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St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

4125 FESSENDEN STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016

REV. VERTANES KALAYJIAN, PASTOR
TELEPHONE: (202) 363-1923

June 12, 1989



His Eminence
Archbishop T. Manoogian, Primate
and President of the Diocesan Council
630 Second Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Serpazan Hayr:

On the weekend of June 3-4, 1989 I visited again the Atlanta Community as scheduled. According to your instructions Deacon Vasken Berberian from St. Nersess was with me assisting.

The issues concerning the Atlanta Community can be summarized as follows:

1. - Mr. Harold Kevorkian is no longer able to remain on the Church Council and be effective. He is a college student and could not assume any responsibility. This means that we only have two functioning members on the Council, namely Mr. S. DiBoyan and Mr. L. Messerlian.
2. Dr. Ara Dosturian, the former chairman of the Council feels, and said so, that he should receive a letter explicitly informing him that he is no longer on the Council. I did point out to him the fact that such a letter was sent to him (dated August 16, 1988, No. 305050) by Your Eminence and that he should consider that sufficient.
3. - Dr. Dosturian has gone beyond his authority and/or responsibility to commit the Council to a "United Church Councils" formula which calls for joint responsibility in inviting and sponsoring visiting clergy from the Diocese and the Prelacy alternately, including the joining of funds and accounts, of which there is actually not much to speak of.
4. - According to your instructions I informed and requested that Dr. Dosturian stop speaking on behalf of the Council and signing any document representing the same.
5. - In view of the euphoria created by the visits of the Pontiffs, there is a local zeal to go further in creating a local solution for unity and/or cooperation. The items referred to in paragraph #3 could be considered the result of this zeal as well.
6. - Considering all of the above and following your instructions I gave the following advice and council:
 - a. - That the Church Council should maintain its distinct and independent identity and operation, responsible

and accountable only to the Diocesan authority.

- b. - That all invitations of celebration of Holy Badarak should be mailed by the Council alone and the accounts be kept under its jurisdiction. And refrain from signing such invitations with the Prelacy Church Council.
- c. - In the spirit of harmony and cooperation, the Church Council should avail itself to support, encourage and participate in the activities sponsored by the Prelacy Church Council and the Cultural Association; in other words, stop short of formally issuing joint invitations and other documents.

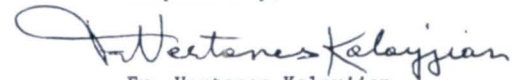
Having reported all this my request is:

First, a confirmation letter to the Council validating the above.

Second, the necessity to enlist at least one more member to the Council to replace Mr. H. Kevorkian and, if possible, to increase the number to five; and, lastly, a personal call or letter to Dr. Dosturian to assure him that we are appreciative of his past services to the Community and that he should continue to assist the Council whenever he is called upon, without directly or indirectly interfering in their official functioning and carrying out their responsibilities. I regret to add that with his well intended zeal he has caused some misunderstandings and unnecessary confrontations.

Attached is the expense account related to my recent visit.

Respectfully,



Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian
Visiting Pastor of Atlanta, Ga.

cc-Mr. Simon DiBoyan, Chairman
Mr. Levon Messerlian, Secretary

Encl.

VK/js