

**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
Fresno, California 93740-0004**

Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

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**Visit of President of Yerevan State University to the
United States on the Occasion of the Signing of an Agreement
between California State University, Fresno and
Yerevan State University**

Yerevan University Delegation to Visit CSUF

FRESNO—Dr. Norair Arakelian, president of Yerevan State University, was in the United States for a two-week visit beginning February 5 at the invitation of the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies at the California State University, Fresno. Arakelian is accompanied by Rafael Matevossian, vice-president for international affairs at YSU.

While in Fresno, the university delegation is expected to meet with CSUF President Dr. John Welty to sign a five-year agreement with provisions for exchange of students and faculty in a variety of fields.

Proposed by the CSUF Armenian Studies Program two years ago, the agreement will also include a one-month summer program for both graduate and undergraduate students and other joint projects as they develop.

In addition to the visit to Fresno, the delegation will stop in New York, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, and Boston, where they will meet with officials from Georgetown University, the University of California, the University of Michigan, and Northeastern University, to discuss expanded relations with YSU.

Arakelian is a mathematician and a member of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He has authored numerous articles on the Approximation Theory. He was appointed president of YSU in 1991.

Matevossian, an economist, has been in the post of vice-president of international affairs since 1981. For the past ten years, he has been conducting a study of diasporan Armenian students studying in Armenia. □



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

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DATE February 12, 1992

SUBJECT Yerevan State Officials hosted by CSU Fresno PAGE 1 of 1

Yerevan State University Officials to Visit CSU Fresno

FRESNO — Dr. Norair Arakelian, President of Yerevan State University will be in the United States for a two week visit beginning February 5, 1992 at the invitation of the Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies and Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. Accompanying Dr. Arakelian will be Rafael Matevossian, Vice-President for International Relations at YSU.

The Yerevan State University delegation will meet with CSU Fresno President Dr. John Welty to sign a five year agreement, with provisions for exchange of students and faculty from diverse fields.

In addition to the visit to Fresno, the delegation will stop in New York, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, De-

troit, and Boston. They will meet with officials from Georgetown University, the University of Michigan, and Northeastern University, to discuss expanded relations Yerevan State University.

Dr. Arakelian is a mathematician, and is an academician of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He is the author of numerous works and articles in the field of Approximation Theory. He was appointed as President of Yerevan State University in 1991.

Rafael Matevossian is an economist who has been in the post of vice-president of international affairs since 1981. He has been responsible for the study of Armenian students from abroad in Armenia for the past ten years.

Yerevan State University starting over



Michael Penn — The Fresno Bee

Norair Arakelian, Yerevan State University president, and his wife, Mazieta, meet with Fresno State University officials.

■ Football, basketball, and even the budget must line up behind other priorities at Armenia's Yerevan State University.

By Jim Steinberg
The Fresno Bee

If anyone's concerned about budget problems at Fresno State University, compare them with the troubles at Armenia's Yerevan State University.

It's freezing cold, and the heat doesn't work. Pipes break. Buildings crack. You can't count on electricity.

The brand-new republic of Armenia is in a netherworld between war and peace. YSU is temporarily closed.

And the university looks to start over with an entirely different educational structure.

YSU President Norair Arakelian visited Fresno State on Monday, signed a five-year exchange agreement with FSU President John Welty, and described a different world of trouble in higher education.

Annual student exchange

The agreement with Fresno State calls for an annual exchange of five students and an undetermined number of faculty and administrators each year.

Arakelian, a mathematician, wants to restructure his university along the lines of Fresno State and other American universities. But he's beginning from near zero in Western administration and looking to the best minds

at Fresno State, the University of California, Georgetown University and the University of Michigan to guide the way.



"Our educational system has been very conservative, very centralized," Arakelian said. "It is very specialized. We want more general schools. There have been no real changes yet. We have material difficulties. And people are slow to change their ways."

Arakelian told university faculty members that he wants to launch a three-tiered system similar to bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees

in American universities. A high priority will be establishing English as a core academic language.

