

California State University, Fresno



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
Fresno, California 93740



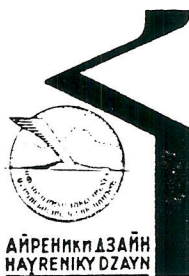
HYE SHARZHOOM NEWS SERVICE

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

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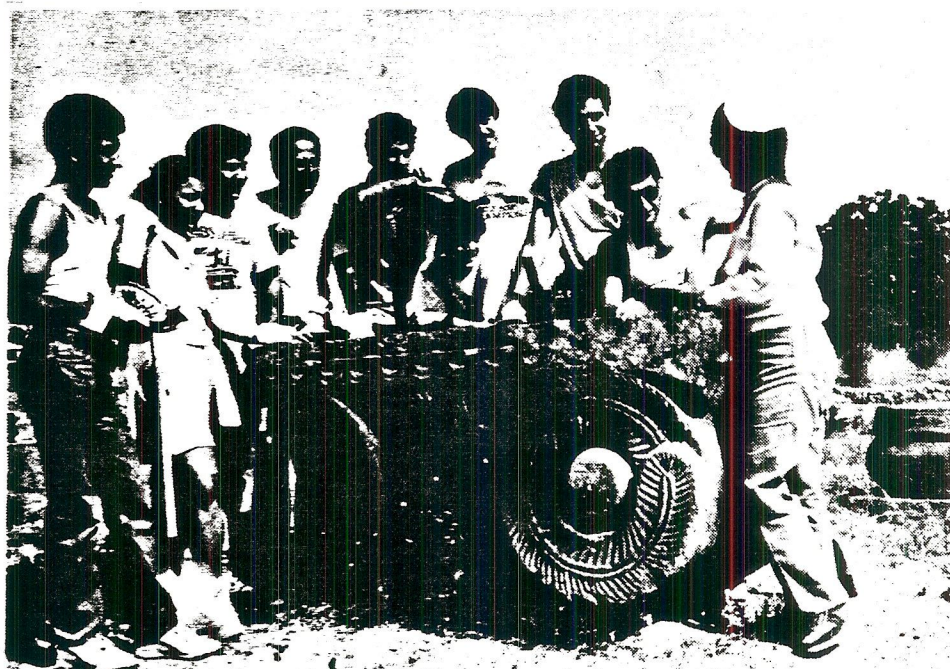
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ՀԱՐԱԶԱՏ
ԶԱԿԱԿՆԵՐ...

Ամառացիին այս պաղծառ օրերին քիչ-քիչ ժացել են մայր հայրենիք բերող երթուղիները: Վերջին տասնամյակում ամել է Հայաստանը տեսնելու փափազը հատկապես տիտղոսահաղ երիտասարդությամբ շրջանում: Գալիս են նրանք հեռավոր, Ավստրալիայից, Յոանիսպոլից, Սիրիայից, Արգենտինիացիք... Մոլորակակ գլոսաաշքեր չիկներ, պարզ հետաքրքրասերներ չեն նրանք, որ աղցելում են մշակույթի հին ու նոր արժեքները դիտելու, նորահոր սպափորուպյուններ փնտրելու: Ուխտավորներ են նրանք, որ արլան կանչով, կարոտիլ, թրթռացող սրտով ոտք են դնում մայր հողին:

Սփյուռքահայության հետ մշակութային կապի կոմիտեի հրավերով օրերս հայրենիք աղցելեցին ամերիկահայ մի խումբ պատանիներ և աղջիկներ։ Նմբի ղեկավարը՝ գեղեցիկ և մաքուր հայերեն խոսող երիտասարդ Պարույր Տեր-Մկրտչյանը, որ կալիֆորնիայի համալսարանի հայախոսական ամբիոնի դասախոսներից է, հայաճարտուշերհակ գործի է լծվել։ Ճա միաժամանակ դասավանդում է Ֆրեզնոյի համալսարանի հայագիտական ամբիոնում և հայերեն չիմացող սփյուռքահայ երիտասարդությանը մայրենի լեզուն, մշակույթը առուցանելուց զատ, ահա, կազմակերպել է ճարանց ուխտագնացությունը մայր հայրենիք։

Երկու շաբաթվա բնօրացում ամփոփա-
հայ երիտասարդները շրջագացելին հա-
րենք երկրով, հազվեցին, ոգևորվեցին ի-
րենց տեսածով ու ապրածով: Լսել ու կար-
դացել էին հայրենիքի, անցեալ կատար-
վող շատ վերափոխումների մասին: Իսկ
հիմա մոտիկից դիտում, շոշափում էին անց-
ամեն հիճն ու երրը, ինչ կազմում էր հայ-
րենի իրականությունը, յոթում ցրանով:



(Երբ մեկնարկում են՝ 8-րդ կետը)

ጉዳዩን ላይ ማስተካከያ ማድረግ፡

Լուսահայերենը՝ Գ. ԳԵՏՐՈՍՅԱՆԻ

ՀԱՐԱԶԱՏ ԶԱՎԱԿՆԵՐ...

(Սկիզբը՝ 1-ին էջում)

Խմբի անդամներից հինգը Պարույր Տեր-Մկրտչյանի գլխավորությամբ եղան ցան մեր խմբագրությունում, պատմեցին իրենց տպավորությունների մասին: Նրանցից չորսը ուսանել են Ֆրեզնոյի նահանգային համալսարանում և այժմ հետևում են հայերեն դասընթացներին:

Նրբահասակ, համակրելի դեմքով, թխրակ աչքերով Ժակին Սիսյանը խոսում է ոգևորությամբ.

