

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ

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Supplement to the Collegian

ASP Hosts Catholicos Aram I at Fresno State

By John Jabaghourian
Editor

On a trip to the United States, His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, made a special stop at California State University, Fresno on the morning of October 23, 2000 to speak to students and faculty on "The Ecological Crisis, Its Causes and Implications: A Christian View."

Dressed in the traditional black robe with purple cuffs, His Holiness Aram I arrived on campus with an entourage of bishops and local religious leaders of the Armenian Church at the invitation of and as guest of the Armenian Studies Program. He was greeted by Dr. John Welty, President of the University and a number of officials.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, introduced the Catholicos to the large crowd of students and guests who had gathered in the Satellite Student to hear the Catholicos speak.

"The ecological crisis is not an environmental problem... it is due to the relationship between humanity and creation, a relation-

ship that is not based on ethical, moral, and spiritual values," His Holiness Aram I said. "Unprecedented economic, technological and industrial progress with unlimited use of earth's limited resources has greatly jeopardized the ecosystem that sustains our universe."

His speech demonstrated a link between theology and the preservation of the environment.

His Holiness stressed that the earth, its resources and all life are God's creation; however, humanity has distorted this concept and has exploited God's creation by misusing its limited resources for purposes of greed rather than satisfying the needs of survival. He made a reference to today's misuse of natural resources as a repetition of the "Original Sin."

"Humanity considers itself as the owner, the master, of creation," the Catholicos said. "[Humanity] needs to move from being the owner to being a representative of God."

The speech included ideological changes that humanity as a whole needs to be made in order to achieve a sustainable future.

"Societies should establish the ways of life and initiate the processes in their lives that articulate clearly the sense of accountability



Photo courtesy of Randy Vaughn-Dotta

His Holiness Aram I addressing faculty, students, and guests at Fresno State.

to God... We cannot achieve a sustainable future for humanity in an ecological sustainable creation when we do not have an ethically sustainable society," he said.

His Holiness urged the initiation of an economic-developmental policy that respects the limited resources of the earth and the need to move from an elite-centered

economy to a participating economic system."

Catholicos Aram I also stated

See Catholicos, Page 4

Yerevan State Business Faculty in Fresno



Anna Sargsyan (left) with Aram Karapetyan at the William Saroyan Theatre in Fresno.

By Barlow Der Mugerdechian
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor

Professors Anna Sargsyan and Aram Karapetyan of the Yerevan State University (YSU) School of Business were on

a working visit to Fresno State for three weeks, from November 12 to December 2 as part of the Faculty Development Program in Business and Economics. The Program was started in 1999, when Fresno State was awarded a grant to work with

the Yerevan State University School of Business.

Professor Sargsyan, the newly appointed Associate Dean of the YSU School of Business, worked with administrators in the Craig School of Business, exchanging ideas on university governance and how their respective schools operate their instructional programs.

Professor Karapetyan was also a first time visitor to Fresno State. His interests are in the area of Information Systems and how computers are used in the education process. At YSU, he is responsible for planning in the area of technology and was instrumental in the establishment of an internet link for the YSU School of Business.

Professor Sasan Rahmatian, of the Department of Information Systems and Decision Sciences, worked closely with both Karapetyan and Sargsyan to discuss implementation of new courses at Yerevan State University.

See YSU, Page 8

Armenian Genocide Gains Recognition in Europe-But Loses Support in U.S. Congress

- November 8, 2000
French Senate approves Armenian Genocide resolution.
- November 10, 2000
The Vatican recognizes the Armenian Genocide.
- November 15, 2000
The European Parliament passes a Resolution calling on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
- November 17, 2000
The Italian Parliament, invoking the recent European Parliament's action, unanimously adopts a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2001 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Division 9-Other Cultures				
Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1230-1345	TTh	Staff
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1000-1050	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Division 7-Languages				
Arts & Humanities, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after				
Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/99 Catalog and before				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Arts & Humanities, Integration, IC, for students using 2000/2001 Catalog				
Division 6-Literature, for students using 1998/99 Catalog and before				
• Arm 148 Mastpcs Arm Culture	3	0900-0950	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm S 106 Arm in N. America	3	0900-0950	MWF	I Kaprielian
• Arm S 108B Arm History II	3	0930-1045	TTh	B Der Mugrdechian
• Arm S 121 Arm. Architecture	3	1600-2100	Fri	D Kouymjian
		0900-1700	Sat	

Course meets March 2/3; 9/10; 16/17.

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669
or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.

HYE SHARZHOOM ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՈՄ

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Two Rare Videos are offered by the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno

One video depicts the recent visit of His Holiness, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, to Fresno, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Fresno.

The video contains scenes from the church banquet as well as his visit and presentation at the California State University, Fresno campus.

The second video is an exceptional presentation of the life and works of His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, who died in 1999.

Both videos have English narrations.

These two rare videos are available, for a contribution of \$35.00 each, or an additional heartfelt contribution to the Program. All proceeds benefit the Program.

All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by IRS regulations.

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(List as of November 30)

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Catholicos Aram I Meets with Students and Faculty at Fresno State



Left to Right: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, ASP Director Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, His Holiness Aram I, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirosian.

Photo courtesy of Randy Vaughn-Dotta

CATHOLICOS, Cont. from Page 1

that people must become responsible consumers and that the transnational corporations and their emphasis on production are evil by playing a negative and destructive role.

"Any ecological, economic or social analysis or prescription will, fall short unless they are substantiated by an ethical perspective," the Catholicos said.

However, His Holiness said explicitly that he did not have the detailed solutions to solving the problem and that he was focusing on clearly describing the root causes of the ecological crisis to work from.

Simply stated, His Holiness said, "This is our house, we have to keep it clean."

After the speech, His Holiness along with Fresno State students and special guests went across campus to the Residence Dining Hall for a buffet luncheon.

At the luncheon His Holiness spoke to a group of more than 100, mostly students, including nearly all fifty members of the Smittcamp

Honors College. His topic was the World Council of Churches and his duties as Moderator of the Central and Executive Committees of the Council.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is an international organization created in 1946 that is currently made up of 382 churches from different regions around the world. The WCC works to help

individual churches deal with issues such as violence, church-society relationship, poverty, racism, human rights, as well as a host of other pressing issues. The WCC is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

His Holiness Aram I was elected Moderator, the highest position of the World Council of Churches, in 1991 and reelected for an unprecedented second term in 1998.

