



**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 #47**

**December 1989-March 1990**

## Armenian annihilation retold through consul's eyes

By JOHN G. TAYLOR

Bee religion writer

When a nation stepped back into the Middle Ages, Leslie Davis captured it with a reporter's eye and a diplomat's sense of history. The relentlessness of his devotion makes "The Slaughterhouse Province: An American Diplomat's Report on the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1917" both compelling and wearying.

The book's pace is set in its introduction by editor Susan K. Blair, who researched and pursued documentation with admirable skill. Blair wrote:

"For those of us who live quiet lives dominated by routine, it is difficult to imagine that such atrocities could actually take place. This is one of the reasons why genocide has not been stopped before the crime is committed — it is almost impossible for the human mind to accept its reality."

Davis was the U.S. diplomat assigned to Harput in the Vilayet (province) of Mamouret-ul-Aziz in May 1914.

In the two years and nine months he was stationed there, he witnessed the dissolution of both the province's and much of the country's Armenian population.

For the most part, this book (published by Aristide D. Caratzas; \$29.95) is a catalog of ethnic destruction — written in dispatch style for the U.S. Embassy and the secretary of state.

Occasionally, the dispatches reached their destination; frequently they disappeared despite supposedly protected status in Turkey. Davis proved an accomplished hand at replicating them.

Despite the book's packaging, the appendices should be read prior to the consul's reports. Not only do the appendices give national and international context to the tragedy, they afford a glimpse of Davis that solidifies his efforts to be an evenhanded observer.

He wrote:

"It is not that I am in any way a champion of the Armenian race. It is not a race one can admire or among whom I should choose to live. But, whatever the faults of the Armenian people may be and however conclusive may be the proof that some of them have been involved in a revolutionary plot, the punishment inflicted upon these people is so severe, the tragedy is so terrible, that one cannot contemplate it and certainly cannot live in the midst of it without being stirred to the depths of one's nature."

The appendices allow those unfamiliar with the genocide to capture the essence of the Turkish argument. The Constantinople government claimed that Armenian terrorists were found with bombs and weapons as part of a plot with Russia to rise up against the Ottoman rule.

"Deportations" of all Armenians were ordered "from areas where their presence was considered harmful."

It was Davis' duty to protect American interests, American citizens and families with American relatives. His reports demonstrate that he did much more, including concealing Armenians on the consulate grounds and securing safe passage for many individuals.

For his efforts, he could have been executed under law, or murdered, as were some Americans, foreigners and missionaries. Instead, his notes and photos provide the background for arguments on formal recognition of the Armenian genocide. It has been an effort resoundingly opposed through the years by Turkey.

When the roundups began in 1915, the Armenians were forced to

sell their belongings for a pittance or give them away.

"The scene reminded me of vultures swooping down on their prey," Davis wrote. "It was a veritable Turkish holiday and all the Turks went out in their gala attire to feast and make merry over the misfortunes of others."

They were promised conveyance, food and safety as they were moved by the thousands. Instead, most were murdered by gendarmes, Kurds or *chetehs*, convicts who had been released, given gun and instructions what to do. Others were marched until the broiling sun, lack of food and shelter, and disease took their toll. The killings were repeated relentlessly, with Davis' out-of-the-way province being a principal charnel house.

By horseback and on foot Davis viewed the dead and the soon-to-be dead, regularly breaking travel restrictions and frequently placing himself in great danger. One of the main sites for massacre was Lake Goeljuk; Davis counted the dead into the thousands.

Davis wrote:

"Few locations could be better suited to the fiendish purpose of the Turks in their plan to exterminate the Armenian population than this peaceful lake in the interior of Asiatic Turkey, with its precipitous banks and pocket-like valleys, sur-





U.S. consul Leslie Davis was witness and took photographs as the poorly treated populations of Armenian villages were "deported" to certain death.

rounded by villages of savage Kurds and far removed from the sight of civilized man."

Men, women and children were stripped, their clothing sold where possible. By bullet, bludgeon, knife, sword, starvation, disease — death came in many ways.

Many were burned, women were horribly mutilated — this in belief that Armenians swallowed or hid valuables on their bodies. Their villages were reduced to rubble. No one was supposed to take note of their passing. The repetitiveness of the butchery forces the reader to test his own resolve in seeing the book through.

"The Mohammedans in their fanaticism seemed determined not only to exterminate the Christian population," Davis wrote, "but to remove all traces of their religion and even to destroy the products of civilization."

The Turkish ruler of Davis' province tried to lure him into writing a statement that, in essence, acknowledged the killings were necessary to quell an Armenian uprising. Davis

would have none of it.

"His attempt to throw on the Armenians the blame for their sufferings would have been ludicrous, had the matter been less serious; for, although a hundred thousand Armenians in the Vilayet had been driven out of their homes by the Turks and a large part of them murdered, he could find only four or five instances where any Turks had been killed or even injured by Armenians and less than a dozen instances of any resistance by Armenians."

The further spreading of World War I brought an end to Davis' duties, which he had maintained despite the death of his father in the United States and what was in the end a three-year separation from his wife. He reached Constantinople in 1917 after 18 days travel by road and three by rail. The rest of his diplomatic career, by comparison, was uneventful.

Some of the photos Davis took are included in the book. Rescued from a well where they were hidden, they are poorly preserved and mirror only faintly the inhumanity that Davis' words vividly preserve.

("The Slaughterhouse Province: An American Diplomat's Report on the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1917" can be ordered through bookstores or from Aristide D. Caratzas, 30 Church St., P.O. Box 210, New Rochelle, NY 10802.)

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# ANS

## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE ANS Newsletter: New York, N.Y.

