

August 31, 1981

STATEMENT OF FACTS
CONCERNING THE EVENTS OF
AUGUST 31, 1980 AT THE HYATT REGENCY
HOTEL IN CAMBRIDGE DURING THE
1980 ANNUAL SPORTS WEEKEND
OF THE ACYOA, hosted by the
ACYOA of ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH,
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Starting on August 27, 1980 the ACYOA convened its Annual Assembly at the Hyatt Regency, which served as the site of the Assembly sessions, as well as many of the social functions of the Assembly and the Annual Sports Weekend. No problems developed until the morning of August 31, when because of alleged noise and destruction that was taking place, the hotel management called up the Cambridge Police Department, who responded to the call and after arrival called Metropolitan District Commission Police to assist them. As a result, 12 arrests were made. Those arrested were released on bail and returned to the hotel. This incident was reported in the local newspapers and on the radio.

The Hotel management informed the ACYOA host committee that the Sunday evening, August 31 Awards Banquet and Dance would be cancelled if the following demands were not met:

A. Although our contract stipulated that the Awards Banquet and Dance was to end at 2:00 a.m., it would have to terminate at 12 midnight.

B. Participants in the ACYOA Sports Weekend were not to be congregating in the hotel corridors after 12 midnight, neither was there to be any gatherings in individual rooms.

C. Payment for all damages incurred by the ACYOA.

D. The ACYOA would have to give the hotel a security bond of \$2,000 to cover any damages that might take place on the evening of August 31 or morning of September 1.

The host committee was forced to comply with these requests under protest rather than risk cancellation of the Awards Banquet and Dance. It should be noted that the hotel made no complaint about the behavior of the ACYOA on the evening of August 31 or the morning of September 1 and in fact returned the \$2,000 bond to the host chapter on September 1.

Report on
1980 Watertown A.C.Y.O.A. Sports Weekend/General Assembly

submitted by Kenneth Hagopian

The Sports Weekend Committee Report suggests that the problems which developed during the 1980 Sports Weekend (police and arrests) were the result of the behavior of a small group of irresponsible people. It suggests that we are partially responsible because they are us and we failed to control their (our) behavior. This description of the causes of last year's problem is incomplete. The following issues were also involved in the problems experienced by the 1980 convention:

1. In Watertown's enthusiasm to have the biggest and best General Assembly and Sports Weekend, it lost sight of certain financial and physical plant considerations. These considerations include:
 - a. In choosing the best hotel and an exceptional itinerary of functions and food, the profit margin of the weekend would have to be reduced or the cost to attendees increased. Had the weekend run uninterrupted, this factor would have reduced the profit of the Watertown weekend an estimated 50% when compared to the Wisconsin General Assembly/Sports Weekend. (Note: Wisconsin cleared \$14,000.00 while Watertown would have been hard pressed to clear \$7,000.00)
 - b. A.C.Y.O.A. organizational control of whole sections of the hotel could not be accomplished. Outside guests were intermingled with our members. This had to, and did lead to problems with the hotel and other guests. There is a distinct possibility that a threat by another group to withdraw from a long term and annual booking with the hotel may have precipitated the hotel's attempt to protect that account by calling the police.
 - c. The A.C.Y.O.A.'s past track record would have suggested that as a group we probably did not belong in the best hotel in town. For the hotel, revenue considerations overshadowed this fact. The hotel's failure to respond to this track record by declining to book our function in light of other pre-existing conditions, places much of the blame for the problem experienced at last year's convention upon the hotel itself.
 - d. The physical plant of the hotel should be considered during the hotel selection process. The open atrium at the Hyatt with its two adjoining restaurants added immensely to the problems experienced at last year's convention. Lack of inhouse recreational, game and pool facilities also proved a problem.

