

California State University, Fresno



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Fresno, California 93740

NEWS SERVICE



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as
reported in local, national, and international media.

Release #14

January 1986

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles

DATE December 18, 1985

SUBJECT Hye Sharzhoom

PAGE 1 of 1

"Hye Sharzhoom" Starts Seventh Year of Publication

FRESNO — The first issue of the seventh year of **Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action**, the official newspaper of the California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization, is now being distributed nationally and internationally. **Hye Sharzhoom** has a readership of over 6,000 families throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South America as well as in Soviet Armenia and the Middle East.

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Interviews with visitors to the Armenian Studies Program, ASO activities and Armenian Studies Program courses round out this issue of **Hye Sharzhoom**.

Hye Sharzhoom/Armenian Action is the only student newspaper in the United States. The paper is sent free. All interested persons can send their addresses, if possible typed on self-adhesive labels, to: Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA 93740.

"Hye Sharzhoom" Fresno State's Armenian Student's Newspaper Begins Seventh Year



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—**Hye Sharzhoom**
News Service

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Armenian Studies To Be Housed In Leon Peters Building

Ground breaking for the latest addition to the California State University — Fresno campus, the Leon S. Peters Business Building, is expected to take place as scheduled in early 1986. Completion of the \$13,000,000 project is set for mid-1988. It is the first major addition to the University's master plan in a decade.

The complex will have two separately funded components, integrated in terms of construction and ultimate use. The six-story main structure will in-

clude 11 lecture rooms, 10 teaching laboratories, graduate research space, 211 faculty offices and related departmental spaces. It will house not only the CSUF School of Business and Administrative Sciences, but the School of Humanities as well. The Trustees of the California State University approved a \$9,772,000 budget last November.

The other, smaller wing will be the single-story Valley Business Center with two 40-seat meeting rooms, a 125

person capacity theatre, a multi-purpose room with computer instruction capabilities, and a large exhibition foyer.

The Board of Trustees in naming what will become the largest and most impressive building on campus after the late Leon Peters, has paid tribute to one of Fresno's most remarkable Armenian native sons, a tireless worker whose industry and modesty contributed so much to the well being of the community in which he lived.

Leon Peters was more than just a successful businessman and admired philanthropist; he was committed to education, a person who over the years served in leadership capacities on the University President's Advisory Board, the CSUF Foundation Board of Governors, as co-chairman of the Stadium Fund Drive, the University's Agricultural Foundation Board, and the Advisory Board of the School of Business. He was also, along with his wife, Alice, a patron of the arts as attested to by the Leon and Alice Peters Gallery in Fresno's Metropolitan Museum and his position as

member of the Board of the William Saroyan Foundation.

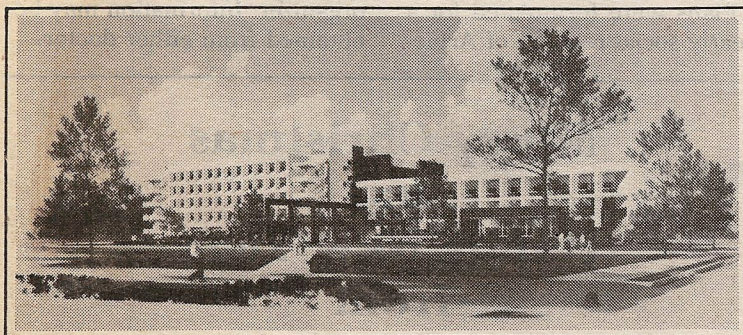
Leon Peters took an active in-



Leon S. Peters

terest in various university programs, including Armenian Studies not only by way of generous contributions for the purchase of Armenian books, but through his counsel on the development of the Program. It is fitting that Armenian Studies will be housed in the building named after him. A suite will be devoted to the planned Center for Armenian Studies which will include an Armenian Library and Archive, a conference room, director's office, and reception-exhibit area. In addition to the Armenian

Studies Program, the Center for Armenian Studies will house the Index of Armenian Art, archival materials, an Armenian reference library including a Saroyan section, as well as providing meeting facilities for the Armenian Students Organization and *Hye Sharzhoom*, the official newspaper of the Armenian Program and Student Organization.