Other academic disciplines must begin from scratch, Arakelian said. Political science and economics, for instance, functioned under political constraints of the Soviet system.

New discipline easier

Speaking of political science, Arakelian said it would be easier to create a new academic discipline than to reform the old one.

Despite the challenges, Arakelian was calm and determined.

"No, it is not desperate," he said. "If it were, we could not think of reforms and the future."

Skirmishes between Armenians and Muslims in neighboring Azerbaijan have killed more than 1,000 people in the last four years. The main dispute involves the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh inside Azerbaijan.

Arakelian was asked if it feels like war or peace in Yerevan.

"It is together," he said. "Peace and war. Sometimes you feel it is like wartime. It is unusual. You don't feel it is constant war, but it is not normal."

Economist Rafael Matevossian, vice president for international relations at YSU, accompanied Arakelian. Asked when he first thought the Soviet system couldn't work, Matevossian said, "From the day of its birth."

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N. Y.DATE February 15, 1992SUBJECT Yerevan State officials hosted by CSU FresnoPAGE 1 of 1

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The Yerevan State University delegation will meet with CSU Fresno President Dr. John Welty to sign a five year agreement, with provisions for exchange of students and faculty from diverse fields.

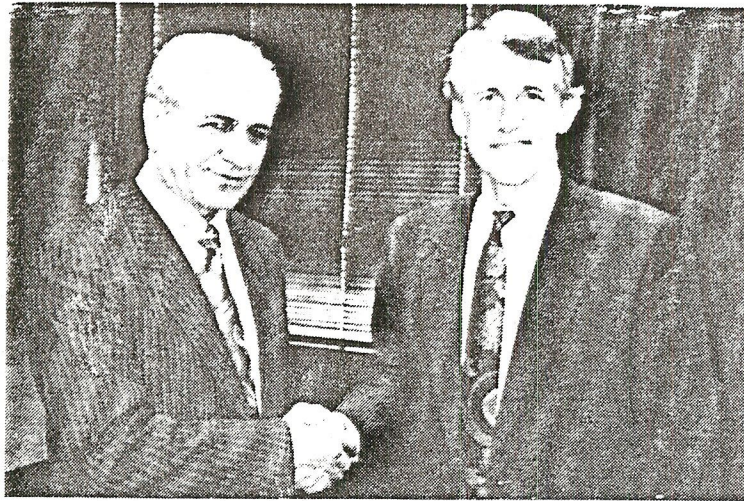
In addition to the visit to Fresno, the delegation will stop in New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los

Angeles, Detroit, and Boston. They will meet with officials from Georgetown University, the University of California, the University of Michigan, and Northeastern University, to discuss expanded relations Yerevan State University.

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Yerevan, Fresno State Universities Sign Student Exchange Program



Following the signing of the student exchange program. From left: Dr. Norair Arakelian, president of Yerevan State University, and Dr. John Welty, president of Fresno State University.

On Monday evening, February 10, at the St. Paul Armenian Church Minor Hall, the Tekeyan Cultural Association, the St. Paul Armenian Church Educational Program, and the Fresno State Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies co-sponsored a lecture entitled "Higher Education in the New Republic of Armenia." The guest speakers were from Yerevan State University.

The first speaker was the University president, Dr. Norair Arakelian, followed by the vice president for international affairs, Raffi Matevossian. On their agenda was the recent signing of a student exchange program between Fresno State and Yerevan State. They were also to speak about the harsh conditions of present-day Armenia.

Dr. Arakelian is a mathematician and a member of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He has written many articles and broken much ground in the field of approximation theory.

Rafael Matevossian is an economist and has been vice president since 1981, during which time he has been responsible for students from abroad, studying in Armenia.

The evening began with Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Fresno State Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies greeting and warmly welcoming the many in attendance. He then spoke about the signing of the agreement between Fresno State and Yerevan State at 11 am that morning during a press conference at CSUF. According to the agreement, students from each university will be exchanged for either one month, one semester or one year.

