
PASHINIAN DEFENDS TRIP TO MOSCOW

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Shoghik Galstian

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian on Wednesday reaffirmed and defended his decision to attend Fridays military parade in Moscow dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany.

Pashinian notified Russian President Vladimir Putin of that decision in a March 14 phone call. The move underscored what observers see as the Armenian governments efforts to ease tensions with Moscow. The government signaled such plans earlier amid an unfolding thaw in U.S.-Russian relations.

During the governments question-and-answer session in the parliament, Pashinian was asked by a pro-government lawmaker to comment on suggestions that his attendance of the Red Square parade will damage Armenias ties with the West.

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