Since all of the persons arrested on the morning of August 31 were from out-of-state, and their arraignment was to take place on September 2, (Tuesday), they were informed that they could leave and not to worry as the priests of St. James would represent them at the arraignment. On September 2, the 12 persons were arraigned in Cambridge District Court on the complaint of disturbance of the peace filed by the Cambridge Police. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian met with presiding Justice Lawrence Felony and William Di Gregorio of the Probation Department. The Court suggested that if those arrested agreed to pay \$50 in court costs that the proceedings against them would be dismissed, that they need not be present and no criminal record would be incurred. If the recommended disposition was not satisfactory, they were to appear on November 6 represented by counsel ready to proceed to trial. Fr. Dajad Davidian met with Judge Felony and Officer DiGregorio on November 6, accompanied by Attorney David Barber and State Representative Sal Ciccarelli. All those arrested had accepted the recommendation, and the charges were dismissed. Fr. Davidian was informed that the court wanted to return the bail money that had been paid for the defendants by Aram Andonian of Washington. Mr. Andonian made no response to this letter, the disposition of this bail money is not clear at the present time.

The Parish Council of St. James Armenian Church, feeling that the actions of the Hyatt Regency caused unjustified moral and financial damage to the St. James ACYOA, which is a subsidiary organization functioning under its supervision, retained the services on September 18, 1980 of the legal firm of Mardirosian, Tarvezian and Barber to provide counsel and to represent St. James Armenian Church in seeking satisfaction in this matter. Under the advice of counsel, the St. James ACYOA refused to settle the billing of \$12,719 by the Hyatt Regency until this matter was settled. After months of negotiation and meeting, the St. James Armenian Church settled the bill on May 12, 1981 with a payment of \$11,931. The Hyatt Regency made a donation of \$3,000 to the Church, which then turned this sum over to the Watertown ACYOA. The legal fees were \$1,000 which was paid by the Watertown ACYOA.

NOTE ON DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION

Originally the Hyatt Regency made allegations of extensive damages. The ACYOA received an invoice of \$417.04 in charges to cover the damages, most of which were minor and all were debatable. There was not one item of malicious and destructive vandalism. In the settlement, these charges were dropped from the bill.

Fr. Dajad Davidian ss.

Fr. Dajad Davidian
August 31, 1981

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COURTESIES COMMITTEE

Members: Nancy Davidian - Cleveland, OH
 Alice Patena - Chicago, IL
 Thomas Babigian - Watertown, MA
 Nancy L. M. Banks - Southfield, MI
 (Central Council Liaison)

WHEREAS, the A.C.Y.O.A. extends their most sincere and unwaveringly greetings to His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of all Armenians who has continuously shown his paternal love and concern for the A.C.Y.O.A., be it resolved that on this occasion we pledge our obedience, love and allegiance to his Holiness, The Catholicos and to the Mother Sea of Holy Etchmiadzin.

WHEREAS, our Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, president of the A.C.Y.O.A., has shown his support, guidance, and love in the A.C.Y.O.A., his efforts, understanding and respect to the youth of the Armenian church; be it resolved that the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. extend their deep respect and appreciation to His Excellence and pledge continued support and loyalty to his Eminence and to our Diocese.

WHEREAS, the Diocesan Council and the 1981 Diocesan Assembly, have pledge their support to the A.C.Y.O.A., be it resolved that the A.C.Y.O.A. extends their deepest appreciation for their support.

WHEREAS, Mr. James Magarian, Executive Secretary of the A.C.Y.O.A. has given his utmost guidance and time to the A.C.Y.O.A. be it resolved that the A.C.Y.O.A. wishes to extend its sincere appreciation and continued support for the organization.

WHEREAS, North America has become the home of many, including those of Armenian Ancestry, be it resolved that the A.C.Y.O.A. extends its best wishes to the Government of the United States and to President Ronald Regan and to the Government of Canada and its Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

WHEREAS, Chicago, Illinois is the location for the 1981 General Assembly, the A.C.Y.O.A. sends their warm regards to James Thompson, Governor of Illinois and Jane Bryne, Mayor of Chicago, Illinois.

