



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 30 August 2004

International Bureau Circular

263

Azerbaijan – Illegal postage stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

The Government of **AZERBAIJAN** asks me to inform you of the following:

"The Ministry of Communication of the Republic of Azerbaijan approached the Universal Postal Union in 1993 regarding the circulation of illegal stamps issued by the occupying power of Armenia in the name of the so-called "Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh". International Bureau circular 426 of 20 December 1993 called on the postal administrations of all UPU member countries not to accept for processing items with the illegal stamps mentioned above and to return them to origin.

"However, letters with these stamps enter into the territory of Germany from Armenia without any obstacle, as confirmed by an article published in "Michel Rundschau" of October 2003. A letter with the above-mentioned illegal stamps bearing the name of the so-called "Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh" addressed to a German citizen from a sender in the occupying power of Armenia was the reason for the publication of this article. The article also stated that these illegal stamps had been presented in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue (United Kingdom).

"This confirms that certain postal administrations are grossly violating the norms and regulations enshrined in the Universal Postal Convention and other Acts of the UPU, as well as the rules of passage of postal correspondence amongst countries.

"The Government of Azerbaijan informs member countries of the Union of the inadmissibility of processing any written correspondence bearing the illegal postage stamps issued by the occupying power of Armenia in the name of the so-called "Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh". The publication of articles and information on these illegally issued stamps in leading postage stamp catalogues is equally unacceptable.

"Once again, in consideration of the foregoing, we reiterate the request made in circular No. 426 of 20 December 1993 that the postal administrations of all member countries of the UPU should not accept items bearing the above-mentioned stamps and should return them to origin."

Yours faithfully,

Thomas E LEAVEY
Director General