Der Mugrdechian further commented that "the signing was an unprecedented event for the Armenian Studies program, and for the students specifically." He then introduced the first speaker,

Dr. Arakelian, who summed the purpose of the exchange program as being "an encouragement to students to return and to study in their historic homeland" as well as being "an educational link with the Diaspora, and in many ways an inspiration, yet a learning experience." The Fresno State University Armenian Studies Program laid the groundwork for this program to be initiated not only with CSUF, but also with USC, UCLA, Georgetown University, Northeastern University, and the University of

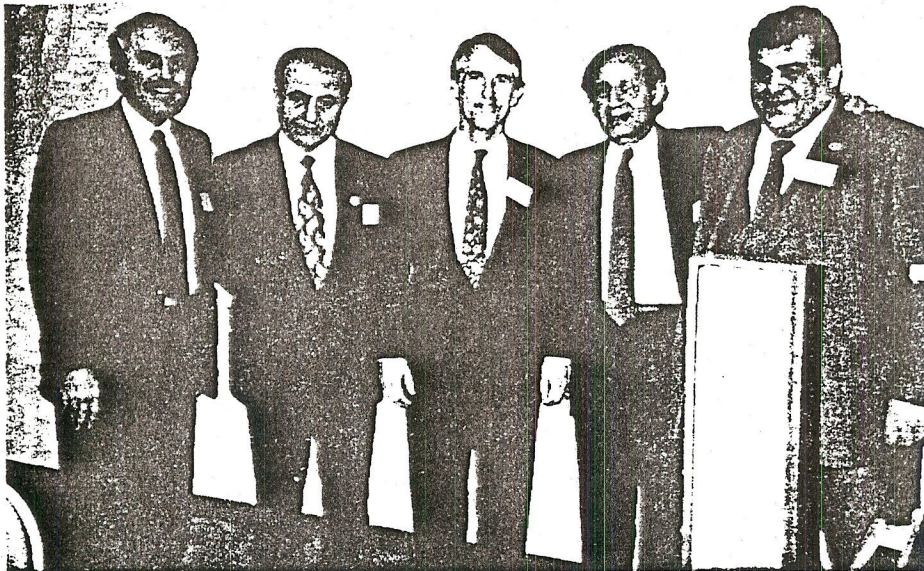
Michigan, and for this, Dr. Arakelian was "elated and thankful to have students from such fine universities."

Der Mugrdechian then introduced the vice president of Yerevan State University, Raffi Matevossian, who began his talk by mentioning that Yerevan State University has 18 different schools with social sciences and business being a major focus. He added that the university enrollment is more than 10,000 with over 1,000 faculty and staff. He also mentioned that contrary to the current situation in the country, the "university does not have within its realm any food shortages or other deprivations for students." Matevossian stated that the university's "current budget, when compared with the budget of 25 years ago reveals a shrinkage to a fraction of its original value, "because through the years we've been faced with financial troubles including double-digit inflation as well as a serious devaluation of the ruble."

Finally, Matevossian said the university needs teachers from several fields, including the interdisciplinary fields and the arts. He also thanked the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies and Fresno State.

Թ.Մ.Մ.ՖԻԵԶՆՕ

**Տոքթ. Նորայր Առաքելյան Եւ Ռաֆֆի
Մաթեոսեան Կը Խօսին «Բարձրագոյն
Կրթութիւնը Հայաստանի Նոր
Հանրապետութեան Մէջ» Նիւթին Ծուրջ**



(Չախէն աջ)՝ Պարլո Տէր Մկրտիչեան, Նորայր Առաքելյան, Ծան Ռելթի
(նախագահ) Տիգրան Գուլումճեան, Ռաֆֆի Մաթեոսեան

Երեւանի պետական համալսարանի նախագահ Տոքթ. Նորայր Առաքելյան եւ միջազգային յարաբերութեանց փոխ-նախագահ Ռաֆֆի Մաթեոսեան երկու շաբթուան այցելութեան մը համար ժամանած են Միացեալ Նահանգներ, հրաւերովը՝ Ֆրեզնոյի համալսարանի Սարգիս եւ Մելինէ Քալֆայաններու կողմէ հաստատուած հայկական հիմնադրամին կողմէ։ Հիւրերը զանազան հանդիպումներ ունեցան համալսարանի նախագահին ու բարձրաստիճան պաշտօնեաներու հետ, վերաքննութեան ենթարկելու համար Երեւանի համալսարանին կրթական վիճակը, եւ առ այդ, չինիշ թելադրութիւններու վրայ վերակարգաւորելու համալսարանի գաղտնիացրերը։