The entire body of the WCC meets once every seven to eight years while the Central Committee meets once a year and the Executive Committee meets twice a year.

At the end of the luncheon, students asked the Catholicos questions about the differences between the Roman Catholic church and other Christian churches, bioethics in relation to generating enough food for the world's population, the relationship between religion and politics, and the big question, church unity.

His Holiness' response to the question of unity in the Armenian church was, "We cannot speak about two Armenian churches, we

are one church and within one family you may have some difficulties, sensitivities, but we all belong to one family."

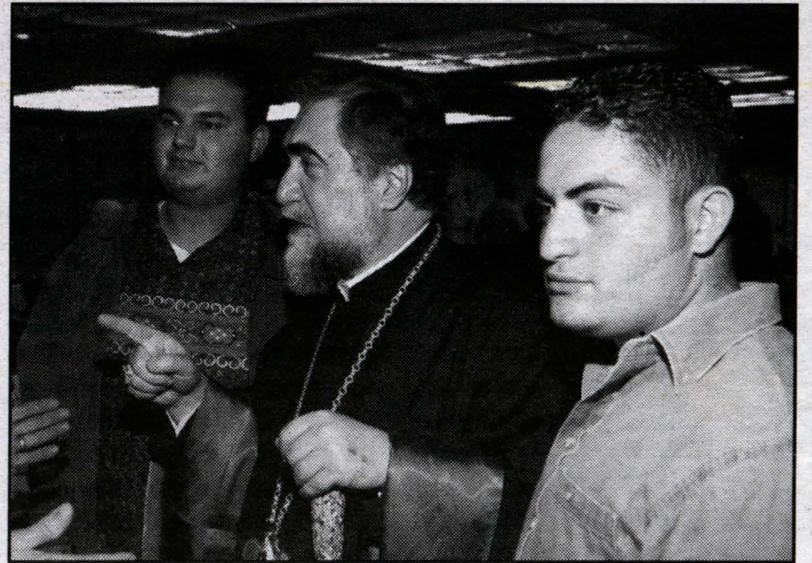
"We have one church and our church is united," he said.

The audience applauded in agreement with the Catholicos' answer.

When asked by Dr. Kouymjian

His Holiness is the author of 20 books ranging in topic from medieval Armenian theology to the world ecumenical movement.

The Catholicos' visit to Fresno State was also a reunion of teacher and student. Dr. Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies, was one of Aram I's professors at the American Uni-



His Holiness with students Sevag Tateosian, left and Armen Postoyan, right.

Photo courtesy of Randy Vaughn-Dotta



Catholicos Aram I addressing the luncheon audience.

Photo courtesy of Randy Vaughn-Dotta

if he would come back to speak on campus again, His Holiness said, "I promise you when I come back to the United States, I will come and see you again."

In 1995, His Holiness Aram I was elected Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, located in Antelias, Lebanon.

The Catholicos studied at the Theological Seminary of the Cilician Catholicosate in Antelias then went on to the Near East School of Theology and the American University of Beirut as well as the Ecumenical Institute in Geneva. He then completed his Ph.D. in philosophy and systematic theology at Fordham University in New York.

versity of Beirut, in Lebanon, in the 1970s.

His Holiness was in California to preside over the "Armenian Cilicia" conference at UCLA on October 20 and 21. The conference was part of the UCLA International Conference Series on Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces, organized by Dr. Richard Hovannisian and sponsored by the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern history at UCLA. He then traveled to Fresno to participate in the festivities surrounding the 100th anniversary of the founding of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.

Orpheus Premieres Gomidas Vartabed Suite in Opening 2000 Concert

By Arpik Paraghamian
Staff Writer

The Fresno State Orpheus concert series entered its 22nd Season Saturday Oct. 14, 2000 with performances of Armenian and European compositions rendered by composers Alan Brett, Pierick Houdy, and Maurice Ravel.

The first piece was the world premiere of Brett's, *The Fruit, to be Tasted, Was Torn from the Tree*, a suite based on songs by Armenian composer and ethnomusicologist, Gomidas Vartabed. Angèle and Prof. Dickran Kouymjian commissioned the work.

Gomidas was a celibate priest who went on to become a doctor of theology in the late 19th century. He survived the Armenian Genocide of 1915, but its trauma caused him to suffer in a mental hospital in Paris until his death in 1935.

As Orpheus Artistic Director Jack Fortner stated in his program notes, Brett's title is "meant to express not only the disruption and pain of exile, but also the necessity of experiences in the development of all men."

Brett's musical translation fea-

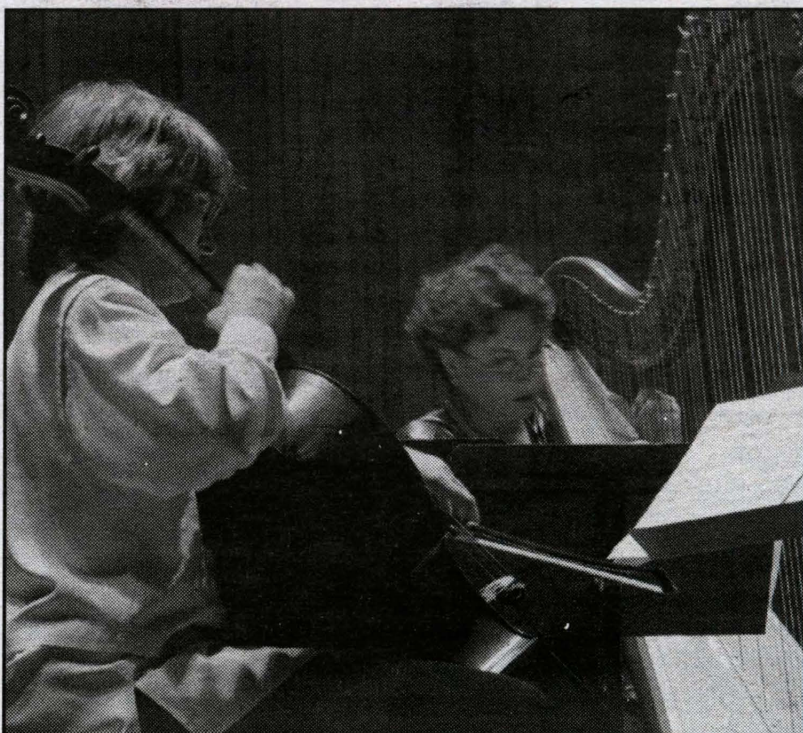
tured Teresa Beaman on flute, Judy Robinson on cello, and Laura Porter on harp. Displaying their exceptional musical talent, the three women helped acquaint the audience with Armenian folk tunes such as, *Gakavi yerik* (Song of the Partridge) and *Hoy, Nazan im* (Oh, My Nazan).

