



**California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4
Fresno, California 93740-8001**

Armenian Studies Program News Service

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

Vol. 5, Release #48

April 1990-August 1990

Sub

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Hye Sharzhoom: Fresno, CA

DATE April 1990

SUBJECT ASP April 24 Week Activities

PAGE 1 of 1

California State University, Fresno Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization

April 24th Week Activities-1990 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

April 1-30- Cultural display- 2nd floor Henry Madden Library

April 20- Friday, 7:30 pm. Screening of the documentary film, "Back to Ararat", Industrial Arts Room 101. Admission is free.

April 22- Sunday, 5 pm. Community Ecumenical Service. Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.

April 24- Tuesday- Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

12:10 pm- Panel discussion. CSUF Upstairs Cafeteria, Room 200. Participants: Supervisors Judy Andreen and Deran Koligian. Rabbi Kenneth Segel and Congressional candidate Archie Nahigian.

2:00 pm- Free Speech area. Youth rally with participation of valley high school students

7:30 pm- Community Civic Commemoration. William Saroyan Theater. Keynote Speaker: Christopher Walker of London, England

April 25- Wednesday, 12:00 noon. Students Meet with Christopher Walker of London, author of "Armenia: The Survival of a Nation" EdPsych.113

SUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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DATE April 1990

SUBJECT CSUF Genocide Resolution

PAGE 1 of 1

**C.S.U., Fresno Resolution
Recognizing the Armenian Genocide**

Whereas:

the week of April 24, 1991, is designated as "Week of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 at California State University, Fresno", and

Whereas:

California State University, Fresno recognizes the systematic destruction of 1,500,000 people of Armenian ancestry who were victims of the genocide perpetrated by the government of the Ottoman Empire from 1915-1923, and

Whereas:

the American and California State flags will be hung at half-mast throughout the week of April 22-27, 1991, and

Therefore, be it resolved;

in the event that Vintage Days coincides with the Day of Remembrance, April 24, and the Vintage Days committee is receiving funds from the Associated Students Incorporated, Vintage Days activities are not to be scheduled from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, and

Be it resolved;

that the Associated Students of California State University, Fresno support this resolution and condemn those brutal massacres committed by the Ottoman Empire, and recognizes the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CADATE April 21, 1990SUBJECT Armenian Genocide CommemorationsPAGE 1 of 1

Armenian programs will mark genocide attempt

Service, rally planned for 75th anniversary

Several events will be held in Fresno next week to mark the 75th anniversary of the attempted genocide of the Armenian people.

An ecumenical service is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.

Comments will be made by the Rev. Kevork Arakelian, pastor of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Fowler, and the Rev. Hrant Serabian, pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Fresno. A combined choir from valley Armenian churches will perform.

A panel discussion on Armenian issues will be held in Room 200 of the old cafeteria building at 12:10 p.m. Tuesday. Speakers include Fresno County Supervisors Judy Andreen and Deran Koligian, congressional candidate Archie Nahigian and Rabbi Kenneth L. Segel of Temple Beth Israel. The panel will be moderated by Barlow Der Mardchelian of FSU's Armenian Studies Program.

A youth rally will be held 2 p.m. Tuesday in the campus free-speech area.

A civic observance will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Saroyan Theater. Author Christopher J. Walker of London, an expert on Armenian history, will give the prin-

pal address. Walker, who has widely traveled in Armenia, has written a book, "Armenia — The Survival of a Nation."

The program at the Saroyan will include presentations of Armenian poetry and song.

The events are free and open to the public.

The Sunday service and Saroyan observance are sponsored by the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley, which is comprised of representatives of Armenian churches and organizations.

The council recently spearheaded an effort in Washington to secure passage of a congressional resolution establishing April 24 as a national day of remembrance for the estimated 1.5 million Armenians murdered by the Ottoman Turks early in this century.

Despite grass-roots lobbying and efforts by Sen. Robert Dole, the U.S. Senate refused to bring the resolution to the floor for a vote.

An Armenian cultural display will continue through the month of April in the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State University.

Rabbi Segel also is scheduled to speak Sunday as part of commemorations in San Francisco on Tuesday.

Gov. Deukmejian will deliver the keynote address at the two-hour event, which begins at 7 p.m. at the Herbst Theater.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 75TH ANNIVERSARY — EVENTS

Christopher Walker To Speak At Genocide Commemoration In Fresno

The Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley, California is sponsoring two major events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Genocide.

The community-wide events planned are an ecumenical service and a civic observance.

The first will be held on Sunday, April 22, at 5 pm, in Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno, with the participation of clergymen from all Armenian Churches of the San Joaquin Valley — Diocese, Prelacy and Evangelical.

The civic observance will feature the well-known Armeniologist Christopher Walker of London on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 pm, in the Saroyan Theater at the Fresno Convention Center.

Committees preparing for the events include, for the ecume-

nical service: Rev. Fr. Vartan Kasparian, Rev. Roger Minassian and Rev. Fr. Hrant Srabian; and, for the civic observance: Salpi Adams, Assadour Assadourian, Richard Darmanian and Allan Y. Jendian.

The newly-formed Council recently organized the Armenian Life March to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

The Armenian Community Council is composed of representatives of the following Armenian churches and organizations: Holy Trinity and St. Paul, Fresno; St. Gregory, Fowler; St. Mary, Yettem; Sts. Sahag Mesrob, Reedley; Pilgrim Congregational and First Armenian Presbyterian, Fresno; Armenian Studies Program, CSUE; Armenian Community School; Armenian Assembly, Armenian National Committee, Armenian

Democratic Liberal Party; Armenian Revolutionary Federation; Armenian General Benevolent Union; Armenian Relief Society; Knights of Vartan; Daughters of Vartan; California Armenian Home; Armenian Students Organization, CSUF; Armenian American Citizens League; Armenian American Public Affairs Organization; Armenian Friendship Society; Hamazkayin; General Union of Vasbouragan; Union of Dicknagerd; and the Armenian Radio Hour.

ACC officers are Rev. Fr. Vartan Kasparian, chairman; Richard Darmanian, co-chairman; Allan Y. Jendian, secretary; Bob Der Mugrdechian, Sr., treasurer; and Rev. Harry M. Missirlian, advisor.

Contributions to help defray expenses for these community-wide events may be made to the Armenian Community Council, P.O. Box 11844, Fresno, CA 93775.

Bush marks Armenian 'massacres'

Washington Post

ORLANDO, Fla. — Seeking to defuse an emotional and difficult political debate, President Bush issued a statement Friday night marking the 75th anniversary of the "terrible massacres" suffered by Armenians in 1915-23, but he avoided using the much-disputed term "genocide."

Bush's written statement, which calls for a day of remembrance Tuesday, follows recent Senate debate on a resolution that would have designated that day to mark the "Armenian genocide." The reso-

lution was shelved Feb. 27 after the Senate twice refused to break a filibuster against it.

Had it passed, the resolution would have acknowledged the disputed historical point that genocide by the Turkish Ottoman Empire was behind the deaths of as many as 1.5 million Armenians.

The resolution, pushed by Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., was a difficult issue for Bush because during the 1988 presidential campaign he had said he believed that genocide had taken place in Armenia. Bush made the comments while cam-

paigning in California's Central Valley, where there are voters of Armenian descent.

In office, however, Bush had opposed the resolution on grounds it would anger the government of Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Turkey vigorously had opposed passage of the resolution and imposed some curbs on U.S. activities there, such as military flight training, when it was being debated. The restrictions were lifted March 2.

Bush statement re-ignites debate on genocide

By MICHAEL DOYLE

Bee Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — President Bush's quiet issuance of a statement recalling the "terrible massacres" suffered by Armenians 75 years ago has not put to rest a long-simmering controversy over how the events of 1915 to 1923 should be remembered.

