



Armenian Prime Minister visits Azerbaijan

Darbinian in Baku for TRACECA meeting

BAKU (Combined Sources)—Armen Darbinian, Armenia's Prime Minister, stepped onto the soil of arch-enemy Azerbaijan on Tuesday, September 8, but any hopes that his short visit might yield progress in resolving the Karabagh conflict were quickly dashed.

Darbinian, 33, was sent to Baku by President Robert Kocharian, who declined an offer to personally attend a European Union-sponsored



Armen Darbinian

conference on forging a new "Silk Road" from Europe to the Far East through the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Darbinian's visit represents the highest-level visit ever by an Armenian official to Azerbaijan—or vice-versa—since the warring countries each gained independence in 1991. Darbinian's presence caused a stir which, according to Reuters, overshadowed the conference itself.

In response to media speculations, Darbinian asserted that he had had no back-door meetings with Azerbaijan's President Haydar Aliyev on how to end the Karabagh conflict.

"We greeted each other and we both expressed satisfaction that I am here," Darbinian told reporters at the end of the conference.

Darbinian did, however, bring with him proposals calling for an end to a costly trade embargo Azerbaijan and its ally Turkey have imposed on landlocked Armenia.

Both Turkey and Azerbaijan immediately dismissed the proposals, although Darbinian said they had received "a positive general response"

from some other conference participants.

"Unfortunately some countries do not have an objective position on the conflict," Darbinian said of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's refusal to open his border with Armenia. The border has been closed since 1993.

Darbinian said he was convinced that regional cooperation and trade were the only way to heal old wounds and eventually bring peace.

"We definitely hold the position that all initiatives in transport and trade will lead to peace," he said.

Darbinian's visit carried at least symbolic significance, even if it failed to bring any tangible results.

"The fact that Darbinian is here is highly symbolic in itself," said delegate Cees Wittebrood of the European Union.

Darbinian arrived early on Tuesday, the only conference participant not to spend Monday night in Baku attending a state dinner. According to Reuters, this probably stemmed from security concerns.

After the meeting, he flew straight back to Armenia.

ARF representatives meet with Oskanian

YEREVAN (Armenpress)—ARF Bureau member Masis Baghdassarian, Executive Council vice-representative Armen Rustamian, and Executive Council member Eduard Ghazarian met with Armenia's Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian on Thursday, Sept. 3.

During the meeting several important foreign policy issues were discussed. One of the key issues was the ongoing negotiations with Azerbaijan over Karabagh. Oskanian presented the course the Armenian government is taking towards solv-

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Helsinki Commission urges Aliyev to continue talks with opposition

WASHINGTON (PRNewswire)—The US Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, last week released the text of a letter it sent to Azerbaijan's President Haidar Aliyev regarding the country's forthcoming presidential elections. Signed by Commission Chairman Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), Co-Chair-

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Armenia, Uruguay discuss Genocide issue

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—Armenian Prime Minister Armen Darbinian met with the visiting chairman of Uruguay's General Assembly, Jaime Mario Trobo, on Friday, September 4. The two discussed the present level of political and cultural cooperation between Uruguay and Armenia, the need for expanded economic cooperation, as well as other issues including Uruguay's public acknowledgement of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Trobo was accompanied at the meeting by a delegation of

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Georgi Petrosian announces candidacy in Stepanakert mayoral race

STEPANAKERT (ANIS)—Armenian Revolutionary Federation leader and former Karabagh parliament speaker Georgi Petrosian this week announced his candidacy, on behalf of the ARF, for the position of Stepanakert city supervisor.

Elections for municipal posts are scheduled for later this month throughout the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic. The ARF announced last week that it would introduce candidates—both party members and non-party members—for each open position throughout the country.

In his announcement speech, Petrosian outlined the reasons why the ARF is taking an active role in the local elections and emphasized key points in the ARF's platform regarding socio-economic reforms in Karabagh.

He added that the upcoming

elections would serve as an expression of freedom of choice and will for the entire population of Karabagh. Petrosian stressed that the ARF organization in Karabagh was committed to ensuring a fair election process, adding that the issue would be discussed at length during the upcoming ARF Regional Convention in Karabagh, scheduled to convene this week.

"Our participation in the elections is not self-serving. Our aim is not to seek leadership, but rather to create a civic society, whereby each citizen can express his/her will, energy and commitment," explained Petrosian.

"Unfortunately, other political parties or organizations are not thinking in that direction. Thus, the ARF is the only party which is taking part in the elections in an organized and pan-organizational manner," added

Petrosian.

Petrosian's chief rival in the upcoming election is the brother of Karabagh's powerful Defense Minister, Samvel Babayan. Babayan has already been campaigning for several weeks, with campaign literature and posters visible throughout the city.

ARF reps urge Karabagh to be cautious on privatization

Members of the ARF Executive Council of Armenia met with Karabagh's permanent representative to Armenia, Karen Mirzoyan, in Yerevan last week. Karabagh's legislative activities concern-

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House panel approves Livingston Amendment

Full house will vote on controversial measure to lift Azerbaijani aid ban

WASHINGTON, DC—The House Appropriations Committee on Thursday, Sept. 10., following extensive debate, adopted an amendment offered by Chairman Bob Livingston (R-LA), which

would lift the ban on US assistance to Azerbaijan, despite that country's ongoing illegal blockades of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

"Today's committee vote threatens to set back the cause of

peace in the Caucasus. It can and should be reversed," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "The intense anti-907 pressure being applied on Congress by the oil industry and the State Department has only encouraged the Azerbaijani gov-

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AYF OLYMPICS 1998 RESULTS

CHAPTER STANDINGS

Detroit	175	Racine	10
Providence	153	Fairfield	8
Chicago	95	Granite City	8
North Andover	32	Watertown	5
Richmond	19	Boston	1
Philadelphia	15	New York	1
Washington	15	New Jersey	0

HIGH SCORERS (All with 15 points)

WOMEN
 Colleen Demerjian, Prov
 Jennifer Jacobs, Detroit

SOFTBALL CHAMPION
 Providence

MEN
 Anto Arslanian, Detroit
 Chris Melkonian, Prov
 Raffi Karapetian, Detroit
 Michael Amirkhanian, Rich

ERNEST NAHIGIAN
 SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
 Taline Hagopian, Detroit

OUTSTANDING RECORD
 Detroit 200-yd Freestyle
 Swim Relay

PENTATHALON
 WINNER
 Chris Derderian, Prov

FULL DETAILS IN
 SEPT 26 ISSUE

Helsinki Commission...

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man Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), and Commissioner Reps. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA), Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD), and Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), the letter commends President Aliyev for certain changes he has authorized in the election law and for his pledge to hold free and fair elections in accord with the Helsinki Commission's commitments. The letter also urges Aliyev to promote dialogue with those opposition parties that are currently planning to boycott the Oct. 11 election.

Dated September 2, the letter calls upon Aliyev to continue negotiations which his representatives have already begun with opposition leaders "to find a mutually acceptable formula that will permit broad participation in the election."

The full text of the letter follows:

The Helsinki Commission has been closely monitoring the preparations for the October 11 presidential election in Azerbaijan. This election is particularly significant and will have major ramifications both on your country's democratization and on the prospects for peace in the Caucasus region.

After years of mutual suspicion and recriminations between the government and the opposition, the upcoming election offers a chance for reconciliation and the establishment of much-needed consensus within Azerbaijani society. An election deemed free and fair by Azerbaijanis and international observers will endow the government with unquestioned legitimacy and help to undo the consequences of the flawed parliamentary election of November 1995.

Moreover, a process of government-opposition reconciliation in Azerbaijan is essential to facilitate a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. Though the 1994 cease fire remains in effect, the peace process, unfortunately, has bogged down. In order to restart the negotiations, the parties to the conflict will have to make difficult choices, which will not be politically feasible without strong backing from their electorates.

It is therefore all the more regrettable that major Azerbaijani opposition parties have not found it possible to take part in the election. We recognize that the election law originally passed by parliament, which the opposition found unacceptable, has been substantially modified over the last few months, with input from experts at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the (US-based) National Democratic Institute. Various demands put forward by the opposition have been met. Particularly important was the recent announcement of the abolition of censorship, which, we hope, will be consistently implemented, and will, in fact, signal the end of all political censorship in Azerbaijan.

We commend your willingness to make these changes in the law, and your pledge to hold free and fair elections, in accord with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe commitments. Nevertheless, the opposition boycott remains in effect, primarily because of continued differences over the composition of the Central Election Commission. A presidential election without the leading opposition parties—no matter how many other candidates take part—will not promote stability or resolve the most pressing issues facing Azerbaijan at this historic juncture. With the election now less than two months away, very little time remains to reach agreement.

We urge you to redouble your efforts and continue the negotiations which your representatives have already begun with opposition leaders to find a mutually acceptable formula that will permit broad participation in the election.

Whether in print or verbally, the words *Hai Tahd* conjure up strong feelings within me. As with so many words or phrases, their essence is easily lost in translation and their meaning can be altered or diminished over a period of years. The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) and its political action wing, the Armenian National Committee (ANC) lay claims as champions of *Hai Tahd*. But what has that come to mean and what should it mean as we approach the 21st century?

It is not my objective to detail the history of the term. This is not to say a chronicle of *Hai Tahd* is not deserving of discussion. On the contrary, it is only to say that I am not in a position to undertake such a task. Instead, I wish to express what I feel in my heart and hear in my mind when I think of *Hai Tahd*.

A most appropriate place to begin is the dictionary. There can be little confusion over the word *Hai*, meaning "Armenian." However, we may need to define exactly what, if any, criteria we have for being Armenian. I will revisit this later, for now it will suffice to define *Hai* as simply Armenian. *Tahd* means cause, justice, lawsuit or litigation.

The implication is that *Hai Tahd* means to seek justice for the crimes committed against us, as Armenians. While I would argue that many crimes have been committed and are still being committed against Armenians, the reference is most obviously to the Armenian Genocide. The justice that is sought is justice is for the murder of 1.5 million Armenians, justice for the billions of dollars of stolen property, justice for the years of mental anguish, cultural genocide and dehumanization cause by Turkish denial.

While everything stated thus far is accurate, I believe it is too limiting. Such a definition of *Hai Tahd* is too myopic for the ARF and ANC and it falls far short of encompassing *my Hai Tahd*. Simply "Armenian Justice" is not a proper definition for

Hai Tahd.

To begin, "Armenian Justice" is exclusionary by definition. There are Armenians whose families were not touched by the Armenian Genocide. Granted, these families are few. But they do exist and such a definition excludes them from *Hai Tahd*. In addition, when placed solely in the context of the Armenian Genocide, *Hai Tahd* would exclude other crimes against Armenians. For instance, the cause Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh) would not fall under such a *Hai Tahd* umbrella.

The term "Armenian" must include all Armenians; whether they be 100%, 50%, or some other blood percentage; whether they be Protestant, Apostolic, Catholic, Muslim or any other religious affiliation; whether they speak Armenian or not; whether of Ramgavar, Hunchak, Dashnak or any other political party. Armenians have found many ways to divide—*Hai Tahd* must be a unifying thought.

In addition, *Hai Tahd* must encompass a broad ideal, broad enough so that all Armenians, regardless of division, would agree with the righteousness of such an ideal. Individuals and groups of Armenians may disagree in the methods used to carry out *Hai Tahd*, but the reasons for *Hai Tahd* must not be in dispute. In today's business world, I would liken it to a mission statement. As a mission statement, *Hai Tahd* must be timeless.

All of this leads to *Hai Tahd* defined as the Armenian Cause. Although this definition does include justice for the Armenian Genocide, it also encompasses so much more.

