

September 10, 1986

Rev. K. Barsamian
Vicar General
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York City 10016-4885

Reverend and dear Fr. Barsamian:

I have enclosed a sheet with some of the questions that may be asked of the Patriarch tomorrow morning in the Cathedral when the press is on hand.

Later today, I shall be checking with the two dozen or so media people I contacted about meeting with the Patriarch (I did not call it a press conference, but rather a "meeting with the media"). I want to find out how many plan on attending. If the number seems to be too low, I shall discuss with you the possibility of scrubbing the meeting or moving it to another location (i.e. an office or room) where the low attendance will not be so obvious.

The reason for calling it a meeting rather than a press conference is that I do not wish to imply that there is anything special that the Patriarch wishes to announce or to address. The meeting indicates a willingness to do just what it says: meet and answer questions without any commitment of any kind.

I look forward to speaking with you later today.

Respectfully,



Frank G M Corbin
Senior Associate

FGMC :sf
Encl.

cc: N. Marson

Possible Questions for Patriarch of Istanbul

1. Does the bombing of the synagogue in Istanbul signal a new wave of terrorism directed against Jews and Christians in Turkey?
2. Is the Armenian Christian community in Istanbul taking any special measures to avoid similar incidents?
3. Have you seen any signs of negative reactions to Christians living in Turkey in recent months?
4. Will the apparent increase in kidnappings, hijackings and other acts of terrorism directed against Westerners living in the Middle East reach into Turkey and other areas that were quiet in the past?
4. What is the relationship of the Armenian Christians to the Turkish government? (Or vice versa)
5. Having lived and worked in the United States, do you see an increase, or decrease, in participation in church activities on the part of Armenian Christians in this country?

SEPT. 15, 1986

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WITH PHOTOS

Armenians from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut celebrated the 25th anniversary of the enthronement of His Beatitude Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian, at a banquet on Friday evening, September 12. The jubilee event (which also marked 50 years since the Patriarch's ordination) was organized by the Diocese of the Armenian Church with the participation of the Armenian-American Support and Educational Center, the Constantinople Armenian Relief Society, the Essayan-Getsonagan Alumni, the Gomidas Choir, and the "Tbravank Alumni."

Nearly 350 persons, assembled in Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium, raised their glasses to the Patriarch, in response to the affectionate toast proposed by Berc Araz, the master of ceremonies. Mr. Araz, the president of CARS, was the general chairman of the jubilee; his co-chairman was Hrant Gulian, founder and chairman of the Support and Educational Center. The Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manogian, presided. Other dignitaries seated on the dais included H. E. Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Primate of the Western Diocese, who flew here especially to honor his predecessor in that post, the Patriarch.

The arrival of an enormous anniversary cake signaled the start of the formal program. Patriarch Shnork, surprisingly, blew out all 25 candles on two tries, while the audience, on its feet, sang "Happy Anniversary" and applauded vociferously.

In his eloquent introductory comment, Mr. Araz noted that

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Patriarch Shnork was only the second incumbent in history to serve for 25 years. (His Beatitude is the 82nd Patriarch of Istanbul in the centuries since the See of Constantinople was established.)

Addressing His Beatitude, Mr. Araz said, "We are grateful to you for the visits which bring us spiritual nourishment. You represent the call of our roots, and a reminder of our spiritual obligations. Your spirit of sacrifice is an inspiration and a model, and we bow before you."

The Very Rev. Khajag Barsamian, Vicar-General of the Diocese, presented Patriarch Shnork's life and work. He said the clergyman, ordained in 1935, "was loved by his people wherever he went, just as he loved them and filled them with spiritual strength. Many see in the Patriarch a saint, not only for us Armenians, but for all Christians."

Fr. Khajag said that saintliness is apparent in His Beatitude's writings as well. "They direct us towards spiritual richness." The speaker related the "shinarar" Patriarch's role as "the savior of 15,000 Armenians who would have been lost to us otherwise." Fr. Khajag was a student under the Patriarch at Holy Cross Tbravank. "I owe him inspiration and so do many other students who say they owe their Armenian language and Armenian spirit to him and to the Tbravank." Fr. Khajag added with ringing conviction that Patriarch Shnork has been a blessing for our people. "We give thanks and glory to God that He has not forgotten us and has given us this Patriarch."

Judge Vincent Gurahian brought greetings from the Diocesan Council which he heads as chairman and hailed the Patriarch as "a man full of grace." Seta Araz gave a convoncing recitation of Daniel

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Mr. Varoujan's poem, "Kachpour Asdvadzamor." Bere Araz read two letters from the many congratulatory communications received on the occasion: they were from the Montreal equivalent of CARS, and from AGBU Life President Alex Manoojian.

Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan prefaced his tribute by declaring himself "a naturalized Bolsetzi." (His birthplace is Aintab.) "We gather, on occasions like this, to see our ideals, values, and identity reflected in the persons we honor," he said. His Grace, whose friendship with the Patriarch bridges many decades, praised Patriarch Shnork's "total dedication to the Armenian Church."

"The days of his Patriarchate have not been easy," Abp. Tiran pointed out. "But he has been simple and direct and had the unexpected bravery to stand in front of his people and lead them." It was during Archbishop Tiran's tenure as Primate of the American Diocese that he bestowed on Shnork Hayr Sloop the title of "Dzayrakouyn Vartabed;" shortly afterwards the young clergyman was elected Primate of the California (now "Western") Diocese. "His life has been fruitful and surely precious to the Lord," Archbishop Tiran said. "The people he loves love him in return and share his ideals."

Mr. Araz now invited several gift-givers to the dais: Antranig Tarzian, the numismatist, gave the Patriarch an album of rare Armenian stamps. Hrant Gulian, on behalf of the Support and Educational Center, presented him with a magnificent ring. The Patriarch held up his hand so the audience could see the ring. Mr. and Mrs. Varoujan Arslanian and their daughter, Serda, brought up their gift, a very stunning gold head, set with gems, for the Patriarchal staff. Patriarch Shnork attached the ornament and held it up for the audience's approval.

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As for the Jubilee Committee's own gift, Mr. Araz announced joyfully that the goal of \$25,000 for the Holy Cross Educational Fund had been met and surpassed. The handsomely illustrated booklet (printed by Michael Kayahian) was the personal donation of the Primate, Archbishop Torkom.

The Primate began his address by relating how he had seen the Patriarch many years before as a sickly, orphaned youth who didn't look as if he'd live very long. "But God had other arrangements, and our people were blessed with Patriarch Shnork's saintliness and the grace he brings us," His Eminence said.

Archbishop Torkom announced that an educational fund in the Patriarch's name would be established here, especially to help those of Bolsetsi origin in pursuing ~~and~~ their education. "It is that generation of people who will write our history," the Primate said, "and we want the Patriarch's name to be part of it."

As the venerated Patriarch came to the microphone, the audience showed its affection with rounds of applause, cheers, and even a few tears. Patriarch Shnork said that in his earlier days as a clergyman, he had never thought he would become Patriarch of Istanbul. "It has been difficult, but I thank God that He granted me courage and bravery. He saved me from loss and seemed to be saying, 'Now you must save others.'"

When Patriarch Shnork took office, the Patriarchate had numerous archives, documents, important records-- all needing organization. "Whatever has been left to me as our heritage has been kept, arranged and secure," he assured the audience. The Tbravank, too, is on a "solid foundation," by virtue of his fund-raising and stewardship.

His Beatitude described how Armenians in the interior moved to

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Istanbul and "with the help of Armenians in America," got homes and work, and kept alive the hospitals and schools. He cited the needs of the variarans or community schools so they may stay open.

Patriarch Shnork expressed his happiness for the educational fund to be set up here in his name. "I am laden with feelings of gratitude to Archbishop Torkom, to the Diocese for this jubilee, and to the Primate and Archbishop Tiran for their brotherly expressions tonight." He termed Fr. Khajag Barsamian "a splendid spiritual son," and thanked Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, "who kept our ideal in the Western Diocese."

"You are the children of the Armenian Apostolic Church: be faithful to it," the Patriarch urged his listeners. "Our physical and spiritual survival as a people depends on it." He described himself as "enriched by the love you have shown me." Again the audience rose for a standing ovation to accentuate their affection and admiration.

Sahan Arzruni, a native of Bolis, and a prominent Armenian-American pianist and musicologist, who has toured the globe, was the program's first guest artist. With expected brilliance, he played a Khachaturian Sonatina, Babadjanian's "Elegy," (based on the Sayat Nova troubadour song, "Kani Vor Janim") and Alan Hovhanness's kanoun-evoking "Achtamar."

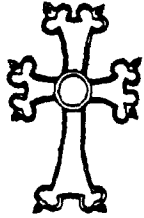
Varoujan Arslanian, tenor, shares his musical talents generously for the Armenian community's benefit. Assisting him at the piano was Norair Demirciyan, national music director of the AGBU. Mr. Arslanian roused the audience with two songs, in arrangements by Mr. Demirciyan, Gomidas's "Hayasdan," and a folk song "Hayrenikes Heratzel Yem."