Bush avoided using the word "genocide" in his statement issued late Friday, and for that he is being criticized by those who have sought congressional recognition of an "Armenian genocide" for the past several years. But the president's willingness to formally remember the deaths of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians also is being praised by some of those same activists.

Turkish officials, meanwhile, are chiding those who don't "recognize that the writing of history must be left to historians."

Bush's written statement, which he never actually read or discussed in public, cites "a number of tragedies" that have afflicted the Armenian people, including the December 1988 earthquake and the "terrible massacres suffered in 1915-1923 at the hands of the rulers of the Ottoman Empire."

"On this seventy-fifth anniversary of the massacres, I wish to join with Armenians and all peoples in observing April 24, 1990 as a day of remembrance for the more than 1 million Armenian people who were victims," Bush's statement said.

Bush's statement caught by surprise those members of Congress who have championed a formal Armenian genocide resolution. Only two hours before the president's statement was issued, the chief aide to Rep. Charles "Chip" Pashayan, R-Fresno, said his office knew nothing of any pending White House announcement concerning the Armenians.

Pashayan and his San Joaquin Valley colleague in the House, Sanger Democrat Richard Lehman, both expressed disappointment in the cautious wording of Bush's statement.

"I am sure the language in the president's statement will please the Turkish government, but it will not absolve the president of his moral responsibility," Lehman said.

Pashayan, too, said Bush "could

have done a lot better."

"Virtually nobody will feel the president has fulfilled an obligation he made during the campaign," Pashayan said.

During his 1988 presidential campaign, Bush asserted that "the United States must acknowledge

See Genocide, Page B3

the attempted genocide of the Armenian people." Since becoming president, however, Bush and top administration officials have fought against congressional resolutions that cite an Armenian "genocide."

This emotionally loaded and technically explicit word has been the greatest single hang-up to commemoration of the events of 1915-1923.

The Republic of Turkey, a highly valued U.S. ally, maintains that the word is both historically inaccurate and politically embarrassing.

"Although no one denies Armenian suffering and losses, the Armenians insist their experience was unique and deny the suffering of the Turks," the Turkish Embassy said in a prepared statement. "They refuse to acknowledge Turkish suffering that resulted from the Armenian armed uprising."

Lobbying by companies that do

business in Turkey, along with the strong opposition of the Bush administration and the Turkish government itself, helped defeat a Senate resolution commemorating the Armenian "genocide" in late January. Congressional action on the resolution has been stalled since then, although California Gov. Deukmejian reportedly has been among those pressing the White House for some form of statement.

While critical of the wording that finally resulted, some Armenian-American activists still praised Bush for his willingness to raise the issue.

"The president's statement is a deeply felt personal expression of sympathy addressed to the Armenian community worldwide," said Seto Boyadjian, executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America.

Boyadjian, along with some House members and officials of the Armenian Assembly of America, nonetheless took Bush to task for his tiptoeing around the word "genocide."

Writer defends Armenians

By JIM STEINBERG
Bee staff writer

The Ottoman Turks' killing of as many as 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 was genocide — something beyond massacres, British writer Christopher J. Walker said Monday.

Walker is in Fresno to speak at 7:30 tonight in the William Saroyan Theater during an observance of the 75th anniversary of the mass killings. The Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley arranged his visit.

Walker will speak about genocide and the failure to recognize as genocide the killings of Armenians during the Ottoman regime.

President Bush, who said in Fresno during his 1988 election campaign that he believed there had been an Armenian genocide, issued a different statement Friday. His written remarks recognized the "terrible massacres," but did not use the word "genocide."

Walker is an Oxford-educated, free-lance writer based in London. He was in Armenia last year and wrote

See Armenians, Page B3

Armenians

Continued from Metro page

a book, "Armenia — The Survival of a Nation."

A congressional resolution recognizing the Armenian genocide stalled again Feb. 27. The Bush administration withheld support, and the Senate failed to defeat a filibuster against the resolution.

"It is a shame the issue is still unrecognized in certain places, including the United States," said Walker, who noted the Armenian point of view on the issue "of course is the truthful point of view ... They were driven to their deaths."

The congressional resolution on the genocide is important, he said, "because it happened." Failure to recognize the genocide of Armenians is "an insult to their memory."

During a news conference Tuesday at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, Walker distinguished between massacre and genocide. Massacre, he said, allows for hit-and-miss, spontaneous killing, even spontaneous mass killing.

Genocide requires a government policy, organization and system to "destroy a whole people." Walker said ample evidence shows that the Ottoman Turks conceived and carried out a genocide of Armenians.

He cited accounts from allies of the Turks at the time, German and Austrian diplomats and health

workers among them.

It was not, Walker said, "one thing popping up here and there."

The killing was political, not religious, he said. He rejected the argument by latter-day Turkish defenders that the killing was a result of civil war within the Ottoman Empire.

Civil war requires some military balance between rival sides, Walker said. There was no balance in Armenia. The Turks had the army and police. The Armenians had virtually nothing of military value.

It is true that great numbers of Turks and Kurds died in the area at the same time, Walker said, but they died of typhoid and other disease that raged in the corpses of their victims. Turks and Kurds died also of starvation made more widespread with the extermination of Armenian peasants who had grown the region's food.

Walker said a change in world politics move the U.S. government toward recognition of the killings as genocide. Decreased East-West tensions reduce the importance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — of which the United States and Turkey are members — and weaken protection for the Turkish position, he said.

"The Turks have to just jolly well swallow the medicine," Walker said.

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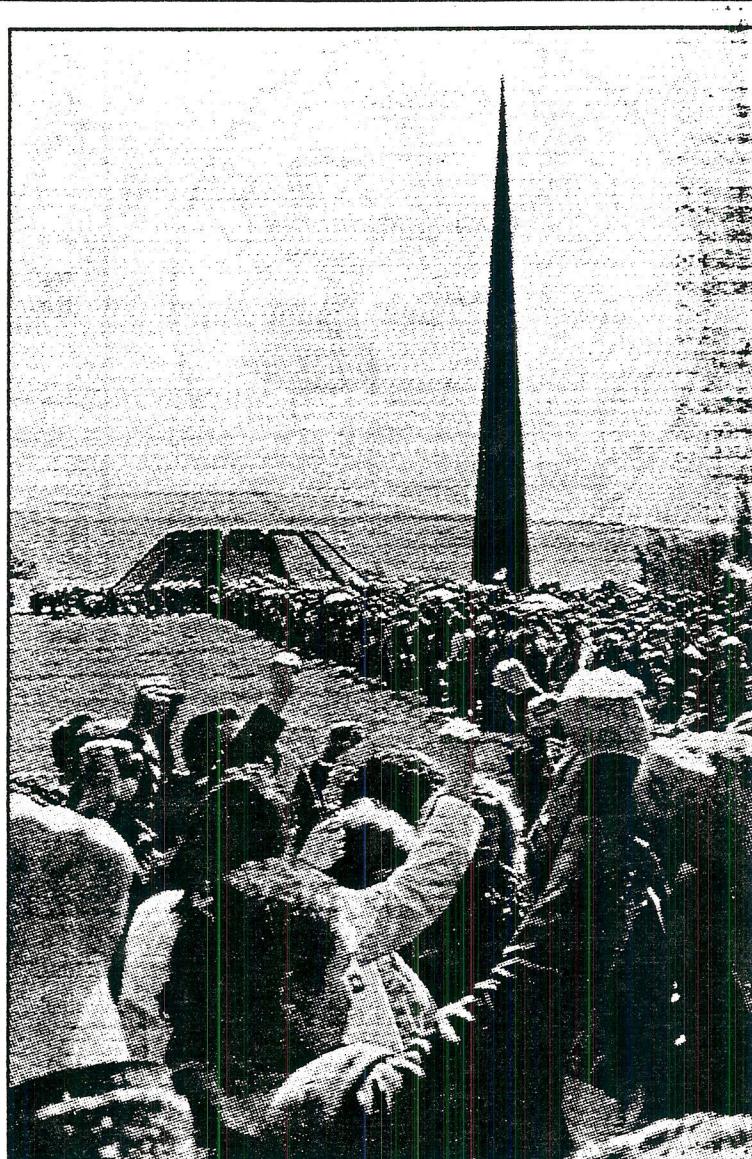
The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

DATE April 25, 1990

SUBJECT

Genocide Commemoration in Armenia

PAGE 1 of 1



Associated Press

Genocide memorial

Thousands gather in Yerevan, Armenia, on Tuesday at the hillside monument for victims of the 1915-23 genocide. An estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed.

