

# Azeri Statue in Mexican Spat

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MEXICO CITY — Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said a life-size bronze statue of Azerbaijan's former president will be removed from the capital's main avenue.

Mancera said the statue of Geidar Aliyev will be moved to a location that will be determined this week.

He said Tuesday that the decision was made based on the recommendation by a commission of intellectuals.

The Azerbaijani Embassy paid for the renovation of part of the city park where the statue sits and for other public works totaling about \$5 million.

Protesters have said they are offended by a monument to an authoritarian figure like Aliyev, who led Azerbaijan, first as Communist Party boss during Soviet times and then as president from 1993 until his death in 2003.

(AP)

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