The Armenian Cause, *Hai Tahd*, is the concept of the rights of Armenians as part of the human race. Every Armenian, regardless of "classification," has rights equivalent to any other person—no more, but especially no less. *Hai Tahd* is to protect, guarantee and fight for those rights wherever they may be challenged. Under such a definition, *Hai*

Tahd encompasses the ideals of the United Nations' Universal Declaration Of Human Rights.

The following, while not an exhaustive list, is a selection from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

1) All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

2) Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

3) Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

4) No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

5) No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

6) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

7) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

8) Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

The idea of recognition and reparations from Turkey for the Armenian Genocide fits well within this framework. The Genocide and the actions of Turkey in the intervening

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Defining Hai Tahd

BY GEORGE M. AGHJAYAN

Letters to the Editor...

To the Editor:

Our little community of Niagara Falls goes back to about 1900. In 1915, at the onset of WWI, 14 Vanetzis of Lesk Village, working at the Aluminum Co. of America, left their jobs and went back to fight the Turks.

In the year 1933, the late Karekin Nejdeh came to Niagara Falls and started the AYE, and the ARS ladies took charge of the Juniors. At that time Niagara Falls was a pretty good sized community. Even though the years 1930 to 1940 were very bad years, the local ARF maintained a pretty good sized Community Center.

When WWII started, the entire first generation of males and two females served their country. The community built the Armenian Community Center, and St. Hagop Church was consecrated on November 3, 1952.

In 1957 or 1958, with a visit of his Eminence Archbishop Paroyan, of blessed memory, (later became Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. We were now a member of the Prelacy.

In November 1997, His Holiness Aram I honored us with a Pontifical visit. His comments to the local press were, "This is probably the smallest community we have in the US or Canada. For us and for God, it's the quality that counts, not the quantity. This is a well-organized community. There are very much Christians, very much Armenians. They are very attached to their roots, to their traditions, to their values.

Back on April 8, 1978, our visiting clergyman, the [then] Very Rev. Aram Kashishian, married Peter Ohanessian and Mary Aloian. It turned out to be the only wedding he performed while in the US.

On November 1, 1997, he was greeted at the door by flower girl Sara Ohanessian, who now sings in the Choir, and her two sisters, Lisa and Lori, who serve St Hagop's as altar girls. We have no young boys, but with Archbishop Ashjian's permission, our services still go forward. So you see, we really believe. Enclosed please find a picture of the three girls with the Rev. Daghljan, who now serves our community after 40 some years.

Aris Ohanessian, Sr.,
Secretary
St. Hagop Board of Trustees



Rev. Daghljan of St. Hagop's Church in Niagara Falls, with his assistants

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Sen. Torricelli meets with NJ Armenians

Affirms commitment to Genocide Bill, fighting oil lobby

At a recent meeting with national and state Armenian leaders in New Jersey called by Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), the Senator said that he would be glad to add an amendment to a foreign policy bill in order to enhance public recognition of the Armenian genocide. In the past, the House has been generally supportive of such a measure, and the Senate split about 50-50

when Senator Robert Dole (R-KS) was its leader. Senator Torricelli believes that the year 2000 should be the target for passing the bill. The beginning of a new century would add a powerful argument for such action, said Torricelli, calling it a time to "close the wound."

Also, when informed of statements by some faculty at Princeton University still denying that any genocide took place, Senator Torricelli quickly and simply stated: "I will write a letter to the President of the University."

The Senator also reported that he and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) wanted to regularize meetings with the Armenian Community. "You can keep me apprised of the issues that concern you. And you can help me prepare appropriate policy statements to be read on the floor of the Senate."

Senator Torricelli welcomed the suggestion by Arthur Halvajian that a mass rally for widely supported Armenian causes be held in Washington during the spring of 1999. He urged, however, that it be done right. He suggested that delegations from 20 or more states should make appointments to talk with all of their

state's Congressmen and Senators in the morning, and then hold a rally at noon. A crowd of 20,000 Armenians, Torricelli offered, would have a major impact on Congress and the Administration.

After Senator Torricelli left, the group discussed various tactics for promoting Armenian goals. One suggestion was to see whether environmental groups would align with Armenians on discouraging the development of oil in Azerbaijan. It was agreed that Aram Hamparian (who was present at the meeting), Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee, and Ross Vartian, Executive Director of the Armenian Assembly, among other leaders in the two groups, should get together to work on a Genocide resolution for the Senator. It also encouraged them to discuss the possibility of bringing a large number of Armenians to Washington to a conference and lobbying opportunity and stage a rally to counter the pressures by Turkey, Azerbaijan, and international oil companies. Everyone present agreed that all parties should work together to further Armenian causes held in common.

—Ralph C. Meyer, PhD



Sen. Robert Toricelli (D-NJ)

FROM THE

A.N.C. DESK

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ANC to host Hai Tahd Workshop

WATERTOWN, MA—Lobbying and Public Relations are among the agenda topics to be explored during a Hai Tahd workshop sponsored by the Armenian National Committee/Eastern United States for members and supporters throughout New England. The one-day workshop will take place on Saturday, September 26, at Sts. Vartanantz Church, 402 Broadway, in Providence, Rhode Island, beginning at 10 am.

The workshop will provide a forum for ANC members and supporters to network and discuss in-depth upcoming projects and programs. In addition, the workshop will offer individuals tools and resources in furthering their efforts on behalf of issues of concern to Armenian Americans. Hai Tahd "veterans" and "novices" alike will benefit from the workshop, which is open to any individual with an interest in working on the many issues of concern to Armenian Americans, including current legislation, aid to Armenia and Karabagh, Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, and academic integrity, among others.

To register for the workshop and for further information, contact the ANC Eastern United States, 80 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, MA 02172; Tel. 617-923-1918; fax 617-926-5525; ANCE@compuserve.com

INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL CREDIT

High School and college students in the Greater Boston area are encouraged to participate in a program during the course of the school year for classroom credit by interning at the offices of the ANC Eastern United States. Interested individuals should check that they could receive classroom credit and contact the ANC EUS at the telephone number above.

SPONSOR A BOOK

The ANC Research Center holds in one location materials specifically on the study of the Armenian Genocide as well as the history and politics of Armenia, Turkey, Artsakh, the Middle East, and the Caucasus. For several years the ANC has been adding materials to its collection, which is utilized by students and scholars nationwide. The Research Center depends on the generosity of families and individuals to update its holdings.

The Sponsor A Book program is a thoughtful way in which individuals and organizations may pay tribute to others. Books may be donated in memory of relatives and in honor of Genocide survivors. Sponsorship of books and periodicals may also be made in honor of anniversaries, birthdays, retirements, and other milestones. Sponsoring books is a wonderful way to make a lasting tribute as well as making a gift that will benefit students and researchers for years to come.

A plate is affixed to each book sponsored through the program indicating the name(s) of the sponsor(s) as well as the name of the person(s) in whose memory or tribute the sponsorship is made.

Participation in the Sponsor A Book program is available for a sponsorship fee of \$50. Individuals and organizations wishing to participate in the ANC Sponsor A Book program may select a first, second, and third choice of book title. Sponsors may also choose to contact the ANC for suggested titles, periodicals, and audio and visual resources, or leave the choice to the ANC. For further information, contact the ANC at the above address and telephone number.

The Livingston Amendment: final roll-call

We reprint below, for your information, the names of the House Appropriations Committee members and how they voted on the Livingston Amendment this past Thursday, September 10. The amendment, which passed and will now be voted on by the full House, would remove the restriction prohibiting US aid to Azerbaijan as long as the Azeri blockade of Armenia remains in effect. (See story, page 1)

Appropriations Committee Members Voting to Repeal Section 907:

Robert Aderholt (R-AL)
Henry Bonilla (R-TX)
Sonny Callahan (R-AL)
Bud Cramer (R-AL)
Randy Cunningham (R-CA)
Jay Dickey (R-AR)
Chett Edwards (D-TX)
Michael Forbes (R-NY)
David Hobson (R-OH)
Ernest Jim Istook (R-OK)
Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Jim Kolbe (R-AZ)
Tom Latham (R-IA)
Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
Robert Livingston (R-LA)
Anne Meagher Northup (R-KY)
Carrie Meek (D-FL)
Dan Miller (R-FL)
Alan Mollohan (D-WV)
George Nethercutt (R-WA)
Mark Neumann (R-WI)

Ron Packard (R-CA)
Mike Parker (R-MS)
Ralph Regula (R-OH)
Harold Rogers (R-KY)
Joe Skeen (R-NM)
Todd Tiahrt (R-KS)
Zach Wamp (R-TN)
Roger Wicker (R-MS)
C. W. Bill Young (R-FL)

Appropriations Committee Members Voting to Maintain Section 907:

Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
Vic Fazio (D-CA)
Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)
Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
Joe Knollenberg (R-MI)
Nita Lowey (D-NY)
David Obey (D-WI)
Martin Olav Sabo (D-WI)
John Olver (D-MA)
Ed Pastor (D-AZ)

Nancy Palosi (D-CA)
John Porter (R-IL)
David Price (D-NC)
Jose Serrano (D-NY)
David Skaggs (D-CO)
Peter Visclosky (D-IN)
James Walsh (R-NY)
Frank Wolf (R-VA)
Sidney Yates (D-IL)

Appropriations Committee Members Who Did Not Vote:

Tom DeLay (R-TX)
Norman Dicks (D-WA)
Julian Dixon (D-CA)
W. G. Bill Hefner (D-NC)
Jack Kingston (R-GA)
Joseph McDade (R-PA)
James Moran (D-VA)
John Murtha (D-PA)
Jose Serrano (D-NY)
Louis Stokes (D-OH)
Charles Taylor (R-NC)
Esteban Torres (D-CA)

ANC-ER Donor Announcements

The Armenian National Committee/Eastern United States recently launched a fund-raising campaign, to which supporters responded with generosity. The Board of Directors of the ANC/EUS wishes to express its thanks to all who responded. Names of donors will be acknowledged in The Armenian Weekly in installments, the ninth of which appears below.

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Krikor G. Kevorkian	\$50	Harry Dombalagian	\$25	Jack Arisian	\$20
Wellesley MA		Havertown PA		Watertown CT	
Annie Gharibian	\$50	Nisan Cakir	\$25	M/Mrs. Haigaz Megerdichian	\$25
Farmington Hills MI		Wyckleaf NJ		Newton MA	
Meline Karakashian	\$50	George Kaderian	\$25	Krikor Krikonian	\$25
Morganville NJ		Arlington MA		Bayside NY	
Paul Vahanian	\$50	Ashot Merijanjan	\$25	Sosie Kachikian	\$25
Fort Lee NJ		Roswell GA		Old Tappan NJ	
Shahen Haroutunian	\$50	Jack Tootelian	\$25	Andrew Torigian	\$50
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Ejen Fantazian	\$100	Garabed Topjian	\$100	Joseph & Ann Kibarian	\$25
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Antranig Bolidikian	\$100	Dennis & Mary Papazian	\$100	Robert Tashjian	\$25
Forest Hills NY		Troy MI		King of Prussia PA	
Manoug Ghazarian	\$25	George & Ted Sahagian	\$200	Haig Adishian	\$25
Des Plaines IL		Ft. Lauderdale FL		Annandale NJ	

Eurocourt condemns Turkey over Kurdish probe

PARIS (Reuters)—The European Court of Human Rights last week ordered Turkey to pay damages to a Kurd for failing to properly investigate his allegations of attacks by police.

The plaintiff, newspaper kiosk attendant Esref Yasa, said he was shot and wounded by police five years ago in the southeastern town of Diyarbakir, where Turkish security forces are fighting Kurdish guerrillas.

His uncle, who ran the kiosk while he was recovering, was shot dead by police six months later, Yasa said, alleging that the shootings were part of a campaign of intimidation against pro-Kurdish newspapers.