The Leon S. Peters Business Building, Fresno.



SOURCE

Asharez Daily; Los Angeles

DATE

December 21, 1985

SUBJECT

CSUF Armenian Studies Professor
with promoting terrorism

PAGE

1 of 2

Fresno Bee, Dec. 17 Editorial

The siege mentality of the Turkish government on the subject of the massacres of Armenians during World War I was retailed faithfully in an article about Fresno State University in a mass-circulation Istanbul newspaper.

The article, as reported in *The Bee*, accused Gov. Deukmejian of "introducing Armenian terrorism in universities." Exhibit A was Fresno State's Armenian studies program, in which Professor Dickran Kouymjian, according to the Turkish newspaper, "speaks about Armenian rights and tries to justify the murder of Turkish diplomats by Armenian terrorist organizations." There was more, all of it unfair and distorted.

The question was raised whether *The Bee* should have carried news about such a mendacious article, thereby perhaps enhancing its impact. However, the report, carried in Turkey's largest daily, is worth review and comment for two reasons:

First it gives discouraging proof of the lasting power of the official Turkish line on the massacres—the revisionist history that rejects the whole idea that calculated massacres occurred, and claims that efforts by Armenians around the world to keep the memory green are provocative and vengeful.

It's the same defensive tic that the US State Department panders to by opposing attempts to memorialize the massacres by congressional resolution.

The rationale is that we shouldn't ruffle our Turkish allies by reminding them of an unpleasant episode from that nation's past. This official Turkish failure to acknowledge what is demonstrably true compounds the anguish of those who remember, and their descendants.

The acts of a murderous few who invoke the grievances of Armenians give the Turkish government an excuse for claiming that all references to the massacres and the need for remembrance just give terror a protective cloak.

That a major organ of Turkish news and opinions is singling out Fresno State while peddling this line is disheartening and outrageous, but it's worth knowing about.

Which brings up the second point. The newspaper's accusation underlines how the terrorist fringe holds Armenians hostage. All but a handful reject violence unequivocally; they just want the redress of remembrance. Yet the chance of Turkey's setting the record straight, slight as it may be, is diminished further each time the killers kill and Turkish paranoia grows.

So what are Armenians in the diaspora to do? They can't be immobilized by the terror; they can't retreat to muteness about the need for remembrance. Academics like Kouymjian should not be intimidated: They have a right to explore all aspects of Armenian-Turkish relations, including the roots of violence.

The only response is to continue to call for what's right—but at the same time to condemn violence clearly and repeatedly and to isolate the killers in every way possible. Some members of the Armenian community find this insulting and gratuitous: Why should they have to keep declaring that good ends don't justify violent means?

It's hard to answer that. But it's one of the pernicious effects of terrorism—good people who may share some of the terrorist's stated goals have to keep taking their distance from any evil that is done to achieve those goals.

Gov. Deukmejian and FSU Accused of Encouraging Terrorism

By Jim Steinberg

A mass circulation Turkish newspaper has accused Gov. Deukmejian and Fresno State University of encouraging Armenian terrorism and violence against Turks.

The article in *Hurriyet* of Istanbul, the largest daily Turkish newspaper, was reprinted in a second Turkish newspaper, the Armenian language *Marmara*, on Sept. 30.

"California's Armenian Gov. George Deukmejian, who has almost turned his state into 'Armenia,' has also now succeeded in introducing Armenian terrorism in universities, where crime is encouraged from the lectern," the story began.

It singled out Fresno State as beginning "to teach courses which concern acts of Armenian violence." The article named Professor Dickran Kouymjian, head of the FSU Armenian studies program.

It said that Kouymjian "explains to his students the purposes of Armenian terrorist organizations such as...the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, the Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Revolutionary Army, etc.

