

Հայաստանի Հանրապետության  
Արտակարգ և Լիազոր Դեսպան  
Լոնդոն



Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia

London

The Editor  
Diplomat Magazine  
11 Grosvenor Crescent  
London, SW1 7EE

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Madame,

I was baffled to receive the latest issue (Sept. 2009) of the Diplomat and discover with disbelief how my own words were distorted on its pages (Armenia: Beset by Conflict and Blessed by Opportunity).

I am terribly disappointed that a publication like Diplomat would take the liberty to make changes that result in a change of stress, as well as of the intended meaning by the author who is dealing with sensitive political issues - something your editors should understand.

Never before in my public career as a Diplomat, President's Press Secretary or simply an author, in my vast experience in working with all types of media, have I witnessed such liberties taken in treating someone's statements. It is universally known that in cases when significant changes for whatever reasons seem necessary the editors would consult the authors and seek their consent. After all, in our responsible positions we take special care in choosing every single word and definition, to avoid any possible misperception, misunderstanding or misinterpretation. Unfortunately, the amazing unwillingness to check with us and the "creativity" in editing our text has resulted not only in deliberate-looking shift in accents but also in factual mistakes. How am I going to explain, for instance, that I did not and could not have possibly said that Armenia lost a piece of the Black Sea shore? This kind of blatantly incorrect statement seriously damages my reputation.

Under such circumstances I feel obliged to state that since the article contains phrases that I did not write and pieces of my own were omitted, all responsibility for the misinterpretation by or discontent of the readers lies with the Diplomat. We have no choice but to inform the widest audience we can reach about this situation. I would expect that an apology and publication of this protest in the Diplomat's next issue would be the least that your magazine can do.

Sincerely,

[ signed ]

Vahe Gabrielyan