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# The California COURIER

"The Newspaper For All Armenians" — Published weekly since 1958

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## Djerejian Praises Reagan's Appointment Of Deukmejian

WASHINGTON — "Governor George Deukmejian is a man who is on the record as being very concerned and involved on the whole question of persecution of people and the holocaust."

This was the reaction of Edward Djerejian, the White House Deputy Press Secretary, when asked by The California Courier last week to comment on Gov. Deukmejian's appointment to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council by President Ronald Reagan. The White House made the announcement on July 12.

Gov. Deukmejian will be the second Armenian on the 60-member Council, joining Set Momjian, who has been a member of the

Holocaust Council ever since its creation in 1980.

"The Council could receive no finer addition to its membership, Gov. Deukmejian has set high standards for everything he has ever done," Momjian told The California Courier.

Gov. Deukmejian is replacing New York Governor Mario Cuomo who resigned before the expiration of his term on the Council. Deukmejian's appointment expires on Jan. 15, 1986 when Gov. Cuomo's original term runs out. However, it is expected that Pres. Reagan would reappoint Deukmejian for a full term in January.

The Holocaust Memorial Council was created at the recommenda-

tion of President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust and was established in 1980 by the unanimous vote of the Congress. The Council coordinates Days of Remembrance activities each year and is responsible for raising funds from private sources for a future national memorial museum center in the nation's capital.

By a unanimous vote, largely due to Momjian's efforts, the Council decided in 1983 to allocate "a place of prominence to the Armenian Genocide in the future Holocaust Museum, to be located in Washington, D.C."

"I look forward to working with the Governor to fulfill this Armenian dream of a section in the Holocaust Museum which will tell the Armenian story to the millions who are expected to visit the Museum each year," said Momjian.

The appointment of Gov. Deukmejian to the Council is probably the result of a meeting held in the White House in December 1983 between President Reagan and a group of prominent Armenian-Americans, including Gov. Deukmejian.

During that meeting, the Armenians, among other things, asked the President to consider appointing a second Armenian to the Holocaust Council.

In recent months, however, the relations between the White House and Gov. Deukmejian have been strained due to Reagan administration's opposition to congressional resolutions on the Armenian Genocide.

Last April, Gov. Deukmejian publicly criticized the President's position on the Genocide resolution. However, the decision to appoint Deukmejian to the Council seems to have been made long ago, in April.

## EDITOR'S VIEW

# Finally, Some Good News For Hyes From White House

By HARUT SASSOUNIAN

President Ronald Reagan finally came through this month with one request made to him by Armenians. He appointed Gov. George Deukmejian to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

In light of this action, we need to comment on the Armenian community's reaction to this appointment in particular and our relations with the White House in general.



Ever since the Reagan administration came to power, Armenians have been up in arms at the constant abuse heaped upon us by one high ranking official after another. The State Department first questioned the Genocide, then, joined by the Defense Department and the White House, they lobbied to defeat a resolution intending to commemorate the Armenian Martyrs.

All efforts by the Armenian community to put an end to these distortions came to no avail. Pres. Reagan did not even listen to Gov. Deukmejian's passionate pleas on this subject.

## NOT ENOUGH

In this kind of tense atmosphere, we are now faced with a surprise Presidential announcement appointing Gov. George Deukmejian to the Holocaust Council. This appointment does not end our on-going clash with the administration on the subject of the Armenian Genocide. We still demand that the White House, not only drop its ignorant opposition to the resolution, but that it lobby forcefully in this country and internationally for the confirmation of the facts of the Armenian Genocide. That's the least it could do!

On the other hand, we do not underestimate the importance of Deukmejian's appointment to the Holocaust Council. In the coming years as the council establishes the Holocaust Museum, which will hopefully include a section on the Armenian Genocide, the presence of two Armenians, Deukmejian and Momjian, on the Council's membership, will be highly beneficial.

The Turks realize that linking the Jewish Holocaust to the Armenian Genocide, in any shape or form, will have a devastating effect on their campaign to isolate and distort the facts of the Armenian Genocide. We are certain that many Turkish officials have spent several sleepless nights since hearing of the announcement appointing Deukmejian.

The Turks have been very active for years trying to convince the Jewish members of the Council to disassociate themselves from the Armenians. With the help of Turkish governmental pressure on Israel and Jewish leaders, the Turks had made our work within the Council not easy.

However, with Deukmejian's appointment, the Turks now find themselves facing a formidable opponent. We know how strongly the Governor feels about the Armenian Genocide. If they don't know it already, the Turks will soon find that out.

## GOOD OMEN

Just in case the Deukmejian appointment is a signal to Armenians that the President is finally willing to put truth and justice before political expediency, we would like to state that we welcome this gesture and hope that it is only the beginning of many more such positive steps taken by the administration on behalf of its Armenian constituency.

Turkish propaganda notwithstanding, we are not out to destroy Turkey, NATO, the U.S., or the world. We just want what is rightfully ours, not more, not less!

## PUBLISHER'S VIEW

# THIS & THAT



By George Mason

## ARMENIAN'S KNOW THE TRUTH

Sure, I feel terrible that our President is opposed to a resolution commemorating the Armenian genocide. We Armenians know that we were the victims of the first genocide of this century. We don't have to read about it in history books. And we don't have to cite Arnold Toynbee. We need only recall the stories we heard from eye-witnesses usually as we sat at their feet as children.

These weren't people who were trying to wage a propaganda war, nor were they trying to influence anyone or seeking revenge or redress. They were merely telling their grandchildren what they suffered and how lucky they were to be in a country that was safe and just. Most of the accounts I heard were from relatives who wanted me, as a child, to know how fortunate I was to be living in America where I didn't have to scurry home before dark for fear of being brutalized by a hostile majority population.

Perhaps it is because of this that I can understand and even accept the President's stand on this issue. President Ronald Reagan does not represent just the Armenian-Americans among his nation. He must look out for the entire nation and must behave in a manner that offers the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

## PRESIDENT REPRESENTS MAJORITY

I think it would be irresponsible and foolhardy for an American president to sacrifice his foreign policy or to sabotage the efforts of his State Department, in order to serve the special needs of a small minority in his population.

I don't think we should gear our policy toward South Africa just to appease the blacks of our population. I don't think we should destroy our relationship with the Arab countries to satisfy the desires of our Jewish population. And it would be wrong for us to harm our relationship with the British government to make the Irish of America happy:

Each of these minorities must sacrifice for the benefit of their country. And this is the point. Armenian Americans are Americans. They are Americans of Armenian descent. They must put the needs and requirements of their country, America, first.

Of course, it is a bitter pill to swallow when our country refuses to acknowledge the historic fact of the genocide. It hurts like hell. And it especially hurts those Armenian Americans who saw it at first hand what the damnable Turks did. It hurts all Armenians who bear the scars of the dastardly Turkish policy against the Armenians.

But we, as good Americans, must sacrifice our own personal and very real interests for the greater good. This is what democracy and Americanism is all about.

I have railed in this column about how Israel sunk an American ship in broad daylight and our government did nothing to protest the terrible deed. I have written in this column about the lunacy of harming our relations with such allies as Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa because of pressure from the liberals and Blacks of this country. To be consistent and honest, I must also oppose those in our own Armenian community who demand an American policy that serves the narrow Armenian interests at the expense of the American aims and goals.

## REAGAN EXPLAINED

President Reagan took pains to explain his opposition to the resolution as having nothing to do with his understanding of historical facts. He said he was opposed to the resolution because it would encourage terrorism and because it would "harm relations with an important ally." He also made it clear that his "sympathies with all those who suffered during the tragic events of 1915."

As an American of Armenian descent I can understand the position in which our President is placed and I can support him. It isn't easy. It isn't fun. And it certainly isn't the way I'd like it to be. But it is what I understand our President believes to be in the best interest of our country. On this basis, I can accept and am willing to support it.

# Bush Expresses Sympathy; Republicans Seek Support

(Courier Exclusive)

GLENDALE — A group of prominent Republicans elected officials, quoting a remark by Vice President George Bush, appealed to the Armenian community, during a press conference last week, to support Republican candidates in the upcoming election.

Hacob Shirvanian, one of the organizers of the press conference, informed the Armenian media that during a recent banquet in San Francisco, Vice President George

Bush had expressed to him his support for the congressional resolutions on the Armenian Genocide.

Shirvanian quoted Bush as saying, "that thing should have been corrected a long time ago. We shall get through with that and do it . . . I want by all means, I told your Governor, too, that I am behind you, that resolution should have passed a long time ago."

The California Courier contacted the Vice President's Deputy Press Secretary, Shirley Green, in

Washington, and obtained the following statement: "The Vice President confirmed that he had a general conversation with Mr. Shirvanian concerning Genocide. He did express his sympathy about the suffering of the Armenians as a result of those tragic events.

He also expressed his opposition to genocide or terrorist acts under any circumstances by any people."

Shirvanian introduced himself to the Armenian media during the

press conference as chairman of "Armenian American Republican Council" in California as well as the State Chairman of "Ethnic Armenians for Reagan-Bush." Seated with Shirvanian were, Congressman Carlos Moorhead, State Senator Newton Russell, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich and Glendale City Councilman Larry Zarian, all Republicans.