Porter led the group of three charismatically, plucking her harp at the start of almost every piece to gain everyone's full attention before proceeding.

Porter then had the chance to shine on her own, performing Houdy's, *Sonate pour harpe*. She and her elegant instrument devoted a sense of gracefulness to the rest of the evening.

Moving on to Brett's, *Divertimento for String Quartet*, Robinson on cello, joined John Morrice and David Margetts on violin and Claudia Shiuh on viola. The quartet played in sync with one another, picking up for pizzicatos and returning with a vengeance during the more aggressive parts of the composition.

The quartet complemented each other in all four parts of *Divertimento*, nodding and mak-



Judy Robinson, left and Laura Porter.

Photo by Diko Chekian

ing eye contact to let one another know they were ready.

After the intermission, Beaman returned to the stage with her flute to perform a short solo piece, *Syrinx* by Claude Debussy, followed by Porter and her intimidating harp

whose beautifully crafted features and irreplaceable sound stole the show in Gabriel Fauré's *Sicilienne* from *Pelleas and Melisende*.

This segment replaced Maurice Delage's *Four Hindu Poems* due to soprano Phyllis Perry Fortner's lar-

yngitis.

The last piece, *Introduction and Allegro*, by Maurice Ravel incorporated all the previous musicians adding Professor Miles Ishigaki on clarinet and Jack Fortner conducting.

The seven players captured the audience with harmonious sets, breaking every now and then for a harp or flute solo. Porter seemed to lead the rest of the group with her confidence in playing the harp; caressing its many strings in a call made the other six musicians reply promptly.

The audience was left uplifted by the final piece whose preciseness and clarity must have required countless hours of practice.

Orpheus will continue with its enriching concerts next semester with *East meets East*, when Eastern European works will collide with Middle Eastern folk music. This upcoming program will feature The James Karagozian Middle Eastern Ensemble. The show will be on Feb. 3, 2001 at 8 p.m. in the Wahlberg Recital Hall. Admission is free.

Holocaust and Genocide Scholar Dr. Israel Charny Discusses Aspects of Denial of Genocide

Staff Report

Dr. Israel Charny, Executive Director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide, Jerusalem, spoke on "Academics Who Deny the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust" in a public lecture at 7:30 PM on Monday, October 16.

Charny presented several innovative ideas during his lecture. He discussed the typologies of genocide and the stages that deniers of the genocide go through.

He also discussed specific examples of deniers of both the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide.

Charny emphasized that he will never forgive or forget those who deny the Genocide. He felt that people who deny the Genocide, are in effect denying human history.

Armenian Art student Alicia Ramos commented, "I appreciated having his humor throughout the

lecture on a topic that is so serious to humanity. The lecture was well laid out and organized."

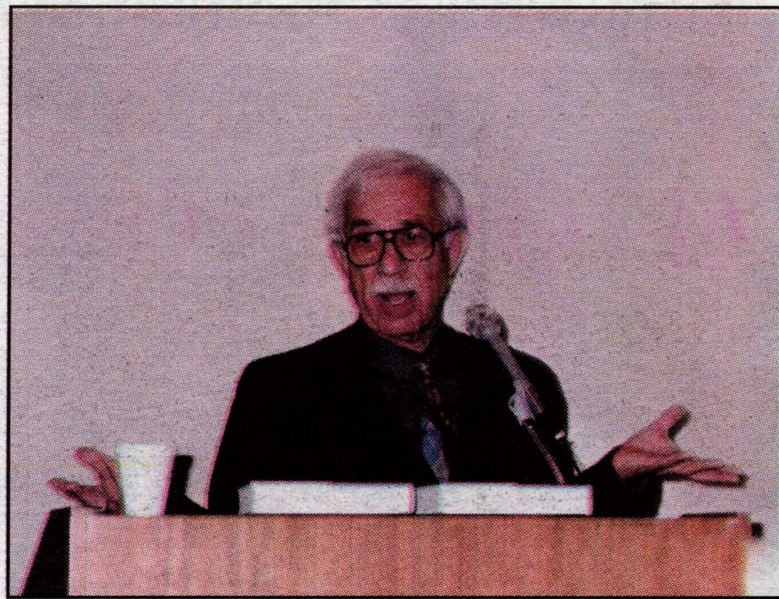
"I liked the way his talk was geared to the 'intellectuals who deny genocide'... I was amazed at how Dr. Charny included people's emotions in his stories about his other lectures," added Ramos.

Laura Williams, also a student, commented, "As a speaker, Dr. Charny was very interesting to listen to: a good blend of humor and seriousness."

Dr. Charny is widely respected and credited as a prime mover in the development of the field of Genocide Studies, in which he has persevered in his leadership for thirty years, often notwithstanding considerable resistance from those who have sought to establish the uniqueness of the Holocaust at the expense of denying the genocides of other peoples or minimizing their significance and comparability to the Holocaust.

He is editor-in-chief of the recently published *Encyclopedia of Genocide*, a path-breaking two-volume reference work that focuses on the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide while critically examining the entire historiography of all genocides, including the phenomenology of the denial of genocides. The work promises to be the premier reference work on the subject for some time to come.

In 1982 Dr. Charny organized the first International Conference On Holocaust and Genocide in Tel Aviv, where he fought off efforts by the Turkish government to prevent lecturers from presenting papers on the Armenian Genocide. That incident created a national scandal in Israel when Turkey threatened the safety of Jews in Turkey were the conference to continue as planned. While many scholars did drop out, the incident served to galvanize interest for the further study of denial of genocides, a field



Dr. Israel Charny

in which Charny, as a psychologist, has since offered significant contributions and been the primary proponent and driving force.

