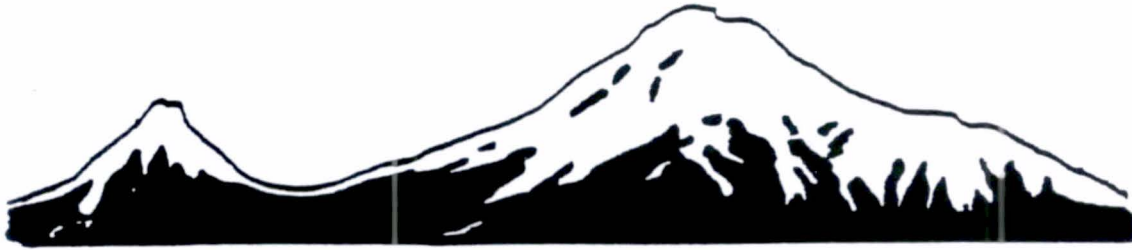


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**ARMENIAN INDEPENDENT CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
OF ATLANTA, INC.**

P.O.Box 7277 Atlanta, GA 30357

February 8, 1993

Dear members and supporters:

The AICAA membership during its January 17, 1993, General Assembly meeting elected a new board to conduct its affairs until the September meeting. The new board members and their respective responsibilities are as follows:

Aram Sarhadian, President
Marilda Stepanian, Secretary
Harry Khachadourian, Treasurer
Anita Karapetian, Ways and Means
Talin Major, Publications
Armen Karapetian, Public Relations, and
Naira Bournouzian, Cultural Activities

Your board had its first meeting on January 24 and addressed housekeeping and transitional matters. On the same day, the Audit Committee met and reviewed the association's books and records. I would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee; Ara Keyfer, Bedros Dido, and Harry Khachadourian who diligently devoted their time to this project. Thanks also to Ralph Hulun, outgoing treasurer without whose assistance this project would not have been so speedily concluded. The Audit Committee will give its report to the General Assembly in March.

Your new board took a unanimous decision to increase the membership of the association during the 1993 calendar year. The membership base is the backbone of this unique, nondenominational, cultural association. The talent and experience each one of you can bring to this association is invaluable to publicize the Armenian culture and interests, not only in the greater Atlanta area, but also around the world. We have a challenging task ahead of us which can only be accomplished through the realization that ***unity is essential to accomplish our interests and aspirations.*** Therefore, I am asking each one of you to become a dues paying member and supporter of the AICAA. Attached to this letter is your membership application. After completing the form, please mail it, together with your check to the attention of Harry Khachadourian, our treasurer. A newly designed membership card will be mailed to you in due course.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Your board is making preparation for the following events:

General Assembly and social on March 28, 1993.
Armenian Martyr's Day (April 24) program.
Celebration of the Armenian Independence Day, May 28.
Picnic.
Church.

The specific dates and locations of some of the events have not yet been determined. All volunteers are welcome to make these events memorable, particularly for the younger generation.

BYLAWS

I am in the process of revising the bylaws in compliance with the wishes expressed during our meeting in January. It should be ready for your review and approval at the March General Assembly meeting. I may be calling on some of you to get your valuable input before finalizing this task.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Your board has decided to establish direct contact with the Armenian Prelacy and Diocese to arrange for visiting clergy to come to Atlanta, at least twice a year. I am hopeful we will obtain positive results.

PUBLICATIONS

The attached article recently appeared in the Marietta paper. It is a very well written article and I am sure you will enjoy reading it. If a similar article of interest appears in the papers or magazines you subscribe to, I ask that you please forward a copy to my attention so that I can share it with the entire community. On behalf of the Armenian/American community of Atlanta, a thank you letter is being sent to the Marietta paper.

CULTURAL

Following this letter is the Armenian National Anthem in Armenian and English (phonetic) to help those who understand Armenian but have difficulty reading. Please save it and have your young ones memorize it. We will practice singing at our next meeting.

OPERATION WINTER RESCUE

We recently received a special memorandum (copy attached) from the Armenian Embassy in Washington which clarifies several of the concerns expressed by some of our members. The situation in Armenia is getting more and more critical with each passing day. I ask that you please be generous and work hard to make this project a success.

MISCELLANEOUS

Your board is investigating if obtaining a bond is feasible (to cover at least our treasurer) and the matter of an outside auditor to verify the accuracy of the books and records of the association. Cost is the primary consideration here.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who personally, through phone calls, or cards expressed their generous support and well wishes to the new board.