"During these courses he speaks about Armenian rights and tries to justify the murder of Turkish diplomats by Armenian terrorist organizations. Those students who participate in these courses receive good grades for the winter semester at the university and succeed in securing advantages."

The article spurred unequivocal condemnation from Deukmejian's press office as well as from Marvin Baxter of Fresno, the governor's appointments secretary, and from Kouymjian. They called the article's charges untrue and absurd.

"The article is totally false and is so outrageous that no fair-minded person will believe it," said Kevin Brett, Deukmejian's deputy press secretary. "Neither the governor nor the university support any form of terrorism and have in fact condemned all terrorism on many occasions."

Baxter, an American of Armenian descent, said of the Turkish article, "I don't even think it is worthy of comment. It is ridiculous...It goes without saying that it is absurd.

"If ever anybody in government stood for law and order against terrorism it is George Deukmejian. I am disappointed that you would even give the article the respect of replying to it."

Deukmejian has appointed several Fresno County people to major administration positions, Baxter said, including a number of Fresno Armenians. Baxter did not have the exact number.

Kouymjian knew of the article and in fact had it sent to a list of people not including *The Bee*. He said he preferred letting the Turkish article "rest" instead of responding to it and unintentionally adding to any impact it might have.

"This is libel, distortion, intimidation, the worst kind of thing that can go on, the worst tradition of yellow journalism," he said.

Kouymjian said the Turkish government, which fails to acknowledge the massacre of about 1.5 million Armenians around the time of World War I, doggedly works to distort history "and make Armenians look bad."

He said that news organizations get "sucked in" by Turkish charges, which are merely diversionary tactics to deflect criticism of that government's position on the Armenian massacres.

He pointed to irrefutable documentary proof of the massacres.

The article comes at a time of declining Armenian group terrorism.

"There has been nothing this year, Thank God," Kouymjian said.

He called the claim that he attempts to justify murder of Turkish diplomats "a direct lie. I criticize violence and say it is a useless act...The ends do not justify the means because the means you use affect the ends."

He said that any student would dispute the article's implication that his students automatically receive good grades or "advantages."

Kouymjian traced the Turkish news article to *Hurriyet's* correspondent in Los Angeles. He said the Turkish press monitors Armenian-language newspapers, including several in California. News of a Saturday course he taught was published in Armenian newspapers.

The Turkish news article apparently responded to that news but distorted the nature of the course, Kouymjian said.

The course that was condemned in the article dealt with the past 10 years of Armenian-Turkish relations "in light of the 70th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and the rise of Armenian militants," Kouymjian said.

SOURCE The Armenian Observer; Los Angeles

DATE December 25, 1985

SUBJECT Armenian Studies Program and
Leon Peters Business Building

PAGE 1 of 1

Armenian Studies Program and ASO Pledge \$5,000 for Building

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Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and program lecturer Barlow Der Mugrdechian joined with Armenian Students Organization President David Gabrielian in announcing the contribution to the Peters Business Building, demonstrating the support of both faculty and students for the project.

In addition to the declaration, this first step in fund-raising, the ASP and ASO are actively seeking the pledges of other Armenians who will

contribute to the university and by so doing pay tribute to one of Fresno's remarkable Armenian native sons, the late Leon S. Peters, a tireless worker and modest philanthropist.

The fund drive for the Leon S. Peters Business Building is being conducted through the CSUF office of Development. The Armenian Studies Program faculty and students are participating in the campaign with their initial pledge and their efforts to enlist other Armenians. The deadline for the pledge drive is December 31, 1985, however pledges are payable over three years, until April 1988.

For further information contact CSUF office of Development, Dick Francois, Director, 121 Thomas Administration Building, Fresno, CA 93740, tel. (209) 294-4036.

SOURCE Nor Gyank-New Life Weekly; Los AngelesDATE December 26, 1985SUBJECT Hye SharzhoomPAGE 1 of 1

Hye Sharzhoom: The Only Arm. Student Newspaper

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Armenian Studies Program,
California State University, Fresno,
Fresno,
California, 93740.