Dr. Charny's U.S. lecture tour was organized by the Armenian Genocide Resource Center of Northern California, a newly established educational resource cen-

ter, that engages in outreach programs to document and teach the Armenian Genocide.

The talk was sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, as part of its Fall Lecture Series, and was held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, on the Fresno State campus.

Dr. Yair Auron Analyzes Jewish Response to the Armenian Genocide Through New Research

By Barlow Der Mugrdechian
Hye Sharzhoom Advisor

Dr. Yair Auron, senior lecturer at The Open University of Israel and the Kibbutzim College of Education, was the guest of the Armenian Studies Program as part of its Fall Lecture Series on Wednesday, November 15. The presentation was held in the new Smittcamp Alumni House.

The purpose of his talk, "The Banality of Indifference: Attitudes of the Jewish 'Yishuv,' the Zionist Movement, and the State of the Israel towards the Armenian Genocide," was to summarize and analyze the positions of the Jewish Yishuv (the Jewish community of Palestine prior to the establishment of the State of Israel), the Zionists and also the position of the Israeli government toward the massacres committed by the Turkish government against the Armenians during the First World War.

In his research, Auron utilized never before published documents and eye-witness accounts from World War I. These now have been published as part of his latest 400 page book, *The Banality of Indifference: Zionism and the Armenian Genocide*, (Transaction Publishers, 2000). Composed of ten chapters, the book opens new grounds for research on the Armenian Genocide and reveals the feelings and attitudes of Jews towards the Genocide.

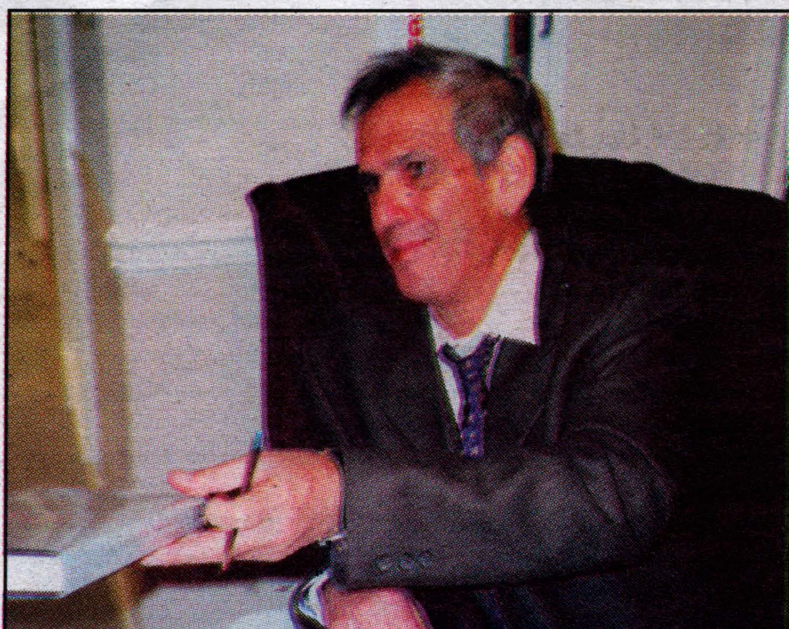
According to Auron, his book raises "theoretical and philosophical questions, particularly in the introduction and final two chapters, which relate directly and indirectly to the specific subject of our research: the debate over the concept of genocide and the uniqueness of the Holocaust in comparison to other instances of genocide, including the Armenian Genocide."

During his talk, Auron specifically addressed a series of questions on the Armenian Genocide that he called "difficult and delicate." These included: 1) Who perpetrated the Genocide of the Armenians? 2) Who knew about it? and 3) What was the role of the Germans?

He also compared the similar characteristics of the Jews and Armenians, in particular noting the

the Armenian genocide," Auron said.

On the eve of World War I, there were some 85,000 Jews out of a population of 700,000 in the area of Palestine (Eretz Yisrael) west of the Jordan river. Half of the Jews were part of the "Old Yishuv" and half were part of the "New Yishuv," immigrants who had arrived at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth.



Dr. Yair Auron

fates of the two peoples. But he also pointed out that the Jews succeeded in surviving the rule of the Ottomans in Palestine, while the Armenians suffered a Genocide.

His research is the result of his own ongoing effort, in his own words, to "examine a subject that has been repressed and ignored in the Israeli historical and collective memory, as well as in the collective memory of the world."

"I was troubled by a sense of oppressive discomfort and criticism of the evasive behavior, verging on denial, of the various governments of Israel regarding the memory of

According to Auron, "Yishuv knew about the fate of the Armenians, and feared a similar fate." The evidence suggests that they knew what was happening to the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Mordecai Ben-Hillel Hacohen, a Jewish journalist in the Yishuv, reported on the chain of events affecting the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire as early as 1916.

Aaron Aaronhson, a high official in the local Ottoman administration and the leader of the Nili spy group, was also aware of reports by US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau as well as the compi-

lation work by James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee regarding the fate of the Armenians.

Auron devotes a significant chapter in his book to "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh: Symbol and Parable." Franz Werfel's novel influenced many young people who grew up in Palestine in the 1930s.

"For many Jewish youth in Europe, 'Musa Dagh' became a symbol, a model, and an example, especially during the dark days of the Second World War," Auron said. "Jews in particular have lauded Werfel's book and have sometimes emphasized the author's Jewishness claiming that 'only a Jew could have written this work.'"

"Recognizing the Armenian Genocide is of a major historical, moral and educational significance." He added that such recognition is essential "for the non-recurrence of similar instances in the future," Auron said.

He described the attitude of the various Israeli governments to the Armenian Genocide as "characterized by evasiveness and denial."

"The State of Israel has officially refrained from relating the Genocide. A combination of factors connected with Israel's relations with Turkey and concepts of the uniqueness of the Shoah [Holocaust] have brought about an al-

most total absence of any mentioning of the Armenian Genocide on state television," he said.

There are members of the Israeli government, such as Justice Minister Yossi Beilin, who share Auron's feeling that it is a moral imperative for Israelis to be more aware of and sensitive to other occurrences of genocide.

Auron went on to say that he believed it essential to "develop a greater sensitivity among our youth to the suffering of others and to strengthen universal, humanistic values which are an integral part of the Jewish tradition." In this regard, he noted the statement of Israeli's Minister of Education Yossi Sarid at an April 24, 2000 memorial gathering of the Armenian community in Jerusalem which concluded with a commitment to ensure that the Armenian Genocide be included in the Israeli secondary school history curriculum.

