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Ms. Gayane Manukyan
Editor-in-Chief
AJA International Magazine

Dear Ms. Manukyan,

It was a great pleasure to read the first issue of the *AJA International Magazine*. I would like to add my humble congratulations to all those who made true of this one of the most prolific pan-Armenian industrial initiatives of the post-soviet time.

I can vividly recall *Mr. Pierre Akkelian* visiting the Armenian Embassy in Ottawa in 1995 and sharing his dream about the formation of an international association of Armenian jewelers. I have to confess that back then, when our nascent independent homeland was struggling with enormous challenges of nation building, Pierre's idea sounded a little too ambitious. However, not only he, with a support of his colleagues from around the world, including Armenia, had the vision, but also demonstrated an extraordinary leadership in developing what has now become *The Armenian Jewelers Association*.

Conceived in 1997 at the grand opening ceremony in Armenia, the AJA of today is a commendable illustration of how a worthwhile private initiative supported by the Armenian Government could be built into successful partnership based on the integrity and a common vision, a vision that advances one of Armenia's national brands in the world.

I would also like to congratulate the current President of AJA, *Mr. Gagik Gevorkian*, and wish him even higher accomplishments in promoting the mission of this noble organization.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "G. Nanagoulian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Garnik Nanagoulian
Executive Director, Fund for Armenian Relief
Former Armenia's Ambassador to Canada

Cc: Mr. Gagik Gevorkian, President, Armenian Jewelers Association