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## **FRENCH ARMS SALE TO ARMENIA FUELS TENSION IN CAUCASUS**

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Azerbaijani media raises specter of Third Karabakh War.

A cold conflict is escalating between France and Azerbaijan. And the latest twist in the tit-for-tat spat is heightening the prospect of renewed conflict in the Caucasus.

On June 18, French Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu announced the sale of 36 Caesar self-propelled howitzers to Armenia. The move immediately sparked vitriolic responses from Azerbaijan and Russia. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry called the sale as a provocative step that could revive the region as a hotbed of war.

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