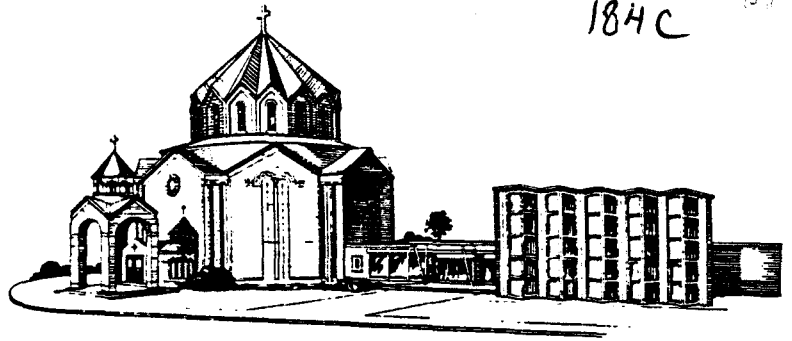


ՍԲ. ՅՈՎՀԱՆՆԷՍ ՄԿՐՏԻԶ ԶԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
ՄԵՍԱԳՈՅՆ ՏԻՔՐՈՅՔԻ

St. John's Armenian Church
OF GREATER DETROIT



VERY REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
PASTOR

22001 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY

★

PHONE: 569-3405

★

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

For Release: April 19

70TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

On Sunday, April 28, 1985, over 1,000 Armenians will gather at St. Johns Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway in Southfield to pay tribute to the 1 1/2 million Martyrs who were victims of the Turkish massacres of the Armenian Nation during World War I. A Requiem Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian. The media will be allowed in the sanctuary at noon to witness the most solemn portion of the mass dedicated to the Victims of the genocide.

A commemoration program will take place in the Church Cultural Building immediately following services.

Dignitaries on this occasion will include:

The Honorable James J. Blanchard
Governor, State of Michigan

Senator Carl Levin

Mr. Alex Manoogian

Survivors of the tragic genocide will be recognized.

Proud Armenians are concerned with human rights throughout the world. Contributions gathered on this day will be donated to the starving peoples of Africa as Armenians recall Ethiopia's compassion toward the genocide refugees who fled there 70 years ago.

The Turkish Government's steadfast denial that the Armenian Genocide ever occurred will not alter the documented historical events about crimes perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish Government of 1915 - 1918. Unfortunately, President Reagan opposed Congressional action on the resolutions which seek to designate a day of remembrance for victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Armenians will gather together in peace and pray that history will not bear witness to such atrocities ever again. For further information, call 569-3405.

#

Enclosure

President Reagan Opposes Genocide Resolutions

President Reagan told the Turkish *Hurriyet* newspaper on March 29 that he opposes Congressional action on the resolutions which seek to designate a day of remembrance for victims of the Armenian Genocide. Claiming that the resolutions might "inadvertently encourage or reward terrorist attacks" and could "harm relations with an important ally," the President cautioned the Turkish people that the Executive cannot control Congress, which might indeed pass the resolutions.

This is the question submitted by *Hurriyet*, and the answer

given by the President:

Q: Turkey, like the U.S. faces constant international terrorist attacks. Armenian terrorist groups claim responsibility for Turkish victims: However, Congress is about to vote on an Armenian resolution referring to the so-called genocide in 1915. Do you approve Congressional action on such a sensitive issue?

THE PRESIDENT: I know this is a deeply emotional issue, and I sympathize with all those who suffered during the tragic events of 1915. I also profoundly regret that

Continued on page 3

Reagan

Continued from page 1

Turks and Armenians have so far not been able to resolve their differences. Nevertheless, there is no question regarding my opposition to terrorism. On those grounds alone, my Administration opposes Congressional action on the kind of resolution to which you refer. We are concerned such resolutions might inadvertently encourage or reward terrorist attacks on Turks and Turkish Americans. We also oppose them because they could harm relations with an important ally.

I hope the Turkish people understand that in our form of government the Executive can only seek to persuade the Congress and does not control Congressional actions. Therefore, these resolutions, if adopted, would only express an opinion of the Congress. They would not, and could not, change my policy toward Turkey or my commitment to the fight against international terrorism.

Supporters of the resolutions reacted swiftly to the President's statement. In response to the terror argument, Ross Vartian of the Armenian Assembly of America in Washington told the *Fresno Bee* that using that logic, the President "should change his views on abortion because of abortion terrorists." Representatives Richard Lehman (D-CA) said he was "outraged" that the President would "O.K. a resolution for 'National Hamburger Day' but not one to recognize man's inhumanity to man."