While acknowledging that "there are some problems" with the Reagan administration's positions on the Armenian Genocide, Shirvanian appealed to the community to support the local Republican officials in order to have "a pipeline to the President through these gentlemen" after the elections.

Supervisor Antonovich, who will be the Chairman of the State Republican Party in February 1985, stated, "We recognize the genocides that have occurred in this century, both the Armenian and the Jewish genocide . . . We are here to say that we want to work with

the Armenian community to ensure their full representation at all levels of government."

In response to a question regarding the repeated denials of the facts of the Armenian Genocide by various administration officials, Cong. Moorhead said, "You can find somebody in the State Department or the Defense Department that is not up to date on a lot of the facts," the Armenian Genocide "is not an alleged happening, it happened," said Moorhead.

"The State Department at times

becomes very difficult. The State Department is there. It doesn't matter who is President, who is Vice President. The State Department sits there. You got to go through it, you can't go around it. It's always there. I don't agree with it lots of times," said Moorhead.

"The Vice President is an honorable man. He lives up to his promises. If he told Shirvanian that he will back the resolutions, he will back them and he will do everything he can to get them passed," said Moorhead.

When asked about reconciling U.S. interests in Turkey with the acknowledgment of a historical fact, the Armenian Genocide, Supervisor Antonovich replied:

"We are able to keep relations with Israel and Saudi Arabia and Jordan . . . even though you have different interests involved. We would have to use the same type of diplomacy in this issue . . . We've done it with other groups that have had a historical conflict. You would have to start from people of good faith that are trying to address a past wrong and also recognize that it's got to be resolved. The longer you wait, the problem doesn't go away. The sore festers."

## Armenian Natl. Committee

Berdj Karapetian - Exec. Director.

9/20/84

Michael Mahdesian - Cong. Coehlo.

Ohan Balian - New Chairman of Eastern Region.

Monday Sept 10 - Passes the House.

Sat. Sept 15 → NYT →

→ Ann Am's don't believe

→ French Parliament passes this January.

→ To push State Department. Talk to  
→ Jim Cicconi.

Yesterday's "Post" →

→ NSC is telling Denton's <sup>staff</sup> supp NSC is involved  
to oppose it.

→ April 21, 1985.

Derwinski Telcon

9/19/84

① Ballpark to get

- V.P. → at Greek event.
- Push. to get V.P.

→ Derwinski prepared memo for Jim Baker.

→ Considering all the frustrations, were doing O.K.

→ Jennifer Fitzgerald. → Baker → Laxalt.  
both push.

→ nail down Greeks vote.

② Armenians.

- Ross Vartian. → explained they should be happy w/ Republican.

- Dept. can never embrace them.

→ Zortchian is not emotional.

→ Sympathetic.

→ Baker → Jim Cicconi → Make "gesture",  
Poindexter we be nice to Turkey to accept watered down resolution.

→ Was very impressed ⊕

→ and on Greek thing, too.

# Proxmire Hopeful Senate Will Ratify U.N. Treaty

UNITED NATIONS — Senator William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) told a group of Armenian Assembly summer interns that the Senate may be on the verge of ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention. He is convinced that there is enough support for it to pass if it is allowed to come to the Senate floor for a vote.

As stated by the Senator, the pur-

pose of the treaty, which has already been ratified by 92 nations, is to define and outlaw as an international crime the act of genocide.

For the past 18 years, Proxmire has risen on the floor of the Senate every legislative day to urge ratification of the Genocide Convention, often citing the Armenian genocide of 1915 as an example of the crime the treaty seeks to prevent.

In response to the interns' inquiries as to the current status of the treaty in the Senate, Proxmire replied that if the Genocide Convention were brought to a vote, it would probably receive the 2/3-majority support necessary for ratification.

His only reservation is that the minority opposition, under Senate rules, can threaten the leadership with a post cloture filibuster, which would tie up hundreds of hours of Senate time. He explained that in order to avoid this situation, the leadership may delay the floor debate.

But given the strong majority support for the Convention which includes the endorsements of Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker and Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Proxmire believes that all that is needed now is support from the White House. He feels that President Reagan's approval would quell opposition from conservatives and people who might

otherwise oppose the treaty.

The Genocide Convention defines genocide as "an act committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group . . ." Ratification will bring the United States into line with the other 92 nations which have openly expressed their condemnation of genocide through adopting the treaty.

The Armenian Assembly, along with many other Armenian and non-Armenian groups, support the genocide treaty in the hopes that the ratification of the convention would prevent a recurrence of the crime.

## Armenians Testify At Republican Hearings

DALLAS — At the Republican Platform hearings on Aug. 13 in Dallas, Texas, Samuel V. Hagopian testified on behalf of the Armenian National Committee.

"The Armenian Cause is based on fundamental human rights issues that deserve to be supported by both Republicans and Democrats," stated Hagopian.

Hagopian pointed to news reports saying that a significant

number of Armenian-Americans will not contribute nor vote for President Reagan, the Republican presidential nominee, if they feel that during the next four years the State Department will continue to speak up against proper recognition of the Genocide and cloud the legitimacy of the Armenian grievances against Turkey.

Hagopian was warmly received  
(Continued on page 11)

## Hagopian At GOP Hearing

(Continued from page 1)  
at the hearing chaired by Congressman Jack Kemp of New York. The Republican National Convention will consider this week the recommendations of the Republican Platform Committee.

The ANC feels that Republicans could show their disagreement with the State Department's actions by adopting language in their party platform to indicate support for Designation of April 24 as a National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Genocide; The initiation of dialogue between representatives of the Turkish government and the Armenian people; and U.S. ratification of the U.N. Genocide Convention.

"We feel the Republican Party ought to indicate its disagreement with the State Department's position over the Armenian Question and show to Armenian-Americans that Republicans will not ignore the Armenian people's quest for justice," said an ANC spokesman.

# Reagan Urges Ratification Of U.N. Genocide Pact

By NORMAN KEMPSTER  
 WASHINGTON — President Reagan, after what aides described as an "extensive review" lasting more than two years, called for ratification of the U.N. convention outlawing genocide, which has been bottled up in the Senate for 35 years.

In a statement issued by the State Department, the Administration said the Senate's failure to approve the treaty, backed by every President since Harry S. Truman, "has opened the United States to unnecessary criticism" in the United Nations and other world bodies. The Soviet Union has often cited the Senate's inaction on the treaty, which Moscow ratified in 1954, as an example of U.S. insensitivity to human rights.

Reagan endorsed the pact one day before he was scheduled to address the national convention of B'nai B'rith, a strong supporter of the treaty, which was adopted as a response to the Nazi extermination of 6 million European Jews. However, a senior Administration officer told reporters, "I would reject the premise that the decision was connected with any political event."

## Senate Unlikely To Act

The official, who declined to be identified by name, conceded that it is unlikely that the Senate will act during this election year. He

declined to predict the outcome of a Senate vote if one occurred.

The convention was adopted by the United Nations on Dec. 9, 1948, and was submitted to the Senate for ratification on June 16, 1949. Although 96 countries accepted it, it was blocked in the Senate, first as a result of the Cold War passions and racial politics of the 1950s and early 1960s, and

later apparently by inertia.

Officials said the Reagan Administration did not focus on the matter until early 1982, when it began a review of all the objections that had been raised over the decades. The officials said that as a result of the review, completed two weeks ago, Reagan determined that ratification would be in the nation's best interest.

"This is a very good idea whose time never seemed to come," one official said.

Longtime supporters of the measure hailed the President's decision. Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Weisenthal Center in Los Angeles, called for an immediate Senate vote to "confirm the long-overdue shift in a shameful and myopic policy." He said ratification would "signal that the leader of the free world has removed a moral blemish from its human rights stance."

## What Treaty Asks

The treaty requires the nations that ratify it to enact laws banning acts intended to "destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." It would prohibit "killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

The pact provides that violators should be punished "whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals." Prosecutions should be in the courts of the country where the act occurred. Charges of genocide against a government could be filed with the World Court

Opponents have long charged that the treaty would infringe on U.S. Sovereignty, and some also complained that the crimes covered by the treaty are within the jurisdiction of the states rather than the federal government.

Some southern senators were concerned in the 1950s and 1960s that the treaty could be used to classify state segregation laws as international crimes. Those objections largely dissolved with passage of federal civil rights laws . . .

—L.A. Times

# Armenia, A Soviet Success

By ANTERO PIETILA  
Baltimore Sun

YEREVAN — This ancient corner of the world near Turkey and Iran is no land of Zion.

But even though it is part of the Soviet Union, Armenia retains some of the meaning of a promised land to its millions of sons and daughters whom history has scattered throughout the world much like the Jews.

One of these sons was William Saroyan, the American writer of Armenian ancestry. "Once [a friend] asked me if I could tell an Armenian among Americans,"

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## Tiny Armenian Republic Is A Soviet Success Story

(Continued from page 1)

Saroyan wrote. "I said I could not. How could I do that? He said he could — by the eyes. I believe him: The eyes of Armenians torn away from the Motherland are said, very said."

Saroyan did not want that sadness for eternity. Before he died in 1981, he asked that half his ashes be buried in his native Fresno, the

other half in the land of his ancestors, where the summers are hot and winters biting cold.

His wish was followed: His grave here is in a park in Yerevan, not far from that of the composer Aram Khatchaturian. Nearby also are a Planetarium and a shooting range.