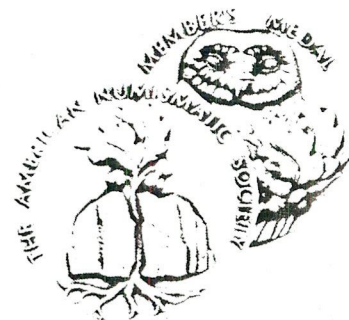
DATE Fall 1989

SUBJECT Dr. Kouymjian Attends Annual Dinner Meeting  
of the Middle East Studies Association

PAGE 1 of 1

# ANS NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



Broadway at 155th Street, New York, NY 10032 (212) 234-3130 FAX (212) 234-3381

Fall 1989

### DINNER MEETING AT MESA

Curator Michael L. Bates attended the twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, this year held in Toronto in mid-November. He hosted a Society dinner attended by a number of ANS Graduate Seminar participants as well as friends of the Society. In attendance were Stephen Album, the world's pre-eminent Islamic coin dealer; Carol Bier, Seminar 1977, Curator of Eastern Hemisphere Textiles, the Textile Museum, Washington, DC; Professor Michael D. Bonner, Seminar 1985, Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Professor Richard W. Bulliet, Seminar 1967, History, Columbia University, New York; Tayeb Yehya El-Hibri, Seminar 1989, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Columbia University, New York; Dr. Ludvik Kalus of the Centre Nationale de Recherches Scientifique, Paris; Judith Kolbas, currently editing Nicholas Lowick's manuscript of early 'Abbāsid coinage; Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Seminar 1965, Chair of the Ethnic Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, and his wife Angele; Professor Roy P. Mottahedeh, Seminar 1963, Chair of the Middle East Center, Harvard University; Lawrence Potter, Seminar 1979, the Foreign Policy Association; Dr. Lutz Richter-Bernburg, Bonn University; and Elizabeth Savage, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

The dinner was the second such event held by the Society in conjunction with the MESA meetings. It was an occasion for exchange of reminiscences, projects, and ideas. A similar gathering is planned for the next MESA meeting, November 1990, in San Antonio.



## Fresno Council, supervisors approve genocide resolutions

The Fresno City Council and the Fresno County Board of Supervisors both approved resolutions Tuesday supporting congressional efforts to commemorate the Armenian genocide.

The supervisors approved their measure unanimously.

But at the council, one member, who is Armenian, abstained.

Calling his decision "agonizing," Council Member Rod Anaforian said it was his philosophy to abstain from voting on issues that don't pertain to city business.

He pointed out that he had recently sent a letter as "a private citizen" to Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole supporting a congressional genocide resolution.

"There is a very dangerous movement afoot around the world that would suggest that all you have to do is close the books and turn out the light and the story will dissolve," said Anaforian.

Councilman Tom Bohigian, who pushed for passage of the city's resolution, said it was important that the United States government go on record recognizing the historical fact that the genocide occurred.

"It's not just an Armenian issue," said Bohigian. "But for all of the human race. History too often repeats itself."

Proposed Senate and House resolutions would commemorate April 15 as a day of remembrance for those events.



**Bill Patterson**

Close to home

## Grant to help save Saroyan collection

**A**n effort to save the William Saroyan Collection of books, posters, photographs, letters and other items from deterioration will be made with a \$50,000 federal grant obtained by the Fresno County Public Library.

In addition, a 1964 bibliography of Saroyan's writings will be updated with the grant and in-kind contributions of salaried help, overhead and supplies from the library.

The grant was sought through the California State Library by Linda Sitterding, local history librarian, with supporting letters from Dickran Kouymjian, Fresno State University Armenian Studies director, and others.

According to Sitterding, the first priority for the local Saroyan collection — one of the three largest in the world — is to neutralize the acid in the papers without further damaging them. Others will be microfilmed. After the collection is cataloged, the papers, books and items will be stored in "archival" packages in special metal cabinets.



SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CADATE December 28, 1989SUBJECT Archbishop Torkom Manoogian's Lecture at  
CSUFPAGE 1 of 1

## Abp. Manoogian Lectures on Armenian Folk Music

FRESNO - Those searching for a chronicle of Armenian spirit and endurance need look no further than Armenian folk music. It is the musical expression of one particular master that was in focus when Archbishop Torkom Manoogian appeared at Fresno State University Dec. 19 as part of the University Lecture Series.

The archbishop is an authority on musician-priest Gomidas Vartabed, whom he calls "the founder of pure Armenian music."

The word "spirit" surfaces frequently when Manoogian speaks of music or deeds by Armenians in the dismal times following the genocide early in this century and the earthquake of 1988.

He said Gomidas separated Armenian music from the confusion of Oriental, Turkish and Byzantine influences by crafting a unique system of scales, rhythm and rules of accent.

"In music, we are exposed to Armenian poetry, literature and the lifestyle of the Armenian people, the sources of creativity of the Armenian spirit" he said.

"The earthquake again brought

out the spirit of the Armenian people," he said in a recent telephone interview. "They will never be defeated by disaster... disasters caused by nature or genocide, a disaster caused by human beings."

He disputed recent news stories that claim little work has been done to rebuild after the 6.9 quake that killed at least 25,000 people and destroyed the homes of 500,000 more on Dec. 7, 1988.

"Slowness is natural," he said, "but the determination is there."

Manoogian is leading efforts and raising funds to build as many as 600 homes, a library, school and clinics on 70 acres being provided by the government in the devastated region.

By John G. Taylor  
Fresno Bee

# Can Good Come from a Deadly Quake?

Is it possible to find joy in an earthquake that killed more than 25,000 people?

It is if you look at it through Archbishop Torkom Manoogian's eyes.

