

UNIFIED ARMENIAN CHURCH COUNCIL OF ATLANTA

Jan. 24, 1994

His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence,

As Your Eminence knows, since 1988 there has existed a Unified Armenian Church Council of Atlanta based on the wishes of the Armenian community of the area. This unprecedented and admittedly uncanonical step was taken in order to prevent a threatening polarization of the Atlanta Armenian community, which could have led to the destruction of the only viable Armenian organization in the city, the Armenian Independent Cultural Association of Atlanta (AICAA).

Your Eminence was petitioned a number of times by the community, through the Unified Church Council, to address the issue of joint jurisdiction of the Atlanta Armenian Church by both the Diocese and Prelacy. A letter dated Dec. 2, 1991 was received from Father Haigazoun Najarian, the Vicar General, stating that Your Eminence would be visiting Atlanta in early 1992 and would address the issue directly at that time. Regretably, there has been no further communication on the part of Your Eminence. In fact, contrary to the intent and spirit of Father Haigazoun's letter of Dec. 2, 1991, and much to the dismay of the Atlanta Armenian community, including the AICAA and the Unified Church Council, a Diocesan Church Council was reestablished in the late summer of 1993.

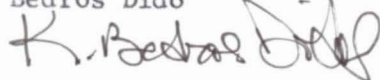
Your Eminence, we respectfully ask you to address our original petition. We would be honored to have Your Eminence or your duly authorized representative visit Atlanta and celebrate Divine Liturgy, as well as meet with the Armenian Community. We were hoping that such a visit could take place the end of February or early March (Feb. 20, Feb. 27 or Mar. 6). We have access to a local Orthodox church and hall (St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church). The Armenian Independent Cultural Association of Atlanta has graciously consented to sponsor a dinner in the church hall after Divine Liturgy.

We await Your Eminence's reply.

Harut Agasarkisian



Bedros Dido



Ara Dostourian



Respectfully and Sincerely Petitioned,
The Unified Armenian Church Council of Atlanta

Maro Gheblikian



Sonia Maghdousian



John Pomakian



ARMENIAN CHURCH COUNCIL OF ATLANTA
3830 HIGHWAY 5
DOUGLASVILLE GA. 10135



**RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED**

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP KAJAG BARSAMIAN
PRIMATE, DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH
630 SECOND AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10016

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right of the return address