The court, based in the French town of Strasbourg, said it had no evidence that the attackers were members of the security forces.



FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

MY TURN

HARUT SASSOUNIAN

Los Angeles Times impresses Armenians

The *Los Angeles Times* carried on the front page of its Sept. 3 an article headlined "Crusading on a Wing and a Prayer."

It featured the 100th humanitarian airlift of the United Armenian Fund, the dire conditions in Armenia, and referred to my efforts as executive director of the UAF in organizing these airlifts over the past nine years. It was very positive and written in a sympathetic tone. The lengthy article started on the front page and covered an entire page inside the paper, including four color photos of Armenia.

I received dozens of positive reactions last week from many Armenians and non-Armenians. After all, the *Los Angeles Times* has a circulation of over one million.

The Armenian callers were incredulous and elated that the *Times* had published such a glowing article about Armenia. The *Times* even referred to the Armenian Genocide without preceding it with the insulting words "alleged" or "Armenians say." It simply described it as "the 1915 genocide of some 1.5 million Armenians by occupying Turkish Ottoman forces." The reaction from non-Armenians was very positive. Besides the complimentary phone calls, several people offered to help the UAF's humanitarian airlifts. A retired judge sent an unsolicited \$200 personal donation to the UAF. After reading the article, two complete strangers brought to our office two Swiss Army knives as a gift. A lady from Nevada, whose husband is a retired Air Force pilot, called to say that she had written a poem with the same title as the *Times* article.

LA *Times* reporter John Glionna and photographer Wally Skallij flew to Armenia at the end of July on the UAF's 100th airlift. They were very touched by the stoic people of Armenia and highly impressed by the good work of the UAF. Glionna simply reported, fairly and accurately, what he saw. Those who wish to express their appreciation to the *Times* for this wonderful article, should write to: Letters to the Editor, *Los Angeles Times*, Times-Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053; or e-mail: Letters@latimes.com; or fax: (213) 237-7679.

WHAT IF WE GAVE A PARTY AND EVERYONE CAME?

A gala banquet will be held in Los Angeles on Sept. 26 to celebrate the 100th humanitarian airlift of the United Armenian Fund. President Robert Kocharian, Catholicos Karekin I, Catholicos Aram I, Elizabeth Dole (President of the American Red Cross), and benefactor Kirk Kerkorian, will attend the celebration to show their appreciation to the coalition of seven organizations' unified efforts of delivering \$235 million of aid to Armenia during the past nine years.

The community's response has been so overwhelmingly positive that within two weeks of mailing the invitations to the banquet, the UAF office was flooded with requests for tickets from throughout the U.S. and even overseas. Almost a month before the event, more than 1,800 tickets were sold. The largest ballroom of the biggest hotel in Los Angeles was sold out and yet the requests for more tickets kept on coming.

Almost all Armenian banquets, if they sell out at all, do so only a few days prior to the event. The fact that this banquet sold out several weeks in advance is a testament to the attractiveness of the unprecedented gathering of the VIP guests, and the support for the good work of the UAF. However, too much success also has its negative side. Hundreds of more people who wanted to attend the banquet are unhappy that there are no tickets left. Some of them refuse to accept the fact that the event is sold out. Even full-page ads in Armenian newspapers announcing that the banquet is sold out has not deterred the enthusiasm of many potential banquet guests. Several people showed up at the UAF office last week with checks or cash in hand pleading for tickets. Usually, the pleading is done by the banquet organizers who beg the guests to purchase tickets.

This experience will hopefully lead future banquet organizers and community members to draw the following two conclusions: 1) If banquet organizers offer to the community an attractive program with celebrities, they will not have to beg people to buy tickets for their event; 2) If community members receive an invitation to an event that interests them, they should not

continued on page 13

Struggle for the soul of a closed city

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER

A soldier sits smoking on the wall of a half-ruined church. Huge battlements rise across the empty plateau. This is Ani, once the fabled city of a thousand churches, now a military border post. The ruined bridge that once carried the Silk Road here cannot be repaired, because one half is in Turkey, the other in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia.

"Nobody took care of Ani. It was being ruined more and more every day," says Sarkis Seropyan, a greying former technician who writes for *Agos*, the weekly newspaper of the 70,000 Armenians living in Turkey. In its 10th-century heyday, Ani was the capital of an Armenian empire. The few buildings left, their walls patterned in red and black stone, show the city must have been magnificent. By the 12th century it had street lighting, drains and an underground fresh-water supply.

But Ani spent most of this century on the tense border between Turkey and the Soviet Union, and nothing was done to protect the ruins. Situated on a high plateau where winter temperatures can fall to -39°C, the buildings suffered severe frost damage.

Ani is still under Turkish military control. "There are far too many restrictions on visiting Ani," Mr. Seropyan says.

Though the site is advertised as a tourist attraction, visitors have to obtain permits from the tourism office, police and museum in nearby Kars before entering the site. On arrival, they are briefed by an armed soldier on where they may go. Troops patrol the site and use the ruins of a mosque as a look-out post. A ban on cameras was lifted recently, but photographers are not allowed to point their cameras at Armenia. Offenders are escorted from the site.

Turkey's long neglect of the Armenians' most important cultural monument embittered the country's tiny Armenian community. But restoration work and excavations begun since the break-up of the Soviet Union have not satisfied the Armenians. "Restoration is about preserving the existing structure; what they're doing is ruining it," one of Mr. Seropyan's colleagues says. The restoration was started by the culture ministry but has ground to a halt after being unanimously condemned by Turkish and foreign archaeologists.

The dispute over the excavation is more complicated. The archaeologists, headed by Professor Beyhan Karamagali, are working hard to preserve

the site and were instrumental in stopping the restoration work. Professor Karamagali has uncovered houses in Ani that she says are the earliest houses still standing in Turkey. It was she who discovered the underground drains, the water pipes and the street lighting. With the help of a French architect, she has taken emergency measures to keep aloft a church on the verge of collapse.

"It's very difficult working in a military site," says the professor, a short, stern woman with a scarf tied round her head to keep the sun off. "We have very little funding. We can only work in summer, when there's no rain, and then the heat is very bad. And when we first arrived we had problems with the Kurdish terrorists."

Professor Karamagali has set up foundations in Turkey and the United States to pay for the preservation of Ani. But she says funds have been slow to arrive. "For the first two years we got nothing," she says. She wants to see a museum set up at Ani, to attract paying visitors. "With a museum Ani could be saved."

But the Armenians are unhappy about her work. "She doesn't know whose culture Ani belongs to," Mr. Seropyan says. Professor Karamagali says Ani is the work of several races and cultures. Other peoples lived in Ani under the Armenians, and the city was later conquered. The professor says these other races contributed to the city. For instance, she says, the city's mosque was built by Seljuk Turks. Mr. Seropyan insists it was an Armenian building, converted later into a mosque.

"I was interested in Ani because it was not only an Armenian settlement but also a Muslim and a Zoroastrian one," the professor says.

Challenging the Armenian heritage in Anatolia is a sensitive subject: most of the region's Armenians were massacred by the Ottomans in the First World War. To this day Turkey denies that this genocide took place.

Professor Karamagali insists politics has nothing to do with her work. "We are not interested in religion or race. We are only interested in monuments, and in restoring them. Ani was a place where three different cultures, Christians, Muslims and Zoroastrians, lived together in peace and friendship as long ago as the 7th century."

from The Independent,
September 9, 1998

Livingston...

continued from page 1

ernment to maintain its blockades and to remain inflexible on the peace talks and other regional issues. This point was illustrated dramatically earlier this week in Baku where Azerbaijan and Turkey flatly rejected visiting Armenian Prime Minister Armen Darbinian's offers to open transportation routes and develop economic cooperation initiatives."

The move to repeal Section 907 took place during the House Appropriations Committee mark-up of the FY 1999 foreign aid bill. The Committee, prior to considering Livingston's amendment to repeal Section 907, first considered a substitute amendment offered by Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairman John Porter (R-IL) and Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-IN). This measure, which would have reaffirmed the restriction on US aid to Azerbaijan, was extensively debated and then defeated by a vote of thirty to nineteen, with eleven abstentions.

Speaking in support of the Porter-Visclosky substitute were Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D-CA),

Steny Hoyer (D-CA), Nita Lowey (D-NY), Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Joe Knollenberg (R-MI). Livingston, who grew increasingly enraged during the course of the one-hour debate, was joined in his attacks on Section 907 by Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman Sonny Callahan (R-AL) and Ohio Democrat Marcy Kaptur. Livingston, at several points during the debate, lost his temper, launching into attacks against Armenia and sharply criticizing international commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Following the defeat of the Porter-Visclosky substitute, the Livingston Amendment to repeal Section 907 was adopted by a voice vote.

In the days leading up to the Appropriations Committee mark-up, the State Department and oil industry lobbyists redoubled their efforts to repeal section 907. Subcommittee Chairman Sonny Callahan noted during the markup that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called him personally earlier in the day to press for the repeal of the ban on US aid to Azerbaijan. The oil industry had escalated its "pro-Azerbaijan/anti-907" advertising campaign, running a 14-page, \$1.4 million advertisement spread in *Business Week* and a 4-page advertise-

ment in *Time Magazine*, both in June. More recently, Mobil Oil funded a \$23,000 advertisement in the *Washington Post*, specifically calling for the repeal of Section 907.

Privatization...

continued from page 1

ing land privatization reportedly became the chief item of discussion.

The ARF officials urged Karabagh leaders to pay attention to serious, past mistakes made in the privatization process in Armenia, which has resulted in grave circumstances for peasants, they said.

The upcoming local elections in Karabagh were also among the issues discussed. The sides agreed that these elections may become a serious step in the process of establishing democracy in the country, if the conditions of a free and fair vote are ensured, and may demonstrate to the world community that the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic is an established entity.

Participating in the meeting on behalf of the ARF were Executive Council members Armen Rustamian, Edward Ghazarian, and Gegham Manukian.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bishop Choloyan to make first appearance in Merrimack Valley

NORTH ANDOVER, MA—Bishop Oshagan Choloyan, newly-elected prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America, will be making his first appearance to the Merrimack Valley on October 4.

The religious leader will be the guest of honor during the 28th anniversary of St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of Merrimack Valley during which he will preside over religious services in the morning, then attend a luncheon in the afternoon.

Afternoon festivities will be marked by cultural presentations from Armenian/Sunday School students and awards to prominent members. More than 175 persons are

expected to attend.

Bishop Choloyan was this year named to succeed Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, who held the post for 20 years.

The prelate is known for his profound educational and editorial skills, having taught in the Cilician Seminary and schools in Beirut and Syria, along with working in the offices of *Hask*, the Cilician See's official publication, and *Klatzor*, the Seminary's publication.

He has also collaborated in the preparation of religious textbooks for Grades 1 through 10, currently being used in the Middle East. Bishop Choloyan has prepared five volumes of religious hymns for the Armenian

Church.

He attended the American University of Beirut from 1968 to 1970 where he majored in history. From 1974 to 1978, he was a student at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey where he majored in education and psychology, earning a masters degree.

He continued studies at Princeton in the history of the church, earning a second Masters Degree.

He was ordained a Bishop in 1994 by Bishop Karekin Sarkisian, now Catholicos of all Armenians.

Tickets to the luncheon are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 10 and may be obtained by calling the church at (978) 685-5038.

Armenian Chorale of RI plans Gala Autumn Concert

The Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island will present a Gala Autumn Concert on Saturday, October 10, 1998, at 7:30 pm in Roberts Hall at Rhode Island College.