Each year, thousands of Armenians from the United States and other countries make the pilgrimage here to breathe "the air of the Motherland," as Antranig Martirosian, a vice president of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad, puts it.

Armenia also want its people throughout the world to return, and, unlike the 14 other republics of the Soviet Union, it runs a repatriation program.

The attractions of Soviet society being what they are, it is not a very successful program. Nevertheless, about 22,000 ethnic Armenians

have moved here from other countries in the past eight years, according to Martirosian.

All immigrants are given cash to get settled along with government housing, he said.

Most of the recent arrivals come from the turbulent Middle East, he said, but their number is a "drop in the bucket" compared to the thousands of Armenians in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Not all those moving to Soviet Armenia like it here.

One man, whose family came from the Middle East in 1947, recalled how his father was sent to Siberia a year later. "Armenians are not free. We are not free to travel or to emigrate," he said.

Close to 1.5 million Armenians live in the Diaspora. The largest communities outside this country are in the United States and Canada. Ties between them and Armenia seem close, with the

North Americans not only visiting here but also sending substantial sums of money.

Many of the visitors get a hard sell to move to Soviet Armenia.

"They are always asking me: Don't you want to come to live here," said Dalita Berejikian, of the University of Toronto. "And when I say, 'No,' they say, 'How can you say no, when you are an Armenian?'"

"Yes, I'm essentially an Armenian and I'm proud of what they have achieved. But Canada is my country," she added . . .

"We are everywhere," says Konstantin Khodaverdian, a University of Yerevan history professor.

"In 1970, I was in Sri Lanka. There were about 14 Armenian families there, but they had their own school and own newspaper there," he recalled.

Today's Armenia, a republic of 3 million people, is a result of the

carving up of the land in 1920 by Lenin and Turkey's Kemal Ataturk. It encompasses only 10 percent of the land in "historical Armenia."

Even Mt. Ararat, the symbol of the nation that was a great power for a few generations in the time of Pompey and Julius Caesar, lied across the border in Turkey.

The Encyclopedia of Islam includes within "historical Armenia" not only the Soviet republic and much of northeastern Turkey, but also much of present-day Kurdistan in Iran.

Despite its small area and population, Armenia is one of the most successful of Soviet republics. Its high standard of living is evident in the numerous new cars, clothes and good living conditions.

Although Turkey is less than 50 miles away from this capital, its proximity is in no way felt. The border is closed, and there are no Turkish goods on sale here.

But the common heritage is evident in shared customs, such as the strong, sweet black coffee that is enjoyed in both countries. But while Turkey is a predominantly Islamic nation, Armenia has one of the oldest Christian churches on earth.

# Armenians To Attend Republican Convention

DALLAS — Scores of Armenian-Americans will be participating as delegates, alternates and guests in the Republican National Convention to be held in Dallas, Aug. 20-24.

The California delegation, led by Governor George Deukmejian, includes three other Armenian-Americans. Karl M. Samuelian, a delegate from Los Angeles; Ken Khachigian, a delegate from San Clemente; and Louina J. Sakajian, from Fresno. There are also four Armenian-Americans who are assigned as alternate-delegates.

They are, Congressman Charles Pashayan, Jr., Charles Poochigian, Sarkis Paparigian and Joyce Philibosian Stein. In addition, one of the Governor's assistants, Greg Kahwajian, will serve as Deputy Director of the California Delegation.

Samuelian told The California Courier, "I'm very excited about going to the Convention. It's a real honor to go and be there with the Governor. We're looking forward to it."

Dozens of other Armenians from across the country will also be attending either as delegates or guests. Despite the anticipated large presence of Armenians, there are no plans by these delegates to make a concerted effort to present Armenian-related issues to the Convention.

While certain Armenian organizations and individuals have endorsed the Mondale-Ferraro Democratic ticket for President and Vice President, others are supporting the Republican ticket of Reagan-Bush. One such group is the "Armenian-Americans for Reagan-Bush 1984."

This national group is chaired by Governor Deukmejian and co-chaired by Archie Dickranian, Hirair Hovanian, Ken Khachigian, Alex Mancoogian, Edward Mardigian, Karl Samuelian, David Shakarian and Barry Zorthian. Samuelian is the group's western coordinator, and Zorthian, the

eastern coordinator.

Samuelian explained that "these individuals visited the President in the White House last December. They indicated to him that they were supporters of his and that they would like to support him in his re-

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election bid and that they would strive on a national basis to get the Armenian community to support him. They believe that the President has done an excellent job."

When asked to comment on the Administration's opposition to the Congressional resolutions on the Armenian genocide and the State Department's earlier denial of the facts of the Genocide in its official Bulletin of August, 1982, Samuelian said, "that doesn't change the opinion of those who are supporting the President. I, for one, feel confident that the President will do everything that he can do, to support the Armenian people and their cause. My willingness to support the President, is not in anyway conditional upon the President agreeing to do anything. I believe in the President. I think he's a good President, I want to support him and I will continue to do so, even if I wished that the administra-

tion would take a different approach or do things differently than they're doing."

Samuelian refused to comment whether the President has followed-up on any of the issues that were brought to his attention by the Armenian group that visited him last December. Although the details were never publicly disclosed, the Governor reportedly asked the President during that meeting to make a public statement on the Armenian Genocide.

"I don't want to comment on what was discussed and that action was subsequently taken," Samuelian said.

The "Armenian-Americans for Reagan-Bush '84" group plans to raise funds for the Presidential campaign. "We send hundreds of letters to the members of the Armenian community soliciting contributions. We're also asking for volunteers in various communities to get out the vote . . . I believe that

we'll get a substantial response to our solicitation for funds," said Samuelian.

Regarding Walter Mondale's supportive statements on the Armenian Cause, Samuelian said, "Mr. Mondale has made many, many statements and many, many promises. Whether he'll deliver on these promises if he's elected President, which I don't believe he will be, remains to be seen."

Samuelian also said that the support for the Presidential candidates by various Armenian groups will not divide the community.

Historically, some Armenians have supported Republican candidates and some have supported Democratic candidates. I don't think there is anything unusual about this situation—that will result in any decision among the Armenians," Samuelian said.

Another group of Armenians involved in raising funds for the Reagan-Bush re-election effort is

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the New York-based National Armenian American Republican Council. Dr. James Tashjian is the Chairman, with cosmetologist Suzanne De Paris Kazanjian as its Chairwoman of Finance.

This group, originally established in 1952, was reactivated last August. Since then, the NAARC has held fundraisers and sent out letters soliciting donations. Kazanjian, a member of the National Republican Senatorial inner circle, recently returned from a trip to several South American countries, "to rally all American citizens of Armenian or Lebanese background in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay to register and vote for Republican candidates in the upcoming national elections in the United States," according to a report prepared by her.

Kazanjian stated her group's objectives as raising funds and collecting votes for the Republican Party in the U.S. She plans to travel to Europe and the Middle East to urge U.S. citizens to vote in the election via absentee ballots.

"Our principal goal, in short, is to keep the Presidency, the White House and the Senate majority in Republican hands, and to this end no honorable means to victory must be left underutilized," she said.

will be split," says George Karcazes, UHAC executive board member. "I don't sense as much anger towards Reagan as there was towards Ford and Kissinger in 1976."

Joining Greek Americans in their condemnation on Turkey are America's Armenians. Although a relatively small community (a little over 200,000 according to the 1980 census), Armenian Americans are also well organized, affluent and influential in such states as California (where the governor is of Armenian ancestry) and Michigan.

Armenian sentiments against the Turks date back to 1915 when some 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by the Turkish government in a wanton act of genocide. Although the Turkish government has consistently denied any involvement in the genocide, evidence is on the side of the Armenians.

"Armenian Americans are concerned with Turkey's violation of human rights," says Laurens Ayvazian, as-

sistant director of the Armenian Assembly of America. "We are not opposed to American aid to Turkey per se but we think Turkey should be held accountable for its continued abuse of human rights. We hold El Salvador accountable, why not Turkey?"

Arguing that Armenian American thought spans the political spectrum from conservative to progressive, Ayvazian was reluctant to predict how his community would vote in 1984.

Mondale recognized the reality of the Armenian genocide, Ayvazian says, and Ferraro will no doubt attract many Armenian women.

President Reagan issued a presidential proclamation condemning the Armenian genocide in 1981, according to Ayvazian, but the State Department has not followed suit. A footnote in an article entitled "Armenian Terrorism: A Profile" which appeared in the August 1982 Bulletin, an official publication of the U.S. State Department, read: "Be-

cause the historical record of the 1915 events in Asia Minor is ambiguous, the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish government committed a genocide against the Armenian people."

"We find the State Department article very puzzling," says Ayvazian, "especially since it seems to contradict the President's proclamation. It leads us to wonder what the official U.S. position on this matter really is."

Regardless of how America's Greeks and Armenians vote in November, it is obvious that the United States needs to take a firmer stand with Turkey regarding Turkish occupied Cyprus (which has all of the makings of a future Northern Ireland) and violations of human rights which Turkey, as a Helsinki Accords signatory, is pledged to uphold. Continued U.S. vacillation can only lead to a further weakening of relations with Greece and that will be the Soviet Union's gain.