New Jersey's largest evening newspaper, *The Record*, published a stinging editorial on April 4 (see page 2 of the M-S) accusing President Reagan of trying to save Turkey "embarrassment" while Prime Minister Turgut Ozal visited Washington this week. The editorial, asserting that "Turkey has stubbornly refused to admit what the rest of the world

recognizes," stated that "at a minimum, Turkey must confess its guilt and make reparations to the Armenians." *The Record* called upon the United States to "use its leverage to make that happen."

In a related development, Congressman Tony Coelho (D-CA) and Charles "Chip" Pashayan (R-CA) distributed to the American media an interview with Mustapha Kemal Pasha in which Kemal acknowledged the Young Turks' responsibility for the deaths of "millions of our Christian subjects who were ruthlessly driven en masse from their homes and massacred." The Congressmen disseminated copies of the original August 1, 1926 *Los Angeles Examiner* interview which had been reprinted recently by the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

The Armenian Assembly of America issued the following formal response to the President's statement:

The Armenian Assembly of America deeply regrets that the President has not affirmed recognition of the Armenian Genocide as he did in his Proclamation 4838 dated April 22, 1981. We trust that the President will reconsider his opposition to the Armenian Genocide resolutions now pending in Congress. We join the President in condemning any act of terrorism. However, we do not believe that the threat of terrorism should be invoked as justification for abandoning the historic U.S. position on this matter and we do not believe that the Republic of Turkey's democracy is so fragile that it cannot face the truth about the crimes of a prior government 70 years ago.

The President's statement is expected to generate increased activity by supporters of the resolutions to secure their passage.

Genocide Resolution Has 95 Co-sponsors

Armenian Action Is Vital For Passage

House Joint Resolution 192, a measure that would designate April 24 as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man," has garnered 95 co-sponsors since its introduction on March 19. Congressman Tony Coelho (D, CA), who offered the resolution on behalf of the House colleagues Chip Pashayan, Les Aspin, Silvio Conte and Robert Dornan, has indicated that 218 co-sponsors (a simple House majority) must be accumulated in order to reach the House floor for approval.

Congressional staff persons state that an enormous amount of mail has been received on Capitol Hill strenuously opposing passage of the measure. Much of this mail appears to have originated from Turkish-American groups and individuals, as well as from Turkish sources outside the United States. Some anti-resolution mail has also been sent by retired American military and foreign service officers apparently concerned about what they perceive as national security and NATO

defense implications in the resolution.

More than eight thousand "Urgent Action" packets have been mailed out by the Armenian Assembly to Armenian-American organizations and individuals urging swift mobilization behind H. J. Res. 192 and its Senate counterpart, S. J. Res. 101. [The Senate resolution was introduced by Senators Carl Levin (D-MI) and Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY).] Many Congressional offices are awaiting Armenian-American constituent interest before they will agree to support the pending resolutions. Other organizations such as the Armenian National Committee and the Armenian Rights Council of America have undertaken similar efforts to activate the community.

We urge all Armenian-Americans to contact their Representatives and Senators as soon as possible by mail or phone to ask their support for the respective resolutions. Opposition to these measures is expected to increase in the coming days.

Turkish Premier Sets New Guidelines On Stand Against Armenian Genocide

In an unprecedented move, Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister of Turkey said during an interview that Turkey had to re-evaluate its traditional stand on "the Armenian claims" of a Genocide some seventy years ago.

Speaking during an interview with Oktay Ekshi, editor of the Turkish daily *Gunesh*, Ozal emphasized that the Turkish official stand should completely be revised, since it is evident that it has resulted in total failure. Specifically, he expressed his dissatisfaction of the negative public image Turkey has earned in Europe and elsewhere.

According to Ozal, for the past seven decades Armenians have published "tens of thousands"

of books to publicize their "claims" that a genocide has taken place in the past. For this matter, Ozal points out that it is almost impossible to say that these allegations are false or wrong, and that if such a genocide has taken place, then Turks also have been massacred seventy years ago!

Ozal's stand on the Armenian Genocide and Armenian claims for restitution is that Turkey observes and respects the obligations put on it by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne. That Treaty does not mention Armenian claims, nor does it refer to territorial changes in its eastern provinces. Therefore, whatever has happened prior to the Lausanne Treaty is history, and

it's pointless to enter into any debate on massacres or restitutions.

Premier Ozal's statements and editor Oktay Ekshi's comments have generated a lively exchange of ideas, proposals and counter-proposals in the Turkish press. But the majority of former politicians, government officials, intellectuals and journalists have welcomed Ozal's call for a revision of Turkey's official stand on the Armenian Genocide.