Dr. Auron's has been touring North America to promote the publication of his book, *The Banality of Indifference: Zionism and the Armenian Genocide*, whose translation from Hebrew into English was sponsored by the Zoryan Institute. The book was described as "pioneering research" by the former prime minister of Israel Shimon Peres.

Atom Egoyan to Make Film on Armenian Genocide

Atom Egoyan ("The Sweet Hereafter," "The Adjuster," "Calendar") will begin filming his new project, "Ararat," in June 2001. Producer Robert Lantos describes the film as "a contemporary piece that deals with the events of the Armenian holocaust." Egoyan has also written the original script.

Mayor-Elect Alan Autry Participates in ASO Sponsored Candidate Forum with Opponent Whitehurst



Dan Whitehurst, left, with Mayor Elect Alan Autry.

By Tamara Karakashian
Staff Writer

October 25, 2000.

Mayor-elect Alan Autry, who is best known as "Bubba" on the hit television series "In the Heat of the Night," and former Fresno Mayor Dan Whitehurst were invited by the Armenian Students Organization for an open forum on campus one week prior to the election on

October 25, 2000. The purpose of the forum was for the Armenian community of Fresno to gain an understanding of where the two mayoral candidates stood on different issues such as urban growth, education, agriculture and downtown revitalization.

The forum was lead by ASO Historian, Tim Kuckenbaker, and ASO Treasurer, Barbara Harutinian. The audience wrote

questions for the candidates on three by five cards that were later asked during the forum by Kuckenbaker.

During the forum, Autry said he plans to build a lake in the center of downtown Fresno, which he believes will attract economic growth to the area.

The candidates also expressed different opinions regarding the "Armenia Town" project in downtown Fresno. Autry believed that the "Armenia Town" project could not stand on its own and needs to be accompanied by a large-scale revitalization of downtown Fresno.

Mayor-elect Autry, was born in 1952, in Louisiana. At 13 months of age, Autry moved to Tulare, California with his mother, Verna.

Autry played quarterback at Riverdale High School. He then went on to play football at the University of Pacific and graduated in 1975 with his degree in Physical Education. He later had a short career in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers.

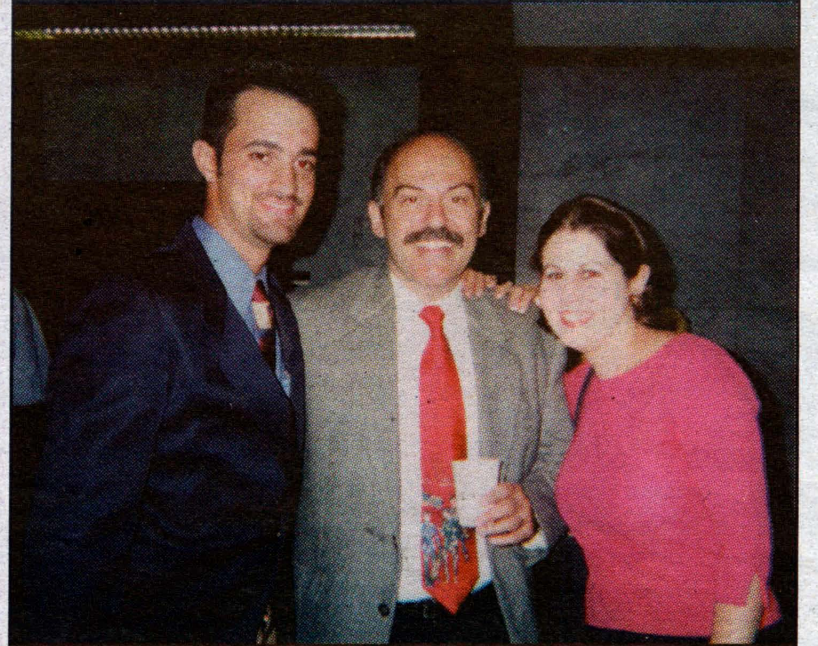
Autry then moved on to an acting career, where he landed a role in the television series "In the Heat of the Night," which ran for seven seasons. It was during the final seasons of "In the Heat of the Night" that Autry and his wife, Kimberlee, and their children, Lauren, Heather, and Austin, moved to Fresno. Autry

also had a short role on the television series "Grace Under Fire". He then turned to the production side of the profession and established his own company, Dirt Road Productions.

"Success, no matter what line of work you are in, depends on your attitude and how you approach your

current situation," Autry said.

Autry's political involvement began by his support to the 10-20-Life legislation and his involvement with the Operation Sky Watch program. Now his political career continues. With every ballot counted properly, Alan Autry has been chosen as Fresno's new mayor.



Left to Right: Tim Kuckenbaker, ASO Advisor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and Barbara Harutinian.

Hilmar Kaiser Raises New Legal Issues Through Study of Armenian Genocide

By Arpik Paraghamian
Staff Writer

Stolen property and reparations to the survivors and descendants of those martyred during the Armenian Genocide of 1915 was the focus of a lecture by Hilmar Kaiser during his fourth visit to Fresno State on November 6, 2000.

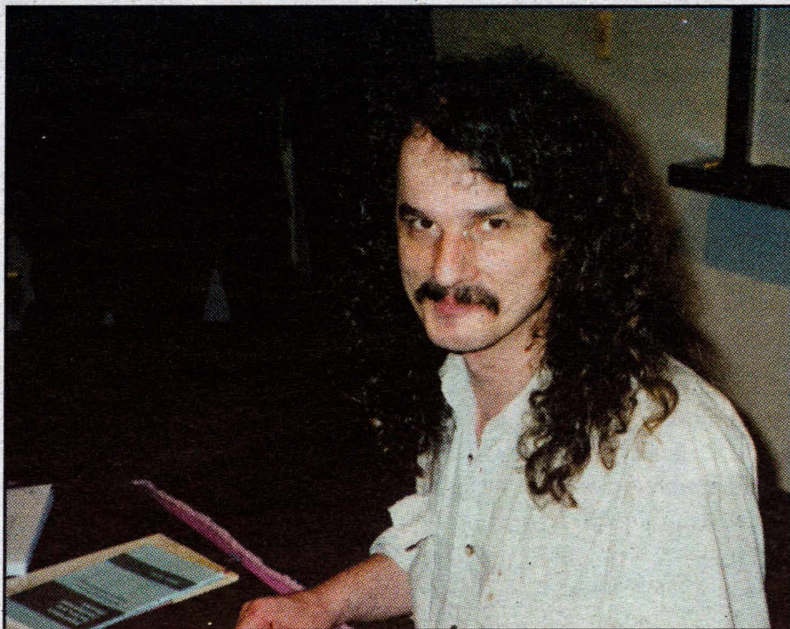
Kaiser, a doctoral candidate at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, spent four years studying Turkish archives on this topic. Kaiser said he tried to collect all the information he possibly could before he was kicked out for his persistent visits in 1995.