If the earthquake that ravaged Soviet Armenia a year ago had occurred even a few years before, Manoogian said, the world would not have been allowed to help the suffering or likely know much about it. Foreign experts and financial aid from non-Communist countries would not have been welcome.

Manoogian, primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, was in Fresno speaking as part of the University Lecture Series at Fresno State University.

In remarks at a FSU Armenian Studies Program dinner attended by about 300 people, Manoogian commended Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika*, saying it should allow for the decades-long process of rebuilding.

But in surges of words delivered with passion, Manoogian admitted it has been both the best and worst of times for the Armenian quake survivors.

Some children have been stunned into silence, not uttering a word since the quake. Some people have become insane and others have committed suicide, said Manoogian, who has visited the devastated region several times.

And a generation of Armenians has been lost, he noted sadly, along with much culture and tradition.

But the Armenian "spirit," which is a watchword of the primate, is in evidence.

Manoogian mentioned visiting a hospital where a severely injured boy struggled up to grab the cleric's medallion and kissed it. Manoogian said the boy was seeking out a symbol of something that had given his mother strength—a faith that is now being allowed in a more public way.

Manoogian carried with him both a gift for words and a zealotry, enriched with a warm sense of humor, for the Armenian folk music of Gomidas Vartabed.

He playfully informed the Lecture Series audience that he knew his address would last two hours and 17 minutes and he wouldn't be perturbed by comings and goings. He said he relished being broken away from his New York headquarters to spin out details of Gomidas—even if in the end his only audience was himself.



## Can Good Come From A Deadly Quake

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*John G. Taylor is the Fresno Bee's religion writer.*

## Armenians need Moscow's help, FSU expert says

By SCOTT REEVES  
Bee staff writer

Soviet troops are needed to restore order in the southern Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, the acting director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State University said Monday.

Barlow DerMugredechian said Armenian intellectuals were among the first to support Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's efforts to restructure the Soviet Union and must now turn to Moscow to restore civil order in the region.

"The irony is that Gorbachev is not doing anything about this issue," DerMugredechian said. "Armenians looked to Gorbachev for help — if he could solve the problem democratically,

there wouldn't be violence. Now the irony is that troops are needed to maintain order."

The fighting escalated Monday after the weekend massacre of more than 30 Armenians in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital. Both sides reportedly have been arming themselves heavily.

According to eyewitnesses, Azerbaijani mobs roamed through the streets of Baku last week, using mimeographed address lists to locate the homes of Armenians and to drive them out.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, described the disturbances as atrocities and pogroms.

DerMugredechian said it is not accurate to describe the violence in Azerbaijan as a civil war since the Armenians have lived

## Armenians

Continued from Metro page

in the region for about 3,000 years and constitute more than 80 percent of the population. He said an arbitrary decision by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in the 1920s to turn the region over to the Azerbaijanis guaranteed instability in the future.

"Armenians are not committing aggressive acts," he said. "If you read the news reports carefully, you see that the victims are the Armenians."

He said recent reports have included accounts of Azerbaijanis destroying an Armenian church and burning religious objects.

The Azerbaijanis are mainly Islamic and the Armenians are overwhelmingly Christian. The main issue is the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, the mountainous region of western Azerbaijan where the Armenian majority is demanding unification with Armenia.

A state of emergency was declared in the region Monday and Moscow sent troops there to quell what it called efforts to overthrow

the government by force.

The Soviet Union once presented Baku as a showcase of inter-ethnic cooperation. However, Tass reported that Azerbaijani gangs have ransacked the houses of Armenians. In many cases, the household goods of Armenian families have been set on fire.

"By doing nothing, the Soviet Union encourages violence," DerMugredechian said. "The implicit message to the Azerbaijanis is: 'We won't do anything, so continue.' " The Soviet central government has refused to take up the issue — discussion on it has been postponed since February 1988."

He said the Russians have attempted to make the Armenians into citizens of the Soviet Union by starting Russian schools in the region. But the people continue to see themselves as Armenians — not as Russians.

"They are the people who have been living in the region for years," DerMugredechian said. "The land is just a part of them, a part of their family and a part of their society."

He said about 40,000 Armenians live in the San Joaquin Valley and most are following events closely.



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# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

DATE January 26, 1990

SUBJECT Temple Beth Israel Expresses Sympathy to  
Armenian Community

PAGE 1 of 1

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**TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL  
OF FRESNO  
EXPRESSES ITS SYMPATHY AND  
HEARTFELT SORROW TO THE  
ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OVER THE  
TRAGIC MASSACRES IN AZERBAIJAN**

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, N.Y.DATE February 8, 1990SUBJECT Armenian Studies Courses Offered at CSUF  
on Armenia and the GenocidePAGE 1 of 1

## Armenian Studies Courses Offered At CSU Fresno On Armenia And The Genocide

FRESNO, Ca. - The CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering two one-unit courses as part of its Spring 1990 schedule.

Armenian Studies 120T-Soviet Armenia Today will explore current events in Armenia, concentrating on events since the December 1988 earthquake and in particular on the political struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Armenians. Mark Malkasian, a native of Fresno who studied for year in Yerevan, will be the guest lecturer for the course which will be held Friday, March 16 (4:10 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), and Saturday, March 17 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

Armenian Studies 120T-The Armenian Genocide will examine the Armenian Genocide of

1915 perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish government. The political results of the Genocide will be viewed in the context of international relations, concentrating on the recent Turkish government efforts to defeat an Armenian Genocide Resolution in the United States Congress. The course will be held on Saturday, April 7, and April 14 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on the CSUF campus.

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Acting Director of the Armenian Studies Program, will coordinate the teaching of the two courses.

For more information, contact the ASP at 294-2669. Non-students may enroll in the course through the Division of Extended Education, for a fee of \$75.00.