SOURCE The California Courier; Los Angeles

DATE December 26, 1985

SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies professor
charged with promoting terrorism

PAGE 1 of 3

Fresno Bee Criticizes Turks' 'Unfair, Distorted' Article

FRESNO — The Fresno Bee published an editorial on Dec. 17 criticizing a Turkish newspaper's inflammatory statements regarding a course offered by Prof. Dickran Kouymjian at Fresno State University.

The Bee had earlier carried a news item on this issue, which was reprinted in the California Courier's Dec. 19 edition. Excerpts of the Bee editorial are reprinted below:

The siege mentality of the

Turkish government on the subject of the massacres of Armenians during World War I was retailed faithfully in an article about Fresno State University in a mass-circulation Istanbul newspaper.

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SOURCE The California Courier; Los Angeles

DATE December 26, 1985

SUBJECT Armenian Studies Program and
Leon Peters Business Building

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ARMENIAN STUDIES

PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier; Los Angeles

DATE December 26, 1985

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Student Newspaper Completes 7th Year

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SUBJECT Armenian Studies Program and
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Armenian Groups at CSU, Fresno, Pledge Funds for New Leon S. Peters Building

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An Interview With Corrine Heditzian Of U.S.I.A.

Corrine Heditzian is the Chief of the Near East and South Asia Branch of the Press Division of the United States Information Agency in Washington. She recently visited

California for a series of information briefings for Universities.

She gave this interview at California State University, Fresno.



Corrine Heditzian & Dickran Kouymjian

Q: Ms. Heditzian, what exactly is the Foreign Service?

Corrine Heditzian: The Foreign Service includes the United States Information Agency, the State Department, the A.I.D. Program, and the Foreign Commercial Service of the Commerce Department. Currently it has some 4,000 officers, 355 of which were newly appointed in 1984.

Q: How much time do Foreign Service Officers spend abroad?

C.H.: Usually 7 to 10 years on overseas duties with annual vacations home, and then 3 to 4 years on State side, then out again.

Q: Is the salary competitive?

C.H.: In the beginning, very much so — \$20,000 to \$27,000 for

starting officers, but later the top salary is only \$68,000. No one joins the Service to make lots of money. However, there are interesting fringe benefits such as foreign housing, travel, educational allowances, and the U.S. Government's retirement plan. You can retire at 50 after 20 years of service. The mandatory retirement age is 65.

Q: What are the qualifications for becoming a Foreign Service Officer?

C.H.: You must be a U.S. citizen, over 21 years old, and willing to be available for world assignment.

Q: Does the Foreign Service have a special interest in minorities? If so, are there special conditions for them?

C.H.: Yes, and there are Affirmative Action Programs, since so many take the exam and so few are needed, we want to concentrate on informing ethnic groups about their possibilities. There are not as many ethnic and minority officers as we would like.

Q: What about Armenians?

C.H.: Well, I just said that the Foreign Service is looking for individuals from minority groups, and with only 6 Armenian officers that I know of out of 4,000 in the Foreign Service, it is not a career Armenians have tended to look to. One of the things I sense is that Armenian Americans are tremendously interested in American foreign policy and international relations in general, but have been so tied up in seeking careers in more "lucrative" professions that they haven't thought in terms of making an impact, however gradually, on government from the inside.

Q: Do you see the Armenian Assembly's intern program as a logical channel for entry into the Foreign Service?

C.H.: Absolutely!

Q: Have you known Dr. Kouymjian a long time?

C.H.: For nearly 25 years, first as a graduate student at Columbia University, but later when we both serviced in Beirut — he at the American University — and later Paris, too.

Q: Thank you very much; we hope you'll come back to Armenian Fresno again.

C.H.: I'd love to. ■

SOURCE Asbarez Daily; Los AngelesDATE December 31, 1985SUBJECT Armenian Studies Program and
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\$5,000 Pledged for New Building at CSUF by Studies Program and Students

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