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Monday, 24th December, 2018.**

Dame Commander Mrs. Louise Ellman D.B.E. , M.P.
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

My Ref: PB01918.

**BBC World Service Radio Documentary
30th Anniversary
The Armenian Earthquake 1988
International Emergency Response
of
UK - Lancashire County Fire Brigade**

Dear Dame Commander Louise,

You will recall that the BBC in the persons of, Mr. Tim Whewell formerly of 'Newsnight' fame, and Mr. Yuri Maloverian, of the BBC Russian News Service, who are the producers the relevant programmes, which will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on the 27th December 2018, invited me to return to Armenia to meet the survivors and share our collective reflections with their Listeners.

During this visit I was formally presented to the Mayor of Spitak Mr. Gagik Sahakyan and to the President of Armenia His Excellency Professor Armen Sarkissian PhD.

I conveyed, not only your continuing interest in Spitak and Armenia in general, but I expressed on your behalf your recent thoughts to me of your continuing sympathy and condolences at this the 30th Anniversary of this great tragedy.

Both of these Armenian luminaries were as you might well expect very well briefed on your personal role on all these matters and indeed they recognised your political courage at that time.

Later I intend to publish the detail of these laudatory meetings in detail on my website 'The Morning Bugler' with accompanying photographs.

They were both pleasurable occasions particularly with the President who I had known well from my days engaged with him as Armenian Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

His Excellency asked me privately to extend to you his especially warm and personal greetings.

The Mayor of Spitak Mr. Mr.Gagik Sahakyan, a young man, who has been Mayor for 10 years now, also asked that I convey his personal greetings and thanks to you on behalf of himself and Community for all that you did for them during those terrible times as ,today, they continue the slow rebuilding of the heart of their city.

Indeed, such is his and his Community's continuing gratitude,that he has directed me to carry back to you as a great mark of his respect a personal and duly authorised formal Letter of Acknowledgement to you, and all the rescue team personnel, which I now attach.

I would be grateful if you would be kind enough to let me know of its safe receipt.

Yours Sincerely, as ever,



Divisional Fire Officer (Rtd) Grad I Fire E.



Order of
of

LSGCM

Oklahoma Medal of Valour
&

Excellent Firefighter

Exemplary Fire Service

Honorary Citizenship



Soviet Union

United Kingdom

Oklahoma USA



Republic of Armenia
Spitak Municipality

1804, 7 Shahumyan, Spitak Municipality, Lori Region, Republic of Armenia
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The Honourable Dame Louise Ellman,
Dame Commander British Empire,
Member of British Parliament U.K.

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT NOTE OF Mr. GAGIK SAHAKYAN - MAYOR OF SPITAK

Dear Dame Commander,

Very soon it is the 30th anniversary of the 1988 December the 7th earthquake in Spitak. On December the 7th 1988, Spitak- once a young and fastly developing industrial town- a regional centre, was totally destroyed within seconds. People lost their families, their homes and jobs, their earnest earnings, but not the hope.... Bearing the losses and pain in the heart, they stayed on their land- to rise, to create, to build again and to recover....

In those horrible days the whole world united, people understood each other, they combined their efforts and passed the most severe trial. People from nearly the whole globe offered a helping hand to us and made Spitak a zone of human solidarity and sympathy for which the Spitak people is thankful to each and everyone. The names of its residential neighborhoods are a live evidence that the town rose thanks to friendly nations and has now become a real symbol of nations' friendship.

I would like to express a word of gratitude and acknowledgement on my behalf and on behalf of the whole community of Spitak, to all the nations and governments, to organizations and individuals for supporting us, for giving us hope, faith and inspiration, for being there on a difficult moment, for offering a helping hand, for humanity, for elimination of consequences of disaster, for reconstructing the town and providing an invaluable support in development!

I wish that all people and nations live in a peaceful and secure world.

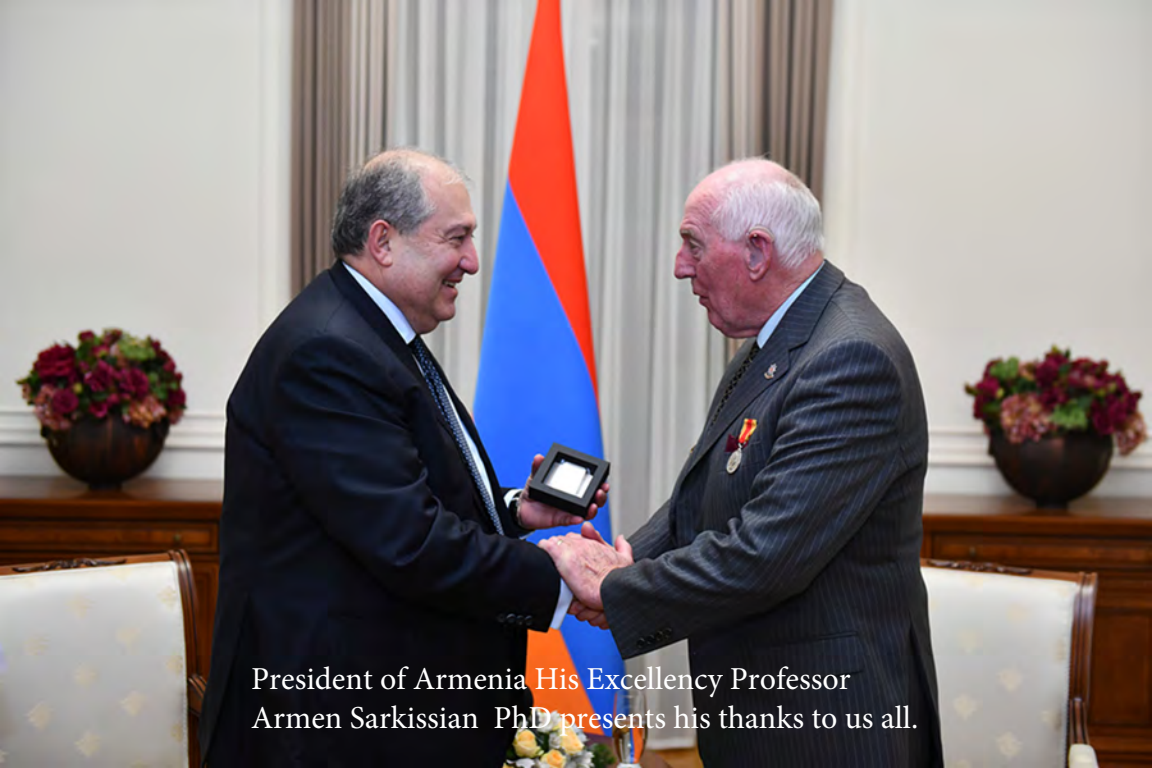
With best regards and anticipation for future cooperation opportunities,



GAGIK SAHAKYAN



Mayor of Spitak presents his Thanks



President of Armenia His Excellency Professor
Armen Sarkissian PhD presents his thanks to us all.