— Իմ երագածեն ավելի տպավորիչ և հետաքրքիր գտա հայրենիքս, — ասում է նա: — Խումբի անդամներս նույնիսկ ակնատես եղանք մեր ժողովուրդի հայրենասիրական հուզումներում: Կենդանի տպավորությունը համակեց մեր սիրտն ու հոգին, և մենք զգացինք մեզ որպես հարազատ ժողովուրդի մեկ մասնիկը, ձուլվեցանք անոր հետ: Ես հպարտ եմ, որ հայ ժողովուրդի մեկ զավակն եմ: Հայոց լեզուն իմանալը շատ կարևոր է մեզի համար, այ-

լապես մեր գործը կեսկատար կմնա, — ավելացնում է Ժակինը, ու զգում ես, որ նա ներքնապես տառապում է մայրենին դեռ անվարձ իմանալու համար:

Դարլին Ուզունյանը համեմատաբար ավելի լավ է խոսում մայրենիով, ծնողները 1958-ին են բեյրութից արտագաղթել Ֆրեզնո: Համալսարանն ավարտելուց հետո Դարլինը ուսուցչություն է անում տեղի դպրոցում:

— Հայերեն դասընթացներում հետևել են ետքը, — ասում է նա, — նպատակ ունիմ դասավանդել հայկական դպրոցին մեջ: Ըստ կարևոր է, որ ամեն հայ դարերեն եկող իր հայրենիքը տեսնա:

— Ես այլևս մտահոգություն չունիմ, որ Հայաստանին մեջ հայ ոգին պիտի հարատևե. — ասեն՝ Դարլինի միտքն է լրացնում Հակոբ Մալխասյանը:

Նրա ավագ եղբայրը ամերիկյան համալսարանն ավարտելուց հետո մեկ տարով, որպես ստաժոր, ուսանել է Երևանի համալսարանի պատմության ֆակուլտետում: Հակոբը ևս փափագում է հետևել եղբոր օրինակին:

Ծանթ Ավագյանը՝ ամրակազմ մի պատանի, պատմում է Օշական կատարած իրենց խմբի ուղևորության մասին, որ նրանք ծնկի են եկել Մեսրոպ Մաշտոցի

գերեզմանի մոտ, այցելել Գառնի-Գեղարդ և մտքով տեղափոխվել մեր ժողովրդի պատմության խորքերը:

— Ես միայն լեռնոտ կպատկերացնեի մեր երկիրը, բայց ահա տեսա Արարատյան հրաշալի դաշտը, — ժպտալով ասում է Ծանթը: — Ըստ կուզեմ մեկ ամիս ևս մնալ հայրենիքիս մեջ:

Մեր երիտասարդ գրուցակիցներից կատաչյա, խարտյաշ Ռոբերտ Մխչյանն է միայն Լոս Անջելեսից, մնացած չորսը Ֆրեզնոյից են: Ռոբերտը ավարտել է Լոս Անջելեսի համալսարանը, տնտեսագետ է: Նա պատմեց Դվինի պեղումներին իրենց խմբի մասնակցության մասին: Այդ հիշարժան օրը, ասաց նա, կմնա իբրև իրենց կյանքի ամենաերջանիկ պահերից մեկը:

Խմբի ղեկավար Պարույր Տեր-Մկրտչյանը բոլորի անունից շնորհակալություն հայտնեց Սփյուռքահայության հետ մշակութային կապի կոմիտեին՝ երիտասարդների խումբը հայրենի երկիր հրավիրելու, նրանց հանդեպ ցուցաբերած հոգատարության համար, նշեց, որ հաջորդ տարիներին պետք է իրենք ավելի ընդլայնեն երիտասարդների խմբական այցելությունները մայր հայրենիք:

Մ. ՆԱԴԻՅԱՆ

INSIGHT

California State University, Fresno

Vol. XXI, No. 3

Wednesday, September 28, 1988

Military show by Soviets enforces Armenian resolve for reunification

By Kristin Lee
Staff reporter

It has been widely reported that Soviet Armenia is close to revolt, a belief enforced by the Soviet show of force in the Armenian capital of Yerevan late last week.

But Dr. Dickran Kouymjian of the CSUF Armenian Studies department says that the Armenian people, although angry, have hope that through legal means, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev will return the Karabagh to Armenia.

The people of Armenia and Karabagh are asking the Soviet government to reconsider a decision made by Stalin in 1923 that gave the region of Azerbaijan control over the Karabagh, formerly under Armenian control, said Kouymjian, who spent four months teaching in Armenia in 1987.

A petition was circulated by Armenians in Armenia and Karabagh in 1987 asking that Karabagh be re-

turned to Armenian control.

When the unrest in Soviet Armenia began in February 1988, Kouymjian said, Armenians had nothing against the government. The Armenians believed that Gorbachev and his reforms had created an atmosphere in which open discussion of past mistakes was welcome.

In March, a massacre killed 26 Armenians and six police in the town of Sumgait in the Karabagh during three days of rioting, according to Soviet media. Kouymjian believes between 300 and 400 were killed and the riot was "probably state directed."

"The Turks ran wild with no police intervention," said Kouymjian. Since then, 3,000 Armenians have fled the Karabagh region and have gone to Armenia; and some Turks have fled to Azerbaijan.

Armenians were shocked by the Sumgait massacre.

When Armenia first became part of

the U.S.S.R., the small country considered itself protected by the Soviet Union. The people no longer felt they had to worry about being invaded or attacked by Turks because they had the protection of a large nation. Kouymjian said, "Sumgait shattered that instantly."

Kouymjian said there were two main reasons the Armenian faith in Gorbachev and the Soviet government failed.

First, the government did little to reprimand Azerbaijanis for the massacre.

Sumgait was closed to everyone except residents for two months after the tragedy. Out of the thousands that participated in killing Armenians, only 100 were arrested. One man, tried in June for killing ~~hundreds~~, received only 15 years in prison. The court that tried him was in Azerbaijan.