As a result, the Turkish Foreign Ministry formed a special committee on February 14 to study the entire problem and to come up with proposals for a new, revised attitude toward the Armenian Case.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

Governor James J. Blanchard

Hereby issues this Executive Declaration

in Observance of

APRIL 24, 1985

AS

ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY

The year 1985 marks the 70th anniversary of the genocide of the Armenian people perpetrated by the government of the Turkish Ottoman Empire in 1915 during World War I. More than 1,500,000 Armenians were massacred or starved and many more were forced to flee from their homeland.

The Armenians are an ancient people, having settled in the vicinity of Mount Ararat in the seventh century B.C. The Armenian Apostolic church was established in the fourth century A.D., making Armenia one of the first Christian nations. Armenians have always believed in the principles of freedom of conscience and religion.

Today as free people of the United States, Armenian-Americans join together in the pursuit of liberty, freedom, and peace with other nations. As a community, they have contributed to our quality of life in every profession, the arts, religion, and government.

Many Armenian congregations are marking this anniversary with a commitment to the dignity and value of human life by collecting contributions to assist the starving nations of Africa, as American and European nations came to assist those who survived.

We have learned a lasting lesson from the genocide of the Armenian people, in that they did not die in vain, but rather have served as a continual source of direction and purpose for all who struggle for humanity and equal rights. The time has come for all people regardless of color, creed, or ethnic origin to exercise a moral conscience by assisting those who need help.

Therefore, I, James J. Blanchard, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby declare April 24, 1985, as ARMENIAN MARTYRS DAY in Michigan. I urge all Michigan citizens to join with me in a moment of reflection for the Armenian people who lost their lives and to join in a steadfast commitment to work for the peace and harmony of our world for future generations.

Given under my hand on this fourth day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five and of the Commonwealth one hundred forty-ninth.

James J. Blanchard
GOVERNOR

**Generations
Generations
of the
Holocaust**

**Martin S. Bergmann
& Milton E. Jucovy**
editors

Chapter 7

The Genocide Goes Unpunished

That Turkey would be held accountable for her crimes was taken as a matter of course well before the War was over, and that the most salient feature of her reparations would be the establishment of an Armenian homeland was universally assumed. Newspapers quoted here from as early as 1916 affirmed these assumptions explicitly, and even the callously pro-Turkish writer, Pierre Loti, yielded to his conscience sufficiently to recommend the creation of an Armenian homeland.

How, then, did it happen that by 1923 the Armenian cause was lost, its just claims ignored, the support of the United States and other great powers withdrawn or flouted?

There were many reasons, all of them discreditable to the one-time friends of Armenia. The defeats of Woodrow Wilson and the United States rejection of membership in the League of Nations; the dilatoriness of President Harding; the dissension among the victorious Allies; the defeat and massacre of the Greek forces (and of course civilians) by Ataturk and his consequent rise to power—all of these events conspired unhappily to betray the rights of the surviving remnant of the Armenian nation.

It is only proper to review some of the authoritative opinions preceding the Great Betrayal in the following pages and

to establish that Turkey's crime was a true genocide as defined by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Post-Standard, Syracuse, New York; editorial of February 1, 1917, quoted in *The New Armenia*,

There can be no peace that does not wreak vengeance upon him who has gained new title to the appellation 'unspeakable.' There can be no just claim that the war against Germany is a war for civilization unless it is a war to deprive the Turk of all power in government. There can be no reform of conditions in the Turkish Empire short of elimination of the Empire. . . . The Allies' profession that they are warring for civilization is a farce if they lay down their arms without imposing conditions that shall shear Islam for all time of its power thus to butcher the hapless Christians within its dominion, with whom it is not at war. More than that the United States, if it is to have any part in the negotiations for peace, may justly demand that the world shall be guaranteed against any repetition of this medieval madness. We have, to be sure, no interest excepting that of humanity, but if ever intervention was ordered by humane consideration alone, it is warranted by the atavism of Turkey to-day. (p. 43)

Arnold J. Toynbee—*The Murderous Tyranny of the Turks*, Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1917.

