

Ambassador Richard Morningstar
Heydar Aliyev International Airport Arrival
August 30, 2012

Ambassador Morningstar: Good evening everybody. It is very good to see you all here. Actually, I see a lot of familiar faces from my prior visits to Azerbaijan.

Faith and I are very excited to be here tonight and to begin our new post to Baku.

I have been coming to Azerbaijan since 1995 so. It's been 17 years since my first visit.

I can remember fondly my many visits with President Heydar Aliyev, and, in recent years, with President Ilham Aliyev and many other members of the government, including Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov.

So, I look forward to working with the government of Azerbaijan, getting to know the people of Azerbaijan, getting to know the country, and dealing with very important issues that we have because Azerbaijan is such an important country that we have such a critical relationship with it.

We'll be working on critical issues including regional stability, democracy and making Azerbaijan a very strong, transparent modern democracy. We'll working on issues related to counter-terrorism, and of course, as you know, I have spent a lot of time working on energy that still will be a very important issue, as well as expanding the whole of Azerbaijani economy, so it will become more than energy based.

And I unfortunately, cannot answer questions right now. I need to present credentials, but I'll be happy of course to see all of you in near future as I have seen you before.

But I do want to introduce to you my wife Faith who will be a part of this endeavor.

(Speaking to Faith:) Maybe, you want to say couple of things?

Ms. Faith Morningstar: Well, I just want to thank you for your enthusiastic welcome. I look forward to getting to know you better. I thank those of you who

greeted us, the protocol people from Azerbaijan, and our mission for such a nice arrival in this gorgeous terminal. We look forward to seeing you more. Thank you very much!

Ambassador Morningstar: One last brief word of thanks to Adam Sterling who has served well as our Chargé d’Affaires for quite a while.

So, thank you. I look forward to seeing you all.

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