SOURCE Hav Gyan'k: Glendale, CADATE February 9, 1990SUBJECT CSUF Courses to Examine Armenia, Genocide  
of 1915PAGE 1 of 1

### *CSUF Courses To Examine Armenia, Genocide Of 1915*

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## Armenian Community Vigil San Joaquin Valley

FRESNO — The Armenian Community Council (ACC) of the San Joaquin Valley is sponsoring a community-wide vigil on Wednesday, February 21 to demonstrate solidarity with Armenian and Jewish victims of the pogroms in the Azerbaijani Soviet Republic and to encourage Congress to pass the April 24th Armenian Genocide Resolution. The vigil will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Fresno County Courthouse Plaza (M Street side). All Armenians and friends throughout the San Joaquin Valley are requested to be present. A brief program will highlight the vigil.

Since February of 1988 extraordinary circumstances have tested the Armenian people, beginning with the massacres of Armenians in Sumgait in February of 1988, followed by the earthquake of December 7, 1988 and the recent murders, beatings, and forced expulsions aimed at driving Armenians and Jews out of Azerbaijan. Compounding this has been the virtual complete rail blockade of Armenia imposed by the Azerbaijani Popular Front and which has succeeded in keeping much needed fuel, food, and earthquake relief supplies from Armenia.

In addition, the imminent vote by Congress on the April 24th Armenian Genocide Resolution has mobilized the community to show their support for passage of the Resolution through a "Life March to Washington" which will be held March 3-6 in Washington D.C.

The Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley was organized as a framework to work in cooperation on such issues as April 24th, Armenian earthquake relief, and other Armenian community related issues. The ACC is open to representatives from all duly organized Armenian organizations in the San Joaquin Valley.





# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CA

DATE February 15, 1990

SUBJECT CSUF Offers Two Courses on Armenian Studies  
This Spring

PAGE 1 of 1

## CSU Fresno Offers Two Courses On Armenian Studies This Spring

FRESNO - The California State University Fresno Armenian Studies Program is offering two one-unit courses, "Soviet Armenia Today" and "The Armenian Genocide" as part of its Spring 1990 schedule.

"Soviet Armenia Today" will explore current events, concentrating on events since the December 1988 earthquake and in particular on the political struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Mark Malkasian of Fresno, who spent a year in Armenia at the Yerevan State University, will be the guest lecturer for the course which will be held March

16 (4:10 p.m. to 10 p.m.) and March 17, (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

The next course will examine the Armenian genocide of 1915 perpetrated by the Turkish government. The political results of the Genocide will be viewed in the context of international relations, focusing on the recent Turkish government efforts to defeat an Armenian Genocide Resolution in the United States Congress. The course will be held on April 7 and April 14, (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) on the CSUF campus.

For more information, call the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, (209) 294-2669.

SOURCE Hay Gvank: Glendale, CADATE February 16, 1990SUBJECT San Joaquin Valley Armenians Form United  
CouncilPAGE 1 of 2

## *San Joaquin Valley Armenians Form United Council*

*By John G. Taylor  
The Fresno Bee*

An array of San Joaquin Valley Armenian organizations has welded together to press for recognition of the Armenian genocide, keep alive cultural heritage and more effectively respond to crises like the 1988 Armenian earthquake.

The newly born Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley has already scheduled three major events:

1) A vigil/rally at 7:00 p.m. Feb. 21 behind the Fresno County Courthouse. Allan Y. Jendian, council secretary, said the goal is "to support the genocide resolution and to show solidarity with all our suffering people

*Please, See P.25*

in Armenia."

2) An ecumenical service at 7:00 p.m. April 22 to commemorate Armenian Martyrs' Day. It will be at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.

3) A civic observance of Martyrs' Day at 7:30 p.m. April 24 at the William Saroyan Theater, featuring speakers and music.

The council also is giving serious consideration to a "Life March" in Washington, D.C., from March 3-6. The Rev. Roger Minassian is the chairman to the subcommittee that will bring back a resolution for the council to consider this week.

The "Life March" would encourage passage of the Armenian genocide resolution, demonstrate solidarity with Armenian and Jewish victims of pogroms in the Transcaucasian republics and request increased foreign aid and emergency assistance for Armenia.

The council is the successor to the United Armenian Earthquake Relief Committee of the San Joaquin Valley. Officers of that group took similar posts with the council.



SOURCE Hay Gyank: Glendale, CA

DATE February 16, 1990

SUBJECT San Joaquin Valley Armenians Form United Council

PAGE 2 of 2

Council co-chairmen are the Rev. Vartan Kasparian, former pastor of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yettem and recently named vicar general of Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America; and Richard Darmanian, director of the Fresno chapter of the Armenian National Committee. Treasurer is Bob Der Mugrdechian Sr., chairman of the Fresno chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union. The Rev. Harry N. Missirlian, pastor emeritus of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, is adviser.

The group's membership is open to all Armenian churches in the valley, and all "duly established" valley Armenian organizations. Churches and groups are allowed one voting representative each. All active Armenian pastors are ex officio members with one vote each. Other Armenian clergy may serve as non-voting advisers.

Seventeen churches or groups were represented in the council's first regular meeting last week.

Allan Jendian, chairman of the Fresno chapter of the Armenian Assembly of America, said all parties agreed to put aside their ideological differences to address common purposes. The valley's Armenian community numbers about 30,000.

Although membership and attendance at the council is limited to Armenians, the vigil and other observances aim to involve the entire community.

"We don't need to tell our story to our own people," Jendian said. "We need to tell it to those we work with and those who we have everyday activities with."

Salpy Adams, a council member and matron of the Daughters of Vartan, said, "The earthquake committee proved the value of acting together."