# Deukmejian Supports Genocide Resolutions

LOS ANGELES — The congressional resolutions regarding the Armenian Genocide last week received a big boost from two key political figures.

The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Congressman Jim Wright (D-Texas) on July, pledged his active support to the resolutions and California Governor George Deukmejian, earlier in the week, sent a letter to the authors of the resolutions offering his assistance.

## Wright Support

Congressman Wright informed the Armenian National Committee that he not only is willing to schedule the resolutions for a vote, but he is prepared to ask other members of the House to vote for the resolutions.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting with the ANC on July 11 in Los Angeles, Wright said, "I will back these resolutions because they are right." He added that he could not understand how the United States Department of State could object to these kinds of humanitarian proposals.

An ANC spokesman said that they were very pleased with the outcome of the meeting. "The Majority Leader's support is very significant because he is one of the most influential and respected members in the House and respected representatives," stated the ANC spokesman.

Until now, Congressman Tony Coelho's (D-Calif.) resolution calling for the designation of April 24, 1985 as a National Day of Remembrance for victims of genocide had to be considered under the House unanimous consent rule. This meant that the resolutions could again be objected to and prevented

from being considered. However, the support from Wright will permit the resolution to be brought up under a different rule requiring a vote and prevent the House Republican leadership from objecting to the consideration of the resolution.

In addition to the commitment by Wright, the resolution last week received added support from Governor Deukmejian.

On July 10, the Governor's office reported that separate letters had been sent to Congressman Tony Coelho and Charles "Chip" Pashayan (R-Calif.), the authors of the two House resolutions, indicating the Governor's strong support. Deukmejian also permitted the authors of the resolutions to use his letter in any way they deemed appropriate.

The Governor's letter is expected to be especially helpful in getting the support of several California Republican congressmen who have not yet taken a position on the resolutions.

"It is our duty to call attention to the atrocities that occurred many years ago because if the humane people of this world don't remember, you can be sure the tyrants will — and history will go on repeating itself," the Governor's letter said.

328-9006

Eastern Leg Comm.

Bohan



Exec Dir. Ad Nat Comm

~~Michael~~ Berdj Khrapetian

Cory. Koella

Michael

Mtg of Armenian/Americans

E.D.

Ad Nat Comm

Res. against Arm. genocide

passed 9-10-84 unanimously in House

sent → U.S.S. → Judiciary Comm.

held there, re: ? DOS wants it squelched?!

France rec. genocide in Jan. 1984 in spite of Turkish opposition

April 24, 1985 → 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of genocide

Sen Joint Res 87 → 35 co-sponsors still on hold on the Senate floor

H Joint Res

ADNC will approach Percy's staff

High level NSC staff involved w/ Denton

## Armenian Event

this would be effort to warm Ad./Armenian relations

- ① Sched Props
- ② Draft memo - guest list made up people rec by Gov. Duk, Cong Chip PASHAYAN
- ③ Draft rec to VEEP for drop by
- ④ Draft memo to Derwinsky's office - State

## Armenians

Briefing - look at file first !!!  
in 450 (Gov. Lukhmerjian)

1 Ed Derwinsky - State Dept.

2 Econ Recovery

3 VEEP for 5-10 drop by (solid commitment)

4 reception in 474

Knights of Arton

Contact Office Intergovernmental affairs  
see who Gov. Duk's contact is there

Mary Buttle?

No cover memo

The Armenian Observer, May 16, 1984

## A Letter to President Ronald Reagan

The following letter was sent to President Ronald Reagan by His Eminence Archbishop Vatche Hovsepien, Primate.

Honorable Ronald Reagan,  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

I have just returned from the Diocesan Assembly of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, held on May 4, 5, 1984 at the St. John Armenian Apostolic Church in San Francisco.

We were chagrined and thoroughly disturbed upon reading in the State Department's Bulletin, their position concerning the question of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

You have been close friends to many Armenians, in fact, I believe several of your friends are the survivors of the horrendous holocaust perpetrated upon us by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire.

The Fifty-Seventh Diocesan Assembly of the Armenian Church of North America Western Diocese, again reaffirmed its allegiance to the United States Government and to the Constitution, and acted upon the issue of the treatment of the State Department on the question of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

I am pleased to enclose for your further enlightenment, the Resolution which was adopted unanimously at this assembly, with the hope that the records of the United States Government will be set straight and that truth and justice will be proclaimed.

May the Holy Spirit bestow His Divine wisdom upon you and crown you with courage, since the destiny of our nation and the tranquility of the world depends highly in your leadership.

With Prayers and Blessings,  
ARCHBISHOP VATCHE HOVSEPIAN  
PRIMATE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FED 11

INCOMING

**COPY**

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 17, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: ARCHBISHOP VATCHE HOVSEPIAN

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF STATE POSITION  
CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE  
OF 1915

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
DOUG HOLLADAY	ORG	84/05/17	DA A	8405/21
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

- \*\*\*\*\*
- |                          |                      |                      |   |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES:           | *DISPOSITION CODES:  | *OUTGOING            | * |
| *                        | *                    | * CORRESPONDENCE:    | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION    | *A-ANSWERED          | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS  | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM         | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER          | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE        | *C-COMPLETED         | * CODE = A           | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET    | *S-SUSPENDED         | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* |                      | * OUTGOING           | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * |                      |                      | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE *       |                      |                      | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY *       |                      |                      | * |
- \*\*\*\*\*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

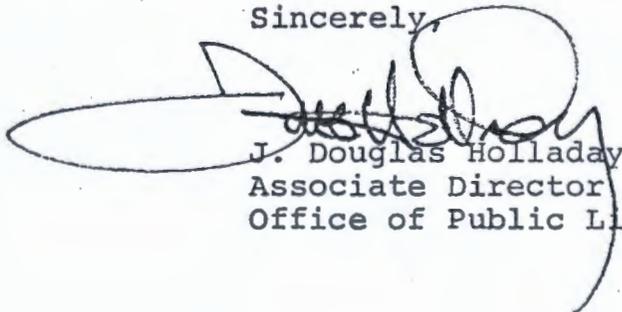
May 21, 1984

Dear Archbishop:

Thank you for writing the President. We appreciated the materials which you sent delineating the Resolution which your Assembly unanimously adopted.

The President deeply appreciates your thoughts and prayers for him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Douglas Holladay", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large loop at the end.

J. Douglas Holladay  
Associate Director  
Office of Public Liaison

The Most Reverend Vatche Hovsepian  
Primate of the North American  
Western Diocese of the Armenian  
Church  
1201 North Vine Street  
Hollywood, California 90038



Հայաստանի Եկեղեցի Կրթարարական Առաքելական  
(Արևմտյան Տեղ)

Armenian Church of North America Western Diocese

Archbishop Vatché Hovsepian, Primate

May 11, 1984

Honourable Ronald Reagan, President  
of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

I have just returned from the Diocesan Assembly of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, held on May 4, 5, 1984, at the St. John Armenian Apostolic Church in San Francisco.

We were chagrined and thoroughly disturbed upon reading in the State Department's Bulletin, their position concerning the question of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

You have been close friends to many Armenians, in fact, I believe several of your friends are the survivors of the horrendous holocaust perpetrated upon us by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire.

The Fifty-Seventh Diocesan Assembly of the Armenian Church of North America Western Diocese, again reaffirmed its allegiance to the United States Government and to the Constitution, and acted upon the issue of the treatment of the State Department on the question of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

I am pleased to enclose for your further enlightenment, the Resolution which was adopted unanimously at this Assembly, with the hope that the records of the United States Government will be set straight and that truth and justice will be proclaimed.

May the Holy Spirit bestow His Divine wisdom upon you and crown you with courage, since the destiny of our nation and the tranquility of the world depends highly in your leadership.

With Prayers and Blessings,

*Vatché Hovsepian*

ARCHBISHOP VATCHE HOVSEPIAN  
PRIMATE

AVH/arm

enc.



Հայաստանի Եկեղեցի Հիստորիկ Արևմտյան  
(Արևմտյան Դեպարտամենտ)

Armenian Church of North America Western Diocese

Archbishop Vatché Housepian, Primate

R E S O L U T I O N

- WHEREAS, . . . The Armenian people were subjected to the first genocide of the Twentieth (20th) Century on their historical territories in the Ottoman Empire;
- WHEREAS, . . . They were the victims of premeditated and organized massacres and deportations during World War I;
- WHEREAS, . . . The atrocities are well documented in English, French, German, Turkish and other languages by such authors as Henry Morgenthau, former Ambassador to the Ottoman Government, Historian Arnold Toynbee, Viscount James Bryce, and the press contemporary to the events;
- WHEREAS, . . . The current Turkish Government that is the heir to the Ottoman Government, has denied the above events and tries to distort and rewrite the history related to the Ottoman crimes against the Armenian people;
- WHEREAS, . . . Under probable pressure by the Turkish authorities and for political expediency, sources from the State Department have on a number of occasions, referred to the massacres as "alleged and undocumented;"
- WHEREAS, . . . We as citizens of this great country of the United States enjoy and uphold the liberties guaranteed to us by our constitution and firmly believe in the principles of justice and freedom for all;
- WHEREAS, . . . The denials of justice and the suppression of historical truths may lead to acts of desperation by certain elements;
- WHEREAS, . . . As a Christian Church, we consider it our sacred duty to uphold the truth and thus help prevent future genocidal acts and resort to terrorism;

Be it resolved that this Fifty-Seventh (57th) Assembly of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church send the following message to President Reagan, George Schulz, Secretary of State and Tip O'Neal; Speaker of the House:

"We the delegates to the Fifty-Seventh (57th) Annual Assembly of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, convened at the St. John Armenian Apostolic Church, San Francisco, California, on Saturday, May 5, 1984, under the presidency of the Diocesan Primate, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, and under the Chairmanship of Honourable Justice Richard Amerian, California Court of Appeals, on this occasion of the sixty-ninth (69th) anniversary of the massacres, deplore the recurrent references in the State Department to the massacres and deportations of a million-and-a-half Armenians during World War I, as "alleged" and "undocumented," in spite of voluminous documentations in the archives of the State Department, and survivors' testimonies, and urge our President and State Department to set the records straight and give due recognition to the tragedies of the Armenian people and not give in to foreign pressures for political expediency."

