

**Ambassador Matthew Bryza
Comments to Press Upon Arrival
Heydar Aliyev International Airport,
Baku, Azerbaijan
February 6, 2011**

(In Azerbaijani) Good Evening. I'm very happy to come to Baku and to see so many friends. I, my wife Zeyno, and our daughter Maya have long awaited this day.

(In English) We're sorry it took us so long to get here, but, as we say in American English, "it's better late than never." It is a great honor to return now to Baku as United States Ambassador to Azerbaijan. It will also be a great honor to present my credentials to President Aliyev.

And after that, I look forward to speaking with you at great length, and many times. And for now, let me just say that my family and I are so excited about being here.

We so look forward to strengthening the friendship between our two countries and deepening our cooperation to strengthen peace... peace, prosperity, and democratic institutions.

(In Azerbaijani) Once again, thank you for coming to greet us.

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