Kaiser found not only proof that the Ottoman government had planned, organized and monitored the deaths of 1.5 to 2 million Armenians in 1915 and specified instructions on their deportation, but also that the Turks had settled Muslims onto Armenian property, without allowing Armenians to sell their land.

The Ottoman government, "figured as caretaker of all Armenian immovable property" Kaiser said, meaning that everything the Armenians were not able to take with them, was taken by the Turks.

Kaiser was not focusing on the emotional aspects of the Armenian Genocide and how Turks continue to deny the actions.

"Human rights means nothing [to governments]," Kaiser said while focusing on a more legal issue, which he claims has trillions of



Hilmar Kaiser

dollars behind it, as well as 85 years' worth of interest: Armenian real estate.

Kaiser said there is no statute of limitations against Armenians bringing the issue to U.S. courts since genocide is a crime against humanity.

Because public records show that Armenian-owned land was given away by the Turkish government without any sort of compensation, Armenians can still make their claims.

"They [Turkish government] deny the Genocide because they don't want to put money into it, they don't want to face restitution," Kaiser said.

Kaiser suggested the Armenians put less effort into reliving the emotional past and should gain the confidence and resources to bring up

lawsuits in U.S. district courts. He also said political discussion among the Armenian community should take place and that some kind of "Armenian Claims Commission" is needed in order to get the ball rolling.

Professor Dickran Kouymjian agreed that the issue has the interest of lawyers. Kouymjian told the audience that in a similar talk he gave in Paris recently, two young lawyers, from well-known law firms, approached him with their business cards and said they would like to represent the issue. Kouymjian said the battle would be underway if an organization out there was able to handle the financial outcome appropriately.

A lively question and answer session followed Kaiser's stimulating talk.

Second Hovannisian Lecture Addresses Oral History

By Edward Thurber
Staff Writer

Dr. Richard Hovannisian gave the second of three Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Lectures related to the Armenian Genocide of 1915, with a lecture titled "The Last Generation of Ottoman Armenians: Bittersweet Memories," on Monday evening, October 30th.

He began with a discussion of his trip to Istanbul, Turkey, where he presented a paper in an International Conference on Oral History, and where he was able to discuss matters of the Armenian Genocide with a largely Turkish audience. Considering the many obstacles he faced to do this, it was quite an achievement. During the conference, he pointed out the categories of coping with the Genocide, which include reconciliation, resignation, repression, revenge and rage.

He brought to light excerpts from one-hundred survivor interviews contained in the UCLA archives. The interviewees recounted the multi-step process of deportation. The first step was conscription of adults during the first months of the war. The men were later segregated into labor battalions and then killed.

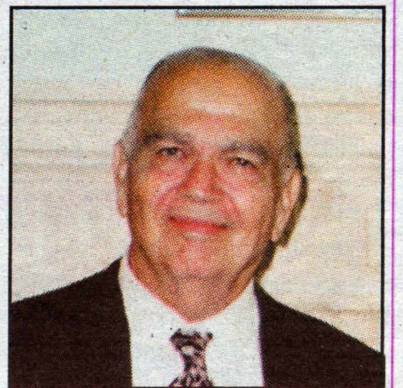
Later, the Turks arrested Armenian leaders and closed down Armenian schools. Turkish towncriers followed, calling people to assemble, and amidst the pandemonium, the deportations began, while more males were separated and killed.

Hovannisian then described how the Gendarmes, Turkish police, forced women and children into the death marches. They faced various cruelties along their path of deportation, including violence against them and starvation.

According to survivor Krikor Ananikian, some women and children saved themselves from the fate of death by assuming new identities and blending into the local populations. Some captive Armenian women were instrumental in helping other Armenians escape.

Survivors feel wronged because of these events. Their only crime was that of being Ottoman Christians. Some of these survivors try to find rationalizations in order to explain the occurrences of the time. There are survivors who clearly remember their lives in the Ottoman Empire. They also fondly remember their early childhood with family and community.

Dr. Hovannisian concluded his



Dr. Richard Hovannisian

presentation by showing excerpts from video interviews conducted with the Genocide survivors. Many students among the more than one-hundred in attendance at the lecture, were deeply moved by seeing the survivors themselves tell their stories.

As the title of the lecture indicated, in a few years, the last survivors of the Armenian Genocide will have passed away. Their bittersweet memories, which have been passed to future generations, both directly and through oral histories, will be all that is left to us.

Armenian Studies Program Book/Video Donations

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos, and archival gifts.

Archival materials and gifts:

Richard Kloian, Richmond, CA, for an audio-tape of a lecture by Prof. Ronald Suny on the Armenian Genocide given at Stanford in April 2000.

Elizabeth Koojoolian, Fresno for a pamphlet *The Plight of Armenian and Assyrian Christians*, London, 1918, and 14 audio tapes of CSU Fresno class lectures, including the Modern Armenian History class (spring 1982) of Prof. D. Kouymjian.

Eduardo Kozlanian, Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a video of fragments from the early film, "Auction of Souls" (1919), based on the life of Aurora Mardiganian.

Robert Shapazian, PhD, Los Angeles, for a collection of papers from the estate of his mother Margaret E. Shapazian, comprising family letters and commercial paper from Haroutune Azhderian, including papers from Mr. Shapazian's grandfather and great uncle, John E. and Myron H. Azhderian, who formed a farming, packing and shipping company under their names and eventually under the name of the Clovis Fruit Company.

