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PRESS RELEASE

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The United States congratulates the Government of Azerbaijan and all of the parties involved, including the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the private shareholders of the Shah Deniz consortium, and all of the countries along the Southern Gas Corridor, on the successful completion of the Shah Deniz II final investment decision. This agreement and the planned pipelines will be instrumental in guaranteeing the energy security of Turkey, southern Europe, the Balkans and the rest of Europe. By bringing Caspian gas to international markets, this initiative will also contribute to meeting global energy demand, which is critical to sustaining economic growth.

I am proud to have been involved with this project for several years and to have witnessed today's historic agreement.

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