Armenians draw strength from genocide

Speakers mark slaughter's 75th anniversary
by urging young not to forget heritage

By SCOTT REEVES
Bee staff writer

Remembering the Armenian Genocide reaffirms the life of the survivors, strengthens the culture of a unique people and makes it more difficult for mass murder to occur in the future, speakers said Tuesday at a seminar to mark the 75th anniversary of the slaughter.

Fresno County Supervisor Deran Koligian said the murder of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks in April 1915 was the first systematic, large-scale slaughter of a highly visible minority in the 20th century — and a precursor to the greatest bloodbath in history.

When Hitler planned the extermination of the Jews in Nazi Germany and then conquered lands of Eu-

rope during World War II, he brushed aside objections to the "final solution" by asking, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

"So often we Armenians have been asked by others, 'Why do you dwell on something that happened so long ago? It's ancient history. Don't you think the stories are exaggerated?'" Koligian said. "We want the world to remember the Armenian Genocide so history won't repeat itself. That's why we used Hitler's words — to stir up emotions."

Koligian and Rabbi Kenneth I. Segel spoke on the Armenian Genocide at Fresno State University during Tuesday's program. Segel, the spiritual leader at Temple Beth Israel in Fresno, gained national attention for his efforts to get congres-

sional recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Koligian said the "civilized world" was shocked by reports of the Armenian Genocide in 1915, but did nothing. President Woodrow Wilson and British Prime Minister Lloyd George decried the "barbaric act" of the Ottoman Turks, but the words did not stop the killing.

Now, a torrent of words seeks to bury history.

"Apologists for the Turks abound," Koligian said. "A well-financed worldwide propaganda effort by the modern Turkish government attempts to revise history by denying that the massacres took place and by accusing the Armenians of conspiring with the enemies of Turkey during World War I."

Koligian urged the Armenian students attending the seminar to hold on to their heritage. He said it was important to be an American and benefit from all the freedom the Constitution offers but maintain a distinct Armenian identity.

Segel called the slaughter of the Armenians the "forgotten genocide." He said indifference could lead to a new holocaust.

"We must undertake the painful process of remembering these despicable horrors because mankind's tyrants have a deadly habit of trying to rewrite history and because free people have a costly habit of repeating their indifference," Segel said. "There is no such thing as 'moral neutralism.' You must stand up and you must speak out — and speak proudly of your heritage."

Visitors find Soviet Armenia in grim, restive mood

By JOHN G. TAYLOR

Bee religion writer

Staggering under the policy changes of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Armenians are trying to replace gloom with grim determination, say a group of Fresnoans who spent 24 days touring the troubled republic.

"If they're going to do anything, they'll have to do it on their own efforts," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian studies at Fresno State University, who traveled widely in Armenia with four students. "If they are to succeed, they'll have to get together

and develop the economy," he said. "If you can get a strong economy, then the politics will follow."

Der Mugrdechian has visited Armenia four times, including a trip in 1988 before the devastating earthquake. He noted a distinct change in attitude.

"In June of '88, *perestroika* was gaining strength, the mood was upbeat and hopeful," he said. "Everyone felt the potential of what Armenia and the Soviet Union could be like."

Troubles resulting from the quake were accelerated by what he viewed as a betrayal by Gorbachev, which can be seen in shortages of gas and foodstuffs and the strife with Azerbaijan.

Der Mugrdechian said a May shooting incident at a train station, in which several Armenians were killed, was deliberately provoked by Ministry of the Interior troops to prove how important it was for the republic to rely on Moscow.

FSU student Matthew Jendian could find no one who'd admit to being a Gorbachev supporter.

"Everyone called him Gorby," said Jendian, who was on his first visit to Armenia.

He told of a bookstore owner who turned over books on display so Gorbachev's picture faced the table.

"We liked it better under [Soviet President Nikita] Khrushchev. ... We had everything we needed," Jen-

dian quoted one Armenian as saying.

Jendian said it was hard to determine whether people were disturbed by what Gorbachev was trying to do or simply because it was taking so long.

An Armenian community council might be one answer to addressing the country's needs, a professor in Yerevan told Jendian.

The overall sense of despondency was reflected by Armenians seen walking on the streets. No one smiled, said Jendian, and laughter by visitors brought irritated stares from natives.

"But in their homes," he stated, "they're very optimistic about holding on as long as it takes."

FSU's Haak plans trip to Armenian capital

By JIM STEINBERG
Bee staff writer

A Fresno State University delegation's visit to Soviet Armenia in June has paved the way for a planned trip to the Armenian capital of Yerevan by FSU President Harold Haak late this year.

Haak's visit is a step toward a student exchange agreement between Fresno State and Yerevan State University, said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies at FSU.

Der Mugrdechian said that Haak is expected to visit Yerevan in November.

Rector Sergey Hambartsumyan of the Yerevan university is expected in Fresno in December. Yerevan State has between 18,000 and 20,000 students.

If all goes as planned, Der Mugrdechian said, the first student exchange could begin in the fall of 1991, with five students from each university.

The Yerevan university has reached a similar exchange agreement with the University of Michigan, Der Mugrdechian said.

Haak's visit to Soviet Armenia, should it take place, will take him to a republic described by Der Mugrdechian as resting at a critical point.

The same forces that opened Soviet Armenia to a Fresno State exchange also unleashed nationalist and ethnic feelings within the Soviet Union. Armenians have fought and died in clashes with Moslem

If all goes as planned, said FSU professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian, the first student exchange could begin in the fall of 1991.

He made the trip to Yerevan in June with four students, and brought back the invitation to Haak from his counterpart at Yerevan State University.

Fresno State reached an ex-

change pact last spring with Byelorussian V.I. Lenin State University in Minsk.

Haak's office confirmed Thursday that planning is under way for his trip to Yerevan.

neighbors and in what they told Der Mugrdechian was an attack by Soviet troops in May.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was a hero to Armenians during Der Mugrdechian's visit to Armenia in 1988, he said, but Gorbachev is widely viewed now as an enemy of Armenians there.

"He's detested," Der Mugrdechian said.

The Armenian people expect increasing autonomy, possibly independence, for theirs and other Soviet republics, he said. But they have no leaders approaching a Boris Yeltsin in Russia, a Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia or a Lech Walesa in Poland.

"It's just not there," Der Mugrdechian said.

Lack of direction is tied to Soviet Armenia's lack of clear leadership, he said.

"To lead, you have to know where you want to go."

In the exchange agreement, Fresno State will stress agriculture, engineering and applied sciences. Fresno State students will learn language and cultural history "over there," Der Mugrdechian said.

Exchange Program of Students Between Fresno and Yerevan Proposed

FRESNO — For a 22-year-old wearing a Middlebury College T-shirt and Nike basketball shoes, his first question was not so out of the ordinary:

"So are the Detroit Pistons really as strong as they seem?"

But this 22-year-old was Vahe Kaprikyan. The place was the Armenia Hotel in Yerevan, and Vahe's T-shirt, along with his interest in the National Basketball Association, had been picked up while studying at a university in North Carolina for one year.

