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RUSSIA WARNS AGAINST 'HASTY' ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN PEACE DEAL PROMOTED BY WEST

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Russia has warned Armenia and Azerbaijan against hastily finalising a peace agreement without considering realities on the ground, as the countries seem to be rushing into finally ending their more than 30-year conflict, from which Moscow has benefited. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov cautioned on November 5 that a premature peace deal, which Western allies are advocating, risks reigniting regional tensions rather than establishing stability.

This warning from Moscow contrasts sharply with statements from Washington, which has supported recent moves by Yerevan and Baku to formalise procedures for border delimitation $\ \ \ \ \ \$ significant step toward a comprehensive peace settlement. On October 31, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller publicly commended both Armenia and Azerbaijan for their sustained dialogue, which he described as a promising path toward a stable and dignified peace for the region. Miller's remarks followed the ratification of a bilateral agreement on border commission procedures, signed in late August.

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