Vatche Soghomonian, Fresno, for a video of His Holiness Aram I's visit to Fresno and California State University, Fresno, including the Catholicos' address at the Holy Tripty Church Banquet October 22, 2000 and his luncheon with CSUF students, October 23. 1:54 minutes.

Books:

Juri G. Brilts, of Chico, California, for *50 Year Portfolio of Manuel Tolegian*

Henriette & Edward Davajian, of Fresno, for books from the estate of Vanoohe Jurian. Three auction catalogues of the Classical Numismatic Group, nos. 36, 46, 51, London, 1995-1999, presenting an illustrated collection of Armenian coins.

Jack Geuvrikian, of Manhasset, New York, for three auction catalogues of the Classical Numismatic Group, nos. 36, 46, 51, London, 1995-1999, presenting an illustrated collection of Armenian coins.

Prof. Hermann Goltz, with photographs by Klaus E. Goltz, *Der gerettete Schatz der Armenier aus Kilikien, Sakrale Kunst aus dem Kilikia-Museum, Antelias, Libanon*, Wiesbaden, 2000. A luxurious catalogue of an exhibit of the rescued treasures of the Cilician Catholicosate held in Moritzburg Gallery in Halle, Germany. An English version is also available.

Dr. Sarkis Karayan of Northridge, CA, for the book by Archpriest Der Nerses Babayan, *Pages from My Diary*, edited by Yervant Babayan, Los Angeles, 2000.

Araksis Keoroghlian, Belmont, MA, for *What Does It Show?* By Haik Keoroghlian. Yerevan, 2000.

Gayane Makhmourian, *The League of Nations, the Armenian Question and the Republic of Armenia*, Yerevan: Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences, 1999 (in Russian).

Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, New York, NY, for his books, *Chosen of God: The Election of the Catholicos of All Armenians*. New York: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, 1995, and *The Passion of Saint Shuyshnik*, New York: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, 1999.

Barouyr Mouradian, editor, *Armenia and Christian Orient*, Yerevan, 2000, proceedings of a conference of the same name held in Yerevan, 1998.

Hagop & Helene Sarkissian, Watertown, MA for *The Collected Articles of H. H. Sarkissian* by Sarkissian H. Massachusetts: Ohan Press, 2000

U.A.F. Sends \$291.6 Million of Aid to Armenia in Eleven Years

Glendale, CA The United Armenian Fund just completed its 11th year of operations during which it sent to Armenia a total of \$291.6 million of humanitarian assistance on board 110 airlifts and 622 sea containers.

During the fiscal year 1999-2000, the U.A.F. had revenues of \$30.7 million according to the audit of its financial statements prepared by the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen LLP. Over \$27.8 million of relief supplies consisting primarily of medicines and medical supplies were sent to Armenia during this period.

The audited financial statements reveal that only 1% of the U.A.F.s revenues were spent on administrative expenses with the remaining 99% allocated for assisting the people of Armenia.

The U.A.F. is the collective effort of the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the Armenian Relief Society, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America and the Lincy Foundation.

An "Armenian Evening" at the Fresno County Library

Staff Report

An evening devoted to "The Armenians of the Central San Joaquin Valley" drew more than 100 people to the Fresno County Library on Tuesday, October 17.

A full table of Armenian delicacies greeted those who entered the Sarah McCardle Room of the Library to listen to retired local Armenian farmer Berge Bulbulian, musician Peter Dorian, and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Bulbulian, author of the recently released *The Fresno Armenians: History of a Diaspora Community*, (The Press, California State University, Fresno: 2000) spoke about the early history of the Armenian community. He highlighted the important role that Armenians played in the development of Fresno and the Central San Joaquin Valley.

"The Fresno Armenians" is the first book on the history of Armenians in Fresno to draw together various sources, including the oral accounts of some of the descendants of the first settlers to Fresno in 1881.

Dorian has been playing the oud since he was 13 years old. He explained the history of the oud, the ancestor of the lute and modern guitar, and performed three traditional Armenian folk-songs. He



Peter Dorian

emphasized the role that Armenian music played in traditional Armenian life, both at times of work and also at festive occasions, such as weddings. Dorian is an accomplished musician, who performs traditional Armenian folk songs at concerts, weddings, and ethnic dances.

Der Mugrdechian, presented interesting stories about the early Armenian community, based on his research in the pages of the *Asbarez* newspaper. *Asbarez* was the first Armenian language newspaper published in Fresno. His presentation included vignettes on the progress of the early raisin industry including how the price drop in

raisins affected Armenian farmers in 1908.

Der Mugrdechian also related how Armenian organizations in this early period remained interested in the old country, often holding fund-raising events for the hungry and for orphans.

Humorous stories about the Armenian characters who lived in Fresno added a great deal to the presentation.

The evening was co-sponsored by The William Saroyan Society, the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program, the Fresno County Genealogical Society, and the Friends of the Fresno County Public Library.

News From Armenia

Government Announces Details of \$165 Million of Projects Undertaken by The Lincy Foundation

The government of Armenia and The Lincy Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formalizes the modification of The Lincy Foundation's significant commitment to Armenia's economic development.

During a meeting in June with President Robert Kocharian in Washington, Mr. Kirk Kerkorian enthusiastically endorsed the Armenian government's request for targeted assistance to activities that will have a multiplier effect and generate faster economic growth. During the months that followed, the government undertook extensive analysis and determined the best possible utilization of funds.

The government has identified six specific projects totaling \$165 million that will produce the quickest start and the quickest result:

- 1) Provide loans to local Armenian businesses in order to create jobs for the unemployed and under-employed. Also, provide loans and equity investments to large foreign corporations in order to induce them to establish operations in Armenia with the aim of providing jobs to the local population.
- 2) Complete the reconstruction of additional housing in the earthquake zone for which there is such a desperate need.
- 3) Design, construct, and improve a network of roads within Armenia. This will serve to facilitate the flow of people and goods, as well as internal travel for tourism.
- 4) Repair and renovate more than two dozen historical and cul-

tural institutions, such as the Matenadaran, the Opera House, theaters and museums. These national treasures will attract local and foreign tourists.

5) Invest in the construction of new hotels and other tourism-related infrastructures, including the renovation and expansion of Yerevan Zvartnots airport. Increased tourism is a direct way to attract additional foreign currency, particularly since tourism requires modest capital outlays and provides quick employment for workers after a brief training period.