Գաղափարի փոխանակումներու համար անոնք պիտի այցելեն նաեւ Նիւ Եորք, Ուաշինկթըն, Սան Ֆրանսիսքո, Լոս Անճելիոս, Տիքսոն և Պոստոն։ Երեւանի համալսարանի հետ կապեր հաստատելու համար անոնք պիտի տեսակցին ճորձմատու-

Միշիկընի համալսարանի եւ Նորթիսթըրն համալսարանի ներկայացուցիչներու հետ։ Ուսանողներու փոխանակութեան գիծով համաձայնութիւն գոյառած է արդէն Ֆրեզնոյի մէջ։ Տարին հինգ ուսանողներ պիտի փոխանակուին։

Ուրեմն այս գեղեցիկ պատեհութենէն օգտուելով, Թէքէեան Մշակութային Միութեան Ֆրեզնոյի մասնաճիւղն ու Ս. Պողոս Եկեղեցւոյ

կրթական Յանձնաժողովը երեկոյ մը կազմակերպեցին Եկեղեցւոյ սրահը։ Որպէսզի յարգելի հիւրերը առիթ ունենան շփման մէջ մտնելու համայնքիս կրթասէրներուն հետ, եւ ապա պարզելու ներկայ կրթական վիճակը Երեւանի պետական համալսարանին։

Յայտագրին բացումը կատարեց Ֆրեզնոյի համալսարանի հայկական ամպիոնի գասախօս Փրոֆ. Պարլո Տէր Մկրտիչեան, անդրադառնալով հիւրերու ունեցած կրթական պատրաստութեան եւ այլ մարդերու մէջ կատարած նուաճումներուն։ Տոքթ. Առաքելյան յարգում

մաթեմատիքոս մըն է, որ բաղձաթիւ յօղուածներ զրաժ է իր մասնագիտութիւնը ընդգրկող խուզարկութիւններու շուրջ, եւ ապա 1991-ին ընտրուած է համալսարանի նախագահ։ Ռաֆֆի Մաթեոսեան տնտեսագէտ մըն է, որ իր ներկայ պաշտօնը կը վարէ 1981-էն ի վեր։ Ան պատասխանատու եղած է որ արտերկրէն ուսանողներ գան եւ ուսանին Հայաստանի մէջ, վերջին տասը տարիներու ընթացքին։

Յայտագրի բացումէն ետք իսոքա առաւ տոքթ. Առաքելյան, որ հակիրճ անդրադարձ մը ունեցաւ Երեւանի համալսարանին կրած ներկայ դժուարութիւններուն, տնտեսական եւ կրթական մարդերէ ներս, եւ զանոնք ձեռով մը կապեց տեղի ունեցող անխուսափելի փոփոխութիւններուն՝ ամբողջ երկրի տարածքին։ Ան պահանջը չէտեց փոփոխութիւններու յատկա-

պէս տնտեսագիտութեան եւ ընկերային գիտութիւններու մէջ, որոնք ետ մնացած էին նախկին րեժիմին պարտադրութիւններուն եւ գրութեան

հետեւանքով: «Պահը հասած է
զարթոնքի եւ վերանորո-
գութեան եւ այս շրջապտոյտին ալ
բուն նպատակը այդ է» չեշտեց ան:
«Սերտել, սորվիլ, կիրարկել, որքան
որ հնարաւոր է», աւելցուց ան:

Իրապէս տպաւորիչ խօսող մըն է
Պրն. Ռաֆֆի Մաթեւոսեան: Ան ան-
զրադարձաւ ամբողջ երկրի
գիտարութիւններուն, կրթական
նեղութիւններուն եւ զանոնք
բառնալու միջոցներուն:

«Ժամանակի պիտի կարօտի հասնելու
համար մեր նպատակին, որովհետեւ
70 տարուան սխալներն են որ պիտի
սրբազրուին ու անոնց փոխարէն
հիմնուի, ստեղծուի արդիականը,
որուն համար պէտք պիտի ունենանք
սրտաքին օժանդակութեան, ոչ ան-
պայման նիւթական մարդի մէջ:
Պէտք ունինք արուեստի, տնտեսա-
գիտութեան եւ ընկերային
գիտութեանց ուսուցիչներու:
Ներքին գիտարութիւններու
պայտճառաւ դպրոցը պիտի փակ մնայ
չորս ամիս, ձմեռուան եղանակին
ընթացիչին չգոյութեան պատճա-
ռաւ: Հակառակ բոլոր գիտարու-
թիւններուն դպրոցը ձեւ մը կը գտնէ
ուսանողներուն հոն տանելու

համար, սակայն կացութիւնը
քրիթիկական է»:

Տոքթ. Առաքելեան իր կարգին
ըսաւ. «Մեր կրթական զրոյթիւնը
չատ պահպանողական եղած է,
կեղրոնացած, շատ մասնագիտակա-
նացած է, մենք աւելի ընդհանուր
դպրոցներ կ'ուզենք. ճշմարիտ
փոփոխութիւններ եղած չեն
տակաւին. մենք առարկայական
գիտարութիւններ ունինք. սակայն,
ժողովուրդը շատ դանդաղ կերպով
կը փոխուի իր նախկին մտայնու-
թեան մէջ»:

Ընդհանուր առմամբ շատ
հետաքրքրական հանդիպում մըն էր,
եւ ներկաները երկար ատեն
հարցումփորձեցին հիւրերը:

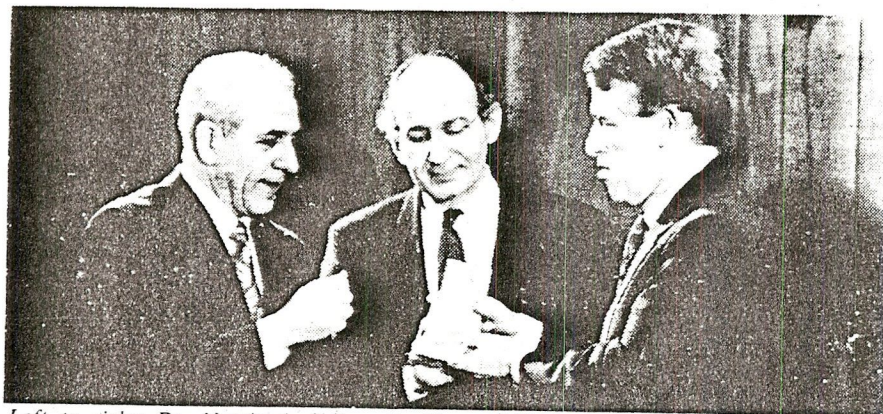
Նոյնիսկ ընդունելութեան
ժամանակ խօսակցութիւնները
շարունակուեցան ջերմ միջնորդութի
մը մէջ:

Աւարտին խօսք առաւ նաեւ Ս.
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պումին եւ յաճախակիութեան: Ան
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ը նոր շունչ մը բերած է համայնքին
մշակութային կեանքին:

Ֆրիգնո, Փետր. 16, 1992

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Historic First Visit of Yerevan State University to California



Left to right: Dr. Norair Arakelian, President of Yerevan State University; Dr. Dickran Kouyoumjian, Professor of Armenian Studies; Dr. John Welty, President CSU Fresno

The historic first visit of Yerevan State University President Dr. Norair Arakelian to California State University, Fresno took place February 9-11, 1992 and culminated with the signing of a five-year agreement on cooperation between Yerevan State University and California State University, Fresno. Dr. Arakelian, his wife Marietta, and Vice-President for International Relations Rafael Matevossian, were in the United States at the invitation of Dr. John D. Welty, President of CSUF and Dr. Dickran Kouyoumjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies and Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program. Members of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board, led by President Sarkis Kalfayan sponsored the trip and also organized a series of events with the San Joaquin Valley community.