Sincerely,

Aram Sarhadian, President

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MER HAIRENIK

Mer Hairenik, Azad Angakh,
Vor Abrel e Tar e Tar
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Azad, Aangakh Haiasdan:

Aha Yeghpayr Kez Mi Trosh,
Zor Im Tserkov Korzetsi
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Ardatsounkov Levatsi:

Nayir Neran Yerek Kouynov,
Neviragan Meg Nshan,
Togh Poghpoghi Tshnamou Tem,
Togh Mishd Banza Haiasdan:

Amenayn Degh Mahe Mi e
Mart Mi Ankam Bid Merni,
Paiyts Yerani Vor Ir Azki
Azadoutian Ge Zohvi:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Street: _____ Children's Names: _____ Ages and Sex _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: (H) _____
(B) _____

YEARLY DUES: Family \$50 Single \$30 Student \$10 Sr. Citizen \$10
ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION:\$ _____

Please make your tax deductible check payable to: AICAA, P.O.Box 7277, Atlanta, GA 30357, Att. Harry Khachadourian, Treasurer.

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Your thoughts and comments are valuable in making our association successful. Please take a few moments and put them down below. If you wish your name to remain confidential, please detach this form at the above line and mail it to the attention of the President. Thank you.



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

122 C STREET, N.W., #360

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

TEL: (202) 628-5766 FAX: (202) 628-5769

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Armenian-American organizations
FROM: Embassy of the Republic of Armenia
DATE: January 21, 1992

RE: URGENT HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

As a follow-up to the recent information we sent to you, we would like to clarify the goals of the newly-launched Operation Winter Rescue and the role of the Armenian government in the campaign.

The goals of Operation Winter Rescue were delineated by the U.S. government in response to the assessment of Ambassador Armitage during his recent trip to Armenia and the surrounding regions. It was the decision of the U.S. government that humanitarian aid should be sent to Armenia. In launching this campaign, the U.S. government has turned over the responsibility to the Armenian government and Armenians in the U.S. to collect aid for Armenia.

Please be assured that any goods collected for Armenia will go to Armenia and not to any other republics. The U.S. government has made this clear, and to ensure this logistically, every box/crate of items should be clearly marked with the words "Republic of Armenia" as the destination. Each of the three vessels provided by the U.S. government is capable of carrying up to 700 containers, and each container has a capacity of 35,000 pounds. There are no specific limitations as to how much or what type of items can be donated for Armenia or any of the other republics in the Caucasus. As many containers as can be collected of food, medicine, and clothes for Armenia will be accepted and delivered.

As far as the question of assistance to Azerbaijan, in response to the Embassy's inquiry, the State Department explicitly stated that the collection of food and other items for Azerbaijan is being undertaken by private organizations and the cost of shipping these items will be covered by the private sector as well. However, if you have any questions regarding the legality of this action, particularly if you were one of the supporters of the amendment to the Freedom Support Act, please feel free to take up this matter with the U.S. government.

For its part, the Armenian government is focusing its efforts on the central goal of Operation Winter Rescue, to collect and transport as much food, medicine, and clothing as possible for the people of Armenia. We hope that your organization will join us in focusing on this goal over the next three months.

COLLECTION SITES

The leadership of the Diocese and Prelacy churches in North America have offered their local parishes around the country to serve as the collection sites for donations of food, clothing, and medicine for Armenia. Several Armenian-American community organizations have also offered to set up collection sites. Each church and community organization has formed a group of volunteers that will handle the logistics of the campaign at the local level. If you are in a state or region which does not have an Armenian Diocese or Prelacy church, we need to hear from you as to the availability of storage space in your area. A complete list of collection sites will be provided by the Embassy by early February.

DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of items donated through Operation Winter Rescue will be overseen by the Government in Armenia, specifically the Special Committee for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Armenia. Organizations or individuals who would like to participate in the distribution in Armenia are welcome to provide assistance to this Committee. Please contact the Embassy if you would like to be involved in this aspect of the campaign.

LOGISTICS

The Fund for Democracy and Development is responsible for providing the logistical support for this campaign. As soon as a local church has collected a container's worth of items (35,000 pounds or occupying a space of 20 feet by 8 feet by 8.5 feet), the Fund should be contacted. Within two or three days, the Fund will send trucks to pick up the donated items. For your information and use, the Fund has provided us with general guidelines for transportation and logistics, which are attached. Any specific questions about packaging, labeling or other logistical requirements should be directed to the Fund.

The Fund's phone number is: 202-296-8598, and its FAX number is: 202-296-5433. Please try to direct Those volunteers who are overseeing the local collection efforts should feel free to contact the Fund with any inquiries. However, we would urge that individuals seeking advice or assistance should first call their local parish or community organization.

In the event of a large volume donation, it is recommended that the services of a professional warehouse or freight forwarder be obtained.

Please note: Packages addressed to individuals will not be accepted. However, donations designated for various organizations or official entities in Armenia, such as an orphanage or school, will be accepted.

TIMING

The first ship in Operation Winter Rescue will leave the United States on February 15, the second on March 13, and the third on April 10. From the date of departure, it will take 15-17 days for each ship to reach the port in Batumi, Georgia. From there, under normal conditions, it will take 1-2 days to deliver the containers by rail to Armenia.