Since 1995, the Chorale has been directed by Composer and Artistic Director Konstantin Petrossian. The 70-member group has been actively performing in many concerts since 1995, and its devoted members have worked zealously giving of their time and efforts to produce concerts and bringing enrichment and pride to the Rhode Island Armenian community.

Last year the first Armenian Music Festival was a splendid example of their accomplishments, with a high-caliber performance of pieces from the classical Anoush Opera.

Guest artists of high order in the United States and abroad have been featured in all the Chorale's concerts, and this year a very special program has been prepared once again.

The guest artist, Metropolitan Opera star Lucine Amara, mezzo-soprano, will offer a varied program of operatic arias and Armenian classic and romance songs.

This event promises to offer an evening of enjoyment and appreciation to all music lovers and will introduce, for the first time in the United States, unfamiliar works by well known composers such as Gomidas, Ekmalian, Gara Muza, and Grigor Mirzayan Suni.

The program will feature the voice of Lucine Amara, who has performed in operas and concerts

throughout the world.

In 1950, Miss Amara made her Metropolitan Opera debut appearing in the opera "Don Carlos." She has starred in 900 performances, 9 new productions, 57 radio broadcasts, and 56 roles. She has appeared in 33 opera houses and concerts in 21 countries including China, Japan, Armenia, and Russia.

Miss Amara is said to be the only vocalist who has been received in Russia without having to go through the State Department.

In 1988, she performed master class in Yugoslavia, conducted by her late voice teacher, Dr. Bobby Tillaneer. During her career she has given more than 1000 performances. Her name appears in the Music Directory, Who's Who, Directories and Music Encyclopedias, and she is al-

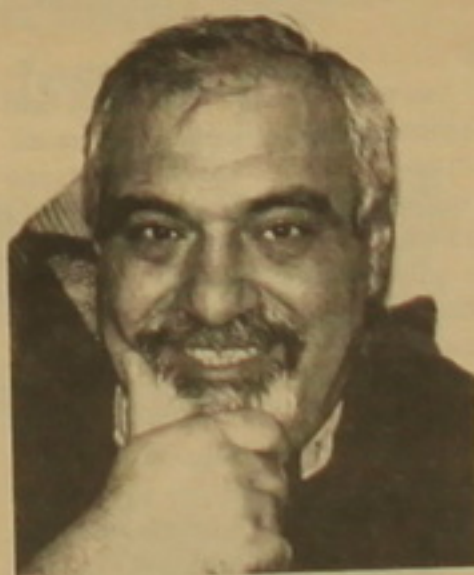
ways in demand in the master class world.

A *Time* magazine article entitled "Lucine Amara, Artistic Director—An American Success Story" stated Miss Amara, of Armenian heritage, grew up in San Francisco and, after studying voice for only one year, was accepted in the chorus of the opera there. Later she appeared in the film *The Great Caruso*, with Mario Lanza. She is a phenomenal artist of the highest order.

To sum it up, she brought to the stage the kind of dazzling vocal splendor that made the Met famous. *Lucine Amara is a star by longevity.*

This evening's concert will also feature Gevorg Hunanian, tenor, from California. Mr. Hunanian was the featured soloist of the Armenian

continued on page 13



Gevork Hunanian



Lucine Amara

ALMA to exhibit Torosyan's "Bread Series"

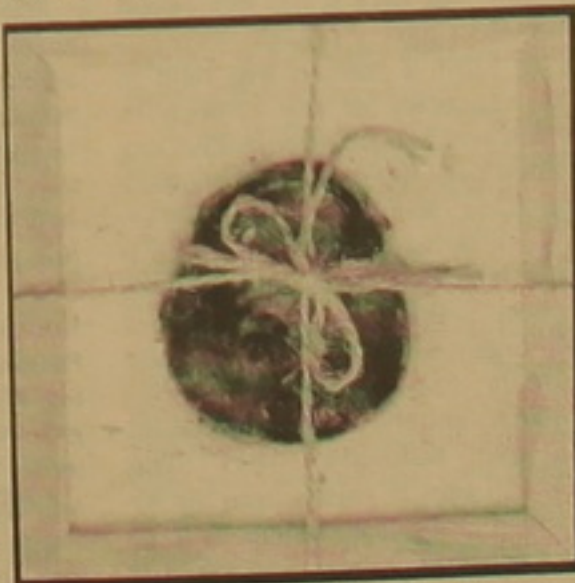
WATERTOWN, MA—Artist Apo Torosyan's "Bread Series" of mixed-media paintings will be shown in a seven-week show at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown, MA, beginning September 13. Torosyan will be present at the exhibit's opening reception, giving guests the opportunity to meet the artist and discuss his works, and will give a gallery talk on September 22.

Torosyan's "Bread Series" uses actual slices of bread, often burned, in conjunction with earth, sand, photographs, found objects, and other materials as textural elements. Bread, says Torosyan, incorporates all three parts of his statement: texture, symbolism, and the ordinary object. For him, it symbolizes the ordinary as well as the sacred.

The series contains a number of references to Torosyan's Armenian heritage. Although he seeks to express his philosophy of universal humanism through his works, themes of bread and land tie into his ancestors' experiences. Some of the paintings even make use of historical photographs.

The exhibit will run through October 26. Gallery hours are Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and Tuesday evenings 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Apo Torosyan's gallery talk will take place on September 22 at 7:00 pm. ALMA is located at 65 Main Street, Watertown, MA, in Watertown Square. For information on

the show, contact museum curator Gary Lind-Sinanian at (617) 926-2562, or Apo Torosyan at (978) 535-1206.



Apo Torosyan's "Bread #37"

Armenian Folk Dance Society introduces Family Night

NEW YORK—The Armenian Folk Dance Society has announced a new weekly "Family Night," designed to perpetuate traditional Armenian provincial dances and music.

The program will be held in a spacious, carpeted, living-room like area at the Community Reformed Church of Manhasset, 90 Plandome Road, Manhasset, NY, from 7 to 10 pm beginning Sunday, September 20th and continuing every Sunday night thereafter for 12 weeks.

An unhurried and congenial atmosphere will be encouraged in order to allow for in-depth workshops not only for authentic Armenian dance, but also that of other cultures such as Greek and Russian, and a variety of ballroom dance favorites such as Tango, Waltz, Latin, and Polka.

The program's new approach is meant to encourage participation and allow a broader exposure to traditional dance, an endangered aspect of the Armenian cultural legacy.

Along with the dance instruction, the location will include adjoining rooms for chess, card, or backgammon playing, reading, or TV viewing (participants must bring their own games). Refreshments and snacks will also be provided in a pot luck arrangement.

The program fee is \$55 for adults, \$35 for students (teenage and older), and \$75 for married couples. A donation of \$5 is requested from non-dancers.

The Community Reformed Church Facilities are located at the intersection of Northern Boulevard and Plandome Road, a 10 minute walk from the Manhasset Station of the Long Island Rail Road.

For more information on the Family Night program or the Armenian Folk Dance Society in general, call (516) 248-3943 or write to Arsen G. Anoushian, Director, at 482 Hillside Dr. S., New Hyde Park, NY 11040.

—Arsen G. Anoushian

Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund announces Publications Program

NEW YORK—The Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund has announced it will provide financial assistance toward the publication of certain select doctoral dissertations on subjects related to Armenian historians, and works of Armenian literature of the 19th century or earlier.

Applications for publication grants are being accepted, and must be submitted before April 15 and November 15 of each year.

Submissions may be in Armenian or English. Armenian works must be accompanied by an English translation.

For further information and application forms, please write to:

The Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund
Publications Program
Attn: Mr. Suren D. Fesjian
661 Hillside Rd., PO Box 889
Pelham Manor, NY 10803

NE K of V to hold interlodge picnic

WORCESTER, MA—The New England Interlodge of the Knights of Vartan has announced plans to host its third annual picnic on Sunday, September 20 at 1:00 pm. The event is being held at the American Legion farm in Haverhill, MA, and will include indoor as well as outdoor facilities in case of inclement weather.

Food to be served will consist of a complete Armenian meal, including losh kebab, chicken kebab, pilaf, salad, and watermelon.

Entertainment will be provided in the form of various games and sporting events. An all-Armenian band will be on hand as will the New England Ararat Orchestra.

A \$12 donation is requested at the door. For children 10 and under, admission is free.

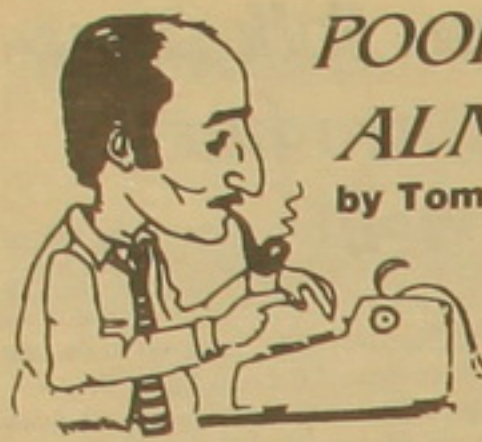
For additional information, call Charles DerKazarian at (508) 754-9016 or Michael Kasparian at (401) 767-2969.

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POOR TOM'S ALMANAC by Tom Vartabedian

For me, food is like a summertime allergy. I do my best to avoid it, but somehow it seeks me out in earnest.

Take the company cook-out for example. I had all good intentions of curbing my appetite when all of a sudden, somebody brought the macaroni salad. They must have known I had weakness for cold pasta.

Just when I got through with generous helping, another callous soul offered her specialty—calzone.

Mercy! Calzone and I go way back. My grandmother made a scrumptious calzone and this brought back fond memories.

Whenever food and I come in contact with one another, it winds up like a happy marriage. And summers are when we enjoy the honeymoon.

Lately, we've been inseparable partners. I worked a festival last weekend and they handed me the barbecue chores. The rich aroma of lamb smothered in onions and peppers and tomatoes gave me all the incentive to sample the fare to my heart's content. I wound up doing more sampling than serving.

The truth of the matter is, everywhere we go, we're surrounded by food. If it's to my mother's house, the table usually sags with food. To say no would be an insult.

Being a weekend wedding photographer does wonders for the palate. After working up a sweat, it does my stomach good to sit down to a lavish meal. When I see other people indulge—and smell the aroma—it becomes contagious.

What kills it are days when I'm required to shoot a double. Do I limit myself to just a salad at first, then go hog wild at the second, or divide my offerings proportionately?

I hate to be rude, especially when the bride has reserved a spot for me and shelled out a good dollar to make me feel invited.

I've also heard that food doesn't bring happiness, but I'd like to find out for myself.

"Try health foods," people tell me. "Focus on the salads and vegetables."

That's easy for them to say when they sink their teeth into a prime rib and top it off with strawberry shortcake. I've left banquet halls still hungry, only because I dined too modestly, then raided the refrigerator at home.

I can usually put away more food than a blacksmith at a barbecue. One day at a favorite restaurant, the waiter handed me a lengthy menu and waited for his order.

I perused with care the countless items listed, then handed the menu back to the waiter, saying congenially, "I see nothing to object to."

There are times when fate intervenes with food, like the time I planned a trip to the New York area. My itinerary called for visits to five old chums whom distance had thrown apart.

However, I didn't want one to know I was visiting the other to make it that much more personal. So we planned on spending a couple hours at each.

What I didn't anticipate was that each of them—with the exception of one—had dinner waiting by the time we arrived. The fifth, as it turned out, had reservations ready at a posh restaurant.

By the time I was done with this ordeal, they had to carry me away.

"We hate to eat and run," I told the hostess. "It's just a simple case of indigestion."

I blame science on this whole mess. Years ago when a fellow began to notice that when he went to the zoo, and the hippo made eyes at him, he figured he belonged in "obes-city."