May 11, 1984

# Pres. Reagan's Party Recognizes Genocide

WASHINGTON — Despite the Reagan administration's reluctance to publicly recognize the 1915 Genocide as factual, "Armenian Martyrs Day," and "Armenian Independence Day" again are officially acknowledged and listed in the 1984 GOP "Guide to Nationality Observances."

The foreward in the 35-page brochure, published by the National Republican Heritage Groups Council, is co-signed by Frank J. Fahrenkopt, Jr., chairman of the Republican National Committee. The organization is an official auxiliary of the Republican National Committee.

The following is the background text of the two Armenian observances — April 24 and May 28 — that appeared in the GOP guide:

**April 24 — Armenian Martyrs Day:** On 24 April 1915, the Turkish Government began the massacre of its Armenian subjects, a heinous event which, before its conclusion in 1918, took more than one-half million lives. This universally condemned blood bath was the first genocide of the Twentieth century and emboldened Hitler to commit genocide against Europe's Jews, Poles and other people.

**May 28 — Armenian Independence Day:** Proclaimed in 1918, Armenia's independence was

short-lived since it was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1921. The date is nonetheless celebrated by Armenians living outside the Iron Curtain and by Armenians of a now-subjugated people whose history can be traced back more than two thousand years.

# Hairikian Released From Soviet Prison

PARIS — Paruyr Hairikian, the Armenian dissident from Soviet Armenia, has been released from prison according to a report issued by the La Resistance quarterly magazine in its spring edition.

The magazine said Hairikian was released from jail upon the completion of his prison term.

Hairikian has been arrested and imprisoned several times since 1968 because of his involvement in the formation of the National Unity Party.

The NUP, formed in 1966 by Hairikian and others, advocated the independence of Soviet Armenia through the utilization of the rights granted by the constitution of the USSR. The NUP also called for the reunification of Soviet Armenia and the Armenian lands occupied by Turkey.

Hairikian, born in 1949, was a student at the Poly Technical Institute in Yerevan when he became involved with NUP. He became the secretary general of the NUP in 1968.

In 1969, Hairikian was arrested in Yerevan for distributing pamphlets containing the program of the NUP and other brochures calling for the reunification of Soviet Armenia with the Armenian lands occupied by Turkey. In 1970, he was sentenced to four years of hard labor in Moldavia for his political



PARUYR HAIRIKIAN

views and activities.

Hairikian returned to Soviet Armenia in February of 1973 after he was released from prison. However, in April of 1973 he was arrested and imprisoned because he was five minutes late for a meeting with his probation officer.

This time he was sentenced to seven years of hard labor and three years of exile in 1974. When his prison term was near its completion in 1980 he was accused of having "corrupted" his superior in prison and was given an additional sentence. He was finally released early this year. After serving 10 years in prison for his political beliefs.

—Asbarez

# Sen. Bill Bradley Defends Armenians

FAIR LAWN, NJ — In an address given at the Diocesan Assembly Banquet on May 5, Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey paid an eloquent tribute to the Armenian genocide, and stood boldly in defense of historical truth and human dignity.

Sen. Bradley was honored by the Diocese of the Armenian Church as its "Friend of the Armenians," and was presented the "Friends" award by the Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

"Unfortunately as a people and a government, we Americans have a tendency to forget about history. I think this is dangerous," the Senator said. "Scrupulous and unblinking attention to historical record is essential if we are to avoid the tragedies of the past. It is here that the Armenian Genocide is a compelling example."

"Notwithstanding the indisputable facts — that over 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by Turkish Ottoman authorities, that it was a carefully executed government plan of genocide — the Turkish government consistently denies that these actions constituted genocide," stated Sen. Bradley.

Regardless of Turkey's view, there is no excuse for any equivocation on the part of the United States government! I was appalled to learn the State Department had called the fact of the Armenian Genocide into question. The Armenian Genocide has been documented, affirmed and reaffirmed for over six decades and it has been the policy of the United States to acknowledge these events . . . notwithstanding Turkey's strategic importance to NATO and the United States, there is no rationale for the State Department's about-face on the Armenian Genocide.



**BILL BRADLEY**

"If there is any truth to the claim that the State Department has cooperated with the government of Turkey in a futile and shameful attempt to change history, then this is a national disgrace," said Sen. Bradley, calling for Armenians to be politically active. He also explained his reasons for sponsoring Senate Resolution 241, which affirms the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide.

The Senator referred to Hitler's oft-quoted comment, "Who remembers the Armenians," which Hitler used as a rationale before his own efforts to annihilate the Jews. "In accepting this award, I want to say to you and commit to you and say proudly that as an American, I want to be able to say loudly and unambiguously in response to that question of 'Who Remembers?' that we do."

June 21, 1984

THE CALIFORNIA COURIER



**RAINBOW COALITION** — The Jesse Jackson Campaign Committee (Pasadena Chapter) held a public rally at the Armenian Center in Pasadena, May 19. Jackson was introduced to the crowd by William Papanian on behalf of the Armenian Center. Jackson expressed support for the Armenians and condemned Turkey for the Genocide.

—California Courier Photo

## EDITORIAL

# Armenian Rights Violated: Terrorism Used As Pretext

By Harut Sassounian

During the past three years, since the Reagan Administration came to power, the Armenian community in the United States has been subjected to an increasing degree of harassment and intimidation by those in power. These anti-Armenian acts have taken many forms and are practiced by various governmental agencies.

This Administration unfortunately has not distinguished between those Armenians who are pursuing the Cause (Hye Tad) through peaceful and legal means, and those who have resorted to violence. The pretext of stopping terrorism cannot justify the denial of the Genocide and the violations of the civil rights of law-abiding Armenian-Americans.

Reprinted below is a list of these violations as recently presented to the Platform Committee of the

Democratic Party by Leon Kirakosian, the Chairman of the Armenian National Committee, Western Region. Almost every item listed below should be the subject of civil rights lawsuits in order to put an immediate end to these clearly illegal activities against the Armenian community.

... Recently, the State Department orchestrated the blockage of House Joint Resolution 247 which would have designated April 24, 1984, as a national day of remembrance of man's inhumanity to man. Congressman Tony Coelho stated in the Congressional Record that the State Department argued against the bill by calling it irresponsible because it would encourage terrorism.

In June 1983, Catholicos Karekin II, was repeatedly denied the diplomatic courtesy of meeting President Reagan unless his Holiness issued a statement denouncing terrorism. This is like asking the Pope to denounce the Red Brigade and is outrageous as it is insulting to demand such a statement from such a religious figure. Finally, through much opposition, wisdom did prevail and a brief meeting between the two took place.

In February 1984, Barry Zorthian, a prominent Armenian-American was fired from his position as an executive of Gray & Co., a large public relations firm. According to a story in the Washington Post, the firing took place at the request of the Turkish Embassy, a client of Gray & Co. because Zorthian had stated in an interview that he was committed to the Armenian Cause. Bob Gray, an intimate of President Reagan and his administration, stated that he checks out much of his information about Turkey and its concerns from CIA Director William Casey.

Such attitude of the Administration set the tone of the public's image of the Armenian community in general. In the minds of many Americans, the word "Armenian" is now automatically associated with the word "terrorist." As in the case of Barry Zorthian, the climate is right for discrimination against the Armenians on many levels.

This air of hysteria created by the Reagan Administration has prompted the FBI and local police to engage in questionable searches and other civil rights abuses within the Armenian community:

Two representatives from the Armenian community in Los Angeles were denied admittance to a World Affairs Council luncheon, even though they purchased their tickets. One of the individuals was a member of that organization. This was the result of the intervention by Secret Service personnel at the luncheon.

The Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department has admitted that the department has an internal memo which directs Los Angeles sheriffs to call the FBI and all intelligence units in the Los Angeles area whenever an Armenian is arrested for possession of a weapon.

During routine criminal investigations, FBI agents have threatened deportation if the individuals refused to cooperate.

Members of the Armenian community have been detained and fingerprinted when attending trials of friends, the probable cause given by the LAPD was that a suspect which they were seeking has a Syrian-Armenian accent.

Two boys of one family were arrested four hours after their parents had posted bail for an Armenian.

Such abuses tend to isolate the Armenian community as outsiders and are increasingly mistrusted. Furthermore, such actions fuel resentment against American governmental institutions such as the FBI, the State Department, local police and the political system in general. Such resentments is the breeding ground for the type of violent activity the Administration claims it is trying to stop.