This month's vigil is timed to heighten awareness of the genocide resolution, which the U.S. Senate may act on in March.

"We want people to see the moral issue that's at hand," said Jendian.

Balow Der Mugrdechian, of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State University, said that because national Armenian organizations are attempting to address recent strife in the Soviet Union, efforts on the resolution have not been visible as they might have been.

"They're quite rightly concerned about the present safety of Armenian people and the future status of the Armenian nation," added Darmanian.

■

SOURCE Asbarez: Glendale, CADATE February 17, 1990SUBJECT Armenian Studies courses at CSUF to Study  
Armenia and the GenocidePAGE 1 of 1

## Armenian Studies Courses at CSUF to Study Armenia, Genocide

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# Resolution hits roadblock

## Debate on Armenian massacre

By MICHAEL DOYLE  
Bee Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday took up at long last a controversial resolution commemorating the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians, and immediately ran into a potentially lethal legislative roadblock.

Supporters of the resolution are now proposing several compromises in an effort to overcome opposition from the Bush administration and former Senate majority leader Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.

Notably, one compromise would permit the commemorative measure to take effect without the signature of President Bush. This would get Bush off the hook that he's been impaled on since his 1988 campaign promise that he would support an Armenian genocide resolution. It would also take the word "genocide" out of the resolution's title.

Since becoming president, Bush and his top administration officials have fought the resolution behind the scenes, arguing that it would interfere with the United States' strategic relationship with Turkey.

"Why do we go out of our way to insult a friendly ally," Byrd asked. "We're raking over old ashes."

Using Senate procedures, Byrd is attempting to prevent the genocide resolution from even coming up for Senate consideration. Supporters of the resolution will need 60 votes Thursday to overcome Byrd's objections and obtain a vote on the actual resolution.

Resolution author Sen. Robert

Dole, R-Kan, said Tuesday that he currently has 46 co-sponsors.

In Fresno, San Joaquin Valley Armenians and their supporters will hold a vigil-rally at 7 p.m. today behind the Fresno County Courthouse to draw attention to the genocide resolution and the needs of ethnic minorities in the Soviet Union.

Scheduled to speak are Fresno Mayor Karen Humphrey, Rabbi Kenneth I. Segel of Temple Beth Israel and Berj Karapetian of the Armenian National Committee. Armenians and Jews from around the country have scheduled an "Armenian Life March" in Washington, D.C., on March 4-6 to do grass-roots lobbying on their concerns.

As originally written, the congressional resolution would have set aside April 24 as a day to commemorate the "Armenian genocide of 1915-1923." An estimated 1.5 million Armenians are thought to have died during that period, in the final days of the Ottoman Empire.

On Tuesday, Dole proposed changing his resolution so that April 24 would be recognized as "Armenian Martyrs Day." In the text of the resolution, Dole further proposed changing the first reference from "genocide" to the "systematic destruction of the Armenian people."

This phrasing is essentially identical to the standard dictionary definition of genocide. Further in the text of the resolution, moreover, Dole proposes keeping language that would have Congress join Armenians and others in remembering the "Armenian genocide."

"I would hope that we can present the facts in a way that doesn't offend anybody," Dole said.

Dole is attempting to negotiate among several parties, each of which has an intense interest in the resolution's wording. Armenian

SOURCE The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CADATE February 21, 1990SUBJECT Armenian Genocide Resolution Hits Roadblock PAGE 2 of 2

## Armenian

Continued from Metro page

community groups insist that the word "genocide" must appear in the resolution for it to be meaningful; this very word, however, causes the greatest problem among administration officials.

White House officials, too, have been seeking compromise language for a commemorative resolution that would cause least offense to the Turkish government. Turkey has bitterly opposed the resolution, both this year and in previous years, and has threatened to retaliate if the measure passes.

Turkey currently allows American soldiers and intelligence techni-

cians to use bases within the country; this poses numerous advantages, as Turkey is the NATO country with the largest common border along the Soviet Union.

Along with proposing some language changes in his resolution, Dole is proposing to change it from a "joint" to a "concurrent" resolution. This would remove the necessity of a presidential signature.

At least one Armenian activist group lined up behind Dole's compromise attempt on Tuesday night.

"It's a sincere offer," said Ross Vartian, executive director of the Armenian Assembly of America, "and we'll see if that offer takes."

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*Bee Staff Writer John G. Taylor contributed to this story.*



## Fresno Experts Release Report on Fact-Finding Trip

FRESNO - The Fresno-based Armenian Agricultural Reconstruction Agency (AARA) last week released a report on their trip to Armenia last July when a team of four conducted an assessment of agricultural conditions following the devastating earthquake of 1988.

In addition to evaluating the agricultural needs in Armenia, the visit served to set up contacts and lines of communication with the agricultural community and institutes of higher education, and to suggest projects which would be of most benefit to Armenia.

The report details the need to rebuild the agricultural potential in Armenia, improving production, distribution, and preservation of agricultural products. Suggestions were also made for soil preservation and rehabilitation.

Specific suggestions were made to improve cold storage of apples through an "apple dip;" improve the cattle stock of Armenia through artificial insemination; incorporate resistant varieties of wheat and other grain; and to utilize winery wastes to make useful oils.

In addition, the group recommended that a sugar-producing plant be built in Spitak to replace the one completely destroyed during the earthquake. The plant would use technology developed in Armenia and use the Jerusalem artichoke as the major source for the sugars. The estimated cost of setting up such an industrial line is about \$1.2 million.

Moreover, the agricultural experts noted, there is a need to establish a network of farm advisors to disseminate the latest advance in farming technique.

The AARA was established by Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Arden Kashishian, Sarkis Sahatdjian, and Sarkis Srabian who were the four members of the reconnaissance team, who was sponsored by the AGBU and Mrs. Louise Manoogian Simone.