The latest date for donated items to be picked up from local collection sites will be five days before each ship's departure. However, if you miss the deadline for the first ship, the items collected can be reserved for shipment on the second or third carriers.

Armenia fights for survival

By B.J. Cutler

Scripps Howard News Service

All 15 republics of the former Soviet Union, now independent nations, suffer from economic decline and ethnic tensions. But one of them, Armenia, also faces threats to its survival.

Armenia became the world's first Christian state around 300 A.D., and the fact that it managed to stay alive in a most inhospitable neighborhood is in a way a miracle.

A tiny place about the size of Vermont, Armenia is surrounded by Turkey, which massacred 1 million Armenians in 1915; Muslim Azerbaijan, which would like to emulate the Turks; fundamentalist Iran, and Georgia.

Of the four neighbors, only Georgia is mostly Christian and non-hostile. But Georgia is riven by a civil war with its own Muslim minority and is in no position to help Armenia with trade, supplies or arms.

Since 1988, Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in an undeclared war over Nagorno-

Karabakh, a collection of rocky hills and vineyards the size of Rhode Island. At that time, its population of 162,000 was 75 percent Armenian, but the territory itself was in Azerbaijan.

As Moscow's centralized and communist rule weakened, Nagorno-Karabakh demanded autonomy. Fearing that the enclave intended to secede and join Armenia, Azerbaijan resorted to arms. Residents of Nagorno-Karabakh and "volunteers" from Armenia did the same.

The fighting has been devastating for Armenia's 3.3 million people. Their fuel and other essential raw materials used to pass through Azerbaijan, which enforced a blockade. Armenia's industry has collapsed. Its farmers cannot move their crops to market, and many citizens are enduring their fourth winter without heat and hot water.

The moderate government of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan must deal with more than economic nightmares. A devastating earthquake in 1988 left hundreds of thousands homeless. Some 200,000

Armenians fled vicious pogroms in Azerbaijan. And tens of thousands are refugees from the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh.

To its credit, Russia tried to mediate the brutal ethnic dispute. Its defense minister, Pavel Grachev, met with top Armenian and Azeri officers and got nowhere. An effort by the 51-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe also failed.

Armenians, who think they are better fighters than the Azeris, conducted an offensive last spring. They opened a "corridor of life" to Nagorno-Karabakh, allowing Armenians to reach safety. But Azerbaijan, which inherited heavy weapons from the old Soviet Army, counter-attacked and nullified the gains.

Ter-Petrosyan cannot wage all-out war. If he did and met success, it would bring in powerful Turkey on the side of its ethnic cousins. And if the president compromised in negotiations, he likely would be overthrown by fanatic private armies.

B.J. Cutler is foreign affairs columnist for Scripps Howard News Service.

***** ARMENIA WINTER RESCUE UPDATE *****

This is a brief update of our activities since the start of the Armenia Winter Rescue operation. There was a meeting held last Tuesday night. Dr. Rubina Ohanian and her family graciously agreed to host this meeting in their house. This meeting served to complete the planning for the operation with the support of the members. In attendance was Ms. Gayaneh Gregorian, CNN correspondent visiting Atlanta from Armenia. She spent some time presenting the present situation in Armenia. Everyone was saddened with the tales of the struggles of our countrymen. This has made us more determined to make the operation Winter Rescue a success. A number of members of the Armenian community of Atlanta are working very hard to that end. The goal is to collect \$5,000 for a container load of dried food to be sent to Armenia. This is in addition to our ongoing collection activity for winter clothing, medical supplies etc. AICAA wants to acknowledge contributions of the following people who have come forward and offered their time and money.

CASH Contributions

Major/Koseyan	\$500
Sarkis Aga Sarkissian	\$500
Armen & Sonja Karapetian	\$150
Serge & Jean Loussarian	\$100
Eleanor & Charles Edmondson	\$100
David Yardumian	\$100
Sarkis & Leslie Kevorkian	\$100
James Kambourian	\$ 25
Nicola's Enterprises	\$ 25

Partial list of people helping with Collection

Talin Major	L. David
Dr. Rubina Ohanian	Emily Mathews
Joyce Keyfer	Naira Bournazian
Sonia Maghdousian	Roxie Mooradian
Leslie Kevorkian	Dr. Aris Merijanian
Marry Sarhadian	
Marry Thompson	
Sonja Karapetian	

If we missed anyone's name our sincere apologies. If you have sent your check and we haven't received it we will include your name in our next update.

A special account has been opened at the Decatur Federal Bank under the name of "Armenia Winter Rescue Fund". The account number is 16-26224896. Please feel free to urge everyone to deposit money to this account. Our volunteers will be calling you for your pledges.