The Reagan Administration is attempting to negate the heritage of the Armenian community by distorting and casting doubts upon the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide.

... the State Department twice in the last two years, has made

statements denying the historical fact of the Genocide: State Department Bulletin in August of 1982; and Statement made to Congressman Coelho recently by Lewis Murray of the State Department that "the genocide has not been documented."

They are further distorting the facts by saying that Armenian terrorists use the genocide as a pretext in an attempt to destabilize Turkey, a NATO ally. By trying to link the acts of a few Armenians and ignoring the historical roots of the Armenian people, the Administration is trying to claim that the Armenians have now become the aggressors instead of the victims.

With your help, the above cited problems could be eliminated by:

Providing access to Armenian-Americans by encouraging their involvement in the shaping of policy.

Making appointments of Armenian-Americans in the Department of Justice and State and United Nations; Making an affirmative statement at the Democratic National Convention recognizing the Armenian Genocide and the resolution of the Armenian Cause; Encouraging Armenian activism and not linking it with terrorism; and Push for the United States to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."



## TURKISH PRESSURE?

# 15 Armenian Schools Closed

**TEHRAN** — The Islamic government of Iran closed down 15 Armenian day schools in Tehran last month despite strong protests from the Armenian community and Archbishop Ardak Manoukian, the Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Tehran.

The archbishop sent telegrams and personally met with high level Iranian officials to arrange for the reopening of the schools. Several Armenian instructors have been removed from their positions and replaced by Iranians.

In recent months, the Ministry of

Education had not allowed Armenian students attending Armenian schools to study religion in their native tongue. Thousands of Armenian students, in protest, refused to take the year-end religion exams in the Iranian language.

Those with contacts in Iran have observed that the increasing pressure on the Armenian schools and the community stems from a desire to appease the government of Turkey, Iran's major trading partner. Even though the Armenian school problem has been in existence for some time, recent acts of violence perpetrated against Turkish diplomats in Tehran by Armenian individuals have exacerbated the situation.

A stricter control of Armenian activities in Iran was certainly discussed during the recent visit to Tehran of Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister. The Iranian government subsequently banned all public commemorations of the Genocide in Iran on April 24.

May 16, 1984, The Armenian Observer,

## Armenians Mentioned in First Lady Carter's Book

PLAINS — Armenian Americans are mentioned in the new book by former first lady Rosalynn Carter which has just been released. Mrs. Carter's book, "First Lady From Plains," refers to the "holocaust" suffered by the Armenian people and the support for President Carter's human rights policy shown by Armenian Americans.

Mrs. Carter writes: "We also welcomed ethnic groups, including the Armenian Americans, another first. The Armenians were great supporters of Jimmy's human rights policy, having suffered a holocaust themselves. We enjoyed the day they were there, eating Armenian food in the East Room and singing Armenian songs." [page 229]

Set Momjian had specifically asked Rosalynn to mention Armenians in her book. At the breakfast at his home, Rosalynn asked Set if he was pleased. "I'm extremely pleased--all Armenians will be pleased. We have a special place in our hearts for the First Lady from Plains."

## EDITORIAL

# Armenian Independence: The Spirit Of May 28

By Harut Sassounian

The 66th anniversary of the creation of the Free Republic of Armenia came and went on May 28 with much fanfare in one segment of the community, while another segment remained silent. The largest segment, however, ignored the Independence Day either because they were never educated about the historic events of 1918 or because as the community becomes assimilated, the spirit of living in one's independent

homeland is dampened with time.

The May 28 celebrations unfortunately have been embroiled in partisan politics in the past. For years, the pro and anti-Soviet Armenia factions battled over which independence day to celebrate. The ARF side celebrated May 28, the anniversary of the establishment of the short-lived Free Republic of Armenia from 1918 to 1920. The ADL-AGBU group celebrated November 29, the establishment of Soviet Armenia in 1920. These dates were occasions during which the factional struggle came to the forefront. The ARF was accused of taking a position against the current Soviet Republic of Armenia by continuing to celebrate the anniversary of the former Free Republic of Armenia.

On the other hand, those who celebrated November 29 were accused of supporting the Communist take-over of Armenia. The publishers of the Armenian "Phoenix" newsletter back in 1971, for example, likened the celebration of the establishment of Soviet Armenia to "the victim celebrating her own rape with the rapist an honored guest (if not host) at the party."

In recent years, as the inter-communal conflict has begun to cool off, there have been positive gestures by all sides. The heroic battles of Sardarabad, Bashabaran and Gharakilise against the Turkish armies of 1918 which led to the creation of an independent Armenia are now celebrated in Soviet Armenia. The government of Soviet Armenia has now erected large monuments to recall these historic battles.

The ARF, on the other hand, rather than rejecting the existence of Soviet Armenia, has viewed it as the continuation of the 1918 Republic under a different regime. Without the establishment of the Free Republic in 1918, there may not even have been today a Soviet Armenia.

Although most of these factional disagreements are behind us, as a community in the diaspora, we still have an overwhelming collective problem. How do we ensure that the successive generations of Armenians born in the distant corners of the earth keep the flame of independence and the yearning for a homeland alive in their hearts.

Many Armenians have a basic misunderstanding about the true nature of the Armenian Cause. The Armenian Genocide is often viewed as the crux of the Armenian Cause. In fact, the Armenian Question existed long before the Genocide of 1915. The struggle for a free and independent Armenian homeland is a real issue. Soviet Armenia is only a small portion of our historic homeland, most of which remains occupied in Turkey.

The Turks, very shrewdly, are able to divert the discussion regarding the Armenian Cause from the Homeland issue to whether there was a Genocide or not. We keep fighting the false issues raised by Turkey rather than putting forward our own issues. We are allowing the Turks to choose the agenda. They know that as long as they keep denying the Genocide, Armenians will spend all their energies on trying to prove the Genocide and ignore all other demands. Should the Turks one day admit to the Genocide, we would be so exhausted by then that many of us will feel satisfied that at last we have resolved the Armenian issue.

The real issue is the homeland regardless of whether or not we would personally choose to return to Armenian one day when it is liberated. Today over 160 countries have their own homeland. Armenians are deprived of the right to live in a land they can call their own. The key difference between the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide is that Armenians along with suffering the great human losses, they were driven out of their ancestral homeland of 3,000 years.

For Armenians an independent homeland is not a luxury. It is a necessity. We cannot remain Armenian very long in the diaspora without our collective existence on our own lands. For us, our struggle for self-determination and independence is a struggle for our survival as a culture, race and people.



# Armenians Pleased With '84 Democratic Platform

SAN FRANCISCO — The representatives of the Armenian National Committee returned from the Democratic National Convention convinced that the position and direction adopted by the Democrats "can be helpful to the advancement of the Armenian Cause in the U.S."

The Democratic Platform stated that the Democratic President "will seek U.S. ratification of the Genocide Convention . . . as well as the establishment of a U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights."

The Platform further says that the President "will fulfill the spirit as well as the letter of our legislation calling for the denial of military and economic assistance to governments that systematically violate Human Rights."

A specific reference to the Armenian genocide is included in the recommendation of the Democratic Council on Ethnic-Americans. The recommendations, which were submitted to the Platform Committee, read, "Armenian-Americans remember violation of Human Rights between 1915 and 1923 when one and a half million Armenians were exterminated and another half-million were deported."

Senator Dennis DeConcini (Ariz.-D), the co-chairman of the Democratic Council on Ethnic-American, during a press conference at the Convention stated, "it is our feeling that during the month of July we recognize our nation's declaration of independence and self-determination, and reaffirm our commitment to persons around the world still seeking the

## Plane Lands In Front of House

WOODLAND HILLS — Susan Kassabian was making coffee when she heard a noise outside, which turned out to be a plane at the curb in front of her home in a residential Woodland Hills neighborhood.

A small private plane that had encountered engine trouble but was unable to return to Van Nuys Airport cash-landed safely in the quiet neighborhood. There were no injuries to the five people aboard.

When the plane landed in the yard, it bounced, clipped the top of the fence, caught its tail in tree branches and nosed onto narrow Lubao Road, outside Kassabian's house.

Kassabian said she screamed and ran to call the police and fire departments.

realization of the ideals in their own land."

A similar expression is included in the Platform. "The Democratic Party believes that whether it is in reponse to totalitarianism in the Soviet Union or repression in the Latin America and East Asia, to apartheid in South Africa or martial law in Poland . . . the Foreign policy of the U.S. must be unmistakably on the side of those who love freedom."

As for the Turkish invasion and

occupation of Northern Cyprus since 1974, the Platform calls on the Democratic President to utilize all available U.S. Foreign Policy instruments and play an active, instead of a passive, role . . . to achieve removal of Turkish troops, the return of refugees, re-establishment of the integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and respect for all citizens' Human Rights on Cyprus.

The ANC representatives attended at the convention a dozen different functions and met with leaders of ethnic, human rights, and foreign affairs groups. They participated in private luncheons and meetings with the leadership of the Democratic Party.

The Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Dante Fascell remarked that it seemed as though there was an Armenian at every function he attended. U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini of Arizona asked ANC representatives to participate in a special meeting to form a coalition groups interested in human rights and issues of concern of ethnic Americans.