The second reason Armenians lost faith in the Soviet government happened in July when the Kremlin in

Moscow formally considered the question of whether Karabagh should belong to Armenia. The answer was a unanimous no.

The Armenians want a change in structure. They are asking for land allotment to return to the way it was in 1923 when the Karabagh land, populated predominantly by Armenians, belonged to Armenia instead of to Azerbaijan, a region populated predominantly by Turks.

Gorbachev did nothing to stop the demonstrations when they first began in February of 1987. This gave Armenians the impression that he was on their side and wanted to hear the people's opinions. But the latest Soviet action has Soviet troops and armored personnel carriers keeping a tenuous peace in Yerevan.

After the Sumgait massacre, "the Western press quickly distorted the story," said Kouymjian.

Since Azerbaijan is mostly Mos-

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ARMENIA

Continued from page 1

tem, and Armenia and the Karabagh are mostly Christian, Kouymjian said the papers turned the protests into a struggle of religions when it was really a struggle of Turks against Armenians.

Kouymjian said Western media thrive on the idea that Soviet people dislike the Soviet government and want to revolt against it.

"I wouldn't believe everything in the papers," said Kouymjian. "Papers are distorted."

John Taylor, news editor of *The Fresno Bee*, said the international news that is printed comes from the wire services. They keep the news as accurate as possible by comparing stories on the same topic from various wire services.

"We take balance and fairness seriously," said Taylor. "It is our responsibility to get the best of the best. We subscribe to so many services to be fair. We have to rely on the big boys."

The largest demonstrations in Soviet history began after the Sumgait massacre, numbering 100,000 to 200,000 people. An open forum began where anyone could speak. "Like a people's democracy," said Kouymjian. There was no army intervention. A general strike occurred, and everything stopped. Kouymjian said this is when Gorbachev and the government in Moscow began to make personal appeals to Armenians to end the strike.

The Karabagh set up a committee and sent two delegates to speak with Gorbachev in Moscow: a female poet and a male journalist met with Gorbachev who asked that the demonstrations stop.

By this time the demonstrations had reached 800,000 to one million

people, said Kouymjian.

The population of Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia is 1.3 million, so a demonstration of one million is almost the entire city, said Kouymjian.

The Soviet people heard nothing of the demonstrations until six weeks later. And when they did report the demonstrations, they played down the size and attributed them to "Anti-Soviet forces," said Kouymjian.

Western media, said Kouymjian, reported the demonstrations as an anti-Soviet uprising, "but it wasn't."

"The moment the Western press saw it was not anti-Soviet, they lost interest even though the demonstrations were getting larger," said Kouymjian.

Kouymjian said Armenians still thought Gorbachev would agree with them if they took only legal measures.

The leaders of the movement in Armenia and the Karabagh then decided how best to proceed in a legal manner in furthering their cause, said Kouymjian.

The Supreme Soviet Council and Parliament of Karabagh voted to be under Armenian jurisdiction. The Armenian Supreme Soviet Council and Parliament met, voted, and came to the same conclusion.

"A republic willing to take a region and a region willing to join a republic," said Kouymjian. It was all legal according to the Soviet constitution, but the territorial struggle has not yet ended.

Kouymjian said the reason the Soviet government is not willing to change the law is because there is no pressure to. He said Turkey is an ally of the United States, and won't say anything if the U.S.S.R. is hard on the Armenians. Neither will most of Western Europe.

The Armenians had planned to have a demonstration the day after the decision in July no matter what the

outcome was. But along with the decision, came a decree that there should be no more demonstrations. So rather than defy the government and risk getting thousands killed, Yerevan became a dead city.

"Nobody came out for anything," said Kouymjian. The strikes stopped everywhere except in Karabagh, which continued to be on strike until August.

Currently, there is a demonstration in Yerevan every Friday of 100,000 to 200,000 people. Armenians have just begun to fight, said Kouymjian.

There has been a change in attitude towards the government.

"Sentiment is more than discouraged, it is hostile," said Kouymjian.

There is little they can do. "Karabagh leaders say 'give us to Armenia or bring in the tanks'," said Kouymjian. It may be the beginning of another permanent strike. They want to go back to 1923 and do it legally.

The government manipulated peaceful crowds to make them hostile, but it didn't work, said Kouymjian.

Soviet troops are enforcing a 9 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew in Karabagh. Demonstrators have asked local authorities in Yerevan to hold an emergency session to support reunification with Armenia, but those demands have yet to be answered.

"It doesn't look very good," said Kouymjian, referring to the chances of Karabagh being given to Armenia.

"Armenians believe that they will win because they are right. The Armenian nation has regained a national sense of dignity and identity," said Kouymjian. "Everybody in Armenia is pro-Karabagh. For the first time, Armenians have taken their destiny into their own hands."

