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Tengiz Oil Will Pass

Azerbaijan, which began to transport oil only three months ago and has come close to working out a project for a strategic export route, is involved in the construction of one more pipeline. This one is for exporting Kazakhstani hydrocarbons.

The president of the American oil company Chevron has recently paid a visit to Tbilisi and Baku. In Tbilisi, he held talks with the Georgian President. The meeting between the Georgian government, the Chevron Company, and the Azerbaijani-British company Caspian Trans Co. resulted in the signing of an agreement "On Substantially Increasing the Carrying Capacity of the Baku-Batumi Pipeline Route Used for Exporting Tengiz Oil". The document envisages the reconstruction of the present pipeline. Apart from that, the contract transfers to these two foreign companies the right to own oil-exporting pipelines.

In Baku, Chevron's head discussed with the Azerbaijani leader the prospects for increasing the system's carrying capacity in Azerbaijan. The American company is working out a project to build a new branch of the pipeline. This branch will make it possible to link up Azerbaijan's and Georgia's pipeline systems. As a result, Tengiz oil will be pumped up to Batumi.

Chevron is the operator of the Tengiz-Chevroil international consortium, which extracts oil in Kazakhstan's Tengiz field. It was originally planned to transport the oil across Russian territory. However, the project to build the Tengiz-Novorossiysk oil pipeline, for the realization of which the Caspian Pipeline Consortium was set up, still remains on paper.