In the section entitled "The Armenian Atrocities of 1915" Prof. Toynbee writes:

Only a third of the two million Armenians in Turkey have survived, and that at the price of apostatising to Islam or else of leaving all they had and fleeing across the frontier. The refugees saw their women and children die by the roadside, and apostacy too, for a woman, involved the living death of marriage to a Turk and inclusion in his harem. The other two-thirds were 'deported'—that is, they were marched away from their homes in gangs, with no food or clothing for the journey, in fierce heat and bitter cold, hundreds of miles over rough mountain roads. They were plundered and tormented by their guards and by subsidised bands of brigands, who descended on them in the wilderness, and with whom their guards fraternised. Parched with thirst, they were kept away from the water

with bayonet
haustion, ar
upon them
first halting
endured we
deportees—

—perished
been dying
end; for the
regions in t
the Provinc
between Sy
desert; the
Railway. Th
than those

This who
two of the
key, and th
which is n
the Turkis
drawn up
and telegra
in the Em
darmerie,
inals orga
could be r
its borders
appalling
ples durin

*Christian
Peace,* Janu
ary 15, 1917

"Consequ
these nation
punish the
past, and to
in the futur
the solution
mous Arme
old Kingdor
antee." (p.

with bayonets. They died of hunger and exposure and exhaustion, and in lonely places the guards and robbers fell upon them and murdered them in batches—some at the first halting place after the start, others after they had endured weeks of this agonising journey. About half the deportees—and there were at least 1,200,000 of them in all—perished thus on their journey, and the other half have been dying lingering deaths ever since at their journey's end; for they have been deported to the most inhospitable regions in the Ottoman Empire: the malarial marshes in the Province of Konia; the banks of the Euphrates where, between Syria and Mesopotamia, it runs through a stony desert; the sultry and utterly desolate track of the Hedjaz Railway. The exiles who are still alive have suffered worse than those who perished by violence at the beginning.

This wholesale destruction, which has already overtaken two of the subject peoples (Armenians and Arabs) in Turkey, and threatens all that 60 per cent of the population which is not Turkish in language, is the direct work of the Turkish government. The "Deportation Scheme" was drawn up by the central government at Constantinople and telegraphed simultaneously to all the local authorities in the Empire; it was executed by the officials, the Gendarmerie, the Army, and the bands of brigands and criminals organised in the government's service. No State could be more completely responsible for any act within its borders than the Ottoman State is responsible for the appalling crime it has committed against its subject peoples during the War.¹ pp. 15-17

Christian Science Monitor, Editorial entitled "Armenia and Peace," January 4, 1917, quoted in *The New Armenia*, January 15, 1917:

"Consequently, in the days when nations talk of peace, these nations should be thinking of what can be done to punish the perpetrators of the Armenian atrocities in the past, and to protect the Armenians against further atrocities in the future. The latter is the more important question, and the solution seems to be found unquestionably in an autonomous Armenia, approximating as nearly as possible to the old Kingdom of Armenia, and placed under a European guarantee." (p. 28)

Viscount James Bryce, article entitled "Armenian Martyrs," published in *The New Armenia*, March 15, 1917:

In the history of the early Christian Church there are no figures so glorious, none which have continued to be so much honoured by the Church, all through its later days, as those of the martyrs, men and women who from the time of Nero down to that of Diocletian sealed with their blood the testimony of their faith, withstanding every lure and every threat in order to preserve their loyalty to their Lord and Master, Christ.

In our times we have seen this example of fidelity repeated in the Turkish Empire and it is strange that the Christians of Europe and America should not have been more moved by the examples of courage and heroic devotion which the Armenian Christians have given.

It is not religious fanaticism that led the present rulers of Turkey to seek to root out Christianity. So far from being fanatics, most of these men, though nominally Mohammedans, have no religion whatever. Their aim was political. They wanted to make the whole Turkish Empire Mohammedans, with only one creed, in order to make it uniform. They saw that the Christian part of the population, suffering under constant oppressions and cruelties, continued to turn its eyes Westward and hope for some redress from the Christian nations; so they determined to eliminate Christianity altogether.²

Pierre Loti is a poet in prose, but always a poet, and as such he has all the privileges of poets, who are understood to ignore the facts. . . . At the moment of this writing we have before us a book of more than 800 pages which throws a sinister glimpse on the "poor Turks" as Loti calls them ingeniously. This is the official report, presented to the English Parliament about *The Treatment of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire*. It contains direct and legally verified proof of the massacres and deportations of Armenians and other oriental Christians of Asia Minor; Armenia and the north-western part of Persia which was invaded by Turkish troops. The major part of the evidence was given by those who suffered the cruelty and bestiality of the Turks. One can also find in that book depositions of foreigners who know a great deal more than Loti about the old conditions of existence in the Ottoman Empire,

alre.
ermne.
Armenia.
protection
League, which
for the particu
to stand by us
upon. It is clear th
pensable to us as we
astated country, now
and heaps of rubble by
flagging devotion to the
Uhar's statement and his
Uhan would appear from
all. He was listened to
great men who today
made. That, indeed, is the
other problems nearer at h
are coming home to roc
the betrayal of Armenia.
made by Stephen Bonsal:
ould me that President ha
tion to Armenia and he
a competent officer to
then await popular
ubal Poor Aha-
are out the
has not a