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

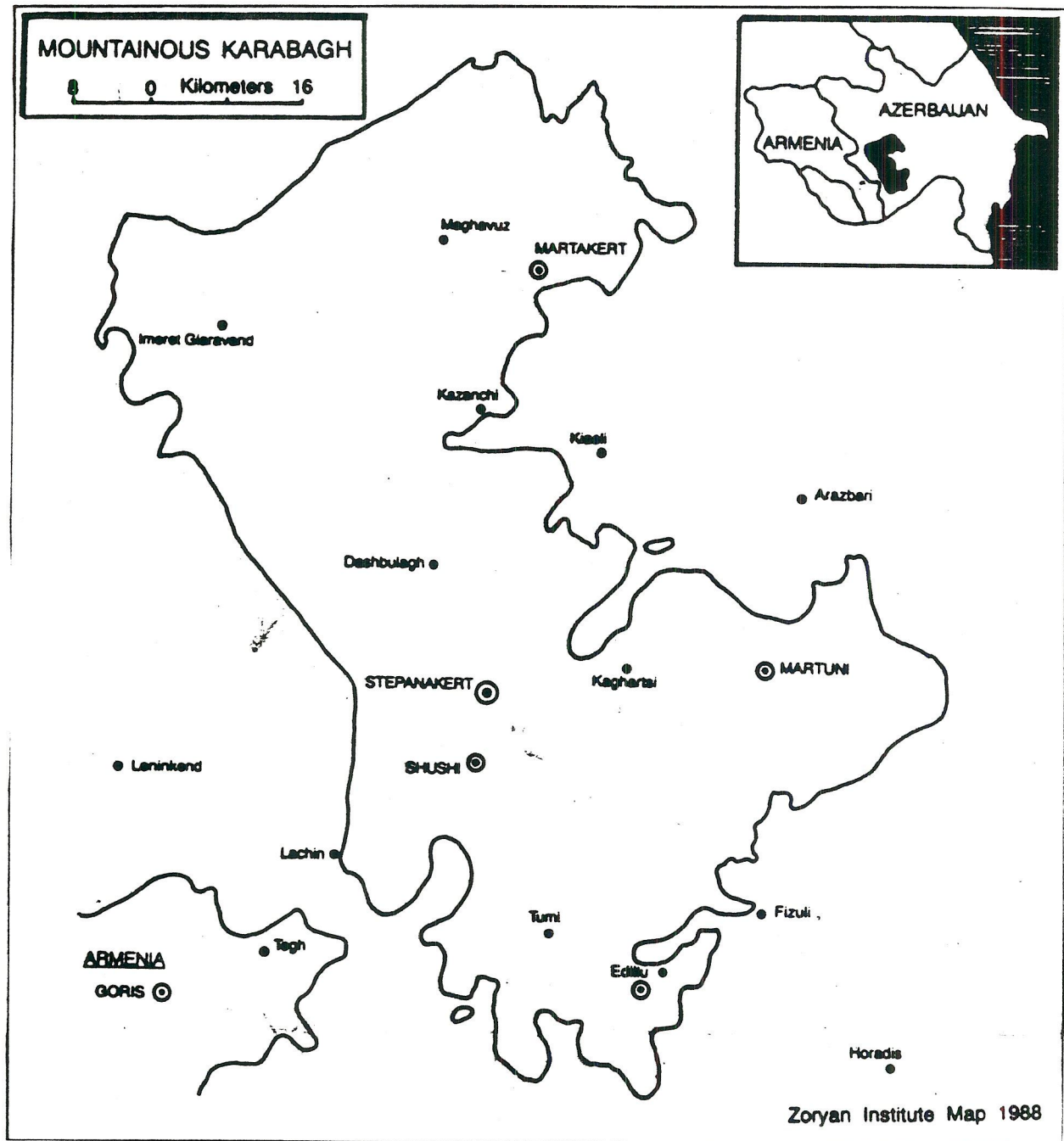
- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Insight: Fresno, CA

DATE September 28, 1988

SUBJECT Interview With Dr. Kouymjian about
Karabagh

PAGE 3 of 3





ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Reporter: Fresh Meadows, N.Y. DATE October 6, 1988
SUBJECT ASP Benefit Banquet for the Endowed Chair PAGE 1 of 1

ASP Annual Banquet Set for Oct. 22

FRESNO, Calif. - The Leon S. Peters Business Building and Valley Business Center on the campus of California State University, Fresno will be the setting for the third annual banquet of the Armenian Studies Program on Saturday, October 22, 1988. The banquet proceeds will be used to fund an Endowed Chair in Armenian Studies at CSUF. The banquet will also provide an opportunity to tour the new offices of the Center for Armenian Studies and Armenian Studies Program which are located in the Peters Business Building.

The campaign for the Endowed Chair started last year with the raising of \$50,000 through the community. The goal is to raise \$300,000 to establish the Endowed Chair, which will provide the opportunity to name a distinguished scholar to the position.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, has announced that Dr. Richard Pinkerton, Director of the Valley Business Center, will deliver the keynote address at the banquet. Dr. Pinkerton is a well-known community leader who heads the privately funded VBC in its efforts to draw community business leaders and the university together. The VBC conducts seminars and workshops providing expertise for Valley leaders to improve their skills.

Entertainment for the evening will be a performance of traditional Armenian dance by the Arax Armenian Dancers of Fresno.

Tickets for the annual Banquet are available through the Armenian Studies Program of the Armenian Students Organization. The tax-deductible donation is \$35.00 per person, which includes a social hour and an escorted tour of the new facilities. Advance reservations only will be accepted. Reservations can be made by calling the ASP at 294-2669.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Armenian Life: Glendale, CA

DATE October 7, 1988

SUBJECT ASP Annual Banquet

PAGE 1 of 1

CSUF Armenian Studies Program Banquet, Oct. 22

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Entertainment for the evening will be a performance of traditional Armenian dance by the Arax Armenian Dancers of Fresno. The dance troupe returned from an educational tour of Armenia participating in dance workshops where they enriched their repertoire.

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THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Students take jaunt to Armenia

BY HANIF MOORAD
Staff Writer

Eight CSUF students visited Soviet Armenia last summer and got a taste of what it's like to be in the midst of mass meetings involving millions of people, according to Barlow Der Mugardechian, professor of Armenian Studies.

The students made a first-time trip to Armenia, one of the 15 Soviet republics, on an educational tour after being invited by the Committee of Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad, based in Armenia.

The time period in which the tour took place, according to Der Mugardechian, was vital for the people of Armenia, as mass demonstrations involving 500,000 to millions of people were taking place.

He added that these were not typical demonstrations, but rather they were meetings, "gathering of all kinds of people. There was no shoving or cursing in these demonstrations."

Jacqueline Sislian, president of Armenian Student Organization, who was part of the trip, said that the "trip was good, I had an excellent time. It was really educational."