A student exchange program is also being planned where students from Armenia will be brought to the United States for intensive training.

For further information about the AARA's projects, call (209) 294-2669.





Fresno Bee/Mark Crosse

Berj Karapetian, a member of the Armenian National Committee, speaks at Wednesday's rally behind the County Courthouse.

## 600 at Fresno vigil

### Genocide bill gets support

■ Massacre survivor tells her story, Metro page

■ Vote today on Senate resolution, A10

By ANGELA VALDIVIA  
Bee staff writer

It was clear to the hundreds of people attending the candlelight vigil Wednesday night in downtown Fresno that there was an Armenian genocide, and now they want it in writing.

"With the American, Armenian and California flags and a large poster reading "Solidarity" as a backdrop, the Rev. Artoon Sempadian, pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church in Yettam, said Congress must "go on the record."

"Armenians want April 24 declared a day to commemorate the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923.

"We must stand up and say 'No' — we will not let distortion take place," said Berj Karapetian, a member of the Armenian National Committee.

The vigil-rally that was held behind the Fresno County Courthouse and attended by more than 600 people was staged in part to draw attention to the genocide resolution presently being debated by the U.S. Senate.

If passed, the congressional resolution will establish April 24 as a day of recognition of the estimated 1.5 million Armenians who died from 1915 to 1923.

"A lot of people think this is an Armenian concern," Sempadian said. "It is not. It touches the entire human race. Many nations have been subjected to a genocide, and I ask you who will be next?"

Mayor Karen Humphrey, who also spoke at the vigil, said the passage of the resolution is a "very important statement for human rights. It gets down to something real basic ... the truth."

The vigil-rally was also held to muster support for a Armenian Life March in Washington, D.C., on March 4-6. The march will focus on encouraging the adoption of the Armenian Genocide Resolution by the Congress and President. People who attend also plan to do grassroots lobbying on their concerns about the Armenians in the Soviet Union.





# ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

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SUBJECT Fresno Vigil in Support of the Armenian  
Genocide Bill

PAGE 2 of 2

They plan to make a request for increased foreign aid, emergency assistance, and refugee relief for Armenia.

"We have a responsibility not to let these people die," Sempadian said.

The Rev. Roger Minassian, pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno and chairman of the march, said, "We are going there to lobby for human treatment of the ethnic minorities in the Soviet Union."

A National League of Cities annual congressional meeting is being held in Washington the same time as the march. It will allow Mayor Humphrey and Council Member Tom Bohigian to join.

Rabbi Kenneth I. Segel of Temple Beth Israel in Fresno, who has been an organizer and instrumental in the movement toward a resolution, told the rally, "We can't change what happened in the past, but we can influence the history of the future."

## Fresno Group Issues Report on Trip to Assess Armenia's Agricultural Needs

**FRESNO**—The Armenian Agricultural Reconstruction Agency (AARA) has released an Agricultural Reconnaissance Report on its trip to Armenia in July 1989 when a team of four conducted an assessment of agriculture following the devastating earthquake of 1988.

The purpose of the trip was to evaluate the agricultural needs in Armenia, to set up contacts and lines of communication with the agricultural community and institutes of higher education, and to suggest projects which would be of most benefit to agriculture in the homeland.

The report details the need to rebuild the agricultural potential in Armenia, specifically concentrating on improving production, distribution and preservation of agricultural products. Suggestions were also made in the areas of soil preservation and rehabilitation. Specific recommendations were made to improve cold storage of apples through an "apple dip," to improve the cattle stock through artificial insemination, to incorporate resistant varieties of wheat and other grain, and to utilize winery wastes to make useful oils.

In addition, the group recommended that a sugar producing plant be built in Spitak to replace the one completely destroyed in the quake. The plant would use technology developed in Armenia

and use the Jerusalem artichoke as the major source for the sugars. The estimated cost of setting up such an industrial line is about \$1.2 million.

In addition, there is a need to establish a network of farm advisors to disseminate the latest advances in farming technique. The AARA, based in Fresno, was established by Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Arden Kashishian, Sarkis Sahatdjian, and Sarkis Srabian—members of the reconnaissance team sent to Armenia under the sponsorship of the AGBU and Mrs. Louise Manoogian Simone. In the course of their two-week stay in Armenia, the group had the opportunity to visit the major research institutes dealing with agriculture as well as to visit several farms and ranches to see those operations firsthand.

A student exchange program is also being planned where students from Armenia will be brought to the United States for intensive training.

The AARA would like to assist anyone interested in the agricultural recovery in Armenia. Those interested in contacting the AARA can telephone Barlow Der Mugrdchian at (209) 294-2669. The AARA will serve as a clearing-house of information in order to make the most efficient use of resources. □



# Armenians take protest to DC

## Genocide bill focus of action

By JOHN G. TAYLOR  
Bee staff writer

With congressional focus on the Armenian genocide resolution slipping away, Armenians, Jews and others from around the country will gather today in Washington to begin three days of rallies, vigils and grass-roots lobbying on the resolution, ethnic strife in the Soviet Union and earthquake relief.

The "Armenian Life March" was pulled together in less than a month by the newly-formed Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley, which built a network among communities nationwide.

Activities will begin with an ecumenical service at noon today on the west steps of the Capitol.

Scheduled to participate are Rabbi Richard Sternburger, director of the Mid-Atlantic Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Bishop Papken Varjabe-dian, diocesan legate of the Armenian Church; Bishop Aris Shirvanian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church; the Rev. Khajag Barsamian, vicar general of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church; and the Rev. Clark Lobensteine, executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Washington, D.C.

