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DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

December 2, 1991

Mr. Simeon Diboyan
Chairman, The Armenian Church Council of Atlanta
3830 Highway 5
Douglasville, Georgia 30135

Dear Mr. Diboyan:

We received a letter of October 22 and the accompanying petition concerning the proposed joint jurisdiction of the Atlanta Armenian Church.

As the Primate, Bishop Barsamian, will be visiting Atlanta in early 1992, he has asked me to assure you that he will address the issue with you directly at that time.

With heartfelt prayers and good wishes for the faithful of the Atlanta community,

With prayers,

Fr. Haigazoun Najarian
Vicar General

His Grace, Bishop K. BARSAMIAN
Primate, Armenian Diocese
630 Second Ave., N.Y.N.Y. 10016

His Eminence, Archbishop M. ASHJIAN
Primate, Armenian Prelacy
138 East 39th St. N.Y. N.Y. 10016

Your Eminences,

On November 20th 1988 the members of the Diocesan and Prelacy Church Councils of Atlanta agreed to combine their efforts and meager resources in periodically inviting Diocesan and Prelacy clergy to fulfill the spiritual needs of the Atlanta Armenian community. This arrangement was made on a trial basis and subject to review within about a year. During this time it has been made evident that the Atlanta Armenian community overwhelmingly has approved of the arrangement.

At a meeting held on March 17th 1991 the undersigned Diocesan and Prelacy members voted to establish one ARMENIAN CHURCH COUNCIL OF ATLANTA accepted by both the Diocese and the Prelacy. The members felt that in a small community such as Atlanta, it would be physically and economically impossible to maintain two separate church councils. Moreover, it was made clear that the Atlanta Armenian community, bearing in mind past divisive and destructive conflicts, could not accept a church council exclusively adhering to either one of the jurisdictions.

Under these circumstances the Diocesan and Prelacy members, whose signatures appear below, petition Your Eminences to accept the newly formed ARMENIAN CHURCH COUNCIL OF ATLANTA, composed of the following duly elected individuals: Bedros Dido, Ara Dostourian, Armen Gheblikian, Seran Megerian, Barbara Tellalian and Armen Karapedian.

We, the Diocesan and Prelacy members of Atlanta, well understand that this is an unprecedented step to take. Moreover, we are well aware of the complex jurisdictional and canonical issues raised by this petition. Nevertheless, we ask Your Eminences to welcome this serious and constructive step to maintain peace and unity in this small Armenian community, and to endorse our desire to work and worship together harmoniously, free of internal squabbling and divisiveness.

Faithfully and Respectfully Submitted,
Diocesan and Prelacy Members of the Atlanta Armenian Community.
Atlanta, Georgia.

*addition
1/21/92*

*Armen Gheblikian
Lusine Megerian
Talin Major
A.S. Karapedian
Robert Megerian
Shirley
Lorja Karapedian
K. Bedros Dido
Aedis Dido
Jryan Dido
Paravon Dido
Tate J. Jansen
Y. Mourade
Robert Megerian
Linda Najarian*

*Clara Mooradian
George Vartanov
Nancy D. Vartanov
Yuan T. Heller
Ara Merijanov
Katie Mouradian
Ara J. Volkan
M. Jan Volkan
Gohar Merijanov
Mrs. Rubil B. Sedki
Seran Megerian
Ell. Megerian*

Oct. 22, 1991

Your Eminences,

The Armenian Church Council Of Atlanta, representing the Armenian Christian faithful of this city belonging to both the Diocese and the Prelacy, is sending the enclosed formal petition and humbly requesting Your Eminences seriously and thoughtfully to consider the same and inform us accordingly.

We of the Atlanta community view the ongoing division of the Armenian Church in America with a heavy heart and are very saddened that the sought after organic union has not as yet taken place. Nevertheless, we hope that this situation will not be an obstacle to Your Eminences recognizing us as a unified Armenian Orthodox Christian community in this city.

Humbly and Respectfully,
The Armenian Church Council of Atlanta
3830 Highway 5
Douglasville GA [REDACTED] 30135