She said that before she went to Armenia, she had recently learned about the country in a class and everything was fresh in her mind on the trip.

When she saw the demonstrations, "at first I didn't understand what they were demonstrating for, but when explained I understood," Sislian said. "The demonstrations were peaceful, there was no violence, it was really interesting."

To be on the safe side, Sislian did not go to every demonstration because they were so huge it was easy to lose the group and she did not know how to speak Armenian very well, she said.

Sislian, whose father is an Armenian, said that she "wanted to go because it was important to visit her fatherland. I am studying about my culture and heritage, and it was great time to go."

Commenting on the Armenian people, she said that "The people were the friendliest people I've ever met. They knew we were Americans, and they were interested in learning about us."

Darlene Ouzounian, a graduate Liberal Studies student whose parents are from Armenia, was also a part of the trip and said it "was excellent, I was skeptical about going in the beginning, it wasn't what my expectations were."

She expected more villages, and said she "wasn't expecting a developed city."

Ouzounian said she met her father's first cousin during the visit and "it was exciting to see them; my father hasn't seen them in 40 years."

She concluded that "It was a great experience and I would go again."

Most of the students on the trip, according to Der Mugardechian, were Armenian-Americans.

"This was the first time that most of them had been overseas, and also the first time in Armenia, an area where their grandparents or great-grandparents lived," he said.

This was the first tour involving students to Armenia and Der Mugardechian

*'(It) was excellent, I was skeptical
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—Darlene Ouzounian

plans "to organize such trips for succeeding years."

In 1982 Der Mugrdechian took a group of students to Jerusalem. He added that in the future he would try to get students to go to Armenia from all over the United States.

Student paid only their air fare for this trip and the rest of the expenses were picked up by the committee which invited them over, according to Der Mugrdechian.

The demonstrations that students witnessed had really begun in February of this year in response to the issue of Karabagh, a Soviet republic administered by the Soviet's.

In 1923, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin made a decision which gave the region of Azerbaijan control over the Karabagh, formerly under Armenian control, and now the people of Armenia want the Soviet government to reconsider it and return Karabagh to the Armenians.

Der Mugrdechian said that "when we went in June, four days later the city was closed to tourists," and his group just got out in time.

"We stayed in Hotel Armenia, which is in the center of the city where we could witness the demonstrations."

Please see JAUNT, page 9

JAUNT

Continued from page 3

He said that the recent changes in Gorbachev's policies have given the people of Armenia freedom they never had. The people are for the first time free to express themselves, which according to Der Mugrdechian, they did through meetings and in newspapers by criticizing government policies.

"Other than that there is no freedom like it is in America," he said.

Der Mugrdechian said that the people of Armenia were let down by Gorbachev when "recently in July the decision was made that the control of Karabagh would not go to the people of Armenia." Eighty percent of people in Karabagh are Armenians, but that figure is decreasing.

Gorbachev's decision "let Armenians down because they were expecting their demands to come true. He is getting pressure to not give in."

Even though demonstrations were taking place before the trip took place, "there was never any fear of violence; we knew people who had gone there and they said there was no violence," according to Der Mugrdechian

There was no anti-American feeling among the Armenian people, Der Mugrdechian and the students said.

"People were happy to see Americans visiting their homeland," Der Mugrdechian added.

The trip, according to Der Mugrdechian, "was not simply a tour. We met with other students and we had discussions about life in Armenia and they asked us what it was to be a student in America."

4U3**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Asbarez: Glendale, CADATE October 8, 1988SUBJECT ASP Benefit Banquet for Endowed
ChairPAGE 1 of 1

Asbarez

ENGLISH EDITION

Banquet to benefit Endowed Chair at CSUF

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The campaign for the Chair started last year with the raising of \$50,000 through the community. The goal is to raise \$300,000.

Dr. Richard Pinkerton, Director of the Valley Business Center, will deliver the keynote address at the banquet.

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Tickets for the annual banquet are available through the Armenian Studies Program of the Armenian Students Organization. The tax-deductible donation is \$35 which includes a social hour and an escorted tour of the new facilities. Only advance reservations will be accepted, which can be made by calling the ASP at (209) 294-2669. □

4U3

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CA DATE October 12, 1988

SUBJECT Author Negdar Tabibian in Fresno PAGE 1 of 1

Negdar Tabibian will be in Fresno on Oct. 17

FRESNO — Destined to survive, Negdar Kazazian Tabibian, as a small child, herself experienced all the trials and tribulations that confronted survivors of the Genocide. Now, she has courageously written of that experience in a new autobiography, to share her life's dramatic events with her readers.

Titled to reflect her fortune, "Destined to Survive." Mrs. Tabibian's book carries the reader from Van, where she was born, to numerous way-stations and eventually to America, where

she established herself as an active member of the Armenian community.

Currently on tour of a number of major cities with Armenian populations, Mrs. Tabibian will be in Fresno on Monday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. She will meet with community members to discuss her autobiography at a public gathering sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of CSUF.

"Destined to Survive" was published by the American Ar-

menian International College. Proceeds, beyond the cost of printing the book, will be given to organizations sponsoring such gatherings.

The Fresno gathering will take place in the Bedrosian Conference Room, Rm. 390, of the new Leon S. Peters Business Building. The public is invited and admission is free.

4U3**ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Armenian Observer: Hollywood, CA DATE October 12, 1988SUBJECT ASP Annual Banquet PAGE 1 of 1**Fresno ASP Annual Banquet on Oct. 22**

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The Fresno gathering will take place in the Bedrosian Conference Room, Rm. 390, of the new Leon S. Peters Business Building. The public is invited and admission is free. Campus parking will be available in Lot J, across from the Peters Building, for no charge.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA DATE October 13, 1988
SUBJECT Armenian Author Plans Fresno State PAGE 1 of 1
Appearance

Armenian author plans Fresno State appearance

Negdar Kazazian Tabibian, author of "Destined to Survive," a story of her immigration to the United States from Armenia and experiences with the Armenian genocide, will be in Fresno Monday.