It was fitting then, that Vahe should have been assigned to Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and four accompanying students: Armen Devejian, Phil Garo, Matthew Jendian, and Robert Vartabedian. After all, Der Mugrdechian had come to Armenia precisely to open the door to other Vahes in the future. The Armenian English major now had an opportunity to put his year of American education to good use while representing his country.

This is not however, a story about T-shirts, sneakers, and basketball, but rather about building academic bridges between Armenia and the United States. Der Mugrdechian's purpose in Yerevan, in fact, was to complete laying the groundwork for what promises to be a much travelled link between CSUF and Yerevan State University (YSU).

Der Mugrdechian was in Armenia for the entire month of June, meeting with officials of the Ministry of Popular Education, YSU, and the Armenian Agricultural Institute in order to fine tune an exchange agreement between CSUF and Armenia that will ultimately allow up to ten students to trade places each year.

Der Mugrdechian and his group of four American-Armenian students also did their best to gain an understanding of student life in Armenia's capital. They lived in the graduate student dormitory, visited classrooms and libraries, and talked with young people wherever they went.

"We came away with a much better sense of the higher education system in Armenia," said Der Mugrdechian. "If this exchange agreement is going to work, organizers on both sides have to make an effort to meet the expectations of foreign students."

Until now, only a handful of students have studied in Armenia, usually three to four a year. On the Armenian side, of course, attending a university in the

United States was largely out of the question before the recent thaw in the Cold War.

Times have changed, however, and the YSU-CSUF accord takes full advantage of the opportunities for interchange. Under the provisions of the prospective agreement, students would gain credit toward graduation at their home universities while spending a year abroad.

AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE

"It would be the chance of a lifetime," predicted Matthew Jendian, a CSUF junior who was visiting Armenia for the first time. "It's one thing to come to Armenia as a tourist for a few weeks but staying there for a year as a student would give you a new perspective on the world. Armenia would become a part of you."

"There would be some cultural shock for students involved in the program but it would be an incredible experience for a relatively small amount of money," added Phil Garo. "It's not a trip for everyone—but you learn the value of everything you take for granted in the United States."

For Armen Devejian, an architecture major, "It's an idea whose time has come. For too long Armenians in the Diaspora and in Armenia have had barriers put up between them. Now younger people can come and go and communicate with each other about their similarities and differences."



Members of the CSUF Fresno Armenian Studies Program educational trip with members of the Armenian Friendship Society.

The agreement may figure even more significantly into the future plans of Armenia. "Armenia is looking to revitalize its economy and ties to the West, particularly the Armenian Diaspora, are essential," according to Der Mugrdechian. "Discussing politics and holding meetings is a key part of the process of change, but everyone in Armenia realizes that a country must have a strong economic foundation to stand up on its own two feet."

In that respect, Armenia's farm economy could greatly benefit from CSUF's outstanding agriculture department. In fact, of the five Armenian students expected to attend CSUF on yearly basis, one will come from the Agricultural Institute and another from the Animal Husbandry Institute.

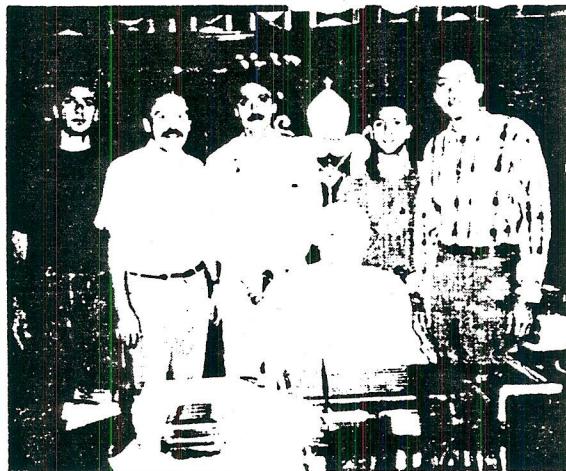
- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CA

DATE July 25, 1990

SUBJECT Exchange Program of Students Between Fresno
and Yerevan Proposed

PAGE 2 of 2



WITH HIS HOLINESS: From left, Phil Garo, Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program, Robert Vartabedian, Matthew Jendian, and Armen Devejian with His Holiness Vazken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Y.S.U. PRESIDENT

TO VISIT FRESNO

"The ultimate goal is to provide students and scholars with advanced knowledge so that they can return to Armenia and share what they have learned," Der Mugrdechian said.

Der Mugrdechian's dream seems to be moving steadily toward reality. This fall, CSUF President Harold Haak is scheduled to travel to Yerevan to meet with his colleagues in Armenia. In December, YSU Rector Sergey Hambartsumyan plans to come to Fresno for the official signing of the exchange agreement. And after that, relations between Armenia and CSUF will be in the hands of the students themselves.

CSUF Armenian Students Visit Armenia

For a 22-year-old wearing a Middlebury College T-shirt and Nike basketball shoes, his first question was not so out of the ordinary:

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This is not however, a story about T-shirts, sneakers, and basketball, but rather about building academic bridges between Armenia



Members of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program educational trip with members of the Armenian Friendship Society in Yerevan.



With His Holiness Vazken I in Etchmiadzin. L. to R.: Phil Garo; Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the CSUF Armenian Studies Program; Robert Vartabedian; Matthew Jendian, and Armen Devejian.

and the United States. Der Mugrdechian's purpose in Yerevan, in fact, was to complete laying the groundwork for what promises to be a much travelled link between CSUF and Yerevan State University (YSU).

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SOURCE Nor Gyank: Glendale, CA

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PAGE 2 of 2

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"It would be the chance of a lifetime," predicted Matthew Jendian, CSUF junior who was visiting Armenia for the first time. "It's one thing to come to Armenia for the first time. "It's one thing to come to Armenia as a tourist for a few weeks but staying there for a year as a student would give you a new perspective on the world. Armenia would become a part of you."

"There would be some cultural shock for students involved in the program but it would be an incredible experience for a relatively small amount of money," added Phil Garo. "It's not a trip for everyone—but you learn the value of everything you take for granted in the United States."

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The agreement may figure even more significantly into the future plans of Armenia. "Armenia is looking to revitalize its economy and ties to the West, particularly the Armenian Diaspora, are essential," according to Der Mugrdechian. "Discussing politics and holding meetings is a key part of the process of change, but everyone in Armenia realizes that a country must have a strong economic foundation to stand up on its own two feet."

In that respect, Armenia's farm economy could greatly benefit from CSUF's outstanding agriculture department. In fact, of the five Armenian students expected to attend CSUF on a yearly basis, one will come from the Agricultural Institute and another from the Animal Husbandry Institute.

"The ultimate goal is to provide students and scholars with advanced knowledge so that they can return to Armenia and share what they have learned," Der Mugrdechian said.

Der Mugrdechian's dream seems to be moving steadily toward reality. This fall, CSUF President Harold Haak is scheduled to travel to Yerevan to meet with his colleagues in Armenia. In December, YSU Rector Segey Hambartsumyan plans to come to Fresno for the official signing of the exchange agreement. And after that, relations between Armenia and CSUF will be in the hands of the students themselves.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, NY

DATE August 2, 1990

SUBJECT New Course Offerings at CSUF

PAGE 1 of 1

New Course Offerings At CSU Fresno

FRESNO, CA. - The CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering a wide selection of courses for the fall 1990 semester, including a new general education course, Armenian 148 - Masterpieces of Armenian Literature.

Masterpieces of Armenian Literature will present Armenian Literature in English translation and expose students to the richness and variety of Armenian literature. The course will include selections from many different periods of Armenian literature and will cover such topics as: folk tales, the Armenian epic David of Sassoon, short stories, and poetry.

