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PROBLEM OF ABKHAZIA ESTIMATED BY WASHINGTON POST

After collapse of the Soviet Union, Georgia with other former soviet republics was facing many vital problems. One of such problems was anti-Georgian separatism in Abkhazia and so called "South Ossetia", which was expressed with an aggressive form. Since Georgia gained the freedom and became an independent republic, this problem raised more evidently.

Foreign countries interested in problems, which were raised with an urgent form in Georgia, in confirmation of this fact we can use this work in which is evaluated and analyzed publication which were published in Washington Post (one of the most famous newspapers of USA) dealing with 1992-1993 years war operations in Abkhazia.

First article which was devoted to this war dates back with 15th of August of 1992, as we see it was published on the second day after beginning the war in Abkhazia. Washington Post from its first publications attracted the readers' attention to the circumstance that, not only Abkhazians were fighting against Georgia, but Muslim volunteers who were allowed to cross the federal border of Russia.

As for Russia's direct involvement in this war, journalists of Washington Post were evaluating this subject from two different positions. For example, in the article from the issue of Washington Post, 19th of August of 1992, Michael Dobbs said, that Russia as historically colonial power in the region was keeping neutrality in war operations. But at the same time he states, that in order to oppress Georgians, who were outnumbered in Abkhazia, Russia traditionally was supporting autonomy of Abkhazia and North Caucasian ethnic minorities, which were living there.

The last publication which was which was published during the war operations in Abkhazia dates back with 28th of September 1993 on the second day after Sokhumi's capitulation, the author of this publication is Lee Hockstader. The letter deals with not only last day of the war, and Sokhumi's capitulation, but it is summarizing this conflict and gives us comments and analyses of former government officials and Shevardnadze.

As we see in Washington Post publications it is clear that this war was not the conflict between Georgians and Abkhazians, but it was the war in which Russia was fighting against Georgia in order to annex our native land Abkhazia.

The authors of the materials concerning Abkhazia published in the newspaper "Washington Post" in 1993-1994 demonstrated moderate and reserved attitude towards the problem of Abkhazia. Though it is obvious that unlike the letters printed during the armed conflict, understanding of the concept related to this matter is deeper.

The first article after the war dated by October 1, 1993 deals with not only peripetias of the conflict, but contains evaluation for the conditions of external policy existing in the world as well. According the point of view of the newspaper, the above-mentioned problem goes beyond the borders of two countries and it is very actual even for the USA.

The situation characterizing post-war Abkhazia is also described in the article by Lee Hocksteider issued on October 22, 1993. The attention is focused on slashing and tragic results Abkhazia and rest Georgia were facing due to military operations. In the article we come across the narration of refugees, which enable the readers to be completely aware of the barbarous treatment of ethnic Georgians from the Abkhazian side who were supported by Russians. The newspaper calls it "Ethno-cleansing".

The letter printed in the newspaper "Washington Post" published on March, 1994 the Abkhazian conflict is discussed in the context of big policy. To the author's point of view on the territory of Georgia there was a fight between the Russia on the one hand, representing "Colonial Power" in the region for many years and the USA on the other hand, which became the only hegemonic country in the modern world after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The author of the letter thinks that the assistance of Russia towards separatists was caused by hatred of Shevardnadze. He considers him to be a person who contributed towards destroyed "Empire of Evil".

So this is a problem of Abkhazia observed by one of the most influential and highly rating newspaper of the USA – "Washington Post". Despite the fact that later on the pages of the newspaper also appeared several letters, I do not find it reasonable to hold discussion about them, because they are carrying informational mark opposite from early ones.