Tabibian will meet with the public at 7 p.m. in the Bedrosian Conference Room, No. 390, at the Leon S. Peters Business Building at Fresno State University. The event is free.

It is sponsored by the Armenian studies program and Armenian Students Organization at FSU.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CA DATE October 13, 1988

SUBJECT Book Tour Brings Author to Fresno PAGE 1 of 1

Book Tour Brings Author to Fresno

FRESNO - Author Negdar Kazazian Tabibian will discuss her autobiography "Destined to Survive," at a meeting in the campus of California State University, Fresno on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

The public gathering, sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization of CSUF, will meet at the new Leon S. Peters Business Building, Bedrosian

Conference Room, Rm. 390.

Tabibian, a survivor of the Genocide, is currently on a tour of major cities with Armenian populations to promote her book, whose proceeds, beyond the cost of printing, will be given to organizations sponsoring such gatherings.

"Destined to Survive" was published by the American Armenian International College, and chronicles Tabibian's trek from Van, where she was born, to numerous way stations and eventually to America.

There is no admission charge to the event.

Military Show by Soviets Enforces Armenian Resolve for Reunification

By Kristin Lee

It has been widely reported that Soviet Armenia is close to revolt, a belief enforced by the Soviet show of force in the Armenian capital of Yerevan late last week.

But Dr. Dickran Kouymjian of the CSUF Armenian Studies Department says that the Armenian people, although angry, have hope that through legal means, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev will return Karabagh to Armenia.

The people of Armenia and Karabagh are asking the Soviet government to reconsider a decision made by Stalin in 1923 that gave the region of Azerbaijan control over Karabagh, formerly under Armenian control, said Kouymjian, who spent four months teaching in Armenia in 1987. A petition was circulated by Armenians in Armenia and Karabagh in 1987 asking that Karabagh be returned to Armenian control.

When the unrest in Soviet Armenia began in February 1988, Kouymjian said, Armenians had nothing against the government. The Armenians believed that Gorbachev and his reforms had created an atmosphere in which open discussion of past mistakes was welcome.

In March, a massacre killed 26 Armenians and six police in the town of Sumgait in Karabagh during three days of rioting, according to Soviet media. Kouymjian believes between 300 and 400 were killed and the riot was "probably state directed."

"The Turks ran wild with no police intervention," said Kouymjian. Since then, 3,000 Armenians have fled the Karabagh region and have gone to Armenia; and some Turks have fled to Azerbaijan."

Armenians were shocked by the Sumgait massacre.

When Armenia first became part of the U.S.S.R., the small country considered itself protected by the Soviet Union. The people no longer felt they had to worry about being invaded or attacked by Turks because they had the protection of a large nation. Kouymjian said, "Sumgait shattered that instantly."

Kouymjian said there were two main reasons the Armenian faith in Gorbachev and the Soviet government failed.

First, the government did little to reprimand Azerbaijanis for the massacre.

Sumgait was closed to everyone except residents for two months after the tragedy. Out of the thousands that participated in killing Armenians, only 100 were arrested. One man, tried in June for the killings, received only 15 years in prison. The court that tried him was in Azerbaijan.

The second reason Armenians lost faith in the Soviet government happened in July when the Kremlin in Moscow formally considered the question of whether Karabagh should belong to Armenia. The answer was a unanimous no.

The Armenians want a change in structure. They are asking for land allotment to return to the way it was in 1923 when the Karabagh land, populated predominantly by Armenians, belonged to Armenia instead of to Azerbaijan, a region populated predominantly by Turks.

Gorbachev did nothing to stop the demonstrations when they first began in February of 1987. This gave Armenians the impression that he was on their side and wanted to hear the people's opinions. But the latest Soviet action has Soviet troops and armored personnel carriers keeping a tenuous peace in Yerevan.

After the Sumgait massacre, "the Western press quickly distorted the story," said Kouymjian.

Since Azerbaijan is mostly Moslem, and Armenia and the Karabagh are mostly Christian, Kouymjian said the papers turned the protests into a struggle of religions when it was really a struggle of Turks against Armenians.

Kouymjian said Western media thrive on the idea that Soviet people dislike the Soviet government and want to revolt against it.

"I wouldn't believe everything in the papers," said Kouymjian. "Papers are distorted."

John Taylor, news editor of *The Fresno Bee*, said the international news that is printed comes from the wire services. They keep the news as accurate as possible by comparing stories on the same topic from various wire services.

"We take balance and fairness seriously," said

Taylor. "It is our responsibility to get the best of the best. We subscribe to so many services to be fair. We have to rely on the big boys."

The largest demonstrations in Soviet history began after the Sumgait massacre, numbering 100,000 to 200,000 people. An open forum began where anyone could speak. "Like a people's democracy," said Kouymjian. There was no army intervention. A general strike occurred, and everything stopped. Kouymjian said this is when Gorbachev and the government in Moscow began to make personal appeals to Armenians to end the strike.

Karabagh set up a committee and sent two delegates to speak with Gorbachev in Moscow: a female poet and a male journalist met with Gorbachev who asked that the demonstrations stop.

By this time the demonstrations had reached 800,000 to one million people, said Kouymjian.

The population of Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia, is 1.3 million, so a demonstration of one million is almost the entire city, said Kouymjian.

The Soviet people heard nothing of the demonstrations until six weeks later. And when they did report the demonstrations, they played down the size and attributed them to "Anti-Soviet forces," said Kouymjian.

Western media, said Kouymjian, reported the demonstrations as an anti-Soviet uprising, "but it wasn't."

"The moment the Western press saw it was not anti-Soviet, they lost interest even though the demonstrations were getting larger," said Kouymjian.