Dr. Arakelian and his delegation met with President Dr. Welty on Monday morning, February 10 at the President's office where after a cordial meeting and discussion, they signed the five-year agreement between the two universities. Dr. Welty on behalf of CSUF accepted an 8th century B.C. drinking vessel from the historic

Gumairi region of Armenia, which was given by Dr. Arakelian as a symbol of the ties between the universities and in recognition of the ancient history of the Armenians.

Following a dinner held in honor of the delegation, hosted by members of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board, Dr. Arakelian and Mr. Matevossian spoke to the community at the St. Paul Armenian Church. They discussed the state of higher education in Armenia and offered their insight into solutions for the problems they face.

On Tuesday evening, President Welty hosted a dinner in honor of the signing of the agreement. The dinner was attended by senior administration officials and members of the Armenian community and was held in a warm and festive atmosphere. Dr. Kouymjian, who served as master of ceremonies for the evening, introduced the guests, describing the role of the Armenian Studies Program in initiating the ties between the universities. Mr. Sarkis Kalfayan addressed the group and spoke of his enthusiasm and joy that such a relationship had been formed between Yerevan State



Left to right: Dr. Norair Arakelian, and Dr. John Welty

University and California State University, Fresno. Mr. Kalfayan had visited Yerevan in November of 1990 to assist in the development of the ties.

President Welty presented Dr. Arakelian with a plaque inscribed with the CSUF logo and in turn was presented with a specially prepared bottle of "Welty" Armenian cognac, which was beautifully decorated.

The agreement was hailed by Dr. Kouymjian as an important step in the ever growing ties between the Republic of Armenia and the United States. The agreement calls for the exchange of up to five students per year to participate in fields of their choosing at the host institution. A summer study option will also be available to CSUF students. Provisions were made for faculty exchanges and also for research to take place in a cooperative atmosphere.

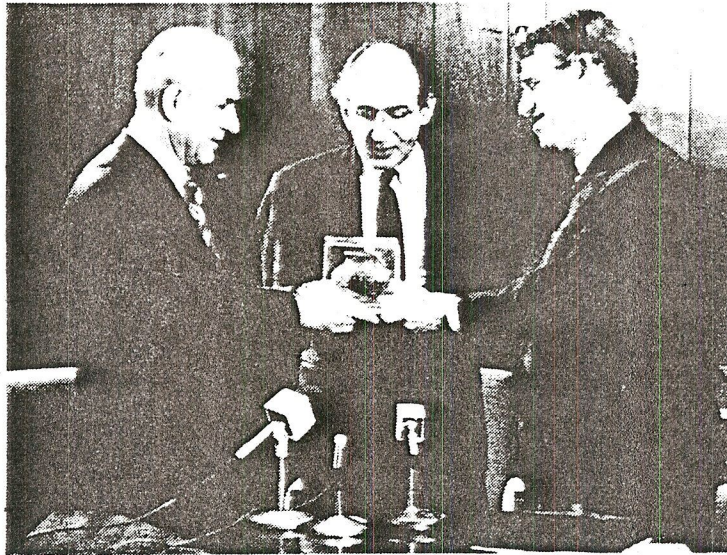
Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who will be coordinating the various programs, remarked that CSUF students now had a very special opportunity before them, through which they could see in person what they had learned about through Armenian Studies classes.

Students will be encouraged by the agreement to return and study in Armenia and enjoy the atmosphere of living among Armenians. The educational ties will provide for a two way exchange and allow students from both countries to experience life in another country.

The Yerevan State University delegation also had the opportunity, through the efforts of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, to visit Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Boston, and New York. The two-week visit resulted in the signing of three other agreements, with George Mason University, the University of California at Riverside, and Northeastern University in Massachusetts.