The ANC hosted a hospitality reception at the landmark "Orient Express" restaurant. The list of invitees included such dignitaries as the presidential nominees, Speaker "Tip" O'Neill, Rep. Ferraro, Rep. Coelho, Connecticut Secretary of State Julia Tashjian and New Hampshire gubernatorial candidate Chris Spirous.

The ANC requested that it be allowed to testify at the Republican Platform hearings to be held in Dallas, Aug. 13.



CONVENTION — ANC Executive Director Berdji Karapetian, left, with Democratic Council on Ethnic Americans member, Julia Tashjian (Conn., Sec. of State) and co-chairpersons, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), after press conference on the Democratic Platform of 1984.

The California Courier, July 26, 1984

## Ferraro Attacks Turkey And State Department

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Geraldine Ferraro, the vice presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket and a congresswoman from New York, criticized both the Turkish Genocide of the Armenians and the U.S. State Department for not acknowledging it, in a recent speech in the House of Representatives.

After describing the details of the massacres, she said, "While the Turkish government bears responsibility for the murder of a million and half innocent people, the rest of the world must account for its

failure to act on the reports of the massacre while it was taking place . . .

"In recent months, we have seen our own State Department bow to pressure from the Turkish government and retreat from the decades-old position of our government acknowledging the fact of the Armenian genocide. So we must know the truth, and we must help others now it."

Ferraro ended her speech, urging the U.S. ratification of the U.S. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

## EDITORIAL

# THIS & THAT



By George Mason

## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

It seems clear to me that the Democrats at the party's national convention did not represent the thinking and makeup of the nationwide membership.

It must be very difficult for the rank-and-file member of the Democratic Party to have to sit before his television set and see his "representatives" deliberating in San Francisco. The fact is that the majority of the Party is rather conservative — yet the majority at the convention were rather liberal. The average Democrat wants a strong military, he wants moderation in the civil rights movement, and he isn't too interested in such matters as gay rights, women's lib, and the like.

Most Democrats are not interested in a nuclear freeze and most democrats do not want us to get out of El Salvador unilaterally without some kind of withdrawal by the Cubans and Russians.

## UNFORGIVABLE SIN

In other words, it seems to me that the leadership of the Party has committed the unforgivable error of putting distance between it and its following.

When George McGovern ran the Party he lost by a landslide because he was too far to the left of his followers. The same thing happened to the Republicans when Barry Goldwater led the Party and was too far to the right of the rank and file.

When New York Governor Mario Cuomo electrified his audience with his keynote speech, he did it by harkening to the traditional Democratic values. The tragedy for the Democrats, in my opinion, is that both candidates are certified, card-carrying liberals and saddled with positions on the issues that are not really mainstream Democratic positions.

## G.O.P. GOT A GIFT

If the Republicans blow this one, they will have no one to blame but themselves. They received a wonderful gift from the Democrats. They got a weak, rather lack-luster opponent. They got a competing platform to the left of not only the mainstream America but even of mainstream Democrats. And they got a candidate strongly identified with the Carter Administration — one that rightly or wrongly is perceived as the most weak and ineffectual of the Post World War II era.

## A LONG WAY BABY

The reception by the nation of Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential candidate really has been an eye-opener for me.

The fact that this is the first woman to seek such office doesn't seem to cause a ripple in the nation. She will be judged as a person — not as a woman. This indicates that the women's movement really has made great headway in re-educating both men and women to avoid considering gender in evaluating the ability of an individual.

There is, perhaps, one other factor. I called the most chauvinistic Armenian I know to get his reaction to the Ferraro nomination. "Why should I be upset about a woman vice president when we already had a woman President?" he asked. "We never had a woman President." Being a good straight man, I replied, "Oh yeah. What about Rosalynn Carter?"



# ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Central Office:

212 STUART STREET, BOSTON, MASS. 02116 • TEL. (617) 426-9842

March 8, 1983

Mr. Michael Cotter  
Office of Turkish Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Michael:

Enclosed are the minutes of our last meeting. Please excuse the delay in preparation. We will be contacting you to meet in the next few weeks. In the interim, please keep us informed and in mind to prove our input.

We remain

Very truly yours,

ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

*Aram Kailian*  
Aram Kailian  
Chairman

jm  
Enclosure  
cc: Jack Burgess

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DETERMINED TO BE  
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING  
E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect. 3.3(c)  
BY NARA COB DATE 2/17/07

Memorandum

To: Mr. Micheal Cotter, ANC File

Date: February 22, 1983

RE: Department of State Meeting held November 11, 1983

Participants: Micheal Cotter - Office of Turkish Affairs  
John Farr - Junior Officer  
Gary Evereklian - ANC Washington Rep.  
Aram Kailian - ANC Chairman, Eastern Region USA

DISCUSSION:

The above referenced meeting was held in order to continue the dialogue with the Department on issues discussed at the September 14 meeting.

Specific items discussed were as follows:

1. State Department "Alleged Statement" ("Note" August 82 "Bulletin")

The ANC informed Mr. Cotter that since the "Note" had been published in the State Department's official publication on Foreign Policy, we had other alternative but to do whatever was within our means to change this position. We also added that there were very obvious "alleged references" added to the original draft report itself in the publishing which was very awkward (in terms of language) editing and amounted to overkill. Mr. Cotter responded that he understood our position. He personally felt that the report itself should have not been printed in the first place. He also mentioned that complaints regarding the content of the article (by Turkish Officials) had been received and as a result the additional "note" appeared in the September Issue (which was included as part of the original draft report).

2. Air Base Agreements with Turkey

The ANC asked if the reports of the new air bases in Turkey will upset the Greece/Turkey military aid balance and if ultimately Greece were considered expendable from the standpoint of U.S. interests. Mr. Cotter remarked that the bases had been emphasized by the newspapers. The agreement is a NATO agreement to transfer U.S. aircraft from here to NATO. The air bases were identified in terms of those which could take new aircraft in time of war according to NATO alert procedures. His personal guess was that the balance was not going to be upset (there would be compensation). Both Greece and Turkey are vital to NATO. With the Mid-East in an unsettled situation and the Soviet's increased hoop strength Mr. Cotter maintained that the base agreements are in Greece's best interest also. We asked if this meant that an RDP would be deployed in the future from these bases. He responded that there were no secret agreements and no discussions about an RDP with Turkey at this time although he felt that Turkey would agree to an RDP if the U.S. asked for it.

File —  
Brownie  
points

3. Turkish Consultative Assembly Resolution and Church Advisory Board Resolution

The ANC stated that the referenced resolution which was utilized by the Turkish government (thru its Embassy, re: Elkedag's letter to congressmen) to discourage congressional statements in the record regarding the Armenian Genocide showed an obvious lack of logic. "Armenian Terrorism" did not create Armenian activism (political involvement). The lack of attention and concern to the long preceding peaceful political efforts show that in reality the converse is true. We also pointed out that the church advisory board is just a vehicle created by the junta to circumvent or bypass the Patriarch and is utilized as a propaganda tool.

4. Réports of the immigration of 3000 Afghan rebels and Turkomen to Van (historic Armenia) for permanent resettlement

The ANC expressed its concern that this resettlement may be part of an overall plan to complete the final stages of genocide (deny that the genocide ever happened and then show who lives on the disputed lands). Mr. Cotter reported that there were 4,100 refugees involved, basically Afghans of Turkic origin such as Kurgas, Uzbeks, and Kyzeris and that not all went to the lake Van area. Some went there and others went to other areas not just eastern Turkey. "There is no evidence that more are coming". The Turks have "problems assimilating these people" anyway; for instance "many are yak raisers and there are no yaks in Turkey". The intention is not an attempt on a large scale. It is not within the Turkish resources to do so. The expenses to transport the 4,100 were paid by the U.N. or the Red Cross.

5. U.S. position on the Constitutional Question in Turkey

The ANC asked Mr. Cotter what the U.S. thought about the sham of a "constitution" when 13 of the 15 who wrote the document were publically against it and in light of the CSCE fact finding mission's report (despite its gross oversimplifications and understatements). He responded that he was aware that criticism of the document was banned. However, he did not think that Evren sees himself as a statesmen but more as a guardian of the republic. Religious rights are still included and the main emphasis is to get Turkey on its feet economically. He conceded that the constitution has the potential of being repressive. He noted that Demiril did not oppose it even though Ecevit did. We mentioned that the fact that opposition was banned, few who voted had read it, and that many Turkish citizens (especially academics) who are outside of Turkish borders do not want to return does not indicate that democracy is the real intent of this repressive constitution which no existing democratic country could ever accept.

6. CSCE Report

The ANC expressed its fear that the identifiable Armenians in Turkey would ultimately be relegated to the status of the Kurds and the Kurdish Question where it is now a crime (punishable by imprisonment) to even mention that Kurds exist in Turkey. The report coupled with a reported recent quote of Cakir (LA Turkish Consulate General) now show the Armenian population of Turkey down to 30,000 when the previously accepted figure was 50,000 deeply concerns us. Mr. Cotter responded that the Turkish attitude is that all moslems in Turkey are one therefore the Kurds do not constitute a minority. This "we are all Turks" position originates from the Lausanne Treaty. He also noted that although Germany has slacked off discussing more aid it continues with payment of its principal commitments. The other

major countries (CSCE) except for France are no longer vocally anti-Turkish.

