

March 5, 2003

Mr. Morad Gassanly
Chairperson, VATAN
29 Whitley House,
Churchill Gardens
London SW1VBH
UK

Dear Mr. Gassanly:

Support for Baku- Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline Project

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 2003 to Mr. Wolfensohn expressing your support for the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project. Mr. Wolfensohn has asked me to respond on his behalf.

We agree that the pipeline will have significant impact on Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Major infrastructure projects are key to development and play a major role in facilitating transitional economies in the global economy. It is therefore important that governments and civil members of all three countries fully understand the likely costs and benefits of the pipeline and can engage in an open and informed discourse.

We value constructive dialogue with you and other civil society groups, and look forward to exchange of ideas to strengthen the impact of the project.

Thank you once again for your letter.

Sincerely,



Yasmin Tayyab
Corporate Relations

cc: Mr. James D. Wolfensohn, President, World Bank Group