6) Upgrade and beautify downtown Yerevan. This urban project will include the launching of Tamanian's "Northern" street which will evolve into a pedestrian mall with attractive lighting and landscaping, retail and service establishments, as well as office and residential space.

The Fresno Armenians



History of a Diaspora Community

Berge Bulbulian

The Press at California State University, Fresno

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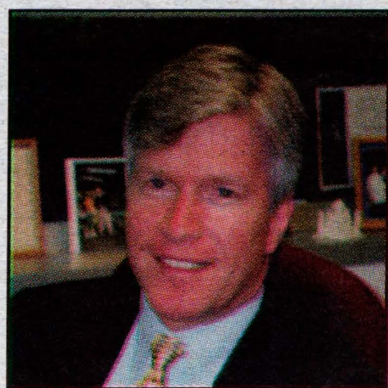
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Left to Right: John Shields, Elizabeth Shields, Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Aram Karapetyan, Anna Sargsyan at Koko's Restaurant.

YSU, Cont. from Page 1



Mark Keppler

Karapetyan and Sargsyan visited with faculty and staff from various departments and areas to observe how distance learning is becoming an integral part of the educational process. They observed first-hand a pilot program in the area of mathematics, which draws students from Japan to a web-site at Fresno State. The program is administered by Dr. Peter Tannenbaum of the Department of Mathematics.

Both guests participated in seminars and workshops which were taking place on campus during this time.

They also had time to visit important Armenian cultural sites in Fresno, including the David of Sasoon monument, the William Saroyan exhibit at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, local Armenian churches, and general areas of interest in Fresno.

Upon their departure,

Karapetyan and Sargsyan loaded their suitcases with books and educational materials to enrich the School of Business in Yerevan

Project director Barlow Der Mugrdchian and Professor Elizabeth Shields of the Department of Finance, worked with the guests on developing their schedule while in Fresno. Ashot Hagopian assisted in logistics and planning of social activities.

Meanwhile, Fresno State professors Gerald Bryan and Mark Keppler returned from separate trips to Armenia.

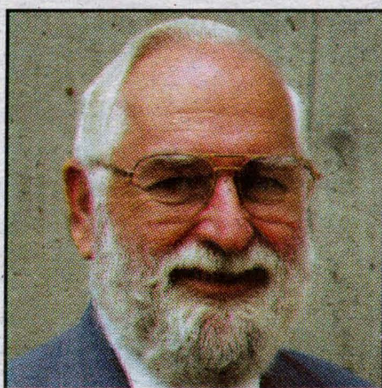
Dr. Gerald Bryan, Professor of Marketing, conducted an in-depth evaluation of the progress achieved in the first year of the joint Yerevan State University-Fresno State Business Project. He interviewed faculty and administrators from both institutions and completed a report on his findings. His report will

provide an important insight as to the future directions for the recently awarded three-year grant between the two institutions

Mark Keppler, head of the Graduate MBA Program at Fresno State, spent a week in Armenia discussing the changes which YSU is instituting in their newly established MBA program. He worked with faculty and students in Armenia and would like to see a graduate student from Yerevan State University enter the Fresno State MBA program. He is encouraged by the high quality of students in Armenia and their knowledge of English.

All of the activities discussed above are part of the first year of the new three-year Faculty Development Project in Business, sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States State Department.

The project was assisted fi-



Gerald Bryan

nancially by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Information Agency under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended.

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U.S. Government Continues to Bow Down to Turkish Threats

By John Jabaghchourian

In a sudden and unexpected move, House Speaker Denis Hastert pulled the Armenian Genocide resolution, House Resolution 596, off the House floor in response to a letter sent by President Clinton just moments before the bill was to be voted on during the October 19 session of Congress.

Meanwhile, as the United States government continues to brush off the recognition of the Armenian Genocide conducted by the Ottoman Turkish government, France and Italy passed similar legislation through their government bodies on November 8 and 17, 2000.

In President Clinton's letter, he urged Speaker Hastert to take H. Res. 596 out of consideration in the House, stating that the bill could impact the current situation in the Middle East between the Israelis and Palestinians and could endanger American lives.

"We have significant interests in this troubled region of the world: containing the threat posed by East and West Asia, stabilizing the Balkans, and developing new sources of energy. Consideration of the resolution at this sensitive time will negatively affect those interests and could undermine efforts to encourage improved relations between Armenia and Turkey," President Clinton wrote in his letter to Speaker Hastert.

The unexpected part of the resolution's withdrawal was Speaker Hastert's willingness to follow the President's request; a request that was against the Speaker's alleged interests in the resolution.

Back in August during a campaign dinner for fellow Republican, James Rogan (CA-27), Speaker Hastert promised to bring H. Res. 596 to the House floor for a vote.

In a press release, the Speaker stated, "I support this resolution and I supported bringing it to the floor. I believe that the Armenian people suffered a historic tragedy

and that this resolution was a fitting condemnation to those events."

However, with all of his support for the resolution, Speaker Hastert readily abandoned the resolution at the request of the President. If he were truly committed to bringing the resolution to the floor, where he believed it had the support of the majority, would he have pulled it?

Speaker Hastert, as well as the House International Relations Committee, were well aware of the objections and threats used by the Administration's State Department well before October 19th and continued to push the bill onto the floor.

Back in the last issue of the *Hye Sharzhoom*, I was skeptical of the Speaker's intentions, and felt he may abandon the resolution once on the floor, hoping he had done enough to get Rogan re-elected.

It turns out he did abandon the bill but Congressman Rogan, representing Glendale and Burbank, lost the election to Democrat challenger and California State Senator, Adam Schiff. However, Hastert and the Republicans did maintain a slim majority in the House, and Hastert will likely retain his position as speaker.

President Clinton has demonstrated a weak response to threats by foreign governments, in this case the Turkish government, and has allowed these threats to influence American policy.

"I am disappointed with this outcome - I put a lot of hard work into this resolution," local representative and co-author of H. Res. 596 George Radanovich (CA-19) said. "But if I am fortunate enough to be re-elected in November, you can count on me taking this issue head-on once again in the 107th Congress."

Congressman Radanovich was re-elected on November 7, so the process has to start from scratch starting next year. While a new Congress and Administration will be in place the political climate has not changed much in favor for a similar resolution.

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