The class will be offered Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. and will be worth three semester units of credit. It will also fulfill the requirements of general education in Division 6.

History 108B - Armenian History I will survey Armenian history from its beginnings through the end of the Cilician kingdom in 1375 A.D. Emphasis will be placed on the historic relationship of Armenia to her neighbors and on the impact and analysis of significant moments in Armenian history. The class will be offered at a special time, Thursday evenings from 6:10 to 9:00 p.m. to allow community members an opportunity to take the course.

Armenian 1A - Introduction to Modern Western Armenian will be taught in the fall semester as well. The course is intended for students with no prior knowledge of Armenian or for students who cannot read or write Armenian. The course will be offered Monday, Wednesday,

Friday from 12:10 to 1:00 p.m.

Armenian Studies 10 - Introduction to Armenian Studies, is a general introductory course to the study of the Armenian people, their history, literature, art, and the Armenian Church. It will be offered Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:10 to 10:00 a.m.

All courses are open to the public and for more information on course offerings, interested individuals may contact the Armenian Studies Program at (209)278-2669.

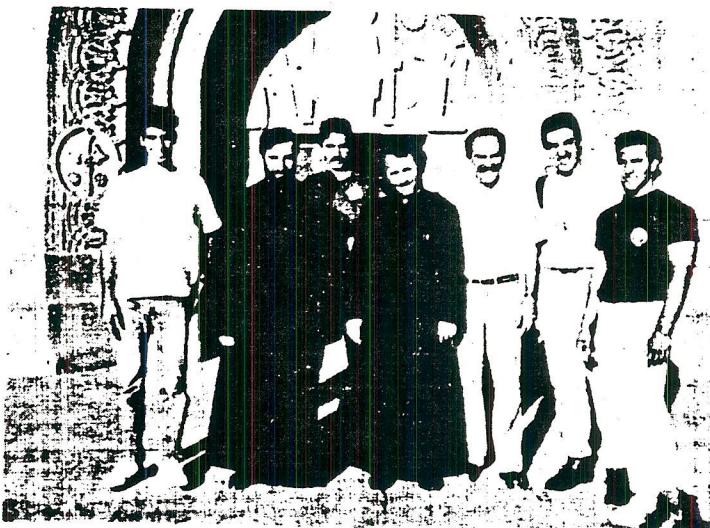
CSU Fresno & Yerevan University Establish Highly Promising Student Exchange Program

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This is not, however, a story about T-shirts, sneakers, and basketball, but rather about building academic bridges between Armenia and the United States. Der Mugrdechian's purpose in Yerevan, in fact, was to complete laying the groundwork for what promises to be a much travelled link between CSUF and Yerevan State University (YSF).



In front of the St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Yerevan. Left to right: Phil Garo; unidentified; Robert Vartabedian; Bishop Karekin Nersessian, Vicar of the Araratian Diocese; Barlow Der Mugrdechian; Armen Devejian; and Matthew Jendian.

Der Mugrdechian was in Armenia for the entire month of June, meeting with officials of the Ministry of Popular Education, YSU, and the Armenian Agricultural Institute in order to fine tune an exchange agreement between CSUF and Armenia that will ultimately allow up to ten students to trade places each year.

Der Mugrdechian and his group of American-Armenian students also did their best to gain an understanding of student life in Armenia's capital. They lived in the graduate student dormitory, visited classrooms and libraries, and talked with young people wherever they went.

"We came away with a much better sense of the higher education system in Armenia," said Der

Mugrdechian. "If this exchange agreement is going to work, organizers on both sides have to make an effort to meet the expectations of foreign students."

Until now, only a handful of students have studied in Armenia, usually three to four a year. On the Armenian side, of course, attending a university in the United States was largely out of the question before the recent thaw in the Cold War.

Times have changed, however, and the YSU-CSUF accord takes full advantage of the opportunities for interchange. Under the provisions of the prospective agreement, students would gain credit toward graduation at their home universities while spending a year abroad.



Left to right: Phil Garo; Robert Vartabedian; Armen Devejian; Matthew Jendian in front of the Armenian Church yard in Moscow.

"It would be the chance of a lifetime," predicted Matthew Jendian, a CSUF junior who was visiting Armenia for the first time. "It's one thing to come to Armenia as a tourist for a few weeks but staying there for a year as a student would give you a new perspective on the world. Armenia would become a part of you."

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

DATE August 3, 1990

SOURCE Hay Gyank: Glendale, CA

SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Studies Courses for Fall 1990

PAGE 1 of 1

CSU Fresno Offers New Courses In Armenian Studies In Fall Sem.

The CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering a wide selection of courses for the fall 1990 semester, including a new general education course, *Armenian 148- Masterpieces of Armenian Literature*.

Masterpieces of Armenian Literature will present Armenian Literature in English translation and expose students to the richness and variety of Armenian literature. The course will include selections from many different periods of Armenian literature and will cover such topics as: folk tales, the Armenian epic David of Sassoon, short stories, and poetry. The class will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45-11:00 a.m. and will be worth three semester units of credit. It will also fulfill the requirements of general education in Division 6.

History 108B-Armenian History 1 will survey Armenian history from its beginnings through the end of the Cilician kingdom in 1375 A.D. Emphasis will be placed on the historic relationship of Armenia to her neighbors and

on the impact and analysis of significant moments in Armenian history. The class will be offered at a special time, Thursday evenings from 6:10 to 9:00 p.m. to allow community members an opportunity to take the course.

Armenian 1A- Introduction to Modern Western Armenian will be taught in the fall semester as well. The course is intended for students with no prior knowledge of Armenian or for students who cannot read or write Armenian. The course will be offered Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12:10 to 1:00 p.m.

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SUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE August 9, 1990

SUBJECT FSU Offers New Armenian Courses

PAGE 1 of 1

FSU Offers New Armenian Courses

FRESNO - The California State University Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering a wide selection of courses for the fall 1990 semester.

The list of courses includes *Masterpieces of Armenian Literature*, every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45-11:00 a.m.; *History 108B Armenian History I* every Thursday evening from 6:10 to 9:00 p.m.; *Armenian 1A-Introduction to Modern Western Armenian* every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and *Armenian Studies 10-Introduction to Armenian Studies* every Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:10 to 10:00 a.m.

All courses are open to the public. For more information call (209) 278-2669.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, NYDATE August 9, 1990SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Students Visit ArmeniaPAGE 1 of 2

Fresno Armenian Youth Recall Recent Visit To Armenia

FRESNO, CA - For a 22-year-old wearing a Middlebury College T-shirt and Nike basketball shoes, his first question was not so out of the ordinary:

"So are the Detroit Pistons really as strong as they seem?"

But this 22-year-old was Vahe Kaprielyan. The place was the Armenia Hotel in Yerevan, and Vahe's T-shirt, along with his interest in the National Basketball Association, had been picked up while studying at a university in North Carolina for one year.

It was fitting then, that Vahe should have been assigned to Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian of California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and four accompanying students: Armen Devejian, Phil Garo, Matthew Jendian, and Robert Vartabedian. After all, Der Mugrdechian had come to Armenia precisely to open the door to other Vahes in the future. The Armenian English major now had an opportunity to put his year of American education to good use while representing his country.

This is not however, a story about T-shirts, sneakers, and basketball, but rather about building academic bridges between Armenia and the United States. Der Mugrdechian's purpose in Yerevan, in fact, was to complete laying the groundwork for what promises to be a much travelled link between CSUF and Yerevan State University (YSU).

Der Mugrdechian was in Armenia for the entire month of June, meeting with officials of the Ministry of Popular Education, YSU, and the Armenian Agricultural Institute in order to fine tune an exchange agreement between CSUF and Armenia that will ultimately allow up to ten students to trade places each year.