So he went to his doctor and the doctor said, "Quit stuffing yourself, pal."

And Joe either stopped or he didn't stop, but at least he kept his mouth shut.

Today with the science of nutrition advancing so rapidly, there is plenty of food for conversation. I find myself switching from old-fashioned diets to the modern methods: no exercise, no dangerous drugs, no weight loss.

For that tired, worn-out feeling, I've been eating three full meals a day with a candy bar after dinner and pizza with the 11 o'clock news. Then I feel guilty.

I also have this guilt trip about leftovers on my plate, knowing there are famished people everywhere who could live off a morsel.

It also bothers me to see a refrigerator full of food and that I better do something about it before mold sets in.

So I've turned into a human waste disposal for the good of humanity.

During a family gathering recently, each of the guest couples brought along a specialty dish. It was pot luck all right. If you didn't sample each of the concoctions, you went to pot.

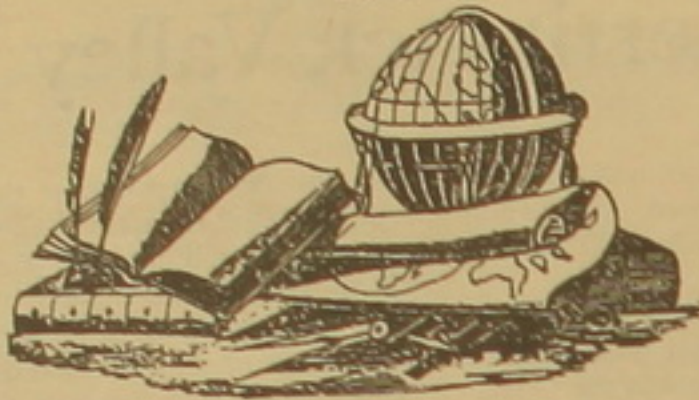
The people I know are very sensitive about their cooking and there is no love more sincere than the love of food.

The worst place is the beach. There is something about the salt air that arouses your tapeworm. I suppose you could stay in the water all the time, but even fish see the bait before the hook.

The only answer, I imagine, to keeping your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.

That way you'll have two chances to get rich—slim and fat.

From Uncle Garabed's NOTEBOOK



Business As Usual

People on any street appear on trivial errands, but their looks are misleading. For in the jostling throng there is a boy headed for his draft board, another for a physician's office to learn the results of a medical test; there is a new widow, and next to her a woman seeking a divorce; there is a lonely girl meeting a stranger downtown, and behind her a girl going to confession; there is a couple trying to borrow money for the downpayment on property; and another family picking out a casket.

Harlan Miller

Attention Dr. Alzheimer

A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness.

Elbert Hubbard

Daffy-nition

Sweets: The destiny that shapes our ends.

No Road Map

The best thing which eternal law ever ordained was that it allowed us but one entrance into life and many exits.

Seneca

Sign of the Times

The honeymoon is over when the bridegroom stops helping with the dishes—and does them by himself.

Cool Cal

Calvin Coolidge didn't say much, and when he did he didn't say much.

Will Rogers

Tutti Frutti

The first pair ate the first apple.

To a Bottle

'Tis very strange that you and I
Together cannot pull;
For you are full when I am dry,
And dry when I am full.

Cheaper by the dozen

Edo: How much do you charge for taking children's photographs?

Bedo: Five dollars a dozen.

Edo: You'll have to give me more time, I only have ten now.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Presbyterian Church plans expansion of facilities

BY JAMES G. SAHAGIAN

As the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC) of Paramus, New Jersey celebrates its 100th Anniversary, it has decided to expand its facility and mission. On May 17, 1998, church members voted to purchase two residential properties directly adjacent to the northwest corner of the church to provide for the needs of the church's rapidly growing youth.

Thus far, the Centennial celebration has included several events, both reflecting on the past 100 years of ministry, and planning for the current and future needs of its congregation. In January, the church began the year of celebration by holding a "kick-off" luncheon on Super Bowl Sunday at which time pictures, articles, programs, and other memorabilia were displayed from the first 100 years of its history. In March, a very successful live and silent Benefit Auction was held at the Ridgewood Women's Club.

In April, a concert was held in the sanctuary of the church in which several talented Armenian musicians performed an array of classical music, featuring a special performance by world-renowned pianist Lucy Ishkanian. Proceeds from the concert went to benefit a missions trip organized by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF). This mission sent 14 youths from the Armenian Evangelical community to go to Nagorno-Karabagh and assist in the development and construction of a campsite.

In May, a family retreat was held at the church. Several speakers addressed the over 100 attendees, and spoke about relevant spiritual and moral issues to each group.

The acquisition and renovation of the two properties is primarily being led by two APC congregants, Armand Avakian and Nick Aynilian. Aynilian, 100th Anniversary Committee Treasurer and Finance Chairman, who is also leading the Centennial fund-raising efforts, hopes that APC will better prepare itself for its future through the acquisition of the two properties. Referring to the Centennial celebration, Aynilian said "we should dedicate this celebration to our future, as much as our past... and our future is with our youth."

Avakian, a prominent Bergen County architect, echoed these sentiments. "We must dedicate ourselves to our youth."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Avakian continued, "where 2 adjacent properties are available at the same time."

Aynilian added that "30 years ago many thought the newly constructed APC in Paramus was too big for its congregation. Yet after an expansion a decade ago, it still seems to be bursting at the seams. While this project

seems ambitious for our congregation, we can and must seize the opportunity."

This bold acquisition will enable APC to expand both its physical space and ministerial opportunities. Although plans have not been set for what the two properties will be used for, there are many possibilities. Most probable uses include using one of the houses for a youth center. This would allow for youth meetings and gatherings, classes; whether they be Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or Sipan Armenian School, and counseling offices. The second house would easily lend itself for use as a parsonage for its pastor and his/her family. A walkway will be constructed in order to connect the two homes to the main church building.

In order to purchase these two properties, the church has set a goal of raising \$500,000. The campaign commenced on June 15, and it is

continued on page 13



Nick Aynilian and Armand Avakian in front of properties to be acquired by the Armenian Presbyterian Church

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mekhjian's host farewell dinner for Catholicos Karekin I

BY FLORENCE AVAKIAN

Though the weather on Monday, August 17 was stormy, the atmosphere in the spacious home of Dr. Harout and Mrs. Shake Mekhjian was warm and gracious as they hosted an elegant farewell dinner party for Catholicos of All Armenians, Karekin I.

Present were more than 30 leaders of the community who had worked on the visit of the Vehapar when he came to celebrate the Centennial of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in May.

Among the attendees were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese, and Mr. and Mrs. Haig and Elza Didizian from London who flew here with the Vehapar in May, and stayed with him for two and a half months, taking care of his daily needs with great generosity and devotion. Also

present were the Vehamayr, the 95-year old mother of Vehapar, and his nephew and niece who had come from Canada to spend a few days with the Vehapar.

The Catholicos remained in New York since May receiving medical treatment for a curable tumor condition in the mouth. Dr.

Dr. Mekhjian, rated the most outstanding cardiac surgeon in New Jersey, and his wife, Shake, a professional registered nurse, tended to Vehapar's medical treatment almost on a daily basis.



(l to r) Dr. and Mrs. Harout Mekhjian, His Holiness Karekin I, Mr. and Mrs. Haig Didizian

Welcoming the guests on Monday evening, Dr. Mekhjian pointed out that there have been many gatherings in their home, but this evening was unique because of "Amen Hayotz", words that are hard to translate because they have more weight in Armenian than in the

English translation.

"We have known Vehapar for many years," he said, "as a little vartabed, teacher, advisor, prelate, scholar of the highest order, and as a Catholicos in two positions. But during these past four months, we were also fortunate to see his deeply compassionate side. While going through his own ordeal, he was praying for and comforting his fellow patients. As we were leaving the hospital, it was touching to see him stop a man in a wheelchair and pray with him," he related.

"And throughout his ordeal, he never lost his sense of humor," Dr. Mekhjian continued. "He would spontaneously crack a joke or sing a nationalistic song, his favorite dedicated to Khrimian Hayrig. We also learned his favorite pastime was visiting bookstores, especially Barnes and Noble where he would browse for hours in the religion and philosophy sections." Turning to the Vehapar, he wished him "continued good health and a safe trip to your home, which is also our home."

In his remarks, Catholicos Karekin expressed his deep appreciation to the Mekhjian, the Didizians, and all the people who called, or wrote from all over the world. "I was obliged to justify this love by continuing my work during this period. This illness taught me more about life than all other experiences."

Paying tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Mekhjian, he recalled that they met him at the airport when he arrived four months ago, and "have always been with me as if I was their patient. This is an expression of genuine, spontaneous friendship, and of their deepest love for the Church."

He also expressed appreciation to Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and the Diocesan Council, the Didizians who "left their home in London and accompanied me every day in the hospital," and to Mr. and Mrs. Kevork and Sirvart Hovnanian, Mr. and Mrs. Hirair and Anna Hovnanian, and Mr. and Mrs. Vahakn and Hasmig Hovnanian for their kindness and support.

"This period was a special occasion to further know our people, and create a bond of togetherness," he said with obvious emotion, and pledged to "work harder once I am fully recovered."

On the trip to the Mekhjian home, I was privileged to travel with Vehapar, Vehamayr, and the Didizians. During the ride, Vehapar burst spontaneously into song several times, with his mother joyfully joining in. It was a rare glimpse into our church leader's undiminished enthusiasm, and a symbol of his indomitable spirit, and love of his people.



H.H. Karekin I with Vehamayr and his niece and nephew at the Mekhjian's home

Lowell-area Armenians take part in city folk festival



ARMENIANS FROM THROUGHOUT THE MERRIMACK VALLEY participated in the City of Lowell's famous annual July Folk Festival this year. Pictured above (top) are Lowell "Lousintak" ARS members and other volunteers at the ARS food booth bracing themselves for the estimated 175,000 people who attended the festival. Also pictured (bottom) is N. Andover "Sassoun" AYF member Garo Karibian, receiving a scholarship award from Pauline Zoluc of the Lowell Folk Festival Foundation. The Foundation gives a scholarship yearly to an applicant from among the ethnic groups taking part in the festival. Karibian and many other local youth have assisted at the ARS booth for many years.

Clarinet virtuoso still keeping the music alive

BY GEORGE SARKISIAN

Hachig Kazarian, husband, public school teacher, father of four adult children and proud grandfather of five, is recognized as one of the most accomplished clarinet players of Armenian and Middle Eastern music in North America.

"Not only in North America," says Sonny Gavoro, a retired Comerica Bank Vice-president who first heard Hachig play at a function in Boston, Massachusetts in the mid-1950s, "but in all the Americas. There is not a finer musician anywhere, he has no peer. None. He is an unbelievable talent."

A modest, self-effacing man, Kazarian and his lovely wife, Christine (formerly Aranosian of Dearborn), have lived in Plymouth Township, Michigan for 23 years. "Music is an identity," said Kazarian, "People of all ages are looking for their roots, from where their ancestors came from." Kazarian recorded the first of his 15 (at least) Armenian albums at the age of 14. He recorded three albums with jazz flautist Herbie Mann. He also recorded



Hachig Kazarian

six albums and completed a series of workshops with University of Michigan folk dance teacher Phyllis Weikart. The workshops are designed to teach music educators. He sold the rights to some of his Armenian recordings to an American movie producer for use in the 1997 movie "Wedding Bell Blues," which appeared in art film theaters in California. He has also contributed to the soundtrack of the "Hercules" television show series. "Every passing generation of any ethnic group in America becomes a little more white-washed, a little more Americanized," says Kazarian.