Kouymjian said Armenians still thought Gorbachev would agree with them if they took only legal measures.

The leaders of the movement in Armenia and Karabagh then decided how best to proceed in a legal manner in furthering their cause, said Kouymjian.

The Supreme Soviet Council and Parliament of Karabagh voted to be under Armenian jurisdiction. The Armenian Supreme Soviet Council and Parliament met, voted, and came to the same conclusion.

"A republic willing to take a region and a region willing to join a republic," said Kouymjian. It was all legal according to the Soviet constitution, but the territorial struggle has not yet ended.

Kouymjian said the reason the Soviet government is not willing to change the law is because there is no pressure to. He said Turkey is an ally of the United States, and won't say anything if the U.S.S.R. is hard on the Armenians. Neither will most of Western Europe.

The Armenians had planned to have a demonstration the day after the decision in July no matter what the outcome was. But along with the decision, came a decree that there should be no more demonstrations. So rather than defy the government and risk getting thousands killed, Yerevan became a dead city.

"Nobody came out for anything," said Kouymjian. The strikes stopped everywhere except in Karabagh, which continued to be on strike until August.

Currently, there is a demonstration in Yerevan every Friday of 100,000 to 200,000 people. Armenians have just begun to fight, said Kouymjian.

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Continued on the next page

Military Show - Continued from page 17

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fight, said Kouymjian.

There has been a change in attitude towards the government.

"Sentiment is more than discouraged, it is hostile," said Kouymjian.

There is little they can do. "Karabagh leaders say, 'give us to Armenia or bring in the tanks,'" said Kouymjian. It may be the beginning of another permanent strike. They want to go back to 1923 and do it legally.

The government manipulated peaceful crowds to make them hostile, but it didn't work, said Kouymjian.

Soviet troops are enforcing a 9 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew in Karabagh. Demonstrators have asked local authorities in Yerevan to hold an emergency session to support reunification with Armenia, but those demands have yet to be answered.

"It doesn't look very good," said Kouymjian, referring to the chances of Karabagh being given to Armenia.

"Armenians believe that they will win because they are right. The Armenian nation has regained a national sense of dignity and identity," said Kouymjian. "Everybody in Armenia is pro-Karabagh. For the first time, Armenians have taken their destiny into their own hands."

Hye Sharzhoom News Service
California State Univ., Fresno
Fresno, Calif.



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE The California Courier: Glendale, CA DATE October 20, 1988

SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugerdechian Lectures on PAGE 1 of 1
Karabagh in Los Angeles, CA

BELMONT, Mass. - Board Chairman Manoog S. Young of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research will visit Armenian communities on the West Coast during a ten-day tour beginning Oct. 26.

Chairman Young plans to meet with NAASR members and friends in the various communities in order to report on NAASR's latest plans and programs to advance Armenian studies in America. He hopes to bring about increased support for the activities of the 34-year-old organization.

Public gatherings are planned in each of the communities. In Minneapolis Young will be speaking under the sponsorship of the Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota on "The Importance of Armenian Studies and its Development, Status, and Future in America." On Nov. 1, he will speak at a dinner meeting at the Fresno Hilton Hotel at 7 p.m., addressing "Advancing Armenian Studies by Meeting

NAASR's Needs." Similar gatherings are being organized in the San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento.

In the Los Angeles area, a reception and cultural program has been planned jointly with the Young Adults Group of St. Peter's Armenian Church in Van Nuys on Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Barlow Der Mugerdechian, Associate Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, will also participate in the evening's program by speaking about the current situation in Yerevan and Karabagh.

Noontime lecture series at Met begins this week

The Fresno Metropolitan Museum will present "Noontime at the Met," a weekly series of noon hour lectures, seminars and workshops, beginning this week.

Each session will begin at noon and will feature a 30-minute program that will allow time for questions or to browse through the museum. On program days, admission between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. will be free. Those attending may take lunch. A complimentary beverage will be served.

On Thursday, Cecilio Orozco, Fresno State University education professor, will give an illustrated presentation on the unusual customs and beliefs associated with the Mexican folk holiday El Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in conjunction with the Day of the Dead exhibit on display through Nov. 20.

Wood artist and craftsman Bill Livingston will demonstrate basic wood carving materials, tools and techniques Nov. 2. The workshop will feature examples of Living-

ston's own lathe-carved works, on display through Nov. 13.

On Nov. 9, Steve Dzerigian, a Fresno City College professor and professional photographer, will lead an illustrated seminar. He will demonstrate the elements of good photography, discuss methods and techniques and explain how to achieve the best results.

Inscribed Armenian rugs will be the topic Nov. 16. FSU Professor of Armenian Studies Dickran Kouymjian will lead visitors through the Met's exhibition of antique inscribed Armenian rugs, interpreting and explaining the role the inscriptions have played in the Armenian culture.

On Nov. 23, FSU baseball coach Pete Beiden and Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame president Tom Summers will reminisce about some of baseball's heroes around the valley. This will be in conjunction with the Champions of the Valley exhibit.

Information, 441-1444.

CSUF Students Reflect On Soviet Armenian Trip

By Hanif Mourad

Eight CSUF Studets visited Soviet Armenia last summer and got a taste of what it's like to be in the midst of mass meetings involving millions of people, according to Barlow Der Mgrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies.

The students made a first-time trip to Armenia, one of the 15 Soviet republics, on an educational tour after being invited by the Committee of Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad, based in Armenia.

The time period in which the tour took place, according to Der Mgrdechian, was vital for the people of Armenia, as mass demonstrations involving 500,000 to millions of people were taking place.

He added that these were not typical demonstrations, but rather they were meetings, "gatherings of all kinds of people. There was no shoving or cursing in these demonstrations."