CONCLUSION:

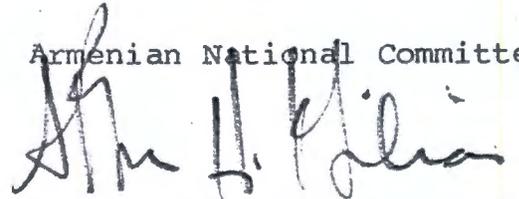
The ANC again expressed its thanks for the opportunity to share its concerns and views with Mr. Cotter.

POSTSCRIPT:

In the middle of December 1982 the ANC declined to meet with Diane McClennan at the Office of Turkish Affairs regarding the "NOTE" issue. We informed her that we felt that Mr. Cotter was very much aware of our position and that we felt future discussion on the issue should take place with Department decision makers. We added that we would most certainly be in to see her and Mr. Cotter on other issues of concern to us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Armenian National Committee



Aram H. Kailain, Chairman

To UK

Date 6/19

Time 10:12

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**

M. Annajane Karaer

of Turkish Desk - DOS

Phone 632-1562

Area Code

Number

Extension

TELEPHONED	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

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Operator \_\_\_\_\_



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Matthews

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CALIFORNIA COURIER

May 31, 1984

# Kouymjian Lectures On Destruction Of Monuments

LOS ANGELES — Dr. Dickran Kouymjian was the guest speaker at the banquet organized by the Armenian Professional Society at the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel, May 18.

The Professor reported on the details of the April session of the Permanent Tribunal of the People in Paris during which he presented the photographic evidence of the destruction of Armenian historical monuments in Turkey. He called this destruction "the continuation of the Turkish Policy of Genocide" aiming to remove any association of the Armenian people with the historic Armenian homeland occupied by Turkey.

Dr. Kouymjian explained that Turkish policy to eliminate the Armenian historic monuments takes eight different forms:

- "The willful destruction by burning or explosives of churches, civil buildings and homes during the period of the massacres, 1915-1922.

- "Subsequent, but conscious, destruction of individual monuments by dynamite or artillery. Church provided convenient targets for artillery practice during maneuvers by the Turkish army in the East.

- "Destruction by willful neglect and the encouragement of trespassing by peasants. The finely cut stones used on the facades of Armenian churches made perfect, prefabricated building materials used

in the construction of village dwellings.

- "Conversion of Armenian churches into mosques, prisons, granaries, stables, farms and museums.

- "Destruction by failure to provide maintenance.

- "Demolition for the construction of roads or public works.

- "Neutralization of a monument's Armenian identity by the effacing of Armenian inscriptions, and

- "The intentional reattribution of a building to Turkish, usually medieval Seljuk Turkish architecture."

Prof. Kouymjian demonstrated each of the above points with slides depicting the Armenian monuments in Turkey under varying degrees of deterioration and destruction.

May 31, 1984.

THE CALIFORNIA COURIER

# ANC Endorses Walter Mondale

LOS ANGELES — The Armenian National Committee, Western Region, announced its support for Democratic presidential candidate, Walter Mondale for the June 5 California Democratic primary.

The ANC spokesperson said this endorsement was based on several meetings between the ANC and Mondale during which the former vice president expressed his "full support of the Armenian people." Mondale also expressed his sensitivity on the subject of the Armenian Genocide during a number of public appearances organized by the ANC.

"Although there are several well-qualified candidates who are also running in the Democratic presidential primary, Mondale surpasses them in his qualifications as a presidential candidate," according to the ANC.

In determining its endorsement, the ANC said it used the following criteria:

"Is the candidate strongly committed to human rights and social justice, including the Armenian Cause?"

"Does he appreciate the ethnic diversity of America, of which Armenians are a part of, and is he willing to give a fair share of the opportunities existing to them?"

"Will he refuse to compromise the ideals and the principles upon which the U.S. was founded on for the sake of political expediency and questionable alliance with

foreign countries, such as Turkey?"

"Is he an electable candidate in the race against President Ronald Reagan?"

The spokesperson said the ANC believes that the U.S. must retain its power and its leadership in the world community so that peace and justice is assured for all.

However, a powerful U.S. should not entail friendship and alliances with countries which have consistently violated the human rights of its people and which have committed international crimes that have gone unaccounted for, added the ANC spokesperson.

The ANC said that Mondale has attacked the Reagan administration and the State Department for their complicity in attempting to deny the Genocide and distort the facts of the Genocide perpetrated by the Turkish government in 1915.

The ANC encouraged all Armenians "to exercise their political and civic duty to vote for Mondale in the June 5 California primary."

The California

# COURIER

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Ph. (209) 264-9330

THURSDAY MAY 17, 1984 5300  
VOL. XXVI NO. 44

Santa Monica Blvd., 303-B  
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## Duke Blasts White House On Genocide Resolutions

SACRAMENTO — In what may be the first open split with the White House, Governor George Deukmejian issued a statement strongly criticizing the Reagan Administration for its opposition to the Congressional Resolutions on the Armenian Genocide.

In answer to a query by The California Courier, the Governor expressed his "total" disagreement with those advising the President on the negative effect of these resolutions on US-Turkish relations.

The Governor's statement reads: "It has been reported that the Annual Armenian 'National Day of Remembrance' Resolution failed passing in the Congress because of opposition by the State Department. The department's objection is not in keeping with the President's long held recognition of the Armenian Genocide, which he restated to me and other Armenian-American community leaders as recently as last December.

"The President's advisors, acknowledge the personal views

held by the President, but they have advised him that giving support to the resolutions will not aid in resolving the long-standing Armenian-Turkish controversy, will hurt their goals of the NATO alliance and give encouragement to

Armenian terrorist organizations.

"I totally disagree with that advice. I have expressed my unequivocal disagreement to the White House.

Governor Deukmejian had

# Deukmejian Blasts White House

(Continued from page 1)  
also told the Fresno Bee "that he had discussed the issue with President Reagan and the President "has on a number of occasions indicated that he personally is very much aware of what happened to the Armenian people back in the early 1900s."

"Deukmejian said the President does not approve any expression other than that [the genocide occurred]."

"But Deukmejian admitted that there are 'difficulties with the Turkish government because of its role in NATO and in defense issues in respect to the United States.'"

The California Courier has learned that Deukmejian contacted the White House after the administration blocked the Congressional Resolutions on the Armenian Genocide. House Joint Resolution 247 and its Senate equivalent called for the observance of April 24 "as a National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man." Res. 247 was blocked in April by Congressman Mark Siljander of Michigan, after it

had received the endorsements of over 230 Congressmen.

After the defeat of the Resolutions, the Governor sought the intervention of the President to reverse the government's stand on the Resolutions.

A White House spokesman told The California Courier that the White House had recently replied to the Governor. The spokesman, without disclosing the content of that reply, said that although the President does have the power to issue a Commemorative Day Proclamation, he rarely uses that authority in order not to encourage other groups to make similar demands.

Meanwhile, Robin Luketina, the administrative aide to Congressman Mark Siljander told The California Courier that the Congressman's objections to Res. 247 was made at the request of the Republican leadership of the House.

Luketina said Siljander is not "anti-Armenian," he had simply followed the leadership's instruction. Siljander reportedly is now working with Congressman Pashayan on the language of the remaining resolution in the House affirming the facts of the Genocide. Luketina also said that Siljander will probably vote for Res. 247 if introduced again. Siljander felt that Res. 247 has a much better chance of passage once Congress approves a pending bill on aid to Turkey, Luketina said.

The various officials contacted by The California Courier have all confirmed that the President's advisors in the National Security Council and the Department of State lobbied in Congress to block passage of the resolutions on the Armenian Genocide.

During the last week of April, over 75 Congressmen and Senators, belonging to both parties, condemned the blocking of the Genocide Resolutions and delivered passionate speeches on the House and Senate floors reaffirming the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide.

Congressman Charles Pashayan (R-Calif.) and Senators Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and Paul E. Tsongas (D-Mass.) sponsored Special Orders in the House and the Senate to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Pashayan, the only Armenian member of Congress, urged the Republic of Turkey to end its policy of denying that the genocide occurred, and encouraged the Republic of Turkey to initiate talks with

the Armenian people with the hope of ending the historical religious aggravation between the two peoples.

"I must observe, however, with considerable regret and increasing dismay, that the Republic of Turkey continues to deny the undeniable — that a predecessor Turkish government planned and committed this heinous crime," said Pashayan.

Following last year's Armenian Martyrs' Day celebration, Sukru Elekdag, the ambassador of the Turkish Republic to the United States, wrote a protest letter to the members of Congress who participated in recognizing the solemnity of the day.

"Instead of dialogue, the Republic of Turkey has intensified its campaign of denial throughout this nation," he said.

The lawmaker criticized officials within the US Department of State for trying to persuade members of Congress not to pass the resolution "To affirm the Armenian Genocide" and to commemorate Armenian Martyrs' Day as the "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man."

"No constructive purpose can be served when US departments and officials invoke the present special relationship between the United States and Turkey in pursuit of the effort to deny Armenian and American history . . .

"I say to the Republic of Turkey and to those in our government's service who have inadvertently advanced Turkey's cause: 'These resolutions ultimately shall pass,'" said Pashayan. "History and truth are sacred; to violate them is to degrade civilization itself."

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