"Their ethnic music begins to lack character. The kids of today are searching for their identities, for their roots. I am trying to preserve Armenian music for my children and grandchildren and the generations that follow them, but I feel as though I have become a dinosaur. It seems to me that many of the young musicians today are not willing to put in the time practicing and learning the essence and foundation of Armenian music which I acquired by listening to the recordings of the older musicians. I was also fortunate enough to hear them live. Since our Armenian music was such a critical ingredient in the social and ethnic part of the Armenian-American's lifestyle that no longer exists, I think Armenian music as we know it will be lost a couple of generations down the road," Kazarian says.

Kazarian, age 57, was born and raised in the Linwood-Davison area on the Detroit/Highland Park city limits in the 1940s. His interest in the clarinet started when he was 10 during the daily front porch and kitchen and other neighborhood meetings where his Armenian neighbors gathered to eat, sing, and dance after long hours of work.

"Music was such an important ingredient of the social part of daily life during that era," he says. "All the nationalities gathered in their own small groups in various areas of the neighborhood and as you walked from block to block you could see and hear that they did the same thing as the Armenians did only with their own music and dances."

As a young boy, Kazarian was consumed with listening to and imitating the elders of all nationalities sing and hum and play on their instruments the simple tunes and melodies of their joys and sorrows of life. "The more I listened and the more I learned, the more I was able to experience and feel the music. It has to become a part of your soul."

All the tunes and dance melodies that he learned filled his musical mind. Out of this developed Kazarian's unique clarinet style. Today, his style is considered the benchmark by which all Armenian clarinetists measure themselves throughout North America.

When reached at his home in Boynton Beach, Florida, vocalist Onnik Dinkjian, who is among the Middle Eastern elite in his field, says, "Hachig is certainly the best in North America, perhaps even the world. As a vocalist, you must depend on the musicians to complement you. Hachig is a musician's musician. When other musicians know they will be playing with Hachig, they know they will become better musicians because the talent Hachig has of bringing out the best in them. The diversity of all his music, from the dance music to the listening music, makes all people realize that he is the total musician. You must be a good human being to produce good music and Hachig is such a good person. It is all related."

His physical command of the clarinet is reminiscent of jazz great Pete Fountain, who has become an acquaintance. Together they form a mutual admiration society.

Kazarian's abilities on the clarinet were formed by his first

Taking a closer look at

JAVAKHK

IN RECENT WEEKS Armenians worldwide have become aware once again of Javakhk, the restive, Armenian-populated province currently found within the southern reaches of the Republic of Georgia. The region is currently the site of flaring tensions as pro-Russian and pro-Georgian forces vie for influence along with local Armenians who seek greater autonomy and self-determination within this largely neglected and underdeveloped area.

The case of Javakhk (which principally contains the districts of Akhalkalak and Akhaltskha) is similar in some respects to that of Karabagh. The similarity is particularly striking in that Armenians lost direct control of these territories in the same 1918-1920 period, in the wake of World War I, when Karabagh's fate was largely determined on the ground. Broadly speaking, it was a time when the three Transcaucasian republics scrambled—and often battled—to secure land, population, and resources amid the rapid hardening of their once-elastic territorial boundaries.

Below, we present the story of Javakhk—that is, how it came to be found under Georgian jurisdiction despite its Armenian majority—in the hopes of further illuminating Armenians' present condition and predicament. The following excerpts are from Volume I, chapters 3 and 4, of Richard G. Hovannisian's authoritative work, *The Republic of Armenia* (Berkeley, 1971). —ED.

THE DETERIORATION OF ARMENO-GEORGIAN RELATIONS

For more than two thousand years Armenians and Georgians had been neighbors, enjoying an extraordinary record of peaceful association. Christian peoples, they shared numerous traditions, including related erstwhile dynastic families. Yet in 1918, as both nations struggled for survival, their inexperienced governments were quick to take offense and to assume uncompromising attitudes. The former bonds degenerated into jealousy and distrust.

Feeling betrayed, the Armenians ascribed the collapse of the Transcaucasian Federative Republic to the Georgians, who upon securing German protection had abandoned Armenia to the Turkish hordes. The embittered and envious Armenians were stung again as control of Tiflis was wrenched from their grasp. They charged that the Georgian Mensheviks, bringing dishonor to the internationalist and humanitarian principles of the Social Democratic movement, had most brazenly unmasked their chauvinism by allying with the aristocracy to oppress the Armenian plurality of Tiflis. In conduct equally nefarious, the Georgian government had sealed the escape routes to refugees fleeing before the Turkish armies. Nearly 80,000 Armenians from Akhalkalak alone had been denied sanctuary. Of this destitute mass, stranded in the rugged Bakuriani highland until the end of the World War, some 60,000 perished.³

The Georgians indignantly refuted every accusation, asserting that a nation could not be blamed for saving itself and that, were the circumstances reversed, the Armenians would have followed the same course. Moreover, the Armenians, having found refuge in Georgia for decades past, were now unscrupulously violating the goodwill of the Georgian people by aspiring to dominate the country. They filled many quarters of Tiflis, and their bourgeoisie nearly monopolized the commerce and enjoyed ownership of the most luxurious mansions. Tiflis had in fact been transformed into a Russo-Armenian city, but, as it had again become the capital of free Georgia, the perpetuation of this singularly abnormal situation could be tolerated no longer. Furthermore, declared the Georgians, inhumanity was not one of their national attributes; the Armenian indictment was baseless. Georgia was actually teeming with so many thousands of refugees that her economic welfare was in jeopardy. These people roved in lawless, looting bands, stealing, marauding, and spreading contagion. It was incumbent upon the Georgian government to protect its citizenry by sealing the borders. Only by coincidence had the brunt of this action fallen upon the misfortunate Armenians of Akhalkalak.⁴

LORI AND AKHALKALAK

A trenchant source of Armeno-Georgian antagonism sprang from rivalry over Lori and Akhalkalak. The uchastok (district) of Lori, located between Pambak and the Khram River in the northern reaches of the volcanic Armenian plateau, had been detached from the Yerevan guberniia in 1862 and added to the Tiflis guberniia. Historically, under the Arsacid (Arshakuni) dynasty of the first to fifth centuries AD, Lori constituted the county of Dashir, and, under the Bagratid (Bagratuni) dynasty, ninth through eleventh centuries, it

formed the core of the Armenian subkingdom of Gugark. Then, after a period of vassalage to the Seljuk Turks, Lori was included in the realms of the Georgian branch of the Bagratids, but it eventually fell to the Mongols and to Safavid Persia. Late in the eighteenth century King Iraklii II restored Georgian sovereignty over the district for a few years until all eastern Georgia was annexed by Russia in 1801. Under Romanov rule most of historic Lori was organized as the Lori uchastok, whereas the remainder was apportioned among the three other uchastoks of the Borchalu uezd. The population of the Lori uchastok was basically Armenian: 42,000 in 1914 as compared with 8,500 Russians, 3,350 Greeks, 3,300 Tatars, and fewer than 100 Georgians. Another 25,000 Armenians lived in neighboring districts of the Borchalu uezd, and the Armenian element was likewise predominant in the adjacent southern sector of the Tiflis uezd.

Lying to the west of the Borchalu uezd, Akhalkalak (Akhalkalaki), historically the Armenian Javakhk and the Georgian Javakheti, had alternated between Georgian and Armenian rule until it passed to the Georgian Bagratids in the eleventh century. At the end of the thirteenth century Akhalkalak began a long semiautonomous existence which endured into the seventeenth century, when it was absorbed by the Ottoman Empire and included in the eyalet (province) of Akhaltsikh. By the time Akhalkalak was annexed to the Russian Empire in 1829, the population, though primarily of Georgian stock, had been Islamicized. To avoid becoming Romanov subjects, most of these Muslims forsook their native villages and relocated within the revised boundaries of the Ottoman Empire. As this movement was paralleled by an exodus of thousands of Turkish Armenians from the regions of Erzerum and old Bayazit, the abandoned hamlets of Akhalkalak were resettled by Christian immigrants. The ethnic reversal was so complete that, in 1916, 83,000 of the 107,000 inhabitants were Armenians, whereas Russians, Georgians, Tatars, Greeks, and other nationality groups made up the remaining 24,000.

Between 1905 and 1916, at conferences dealing with the feasibility of introducing into Transcaucasia the limited self-governing agrarian administrative units known as zemstvos, Armenian spokesmen advocated the realignment of existing provincial boundaries to make them coincide with those of the several projected zemstvos. By this plan Lori and Akhalkalak of the Tiflis guberniia, the Alexandropol uezd of Yerevan, and two counties of Kars would have been combined into a zemstvo-province named Shirak. These conferences brought about neither the adoption of the zemstvo system nor the adjustment of provincial boundaries, but the Armenian representatives were nonetheless heartened by the declarations of Georgian Menshevik leaders upholding the ethnic principle (with allowance for geographic and economic factors) in determining the future internal boundaries of Transcaucasia.

Soon after the February/March Revolution of 1917, the Russian Provisional Government revived the zemstvo question. A conference of Transcaucasian leaders meeting in Petrograd submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Interior, which then forwarded the project to Tiflis for implementation by the regional administration, the

Ozakom. In its turn the Ozakom appointed a fifteen-man committee to work out the details, but basic differences between Armenian and Muslim members resulted in deadlock. During these discussions the Georgian Mensheviks again conceded that Lori and Akhalkalak should be joined to an Armenian province if the zemstvo system were introduced. This stand they took despite the vociferous opposition of the antisocialist Georgian National Democrats, who insisted that the entire Tiflis guberniia was intrinsically Georgian and must remain so.

The October/November Revolution put an end to the Ozakom and its various committees, and the Turkish invasion of Transcaucasia made further discussion of the zemstvo superfluous, at least for a time. In June, 1918, the treaties of Batum awarded the Akhalkalak uezd to the Ottoman Empire, and even on the Transcaucasian side of the new boundary Turkish regiments remained in control of Pambak and the southern part of Lori. In a countermovement Georgian units led by German officers took possession of northern Lori and established outposts along the Kamenka (Dzoraget) River. The seasoned Menshevik statesman, Noi Zhordania, hastened to reassure the Armenian National Council that this occupation would be temporary and that following a return to normalcy Georgia would once again honor the ethnic principle.

Thereafter, on behalf of the Armenian National Council, Khachatur Karjikian, Gevorg Khatisian, and General Gabriel Korganian met with a special Georgian committee charged with defining the exact boundaries of the Republic of Georgia. During that conference the international Menshevik leader, Iraklii Tsereteli, stunned the Armenians by outlining the Georgian case for sovereignty over every uezd of the Tiflis guberniia, together with the Pambak uchastok of the Yerevan guberniia. The more Armenian-populated territory included within Georgia, he argued, the safer the inhabitants would be. The Armenians would at least be spared the viciousness of the Turk, and they would reinforce the Christian element in Georgia as a bulwark against the Muslims. Vehemently protesting the new Menshevik tactic the Armenian representatives persuaded the Georgian committee to reconsider the issue and to resume the discussions in a few days. But before the two sides met again, Georgian newspapers carried the official announcement that the Tiflis guberniia was in its entirety an integral unit of the Republic of Georgia.

The Menshevik reversal could logically be defended. Georgian acceptance of the ethnic principle in Lori and Akhalkalak had come at a time when all Transcaucasia had been combined into an extensive region (krai) of the Russian Empire. With the establishment of independent republics, however, circumstances had changed radically. The Republic of Georgia deemed possession of Akhalkalak and Lori essential. Historic, geographic, cultural, and economic considerations now overshadowed the ethnic principle. Georgian kingdoms had encompassed both districts, which together constituted a natural defensive boundary. These highlands also provided lush summer pastures for herdsmen of the plains to the north and, combined with those plains, formed an economic unit bound to Tiflis, not to Yerevan. Further-

more, the Mensheviks now flaunted a document long since uncovered by Georgian nationalists, the Russo-Georgian treaty of 1783. This compact not only had placed the realms of King Iraklii II under the protection of Empress Catherine II but also had provided that, should the remaining historic Georgian territories subsequently be liberated from Muslim overlords, they too would be added to the domains of Iraklii or his successors. The Republic of Georgia, as heir to the Georgian kingdoms, thus staked its claim to Akhalkalak and Lori.

