



**ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**  
of the  
World Council of Churches  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

Albert M. Pennybacker, *President*

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

Date: April 21, 1994

*back on  
Wednesday -*

From: Albert M. Pennybacker

Re: Schedule for visit of  
Archbishop Keshishian

Attached is the proposed schedule for the forthcoming visit of Archbishop Keshishian May 5-19. Thank you for your interest in serving as his host.

Please check the schedule and contact my office for any needed appointments.

Regarding his travel expenses (from Geneva and return), both the Ecumenical Development Initiative will cover. My assumption is that you will handle the hospitality arrangements and costs for the Archbishop and a person from our staff accompanying him during his stay with you. If, in addition, you can contribute toward his travel costs, through honoraria for speaking, discretionary funds or direct contribution, that will of course be helpful to both the WCC and the NCCC, EDI's sponsors, and will be much appreciated. However, his visit with you is not dependent on a financial contribution from you.

Further, at each stop there are possible "windows" of uncommitted time when the Archbishop might have contact with potential donors to the councils through the Ecumenical Development Initiative. When you have had time to fill out his time with you in detail, let me know and I will perhaps negotiate with you concerning his uncommitted time. Additionally, of course, I want to prepare for him a detailed schedule.

Thanks again for your cooperation in making the best use of his presence here. We are in the Archbishop's debt for undertaking such a visit.

Be sure to contact the EDI office with any questions, schedule corrections or further information, or requests for assistance that can be provided from here.

Attachment: Keshishian Schedule

**Archbishop Aram Keshishian  
Proposed\* U.S. Itinerary  
May 5-19, 1994**

May 5	Arrival from Geneva
May 7	Travel to Detroit
May 8	Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (PCUSA)
May 9	Grosse Pointe Afternoon: Travel to Chicago
May 10	Chicago -- Guest of ELCA
May 11	ELCA. Afternoon: Travel to Indianapolis
May 12	Indianapolis: Christian Church (D of C) Afternoon: Travel to Los Angeles
May 13	Los Angeles: World Vision (10:00 a.m.)
May 15	Travel to New York Appointments with Orthodox community
May 16	New York: Orthodox community
May 17	New York: Executive Coordinating Committee, NCCC Visit to Union Theological Seminary (2:00 p.m.)
May 18	Washington: State Department contact (tentative)
May 19	New York: Evening departure

\* The schedule is being revised by the Archbishop, and he may propose minor revisions.

## ARAM KESHISHIAN

Born: 1947      Residence: Lebanon      Citizenship: Lebanese

Church: Armenian Apostolic Church (Oriental Orthodox), Catholicosate of Cilicia

Aram Keshishian, elected Moderator of the World Council of Churches Central Committee at the Seventh Assembly (Canberra 1991), is Archbishop of Lebanon, Armenian Apostolic Church.

He has studied theology – specializing in philosophy, contemporary systematic theology and Middle Eastern church history – at his church's theological seminary in Antelias, Lebanon, the Near East School of Theology (Beirut), American University of Beirut and Fordham University (New York), from which he earned a Ph.D. degree. He also attended the WCC's graduate school of ecumenical studies at Bossey, Switzerland, and has done theological research at Oxford University.

He was ordained as a priest in 1968. In 1978 he was named *locum tenens* of the diocese of Lebanon; in 1979 he was unanimously elected primate; and in 1980 he was ordained bishop.

Archbishop Keshishian was elected to the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission in 1975, and to the WCC Central Committee at the Vancouver Assembly in 1983. He played an active role in the founding and restructuring of the Middle East Council of Churches. He is a member of the Oriental-Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Bilateral Dialogues. He is an honorary member of Pro-Oriente, a Roman Catholic Ecumenical Foundation in Vienna. He is also a member of the International Religious Council of the Armenian Orthodox Church, and since 1972 he has served as general secretary for ecumenical relations of the Cilician Catholicosate.

In addition to numerous articles in journals and periodicals, he has published the following books: *The Witness of the Armenian Church*; *With the Determination of Renewal*; *Christian Witness at the Crossroads in the Middle East*; *The Will to Be with People*; *With the Will of Re-building*; *With the People*; and *The True Image of the Armenian Church*.