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She said that before she went to Armenia, she had recently learned about the country in a class and everything was fresh in her mind on the trip.

When she saw the demonstrations, "at first I didn't understand what they were demonstrating for, but when explained I understood," Sislian said. "The demonstrations were peaceful, there was no violence, it was really interesting."

To be on the safe side, Sislian did not go to every demonstration because they were so huge it was easy to lose the group and she did not know how to speak Armenian very well, she said.

Sislian, whose father is an Armenian, said that she "wanted to go because it was important to visit my fatherland. I am studying about my culture and heritage, and it was great time to go."

Commenting on the Armenian people, she said that "The people were the friendliest people I've ever met. They knew we were Americans, and they were interested in learning about us."

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This was the first tour involving students to Armenia and Der Mugrdechian plans "to organize such trips for succeeding years."

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The demonstrations that students witnessed had really begun in February of this year in response to the issue of Nagorno-Karabagh, an Azerbaijani-administered region whose population is composed of Armenians.

Der Mugrdechian said that the people of Armenia were let down by Gorbachev when "recently in July the decision was made that the control of Karabagh would not go to the people of Armenia."

Gorbachev's decision "let Armenians down because they were expecting their demands to come true. He is getting pressure to not give in."

Even though demonstrations were taking place before the trip took place, "there was never any fear of violence; we knew people who had gone there and they said there was no violence," according to Der Mugrdechian.

There was no anti-American feeling among the Armenian people, Der Mugrdechian and the students said.

"People were happy to see Americans visiting their homeland," Der Mugrdechian added.

The trip, according to Der Mugrdechian, "was not simply a tour. We met with other students and we had discussions about life in Armenia and they asked us what it was like to be a student in America." ■

The Daily Collegian

CSU Fresno

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ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Fresno Metropolitan Museum Program

DATE November 1988

SCHEDULE: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT Tour of Armenian Rugs by Dr. Dickran

PAGE 1 of 1

Kouymjian of CSUF

Fresno Metropolitan Museum

Presents

NOONTIME

A T T H E M E T

The Hottest Lunch Spot Downtown

Program Schedule

Wednesday, November 16

MESSAGES FROM THE PAST: INSCRIBED ARMENIAN RUGS

12:00-1:00 p.m., Peters Court

CSUF Professor Dickran Kouymjian of the Armenian Studies Program will lead you through our current exhibition of antique inscribed Armenian rugs, interpreting and explaining the role their mysterious inscriptions played in Armenian culture.



**Fresno
Metropolitan
Museum**

1555 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, California 93721, (209) 441-1444

Banquet turns into fund-raiser

**\$130,000 collected
for Armenian studies**

By ANNE DUDLEY
Bee staff writer

An Armenian studies banquet at Fresno State University, a fancy, catered affair that cost \$35 a person, had seemingly little in common with church meetings of the old days when hard times brought early-Fresno Armenian refugees together to pool their few dollars.

Yet participants at the banquet Oct. 22 likened the glittery dinner to those church gatherings.

"There was a kind of magic that I can't fully express," said Dickran Kouymjian, director of the Armenian-studies program at FSU. "Old ladies were coming up to the front with \$100 checks."

Though not publicized as a fundraising event, \$130,000 was collected by the end of the evening toward an endowed chair of Armenian studies. The chair will enable the university to recruit a top scholar to teach in the Armenian-studies program.

The state requires a minimum of \$300,000 to create an endowed chair. The program already had \$35,000 in a fund started last year and Kouymjian said he raised an additional \$25,000 by making calls to potential donors last week.

Thus the fund has nearly \$200,000. And an anonymous donor has said he will match funds raised

Armenian

Continued from Metro page

by the community until he has given \$150,000.

The donor has already matched \$65,000 raised at the dinner. Kouymjian predicted the fund may have the \$300,000 within the next two weeks.

"It wasn't really meant to be a fund-raiser, but it turned out to be," said Richard Darmanian, director of the Armenian National Committee in Fresno, of the dinner.

Kouymjian said he knew some of the money, including \$50,000 from Sarkis and Meline Kalfayan and \$3,500 from various organizations, was coming. But the rest of it was raised spontaneously at the dinner and from the anonymous donor.

One single donor came forward with \$10,000, Kouymjian said.

"[The room] was packed, and I said, 'I've got to make use of all this creative energy,'" Kouymjian said.

"It was like how [it used to be] in the church halls," he said. "People were saying, 'I pledge this, I pledge that.' I was just auctioning it off."

"[FSU] President [Harold] Haak grabbed the microphone and pledged \$1,000. The room was electrified."

Darmanian said it reminded him of the way money was raised among Armenians when he was young.

"I remember when I was a kid and times were hard; people would give \$20, which is like \$100 or \$200 now," Darmanian said. "My own father would get caught up in it when we didn't have money for our next loaf of bread."



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93740

- ARCHIVE -

SOURCE Nor Gyank: Glendale, CA

DATE November 3, 1988

SUBJECT Prof. Der Mugrdechian to Show Slides PAGE 1 of 1
of Karabagh in Van Nuys, CA

Der Mugrdechian to Show Slides of Karabagh; Young Speaks on NAASR

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, professor of Armenian Studies at C.S.U. Fresno, will present a slide program of his eyewitness account of the most recent Karabagh uprising. Professor Der Mugrdechian has visited Armenia numerous times and is uniquely qualified to share with the Armenian community the status of the tense situations for Soviet Armenians.

The program is sponsored by St. Peter Young Adults Group and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. It will be held Friday, Nov. 4, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Peter Mini-hall, 17231 Sherman Way, Van Nuys. There is no admission charge and refreshments will be served.

Complementing Mr. Der Mugrdechian's slides, will be a short presentation by Manoog Young, Chairman of NAASR. Mr. Young's purpose in traveling from Boston is to share with NAASR friends the immediate and future goals of the organization.