

File

NUBAR ESAIAN

45 WAYNE STREET  
HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS 01930  
PHONE 374-4200

April 25, 1973

The Parish Council  
Holy Cross Armenian Church  
Lawrence Mass.

My Dear Armenian Brothers,

Naturally we are very disappointed that you did not join with us to plan a successful and outstanding program for Martyr's Day in Lawrence on April 29th. We are asking you this last minute to join with us or at least purchase a couple of tickets and attend this affair as observers in order ~~order~~ to see for yourself that this affair has nothing to do whatsoever with any church or churches, clergymen or any political parties. No priest will be at the head table to open with a prayer or say grace for the dinner. Instead, we will all sing the Hagn Mer for the opening prayer <sup>and</sup> close the affair with singing the Der Getzo. The Very Rev. Samosian and Rev. Babosian will attend and sit at a table like any common ordinary person. They will not be allowed to say anything what so ever except to converse with their people at their own table.

A United Martyr's Day program in Merrimack Valley was Nubar Esaian's idea and his alone, a former Ramgavor member, a member of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Haverhill, a former member of the Parish Council of the Haverhill church, having served with distinction for

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over 8 years. Your Paul Bogasian will testify to the fact that <sup>Mr. Esajian</sup> ~~he~~ attempted to form a United Martyr's Day committee last year. This year we overcame the Archbishop's objections and abided by his guide lines. We have left no stones unturned to make this affair non-political, non-partisan with no church or clergy participation, not even the Protestants. Mr. Esajian will gladly answer any questions and make the fullest explanation with regard to the letter dated Jan 1, 1973 calling together all Armenian organizations to form a United Martyr's Day Commemorative Committee. We are the first to admit that it was a mistake to sign that letter in the name of the A. R. F. But part of that blame for that mistake is indirectly attributable to our ~~own~~ side.

The Very Rev. Samsoorian has been in very close touch with the Archbishop regarding his participation in this affair and he has the Archbishop's permission to attend as an ordinary Armenian individual and simply be an observer. Please remember, we are Armenians first and foremost and Ramgavore, Arachtimagons or Dashnags second. Please, we implore you, let us bury the hatchet and smoke the pipe of PEACE at least once a year in memory of our 1 1/2 million sacred Martyr's who died so ~~that~~ that we may live. We owe it to them and nothing less.

Sincerely and Fraternally yours,  
Nubar Esajian