The Jubilee Committed also included Krikor Anoushian, secretary; Hacatur Ermarkaryan and Nora Martayian, treasurers; Frank

PATRIARCH'S JUBILEE BANQUET (PAGE 6)

Kabaradjian, booklet; Berj Khachadourian and Henry Saruhan, fund-raising, and Setrag Terpanjian, dinner, as well as representatives of the participating groups. It was a good team with efficient, thorough, hardworking captains like Araz and Gulian, how could we miss?

ARMINE DIKIJIAN



HOLY CROSS CHURCH OF ARMENIA ՍՈՒՐԲ ԽԱՉ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

580 WEST 187 STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10033 • (212) 927-4020

August 28, 1986

The Hon. Edward I. Koch
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, N. Y. 10007

Dear Mayor Koch:

This year the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross coincides with the Consecration of the picture of "Charkhapan Soorp Asdvadzadin" (The Blessed Virgin) which will take place on September 13 & 14, 1986 at Holy Cross Church of Armenia, presided over by His Beatitude Shnork Kaloustian, Patriarch of all Armenians in Istanbul.

This painting, depicting the Holy Mother of God with the Christ Child has miraculous powers of healing and curing that have been evident especially in Istanbul, where the faithful gather on the Feast of the Holy Cross.

The Consecration will take place at the Vesper Service on September 13 at 4:00 P. M. in Holy Cross Church and on September 14, Sunday, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 A. M. by the Patriarch.

A special invitation is extended to you to be present at this auspicious occasion.

Your presence will be a sign of encouragement for this worthy project.

Rev. Father Guregh Kalfayan, Parish Priest

Hagop Uryan
Parish Council Chairman

Hagop Samsonian
Committee Chairman



Handwritten signature: Hagop Uryan

memorandum

TO: His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

FROM: F. Corbin

9/15/86

SUBJECT: Report on Recent Activities

Here is a brief recap of recent activities on behalf of the Diocese:

+ Prepared Media Alert for newspapers, wire services, radio and television stations advising of the availability of Patriarch Snork Kaloustian on Thursday morning last, 9/11. Distributed to more than 35 outlets, including religious publications. Media Alert did not indicate any statement to be made by the Patriarch - only his availability to meet with media. (See attached sample).

Nina Marson and I personally contacted many of the editors and writers involved. The following, with whom I spoke personally, said they would be on hand or have a staff person there:

Ari Goldman, The New York Times (Religion Editor)
Charles Bell, Daily News (Religion Editor)
Tom Roberts Religious News Service (News Editor)
Ed Kerins United Press International (Radio News)
Thomas Zumbo, NYC Tribune (Assignment Editor)

N.M. heard from TV stations that indicated they planned to be on hand.

Associated Press sent a reporter and Agence Press France had a photographer cover.

We prepared a simple press kit consisting of a short bio of the Patriarch, a photo, a folder on the Armenian history and a new Media Alert for the Saturday/Sunday event at Holy Cross Church.

We also distributed the second Media Alert to key outlets. On Saturday afternoon at home I received a call from the Associated Press verifying that the two events slated for Saturday and Sunday would take place. These events, along with the Thursday media meeting, were issued by the AP as part of the "Daybook", the schedule used by all media to know what events are taking place.

I have asked Agence Presse France to obtain prints of the extra photos that were taken last Thursday.

+ Mr. Hagopian and Mr. Heithaus are on a week-long business "retreat" where the agency's management discusses long range plans. I left word with Mr. Heithaus' secretary since he will be calling in daily. As soon as I receive word, I shall advise your office immediately. Last Wednesday, I reiterated with Mr. Heithaus the need for an answer. He appreciates the problem and notes that Mr. Hagopian has been tied up with plans for this meeting as well as the wedding of his daughter next month.

+ "Catholic New York" editor Gerry Costello has said that he will have prints of the photos taken on July 3rd at St. Patrick's Cathedral in which you appear made available shortly. I checked with him again this morning.

+ Placed call to Department of Interior's Keith Easton to see whether there is anything to be done about the 10/28 proposed religious observance for the conclusion of the Statue of Liberty Centennial celebration. I have not received a reply as yet.

+ Trying to confirm interviews with two papers before departure date for trip to Armenia later this month. Hope to have answer by Thursday, 9/18.

~~2~~
program distribution - should have been at playground
stage, sand system - excellent
OWF identification not strong enough there

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