The Yerevan State University delegation returned to Yerevan at the end of February to begin to implement the various agreements signed. ■

President of Yerevan State U. Visits Fresno Campus of Calif. State University



L. to r.: Dr. Norair Arakelian, President of Yerevan State University; Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig & Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies; Dr. John Welty, President CSU Fresno.

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter; Fresh Meadows, N.Y.

DATE March 14, 1992

SUBJECT CSUF and Yerevan State Sign Accord

PAGE 2 Of 2

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Barlow Der Mugrdechian, who will be coordinating the various programs, remarked that CSUF students now had a very special opportunity before them, through which they could see in person what they had learned about through Armenian Studies classes.

Students will be encouraged by the agreement to return and study in Armenia and enjoy the atmosphere of living among Armenians. The educational ties will provide for a two way exchange and allow students from both countries to experience life in another country.

The Yerevan State University delegation also had the opportunity, through the efforts of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, to visit Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, Boston, and New York. The two week visit resulted in the signing of three other agreements, with George Mason University, the University of California at Riverside, and Northeastern University in Massachusetts.

The Yerevan State University delegation returned to Yerevan at the end of February to begin to implement the various agreements signed.

Yerevan, Fresno Universities Sign Cooperation Agreement



(L. to r.) Arakelian, Kouymjian, and Welty

FRESNO—An official visit by Yerevan State University President Dr. Norair Arakelian to California State University, Fresno in February culminated with the signing of a five-year agreement on cooperation between the two institutions of higher learning.

Arakelian, accompanied by his wife and Vice-President for International Relations Rafael Matevossian, was in the US at the invitation of Dr. John D. Welty, president of CSUF, and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies. Members of the Kalfayan Center for Armenian Studies Advisory Board, led by President Sarkis Kalfayan sponsored the trip and also organized a series of events with the San Joaquin Valley community.

The agreement was hailed by Kouymjian as an important step in the ever-growing ties between Armenia and the US. The document calls for the exchange of up to five students per year to participate in fields of their choosing at the host institution. A summer study through Armenian Studies classes.

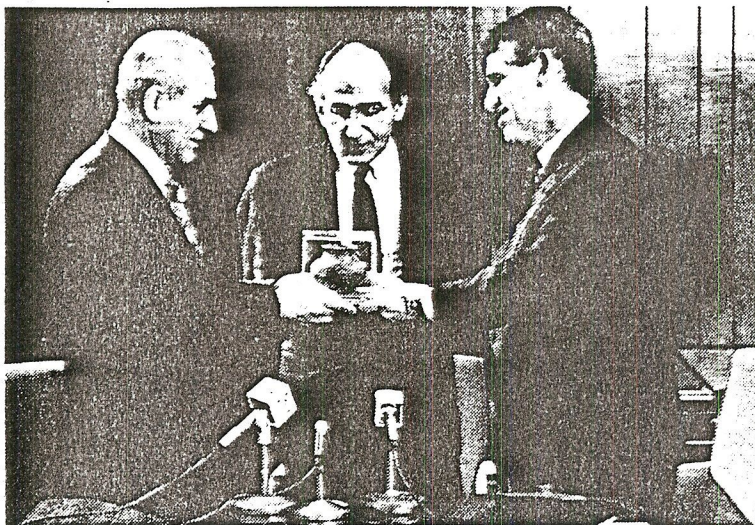
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CSUF and Yerevan University Sign Cooperation Agreement



SEALING AGREEMENT - Left to right: Dr. Norair Arakelian, President of Yerevan State University, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, Dr. John Welty, President, California State University, Fresno.

FRESNO - Concluding an historic first visit to Fresno on Feb. 11, Yerevan State University President Dr. Norair Arakelian signed a five-year cooperation agreement with California State University, Fresno President Dr. John D. Welty.

Dr. Arakelian, his wife Marietta, and vice-President for International Relations Rafael Matevosian, were in the United States at the invitation of Dr. Welty and Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, and Barlow Der Mugrdchian of the Armenian Studies Program.

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in Armenia, said Barlow Der Mugrdchian, who will be coordinating the various programs.

The Yerevan State University delegation also had the opportunity, through the efforts of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, to visit several cities and universities in the United States.