The keynote address will be given by Rabbi Kenneth I. Segel of Fresno's Temple Beth Israel. Segel and

temple delegates gave added momentum to the genocide measure when they successfully pushed through a commemorative resolution at a convention last year of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, a major Reform Jewish organization.

Services at Washington-area Armenian churches have been scheduled to allow parishioners to attend the Capitol service. A council spokesman estimated there are 1,600 Armenians in the Washington area. Buses are expected from Armenian communities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. More than 60 people from the West Coast are expected to attend, organizers said, most of them from the Fresno area.

Monday, teams from the march will do door-to-door lobbying at the offices of senators and representatives. Organizers said their goal is that each team will include an Armenian cleric, a rabbi, a survivor of the genocide and an Armenian college student. At least seven Fresno State University students have signed up for the march.

A candlelight vigil is scheduled Monday night in Lafayette Park, across from the White House. More lobbying of lawmakers is scheduled for Tuesday. A prayer vigil has been planned for Tuesday afternoon outside the Turkish Embassy, with the theme "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Most valley-area marchers and organizers expect to return home Tuesday night.

See **Protest**, Page B7

## Protest

Continued from Metro page

Backers of the U.S. Senate genocide resolution failed in two attempts in the last two weeks to halt debate on the measure and bring it to a vote. The measure would establish April 24 as a national day of remembrance for the 1.5 million Armenians murdered between 1915-23 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

The Turkish government, U.S. arms merchants, an unusual coalition of Republicans and Democrats and the Bush administration have successfully fought off the measure.

The Turks and their lobbyists argue that the deaths were not a calculated policy and occurred as the result of civil strife related to the birth of the Turkish republic. Bush, who recanted a campaign promise of support for the resolution, and other American lawmakers have voiced fears about alienating an important ally.

In the wake of Senate action, Turkey has lifted restrictions on U.S. military personnel in that country.

Turkey said senators had acted "in a statesmanlike manner" to quash the resolution, which the An-

kara government considered "a distortion of the historical facts."

The United States welcomed Turkey's decision, saying the two countries "have been and remain close friends and allies."

Spokesmen for Sen. Robert Dole, principal resolution sponsor, did not return phone calls as to whether he has future plans for the measure. He hinted recently that he might make it an amendment to other legislation. Dole and his aides have encouraged the "Armenian Life March."

The House of Representatives also may consider a genocide resolution.

In light of the resolution's problems, several members of the Armenian Community Council have emphasized the importance of other issues that the marchers will address.

These include recent bitter fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the Soviet Union; the plight of thousands of Armenian and Jewish refugees who have been uprooted by the violence; and the thousands still suffering from the disastrous 1988 Armenian earthquake.

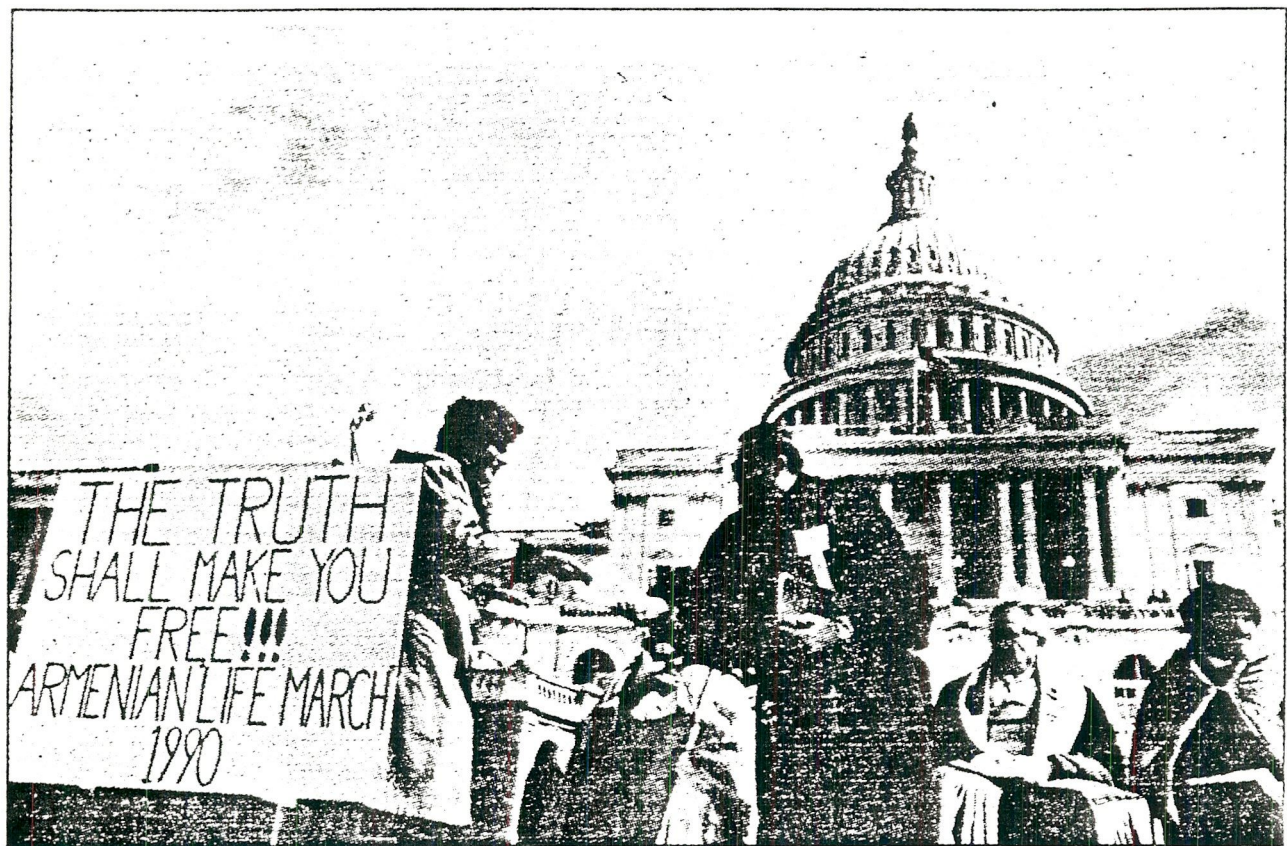


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PAGE 1 of 1



Associated Press

## Mayor with a mission

Fresno Mayor Karen Humphrey, left, confers with the Rev. Roger Minassiah of Fresno's Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church during a service held on the steps of the Capitol in Washington,

D.C. on Sunday. Humphrey was there as part of a San Joaquin Valley contingent hoping to gain support for the congressional Armenian genocide resolution.