The pretensions of Armenia rested on equally logical foundations. Ethnically, Lori and Akhalkalak were indisputably Armenian. Geographically, they formed an extension of the Yerevan guberniia and contrasted with the Georgian lowlands to the north. Strategically, they afforded a natural, easily defended frontier that in the hands of any other power would thrust menacingly toward the heart of Armenia. Economically, these highlands were rich in pastures, forests, and mineral resources, which were vital to Armenia, a land otherwise exceedingly limited in natural wealth.

Throughout the summer and autumn of 1918, despite the seriousness of the controversy, neither Armenia nor Georgia could enforce her claims. Southern Lori and all Akhalkalak remained under Turkish domination; the two republics did not even share a common frontier. Moreover, the Armenians of northern Lori enjoyed greater security under German protection than did their compatriots south of the Kamenka, where Turkish violence and pillage were rampant. The cardinal complaint of the Lori Armenians during this time arose from attempts to induct the village youth into the Georgian army. On three separate occasions Arshak Djamalian, the Armenian charge d'affaires in Tiflis, protested this infringement and reminded Georgian officials of their pledge that the occupation of Lori would not be permanent. He insisted that Georgia had no right to recruit men in "an integral part of the Republic of Armenia."

THE ARMENO-GEORGIAN ENTANGLEMENT

To their lasting embarrassment, Armenia and Georgia, beset by extreme crisis conditions and, above all, thoroughly convinced that vital national interests were at stake, plunged into warfare in December, 1918. The conflict exposed the two republics to the ridicule of political enemies and of skeptics who questioned the feasibility of independent states in the Caucasus. Indeed, the inglorious two-week war rudely shook the faith of foreign supporters and sympathetic officials.

A STILLBORN TRANSCAUCASIAN CONFERENCE

As the border crisis in Lori eased in late October, 1918, and Armenia and Georgia appealed simultaneously for a peaceful solution to their disputes, the Republic of Georgia, in a conciliatory gesture, sent Simeon (Semen) Gurgenevich Mdivani, a member of Parliament, to Yerevan for negotiations. Yet at the same time the Georgian government initiated a diplomatic episode that gave affront to Armenia and evoked Armenian charges that Georgia was aspiring to hegemony over all Transcaucasia. Georgia's inadequate attention to protocol and to the wording of communiques was in part responsible for

triggering the Armenian accusations and for negating what might otherwise have been a most constructive act.

In a message dated October 27, 1918, Acting Foreign Minister Noi V. Ramishvili advised the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Mountaineer Republic of the North Caucasus and Daghestan that, with conclusion of the World War imminent, the future of the peoples of the former Russian Empire would soon be determined. Motivated by the conviction that the nations of Transcaucasia could attain their respective goals only if they stood united, Georgia, he continued, now summoned the sister republics to a conference in Tiflis, to begin at midday on November 3, 1918. Each state should empower two delegates to work toward a solution to the following questions "which the government of the Georgian republic has decided to place before the conference":

1. The mutual recognition of the independence of the nations whose governments are invited to the conference.
2. The settlement of all controversies, not excluding boundary disputes, by agreement of the interested governments or, in the absence of such agreement, through arbitration.
3. The reciprocal obligation not to conclude pacts of any kind with other governments to the detriment of any one of the peoples participating in the conference.
4. The establishment of a solid front and mutual support at the world peace congress for the purpose of securing recognition of the republics' independence and of defending their common interests.

This invitation was not intended, the interpretation of several authors aside, to give offense; yet so it did. Without preliminary consultation Georgia had dictated the time, place, participants, and agenda of the conference even though representatives of the other governments were then in Tiflis. A prominent non-Menshevik Georgian statesman has likened the invitation to "a circular of the Ministry of Internal Affairs" rather than an international communication. With the recent trouble in Lori fresh in mind, the Armenians found it most difficult to regard the Georgian maneuver as a gesture of goodwill. Chargé d'affaires Djamalian informed Ramishvili on October 31 that the Georgian proposal had been relayed to Yerevan and that Armenia would undoubtedly be favorably disposed. Still, he could not but regret that the Tiflis government had not thought it wise to conduct preparatory discussions regarding the organization of the conference. As it was, even if Armenia had actually been willing, she could not have selected and dispatched a delegation by November. In fact, because of communication and transportation difficulties, only on November 7, four days after the conference was to have opened, did a copy of the Georgian note reach Yerevan.

An evaluation of Armenian policy indicates that the agenda proposed by Georgia created misgivings more fundamental than the overbearing tone of the summons. Territorial disputes, Armenia believed, should be settled by the states directly involved rather than through arbitration of a four-nation panel. This procedure would obviate the threat of power blocs at a general conference, where the Mountaineers could be expected to support Azerbaijan's claims to the disputed sectors of the Elisavetpol and Yerevan guberniias, and both Muslim states could gain Georgia's vote in return for upholding Georgian claims to the Armenian-populated southern districts of the Tiflis guberniia. The memory of Muslim-Georgian coalitions in the Transcaucasian Commissariat and Seim was painfully vivid for the Armenians. Nor did Armenia desire to recognize the anomalous confederative republic of fountaineers, where Nuri Pasha and other Turkish officers still held sway. The lands of the Terek and Daghestan were not integral to Transcaucasia proper, yet the inclusion of the Mountaineer representatives at the proposed conference would serve to augment Muslim power throughout the region.

The last item on the proposed agenda also disturbed Yerevan. Armenia had no intention of joining in a united front at the peace conference in Europe, for in late

1918 she appeared to hold a tremendous advantage on the international scene. Of all the Transcaucasian states, Armenia alone had elicited widespread sympathy in Europe and America. Armenophiles the world over were demanding that justice be done. The unification of Russian Armenia and Turkish Armenia seemed a very real prospect. Governments supporting the reestablishment of a single, indivisible Russia were inclined to view Armenia as an exception and permit the disassociation of Russian Armenia from Russia, but they were not willing to make similar concessions in the case of Azerbaijan and especially not in that of the Mountaineer Confederation, which was totally unknown to most Europeans. Armenia expected to attend the peace conference in a very special capacity. She was the "Little Ally," had struggled heroically, though desperately, against the Turkish invasion, and remained free of the shadows cast upon Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the Mountaineers by their

preliminary mutual consent. It insisted, however, that the agenda not include boundary disputes, for these should be settled bilaterally. Two days later, on November 10, delegates of the other three republics met for the first time in Tiflis. Georgia was represented by

Minister of Interior Noi V. Ramishvili and by Evgenii P. Gegechkori, who had just taken charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Azerbaijan by her plenipotentiary to Georgia, Mohammed Iusuf Jafarov, and by Dr. Mustafa Bek Vekilov; and the Mountaineers by Minister of Interior Pshemakho Kotsev and by Minister of Finance Vassan-Ghirab Javagi. The session opened with a welcoming address by Premier Zhordania. Then, since the Armenians were absent, the delegates deferred the conference for another three days. Notified of this action, Simeon Mdivani, the Georgian envoy in Yerevan, advised his government not to proceed with the meeting until he and the Armenian leaders had settled certain basic

They then recessed until November 20. Foreign Minister Gegechkori instructed Mdivani to inform Kachaznuni's government that the conference would open officially at the next session, with or without Armenian collaboration."

Mdivani earnestly endeavored to allay the apprehensions in Yerevan. He explained that, in view of the momentous changes on the world scene and the absence of regular channels of communication, preliminary negotiations would have consumed much valuable time. Georgia, he continued, had acted in good faith and in the belief that once the delegations had gathered in Tiflis they could alter or add to the agenda." By November 17 he had met with some little success, for Foreign Minister Tigranian had assented, with certain reservations, to Armenian participation in a Transcaucasian conference. Mdivani cautioned his government, however, that a delegation could not reach Tiflis before the next scheduled session, and he urged a further postponement until at least the twenty-seventh.

Five days later, on November 22, Gegechkori wired that the meeting had been set back, for the very last time, until the thirtieth. But then followed a sullen message divulging news that the entire conference had fallen apart. Gegechkori was offended by Armenia's capriciousness, and he felt that the very concept of a general Transcaucasian meeting might be compromised for a long time to come." In his reply of December 5, Mdivani reiterated the reasons for Armenia's absence, adding optimistically that, in view of his recent understanding with the Yerevan government, a delegation would arrive in Tiflis shortly.

The Transcaucasian conference dispersed, however, without having officially convened. The responsibility for the fiasco lay to a considerable degree with the Armenians. It was unfortunate that the new republics had failed to come together at this relatively early date, for the slight possibility existed that, had they conferred, subsequent events would not have taken their ultimate deleterious course. On December 8 Mdivani departed for Tiflis taking a promise from Tigranian that he would follow immediately after welcoming a French envoy then en route to Yerevan" and after attending to matters related to the Turkish evacuation of the Yerevan guberniia. Tigranian, who had agreed to enter into bilateral negotiations with the Georgian cabinet, was certain the delay would last no longer than two weeks. Before that fortnight had passed, however, Armenia and Georgia were at war.

DIPLOMATIC SPARRING

While Mdivani acted as intermediary regarding the Transcaucasian conference, he also engaged the Yerevan government on the conflicting claims to Lori and Akhalkalak. When on November 12 Foreign Minister Tigranian cited Menshevik declarations acknowledging the Armenian character of these lands, the Georgian representative rejoined that the recent extraordinary political changes in the Caucasus had rendered such statements invalid. Every foot of the Tiflis guberniia was now needed by the Republic of Georgia to implement plans for social and agrarian reforms. The ethnic principle must be laid aside. Georgia, Mdivani continued, could for strategic reasons even claim the northern sector of Armenia, but since the Turkish threat had finally passed, his country would forego pretensions to Pambak and Kazakh. Georgia could not, however, relinquish Akhalkalak and Lori. During this and subsequent interviews Tigranian and Premier Kachaznuni indicated a willingness to make certain concessions should Georgia support Armenia's claim to Mountainous Karabagh. Georgia, they reasoned, could be of little assistance in Yerevan's bid for Turkish Armenia but could, with regard to Karabagh, bring pressure to bear on Azerbaijan. Mdivani demurred, for he felt that Georgia, through her contacts in European countries and especially among socialist circles, could further Armenia's westward expansion, whereas the problem with Azerbaijan was fraught with bewildering complexities."

In the midst of these verbal exchanges, Foreign Minister Gegechkori instructed Mdivani on November 19 to stand firm on Akhalkalak, but, if necessary, to entertain



wartime associations with the Central Powers. Armenian efforts for a united Transcaucasian front against Turkey had failed. Now the concept of a united front at Paris seemed ludicrous indeed.

On November 8, the day after Ramishvili's communique was received in Yerevan, the Khorhurd of Armenia denounced the tactless Georgian proposal. Especially vociferous were the Social Democrat legislators, who hitherto had staunchly defended their Georgian comrades. Menshevik Abraham Malkhasian now vilified the "dictatorial aspirations" of Zhordania's cabinet and termed its action "a violation of the principle of equality and evidence that one government is attempting to impose its will upon another." After the expression of similar sentiment by all other factions, the Khorhurd unanimously resolved to abstain from the Tiflis conference, but in so doing it called upon the cabinet to arrange a new gathering, according due regard to all parties, the time, place, and agenda to be determined by

issues. Foreign Minister Sirakan F. Tigranian had already made it quite clear that Armenia would not participate in any conference that dealt with territorial questions.