Whereas, the A.C.Y.O.A. would like to express their love and sincere appreciation to the Very Reverend Varoujan Dz. V. Kabaradjian, Pastor of St. James Armenian Church of Evanston, Illinois and the Very Reverend Jirayr Tashjian, Pastor of St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago, Illinois, for providing their guidance, leadership and support to the Evanston/Chicago Chapters in hosting the 1981 General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

WHEREAS, Rev. Haik Donikian, Assistant Pastor and Very Rev. Papken Anoushian, Resident Clergy of St. John's Armenian Church, Southfield, MI, Rev. Untzag Nalbandian, Pastor of St. John Armenian Church, Greenfield Wisconsin, Very Rev. Varoujan Dz. V. Kabaradjian, Pastor, St. James Armenian Church, Evanston, Illinois, Deacon Onik Terzian, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian's escort and seminarian of the Diocese, and Deacon Krikor Zamroutian, Toronto, Canada, have shown a sincere interest in the A.C.Y.O.A. by their attendance. The A.C.Y.O.A. expresses its appreciation for their interest.

WHEREAS, all the chairman and delegates attending the 1981 General Assembly are greatly appreciated for their services and participation rendered.

WHEREAS, Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem extended to the A.C.Y.O.A. Armenian Studies Program the facilities and resources of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and monastery of St. James, the A.C.Y.O.A. expresses its appreciation.

WHEREAS, Father Karekin Kasparian and Rev. Father Michael Buttero led the 11th Armenian Studies programs Educational Tour to Armenia, the A.C.Y.O.A. also expresses its appreciation for their time and efforts.

WHEREAS, Michael Yapchaian, Central Council Chairman, Nancy L. M. Banks, Central Council Secretary and Sona Yazejian, Central Council Treasurer, have completed their terms of office, giving their time and energy in order to make the A.C.Y.O.A. a strong and successful organization; be it resolved that the A.C.Y.O.A. expresses its heartfelt respect and appreciation for all their hard work and dedication.

WHEREAS, the A.C.Y.O.A. General Assembly welcomes with best wishes and continued success the newly elected Central Council members for the 1981/82 year and also their warm regards and appreciation to Mark Kazanjian and Robert Borzakian for their continued hard work and dedication.

WHEREAS, the 1981 General Assembly and Sports Weekend of the A.C.Y.O.A. is being hosted by the Chicago/Evanston Chapters, be it resolved that this assembly wishes to thank Chuck Babikian, Sports Weekend Chairman, and all of his committee members for all their dedicated work in making this years General Assembly and Sports Weekend a success.

WHEREAS, the St. James Armenian Church of Evanston, and Parish Council under the Chairmanship of John Ipjian and St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago, Illinois and Parish Council under the Chairmanship of Dr. Hratch Hitik; be it resolved that the A.C.Y.O.A. expresses their thanks for all their encouragement to the A.C.Y.O.A.

WHEREAS, the Assembly executive Committee have conducted this assembly in an outstanding manner and the A.C.Y.O.A. expresses its sincere appreciation for their services and time devoted to David Onanian of Chelmsford, MA, Chairman, Harry Tavitian of Westchester, MA, Vice Chairman, Marianne Hovsepian of Southfield, MI, Secretary, Kenny Hagopian of Watertown, MA, Assistant Secretary, Michael Mousigian of Detroit, MI, Parliamentarian and Harold Kazanjian of Lawrence, MA, Sargent at Arms.

WHEREAS, the Chicago Marriott O'Hare Hotel has provided excellent accommodations for the A.C.Y.O.A., be it resolved that this assembly extends its sincere appreciation to the hotel management and staff.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That all A.C.Y.O.A. members solemnly promise and declare upon their honor that as a member of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America and Canada, they shall do the best of their ability, be faithful to the Armenian Church; shall be a devoted upholder of the Armenian cultural heritage; shall be a loyal citizen of the United States and/or Canada; and shall diligently abide by the objectives, policies and decisions of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. We shall not strive for personal recognition and pleasure, but for our country and for the greater glory of God.