Der Mugrdechian and his group of four American-Armenian students also did their best to gain an understanding of student life in Armenia's capital. They lived in the graduate student dormitory, visited classrooms and libraries, and talked with young people wherever they went.

"We came away with a much better sense of the higher education system in Armenia," said Der Mugrdechian. "If this exchange agreement is going to work, organizers on both sides have to make an effort to meet the expectations of foreign students."

FEW STUDENTS

Until now, only a handful of students have studied in Armenia, usually three to four a year. On the Armenian side, of course, attending a university in the United States was largely out of the question before the recent thaw in the Cold War.

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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, NYDATE August 9, 1990SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Students Visit ArmeniaPAGE 2 of 2

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In that respect, Armenia's farm economy could greatly benefit from CSUF's outstanding agriculture department. In fact, of the five Armenian students expected to attend CSUF on a yearly basis, one will come from the Agricultural Institute and another from the Animal Husbandry Institute.

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Der Mugrdechian's dream seems to be moving steadily toward travel to Yerevan to meet with his colleagues in Armenia. In December, YSU Rector Sergey Hambartsumyan plans to come to Fresno for the official signing of the exchange agreement. And after that, relations between Armenia and CSUF will be in the hands of the students themselves.



H. H. Vazken I grants audience to Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian and four students of California State University, Fresno who visited Armenia.

CSUF Armenian Studies Program Establishes Ties With Armenia

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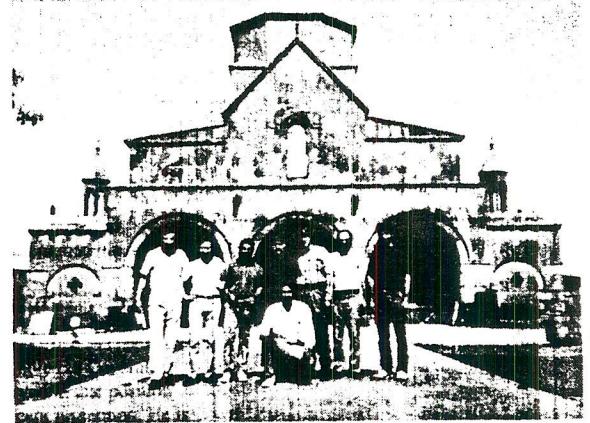
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The agreement may figure even more significantly into the future plans of Armenia. "Armenia is looking to revitalize its economy and ties to the West, particularly the Armenian Diaspora," according to Der Mugrdechian. "Discussing



The group with Archpriest Kourken Ashoorian in front of the historic St. Gayaneh Church.

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During a visit to the Madenataran (from L to r) Matthew Jendian; Phil Garo; Dr. Papken Chookasizian, director; Barlow Der Mugrdechian; Armen Devejian.



Members of the CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program educational trip with members of the Armenian Friendship Society in Yerevan.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MADATE August 11, 1990SUBJECT CSUF President To Visit Armenia for Student Exchange with Yerevan UniversityPAGE 1 of 1

Fresno State University President To Visit Armenia, Student Exchange Possible With Yerevan University

A Fresno State University delegation's visit to Soviet Armenia in June has paved the way for a planned trip to the Armenian capital of Yerevan by FSU President Harold Haak late this year.

Mr. Haak's visit is a step toward a student exchange agreement between Fresno State and Yerevan State University, said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies at FSU.

He made the trip to Yerevan in June with four students, and brought back the invitation from his counterpart at Yerevan State University.

Mr. Haak's office confirmed that planning is under way for his trip to Yerevan.

Der Mugrdechian said that Mr. Haak is expected to visit Yerevan in November.

Rector Sergei Hambartsumian of the Yerevan University is expected in Fresno in December. Yerevan State has between 18,000 and 20,000 students.

If all goes as planned, the first student exchange could begin in the fall of 1991, with five students from each university.

The Yerevan University has reached a similar exchange agreement with the University of Michigan.

Mr. Haak's visit to Soviet Armenia will take him to a republic

described by Dr. Der Mugrdechian as resting at a critical point.

The Armenian people expect increasing autonomy, possibly independence, he said. But they have no leaders approaching a Boris Yeltsin in Russia, a Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakian or a Lech Walesa in Poland.

"It's just not there," Dr. Der Mugrdechian said.

Lack of direction is tied to Sov-

iet Armenia's lack of clear leadership, he said. "To lead, you have to know where you want to go."

In the exchange agreement, Fresno State will stress agriculture, engineering and applied sciences. Fresno State students will learn language and cultural history "over there," Dr. Der Mugrdechian said.

Jim Steinberg

Fresno Bee

SUB

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Weekly: Watertown, MA

DATE August 11, 1990

SUBJECT CSUF Armenian Courses for 1990-91

PAGE 1 of 1

CSU-Fresno announces Armenian courses for 1990-91

FRESNO, CA—The California State University-Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering several courses for the fall 1990 semester, including a new general education course, *Armenian 148: Masterpieces of Armenian Literature*.

Masterpieces of Armenian Literature will present Armenian literature in English translation and expose students to the richness and variety of Armenian literature. The course will include selections from many different periods of Armenian literature and will cover such topics as: folk tales, the Armenian epic David of Sassoun, short stories, and poetry. The class will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45—11:00 am and will be worth three semester units of credit. It will also fulfill the requirements of general education in Division 6.

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International Symposium On The Armenian Bible Attracts Scholars To Germany

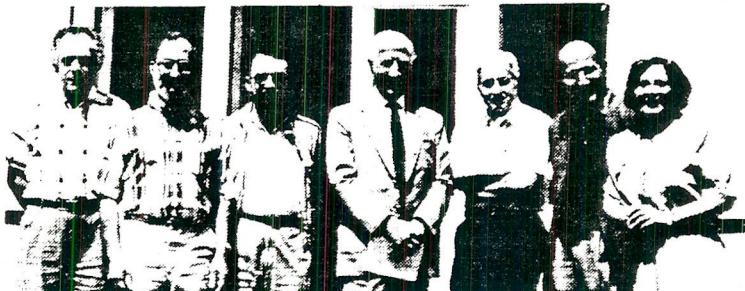
WELLESLEY, MA. - An international symposium on "Armenia and the Bible: Culture, Tradition, and Text" attracted a large number of scholars from various parts of Europe, the Middle East, Armenia, and the United States to the historic university town of Heidelberg, West Germany.

Scholars in the field of literature, classical languages, history, art history, and sociology presented the results of their most recent research into various aspects of the Armenian Bible and its relations to Armenian history and culture.

The relations of the Armenian Bible to Bibles in other classical languages (particularly Classical Greek and Syriac), the influence of the Bible on Armenian literature, life, and art in the medieval and modern periods, and the translations of the Bible into modern Armenian were among the topics discussed.

The symposium, which took place from July 16 to July 19, was cosponsored by the International Association for Armenian Studies and the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum of Heidelberg.

Dr. Theo Sundermeier, Dean of the Theological Seminary and representative of the rector of Heidelberg University, welcomed the scholars at a reception on July 17 and spoke eloquently about the important role played by the Bible in many cultures (including the German), about the intellectual traditions of Heidelberg University, and about the Armenian people.



Scholars from the United States who participated in the Symposium on the Armenian Bible held in Heidelberg, West Germany, in July. Left to right: Abraham Terian, Joseph M. Alexanian, Rouben P. Adalian, Avedis K. Sanjian, Arshag Merguerian, Dickran Kouymjian, and Barbara J. Merguerian.

SCHOLARS FROM AMERICA

Avedis K. Sanjian, Narekatsi Professor of Armenian at the University of California, Los Angeles, presented a paper on the Biblical interpretation of the medieval Armenian scholar Esayi Niceci, and Dickran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, gave an illustrated lecture on the evolution of Armenian Gospel illuminations.

