by Heydar Aliyev and Ilham Aliyev, who continued his political line, created all kinds of opportunities and conditions for Azerbaijan to take steps to liberate its lands. Armenia continued to take an unconstructive position in the almost 30-year negotiation process aimed at resolving the consequences of military aggression against Azerbaijan and implementing UN Security Council resolutions No. 822, 853, 874 and 884. Since 2019, the military-political leadership of Armenia has consistently taken provocative steps that led to the deliberate complete breakdown of the negotiation process. The fact that the real goal of the other side was once again the annexation of Azerbaijani territories made the factor of military conflict more relevant.

In addition to all this, the aggressive strategy and military doctrine adopted by Armenia, the expansion of the policy of illegal settlement in the occupied territories, the call for a "new war for

new territories”, the provocation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border in the Tovuz direction in July 2020, the concentration of troops near front-line areas, as well as the massive collection of weapons and ammunition, indicated that Armenia was preparing for a large-scale offensive.

In response to this, at the call of the Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, the Azerbaijani people started the Patriotic War in order to free their native land from occupation as a result of the success of their sacred dream [22, p. 12-14].

As a result of 44-day military operations, inscribed in glorious letters in the history of the country, the victorious Azerbaijani army liberated Jebrail, Fizuli, Zangilan, Gubadly districts, the city of Shusha, the village of Hadrut of Khojavend district and many villages. The village of Sugovushan of the Terter district, several villages of the Khojaly and Lachyn districts, including a total of more than 300 settlements, as well as important strategic heights in the Agdara, Murovdag and Zangilan directions. Brave Azerbaijani soldiers and officers advancing step by step broke through the engineering and fortification systems built by Armenia for many years, and our lands were liberated at the cost of the blood and lives of our heroic soldiers and officers, our shehids-martyrs. Azerbaijan’s victories, especially the liberation of Shusha from enemy captivity on November 8, played a decisive role in the fate of the war, as a result of which Armenia was forced to return the Kelbajar, Aghdam and Lachyn districts to Azerbaijan, admitted its defeat and signed the act of capitulation [16].

In the 44-day Second Karabakh War, the Azerbaijani Army attached special importance to the use of the most modern weapons, using a strategy that was a novelty in military history. As a result, he quickly moved forward and cleared our occupied territories of Armenian terrorists, while all the enemy’s military equipment was destroyed, and a serious blow was inflicted on his personnel. Thus, the Azerbaijani Army under the leadership of the Victorious Supreme Commander in a short period of time wrote a Glorious History, which international organizations could not do in 30 years [20, p. 31].

In support of Heydar Aliyev's opinion, "Our people have repeatedly proven that they are capable of preserving their national identity, land and homeland" [23], Ilham Aliyev stated that "the determination and will of the Azerbaijani people, economic power, modern military construction and unity of national power — the strength of our country, were important factors that ensured his victory. The Azerbaijani people, inspired by the rich statehood and military history of our great ancestors, wrote another glorious heroic chronicle, proved to the whole world that they are a victorious nation and won a historic victory over the enemy [3]. As Ilham Aliyev emphasized, the basis and essence of this victory is the training of our national military personnel, which was started by Heydar Aliyev in 1969, the increase of the feeling of national patriotism, the development of our economy, the creation of our national army during the second coming to power, ensuring the development of our army and the transfer of this process to his successor Ilham Aliyev, who ensured our victory in 2020. Against the background of Heydar Aliyev's relations with the Turkic world, the support of the rightful cause of Azerbaijan by Turkey and the entire Turkic world, which has great influence in the South Caucasus and around the world, is considered one of the foundations of our victory in the Second Karabakh War.

On December 10, 2020, at the Victory Parade dedicated to the victory in the Patriotic War on Freedom Square in Baku, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyub Erdoğan, noted in his speech that "One of the greatest achievements in this success was achieved by Azerbaijan both in the military and diplomatic regions, undoubtedly belongs to my dear brother, belongs to the master of President Ilham Aliyev. With this, my brother Ilham Aliyev fulfilled the wish of the late Heydar Aliyev. Here I also pay tribute to the national leader Heydar Aliyev, who used this opportunity to lay the foundation of a strong Azerbaijan. I hope that Azerbaijan, under the determined leadership of my brother Ilham Aliyev, will continue to write the saga-dastan. Dear brother, dear Azerbaijani people. From the very beginning, Turkey supported the struggle of Azerbaijan with

all its institutions and organizations and supported its Azerbaijani brothers with all its capabilities. Like Turkey, in our relations with Azerbaijan we have always been guided by the great leader Heydar Aliyev's slogan "One nation, two states". The liberation of the lands of Azerbaijan from occupation does not mean the end of the struggle. The struggle, which has continued so far in the political and military spheres, will continue on many different fronts" [17].

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