# March gives Armenians insights

By MICHAEL DOYLE  
Bee Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Waiting for his colleagues to find the Turkish Embassy so they could start a prayer vigil that was running about half an hour late, Kevork Oflazian of Fresno reflected Tuesday afternoon on a grass-roots effort called the Armenian Life March.

"Everyone is having an extremely good education out of this," Oflazian said. "They are learning the ins and outs."

For the 64 life-march participants, including 24 from the southern San Joaquin Valley, the lessons learned in three days in Washington ranged from urban geography to public relations to advance planning.

One of those lessons was made clear a little after noon Tuesday, and it can be summed up as: before scheduling a protest, make sure everyone agrees on the address.

Confusion over the exact location of the Turkish Embassy caused Armenian-American activists to scatter their forces over the nation's capital in search of the right place. Oflazian and eight others huddled together on a windy street in front of a building flying the Turkish flag, watched over by a uniformed U.S. State Department security officer, before they got a report that most of their allies had shown up at another building.

Into taxicabs they went, and suddenly the Massachusetts Avenue sidewalk was clear, as if they had never been there at all.

Other lessons were learned Monday and Tuesday, as teams of citizens fanned out on Capitol Hill to discuss issues with lawmakers and their staff. After each meeting, participants filled out one-page reports to keep track of where the politicians stood.

Fresno resident Allan Jendian, one of the march's leaders, spent much of Tuesday morning telephoning the Washington Post

and local television stations in an effort to drum up media interest in the group's activities.

Interest was minimal, causing Jendian to sardonically wonder whether reporters would be more likely to show up if there was a possibility of violence.

"They give you the same old line," Jendian said. "They say you're on their itinerary."

Even some avowed supporters of the Armenian Life March have had difficulty finding out about plans.

Early Monday evening, the group gathered for a candlelight vigil outside the White House. The vigil was designed to focus attention on three main priorities: approval of a resolution commemorating the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians between the years 1915 and 1923; financial aid for earthquake-ravaged Soviet Armenia; and support in the struggle over the Nagorno-Karabagh region of the Soviet Union.

The Armenian-genocide resolution is controversial because it blames Turkish policies for the deaths.

It was, participants say, a moving and useful exercise. But like the prayer vigil in front of the Turkish Embassy, it was hard for some people to find.

"A lot of Washingtonians wanted to go," said Arax Sookazian, "but they didn't know the hour. There were at least 20 people I know who wanted to come."

Sookazian, a Washington area resident who soon will be moving to Fresno, which has a large Armenian-American population, allowed that "mistakes like this happen." Her view was shared by Oflazian, who noted that lessons learned from mistakes this week can be applied on future issues, not just the Armenian-genocide resolution, but foreign aid, trade, and any issues caught up in politics.

"I believe that the only way to get things done is through the system," Oflazian said. "Learn how to use the system."



## Armenian clout now felt, leaders contend

By JERRY BIER  
Bee staff writer

Leaders of this week's Armenian Life March on Washington called the trip a "positive and productive" effort for Armenian causes, both here and in the Soviet Union.

"It set the groundwork for the future," said Barlow Der Murgdechian of the Armenian Studies program at Fresno State University.

"Legislators are now aware there is a network of Armenian and Jewish groups who are willing to follow up on these causes," he said.

Der Murgdechian and two other organizers of the march spoke about the trip Wednesday.

The Rev. Roger Minassian, pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, said the next step for the lobbying effort is to monitor the Armenian-genocide resolution in Congress and to seek financial relief for earthquake-ravaged Soviet

**“Legislators are now aware there is a network of Armenian and Jewish groups who are willing to follow up on these causes.”**

**— Barlow Der Murgdechian, FSU professor**

Armenia and support in the Nagorno-Karabagh region of the Soviet Union.

The resolution is to commemorate the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. If a Senate filibuster sidetracks it for this year, "it's not the end of the world," said Minassian, adding that the effort can begin anew next year.

## Armenian

Continued from Metro page

"But if human rights are not protected, if the funding doesn't go, people are going to die," he said.

Minassian said Rep. Richard Lehman, D-Sanger, was asked to form a fact-finding team to visit the Soviet Union to allow legislators to see the problems first-hand.

Allan Jendian, secretary of the Armenian Community Council of the San Joaquin Valley, which organized the march, said although the participants were "novices in this effort of lobbying," they were able to mobilize people from 10 states.

In all, they visited all 100 Senate offices and another 100 congressional offices, he said.

The three-day Armenian Life March was organized by the Armenian Community Council and 64 persons participated, including 24 from the San Joaquin Valley.

Jendian said the effort also has resulted in Armenian groups being formed in other areas.

"Already San Francisco, Providence, R.I., and Los Angeles have said they feel the need to organize," said Jendian.

The council was formed last month by an array of valley organizations to press for recognition of the Armenian genocide, keep alive cultural heritage and respond to such crises as the 1988 Armenian earthquake.