Other scholars from America participating in the symposium were Rouben P. Adalian, Director of Academic Affairs at the Armenian Assembly of America, in Washington, D.C., who described the recent evolution of the Bible from text to icon as a result of modern technology and scholarship; Joseph M. Alexanian, Professor at Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois, who emphasized the urgent need for a critical edition of the New Testament in Classical Armenian; and the Rev. Claude Cox of Wilfrid Laurier University, Barrie, Ontario, who spoke about marginal notes from three Greek scholars translated into Armenian Bible manuscripts.

Also, Barbara J. Merguerian, Director of Publications at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, in Belmont, Mass., who discussed the role of the 19th century American missionaries in translating and distributing the Bible in modern Armenian, and Abraham Terian, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, who discussed his translation into English of the Bible in verse by Gregor Magistros.

The opening paper at the symposium, about biblical influences on the poetry of Gregor Naregatsi, was given by Prof. Friedrich Heyer of the University of Heidelberg, former president of the German-Arm. Society.

Responding to the Dean's remarks were Michael E. Stone, Professor of Armenian at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and President of the International Association for Armenian Studies, and Professor Garik Sarkisyan, vice-president of the Armenian Academy of Sciences in Yerevan, Armenia.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, NY**DATE** August 16, 1990**SUBJECT** Dr. Kouymjian Attends an International Symposium on the Armenian Bible**PAGE** 2 of 2

The thirty scholars presenting papers included Joseph Weitenburg of the University of Leiden, who spoke about the language of the Armenian Bible; Patrick Donabedian of Paris, who gave an illustrated talk about biblical subjects in Armenian sculpture of the pre-Arabic period; the Rev. Manuel Jinbachian, translation consultant for the United Bible Societies in Strasbourg, whose topic was Armenian Bible translations in modern times; and Nira Stone of the University of Jerusalem, who gave examples of images of paradise in Armenian manuscript illumination.

In addition to Professor Sarkisyan of Yerevan, Professor Parour Mouradyan of the Academy of Sciences and Andranik Zeytounyan of the Madenadaran provided information about biblical scholarship taking place in Armenia.

Overall organization and planning for the symposium was under the direction of Prof. Christoph Burchard of the University of Heidelberg.

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Weekly: Watertown, MADATE August 18, 1990SUBJECT CSUF Announces Armenian Course OfferingsPAGE 1 of 1

Fresno State University announces Armenian course offerings

FRESNO, CA, July 20—A Fresno State University delegation's visit to Soviet Armenia in June has paved the way for a planned trip to the Armenian capital of Yerevan by the FSU President Harold Haak later this year.

Haak's visit is a step toward a student exchange agreement between Fresno State and Yerevan State University, said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies at FSU.

He made the trip to Yerevan in June with four students, and brought back the invitation to Haak from his counterpart at Yerevan State University.

Fresno State reached an exchange agreement last spring with the Byelorussian V.I. Lenin State University in Minsk.

Der Mugrdechian said that Haak is expected to visit Yerevan in November. Rector Sergei Hambartsумian of the Yerevan University is expected in Fresno in December.

If all goes as planned, Der Mugrdechian said, the first student exchange could begin in the fall of 1991, with five students from each university.

Yerevan State, which has a student body of 18,000 to 20,000, had reached a similar exchange agreement with the University of Michigan earlier this year.

In the exchange agreement, Fresno State will stress agriculture, engineering and applied sciences. Fresno State students will learn language and cultural history.



ACADEMIA

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Responding to the Dean's remarks were Micheal E. Stone, Professor of Armenian at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and President of the International Association for Armenian Studies and Pro-

Int'l symposium on the Armenian Bible held in Heidelberg, Germany



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SOURCE Asbarez: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT International Symposium on the Armenian Bible in Heidelberg, Germany

PAGE 1 of 2

International Symposium on the Armenian Bible Attracts Scholars to Heidelberg, Germany

By Barbara J. Merguerian

BELMONT, Mass.—An international symposium on "Armenia and the Bible: Culture, Tradition and Text" attracted a large number of scholars from various parts of Europe, the Middle East, Armenia, and the United States to the historic university town of Heidelberg, West Germany.

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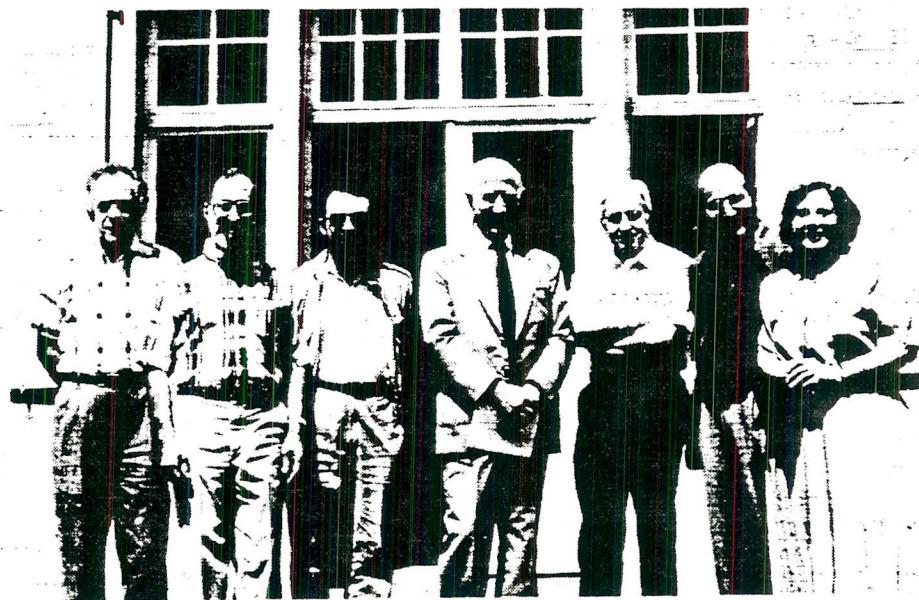
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Scholars from the United States who participated in the symposium on the Armenian Bible held in Heidelberg, West Germany, in July (left to right): Abraham Terian, Joseph M. Alexanian, Rouben P. Adalian, Avedis K. Sanjian, Arshag Merguerian, Dickran Kouymjian, and Barbara J. Merguerian.

SUB**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez: Glendale, CA**DATE** August 18, 1990**SUBJECT** International Symposium on the Armenian Bible in Heidelberg, Germany**PAGE** 2 of 2

manuscripts.

Barbara J. Merguerian, director of publications at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, in Belmont, Mass., discussed the role of the 19th-century American missionaries in translating and distributing the Bible in modern Armenian; and Abraham Terian of Berrien Springs, Michigan, discussed his translation into English of the Bible in verse by Gregor Magistros.

The opening paper at the symposium, about biblical influence on the poetry of Gregor Naregatsi, was given by Prof. Friedrich Heyer of the University of Heidelberg, former president of the German Armenia Society.

The thirty scholars presenting papers included Joseph Weitenberg of the University of Leiden, who spoke about the language of the Armenian Bible; Patrick Donabedian of Paris, who gave an illustrated talk about biblical subjects in Armenian sculpture of the pre-Arabic period; the Rev. Manuel Jinbachian, translation consultant for the United Bible Societies in Strasbourg, whose topic was Armenian Bible translations in modern times; and Nira Stone of the University of Jerusalem, who gave examples of images of paradise in Armenian manuscript illuminations.

In addition to Prof. Sarkisyan of Yerevan, Prof. Paruyr Muratyan of the Academy of Sciences and Andranik Zeytunian of the Matenadaran provided information about biblical scholarship taking place in Armenia.

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SOURCE The Armenian Mirror Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE August 18, 1990
SUBJECT International Symposium on the Armenian Bible Attracts Scholars To Germany PAGE 1 of 2

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Also present were, Barbara J. Merguerian, director of publications at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research in Belmont, MA, who discussed the role of the 19th century American missionaries in translating and distributing the Bible in modern Armenian; and Abraham Terian, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, who discussed his translation into English of the Bible in verse by Krikor Magistros.

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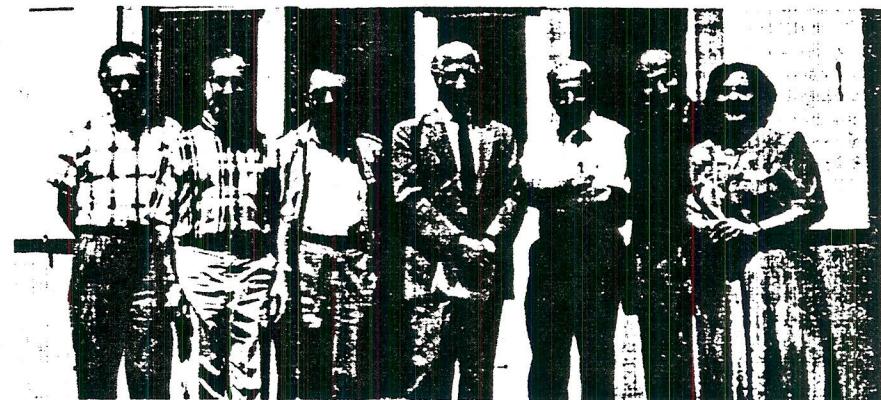
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Scholars from the U.S. who participated in the symposium. From the left: Abraham Terian, Joseph M. Alexander, Rouben P. Adalian, Avedis K. Sanjian, Arshag Merguerian, Dickran Kouymjian, and Barbara J. Merguerian.

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SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CADATE August 22, 1990SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian Attends International Symposium on the Armenian BiblePAGE 1 of 2

International Symposium on the Armenian Bible Attracts Scholars to Heidelberg

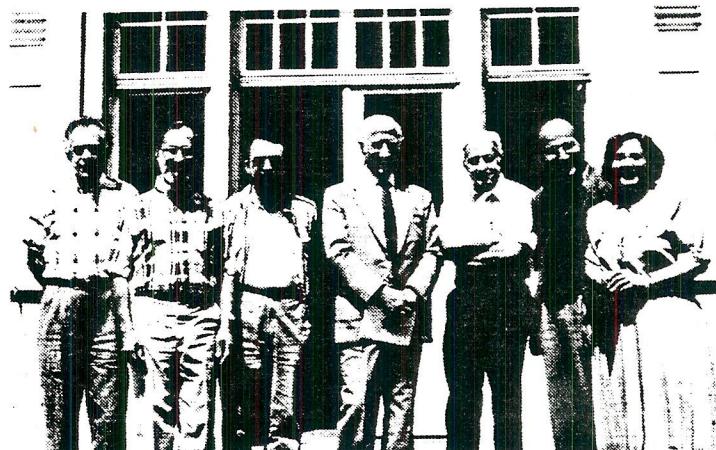
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Scholars from the United States who participated in the Symposium on the Armenian Bible held in Heidelberg, West Germany, in July. From left, Abraham Terian, Joseph Alexanian, Rouben Adalian, Avedis Sanjian, Arshag Merguerian, Dickran Kouymjian, and Barbara Merguerian.

Responding to the Dean's remarks were Michael E. Stone, Professor of Armenian at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and President of the International Association for Armenian Studies, and Professor Garik Sarkisyan, vice-president of the Armenian Academy of Sciences in Yerevan, Armenia.

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SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CADATE August 22, 1990SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian Attends International
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Visitors Find Soviet Armenia in Grim, Restive Mood

Staggering under the policy changes of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Armenians are trying to replace gloom with grim determination, says a group of Fresnoans who spent 24 days touring the troubled republic.

"If they're going to do anything, they'll have to do it on their own efforts," said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian studies at Fresno State University, who traveled widely in Armenia with four students.

"If they are to succeed, they'll have to get together and develop economy," he said. "If you can get a strong economy, then the politics will follow."

Der Mugrdechian has visited Armenia four times, including a trip of 1988 before the devastating earthquake. He noted a distinct change in attitude.

"In June of '88, *perestroika* was gaining strength, the mood was upbeat and hopeful," he said. "Everyone felt the potential of what Armenia and the Soviet Union could be like."

Troubles resulting from the quake were accelerated by what he viewed as a betrayal by Gorbachev, which can be seen in shortages of gas and foodstuffs and the strife with Azerbaijan.

Der Mugrdechian said a May shooting incident at a train station, in which several Armenians were killed, was deliberately provoked by Ministry of the Interior troops to prove how important it was for the republic to rely on Moscow.

FSU student Matthew Jendian could find no one who would admit to being a Gorbachev supporter.

"Everyone called him Gorby," said Jendian, who was on his first visit to Armenia.

He told of a bookstore owner who turned over books on display so Gorbachev's picture faced the table.

"We liked it better under [Soviet President

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Visitors Find

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Nikita Khruschev... We had everything we needed," Jendian quoted one Armenian saying.

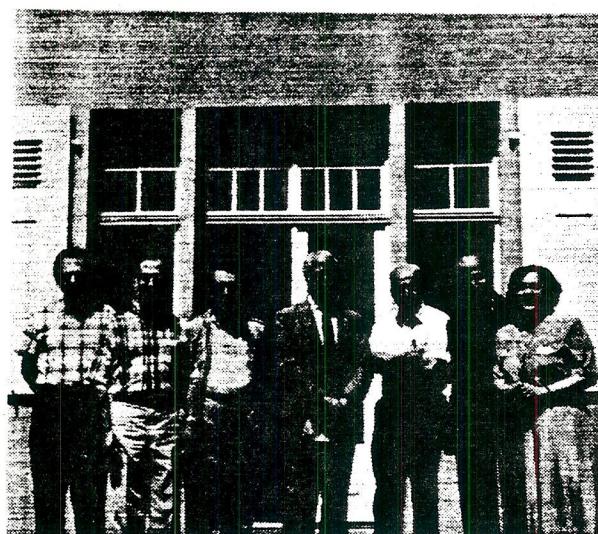
Jendian said it was hard to determine whether people were disturbed by what Gorbachev was trying to do or simply because it was taking so long.

An Armenian community council might be one answer to addressing the country's needs, a professor in Yerevan told Jendian.

The overall sense of despondency was reflected by Armenians seen walking on the streets. No one smiled, said Jendian, and laughter by visitors brought irritated stares from natives.

"But in their homes," he stated, "they're very optimistic about holding on as long as it takes."

International Symposium on the Armenian Bible Attracts Scholars to Heidelberg



Scholars from the United States who participated in the Symposium on the Armenian Bible held in Heidelberg, West Germany, in July. (L-R) Abraham Terian, Joseph M. Alexanian, Rouben P. Adalian, Avedis K. Sanjian, Arshag Merguerian, Dickran Kouymjian, and Barbara J. Merguerian.

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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Nor Gyank: Glendale, CADATE August 23, 1990SUBJECT International Symposium on the Armenian
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International

cont'd from page 28

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Mirror-Spectator: Watertown, MA DATE August 25, 1990

SUBJECT Armenian Parliament Votes for Student Exchange Program with CSUF & Michigan Univ.

PAGE 1 of 1

Armenian Parliament Votes For Student Exchange Program With U.S.

YEREVAN (Infonovosti) — On the initiative of the Armenian Assembly of America, the Parliament passed a decision to start direct exchange of students between higher educational establishments in Armenia and the United States.

Yerevan University, California State University (Fresno), and Michigan University have already signed a student exchange agreement.

Under its terms, the first group of Armenian students will travel to the U.S. next year to study architecture, engineering and applied disciplines. Students from America will study Armenian language and art history.