When the delegates of the three republics assembled again on November 14, the Armenians were still absent. Incensed by the behavior of the Yerevan government, Jafarov urged the conference to turn to its agenda. Ramishvili recommended that discussions remain informal pending the arrival of the Armenian spokesmen and that decisions made during the unofficial sessions be adopted as binding if the Armenians did not appear by a specified date. Jafarov rejected this suggestion and proposed that the republics having representatives present consider this conference as totally new, thus eliminating the need for unofficial commissions or further delays. The delegates arrived at no clear solution but consented to request once again that Armenia send a pair of negotiators empowered to enter into treaty arrangements.

Aghjayan...

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years epitomize the violation of human rights and specifically Armenian rights.

By this definition, the Artsakh struggle is Hai Tahd. The incursion by Turkey into the Patriarchal elections in Istanbul is an incursion on Hai Tahd. The racist comments by Norman Itzkowitz, professor at Princeton University, are about Hai Tahd. When a group of Armenian kids are harassed on their way to school in Los Angeles, it is a challenge to Hai Tahd.

Until such time as the world embraces humanism, Hai Tahd will always be necessary. The independence of Armenia does not end the need for Hai Tahd. Turkish recognition of the Genocide would not end Hai Tahd either. While each is and would be a success, they do not constitute an end. They are objectives because they are affirmations of Hai Tahd.

The history of the ARF is based on fighting for Armenian rights. It has always been about Hai Tahd. The future should be no different. Hai Tahd is our obligation, it is our mission, and every action we take must have a foundation in it.

Worcester, MA

Virtuoso...

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clarinet teacher, Haig Krikorian, an old country Armenian clarinet player who

settled in Detroit by way of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Krikorian, who passed away in the 1970s, soon realized that Kazarian's enormous potential needed more guidance than he could offer. Local playing greats and teaching clarinetists Albert Lucconi and Vincent Melidon were the next private teachers Kazarian studied with.

While a Student at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, Kazarian also studied with Dr. Harry Began. Began developed music programs first at Cass, and then at Wayne State University. He went on to Michigan State University and the University of Illinois and finally Purdue University.

"I never heard a finer clarinetist that plays Near Eastern music (Began prefers the term Near Eastern rather than Middle Eastern) than Hachig. He is the greatest Near Eastern music clarinet player I know of. His playing and dissemination of Near Eastern music is unexcelled," said Began when contacted at his retirement home in Hubbard Lake, Michigan.

In the late 1960s Kazarian and his Armenian band, called the "Hyetones," played on the weekends at Sammy G's Nightclub on the corner of Six Mile Road and John R in Detroit.

"I have people come up to me even today some 30 years later and tell me they met their husband or wife at Sammy G's and what a special place and environment that was for Middle Eastern music," Hachig says.

Kazarian's accomplishments at Cass earned him a four-year scholarship to study at the famed Julliard School of Mu-

sic in New York City. While there, he earned his bachelor of arts degree and master of science in music performance. He earned an additional master's in music literature at Eastern Michigan University with a concentration in ethnomusicology.

In his last few years of school, Kazarian had to decide whether to pursue a sometimes very unstable and fiercely competitive classical career or settle down and start a family. Christine had been the bread winner and his tower of strength through all the lean years in New York City. Hachig realized it was more important to raise a family within a traditional Armenian community. "It was really a non-decision. We needed to have a stable life."

Before that stable life came though, there was nearly a year in Las Vegas playing Middle Eastern music in the lounge acts for a couple of the major hotels there at the time. Teaming up with Richard Hagopian from California and Buddy Sarkissian from Nevada, they opened up the Bonanza Hotel. After that came a gig at the Frontier Hotel. Working from contract to contract was not a secure lifestyle.

The international classical music world's loss was metro Detroit's gain. Kazarian landed a job in the Melvindale/Northern Allen Park School district Music Department and has been teaching instrumental music for the last 31 years. He is currently the acting department chair. Kazarian says he is now teaching children of some of his first students and he still loves the challenge of teaching.

His excellence in teaching has been recognized many times in the community he serves.

He was the 1992-93 Allen Park Rotary Club Employee of the Year. He was honored with the Golden Apple Achievement Award for 1992 by the Wayne County Regional Education District. He was also bestowed with the prestigious Outstanding Educator Award for 1994 by the Wayne County Regional Education District.

In addition to all the professional awards that he has been presented with, Hachig also extended his excellence and love of his Armenian heritage to his St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Dearborn, where he served as choir director for 12 years. He served in the same capacity for St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield for another year and a half.

Throughout the 40-plus years that Kazarian has been playing Armenian music for the countless local and national weddings, concerts, dances and AYF Olympics, one thing remains constant for him.

Next to his love and devotion toward his family, his clarinet is still his "first love."

"I think what pleases me most about the direction that my life's path has taken me is the knowledge that I have been playing music in the Armenian community for over 40 years. My greatest reward is that I feel I have made a contribution toward preserving our Armenian heritage in America."

Oskanian...

continued from page 1

ing the problem, stating that the government is attempting to solve the problem as quickly as possible and without any pre-conditions. The ARF representatives suggested that the issues discussed not be presented to the public until they can be done so in a clear, orderly way.

Also discussed were the latest developments in the Javakhk region and the relations between Armenian and Iran, focusing upon Oskanian's recent visit to Iran. The ARF members presented their outlook on relations with Iran and discussed the importance of Armenian-Iranian cooperation

in the region.

Turning their focus to Russia, the two sides discussed the recent developments in the country's political and economic spheres. The ARF representatives stated their opinion saying that the situation in Russia could turn out to be detrimental to Armenia, and that the Armenian government must take certain steps to ensure its own stability.

Oskanian further briefed the representatives on foreign policy issues that are still in the developmental stage, and both sides shared their views on the corresponding issues. In order to stay up to date with foreign policy issues, and to ensure a constant, healthy exchange of opinions between the government and the ARF, the two sides promised to hold such meetings periodically.

Azeri reporters visit Yerevan

Discuss Karabagh issue with ARF leadership

YEREVAN (Yerevan News Agency)—Armenian Revolutionary Federation Executive Council members Armen Rustamian, Eduard Ghazarian and Gegham Manukian met with visiting Azeri reporters last Thursday, September 3, at the ARF's offices in Yerevan.

The reporters were in Yerevan following a three-day visit to Karabagh, as part of a journalists' exchange program sponsored by the European Union.

The ARF leaders expressed hope that such meetings between the two sides would eventually lead to the establishment of peace in the region. ARF Executive Council representatives also answered numerous questions directed to them by the Azeri reporters.

The ARF leaders also stressed that Azerbaijani reports and accounts often contained misleading characterizations of the ARF. These, they stated, often stemmed from Soviet propaganda tactics, which were not only directed toward the ARF, but also toward other nationalist parties such as Azerbaijan's Musavat party and the Georgian Mensheviks.

The representatives expressed their belief that the existence of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic has become an undeniable fact and should be officially recognized by Azerbaijan as an independent and self-governing entity.

The ARF representatives also asserted that the emerging concepts of inviolability of borders and territorial in-

tegrity have had contradictory interpretations in the realm of conflict resolution within international circles. In this realm, they stressed the need to find new methods through which the aforementioned concepts may be interpreted, in order to facilitate the just and peaceful resolution of such conflicts.

To avoid any future mistakes, the ARF representatives pointed to the need to stay away from stereotypes and to "learn to diffuse historic mines which still pose an explosive danger."

In discussing the Karabagh conflict, the ARF representatives asserted that Nagorno-Karabagh achieved independence through internationally recognized norms. They pointed out that peaceful protest escalated to armed struggle only after Armenians were met with harassment, persecution, and armed intervention by Azerbaijani and Soviet forces.

They added that it would be futile to revert back to the early realities of Karabagh, since independence had already been established.

The ARF Executive Council representatives emphasized that Karabagh could no longer be subjugated to Azerbaijan, given the current realities.

The ARF representatives also explained the bases and aims of the organization, pointing to its socialist ideology and simultaneous, unconditional support for the development of an Armenian national state.

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JAVAKHK...

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possible amendments in Lori, a district already occupied in part by Armenia. The communique was two-pronged, however, for it also required that in no event "should a single interest of Georgia be compromised." Ten days later Mdivani announced to Armenian foreign ministry officials his authorization to conclude a preliminary boundary agreement, which would then be submitted to Tiflis for confirmation. He suggested that the existing border between the Tiflis and Yerevan guberniias become the permanent international boundary and inquired if there were "any objections" to such an arrangement. There were, of course, objections, as Mdivani well knew. On December 1 Tigranian reiterated Armenia's adherence to the ethnic principle, which during 1917 and a part of 1918 had also been honored, with allowance for certain geographic considerations, by the leadership of the "Georgian democracy." By this arrangement Armenia was to encompass both Akhalkalak and Lori but not the adjoining uchastoks closer to Tiflis, even though Armenian pluralities existed in those districts. If, however, Georgia intended to reverse her position on Akhalkalak and Lori, Armenia would feel quite justified in bringing the other zones into contention once again. Mdivani reminded Tigranian that the question now at hand was the determination of the boundary between two sovereign nations and not, as it was earlier, between provinces or zemstvos of the same empire. Although characterizing the disputed lands as organically Georgian, Mdivani was sufficiently conciliatory in attitude to gain Tigranian's promise to continue the discussions in Tiflis.

THE GEORGIAN OCCUPATION OF AKHALKALAK

Throughout the summer and autumn of 1918 the uyezds of Akhalkalak and Akhaltsikh in the southwestern sector of the Tiflis guberniia lay under Turkish domination. Meanwhile, the Armenian population of Akhalkalak, having fled to the barren Bakuriani highlands, succumbed en masse. Charge d'affaires Djamalian repeatedly protested Georgia's refusal to grant these people asylum in the Armenian communities of the Borchalu uezd, particularly since most of that uezd was "rightfully Armenian." He branded the Georgian stand as not only inhumane but also a transgression into the internal affairs of Armenia. Foreign Minister Tigranian appealed through Mdivani on November 13 to permit the refugees passage to the Armenian villages "under Georgian occupation," and Mdivani urged his government to act favorably upon the petition, but the Georgian cabinet remained steadfast in its decision to keep the borders sealed. In compliance with the provision of the Mudros Armistice that the Ottoman Empire withdraw its forces from Transcaucasia, the Ottoman representative in Tiflis, Abdul Kerim Pasha, released to the Georgian government in November, 1918, the schedule of evacuation from Akhalkalak and Akhaltsikh. But the matter was complicated by rumors that the envoy to Yerevan, Mehmed Ali Pasha, had divulged similar information to the Armenians. On November 30 Mdivani wired Gegechkori disquieting news that Turkish officials had supposedly offered Akhalkalak to Armenia, and he inquired whether Georgian troops had succeeded in occupying the district. Gegechkori, too, believed that some undefined form of collusion existed and that Georgia would consequently find it more difficult to deal with the Armenians.

The Menshevik leaders, however, had already taken the initiative in securing the contested land. In a circular addressed to the inhabitants of Akhalkalak and Akhaltsikh, the Tiflis government explained that because of the Turkish occupation the Republic had been unable to manifest its deep concern for their welfare but that fortunately Georgia could soon recover the two districts, which temporarily would be combined under a military governorship. In a separate statement Major General K. Makaev, the officer named to serve as gov-

ernor, guaranteed the proper conduct of his men but also threatened to take stern measures against any disorder or antigovernment activity.

Armenian officials scoffed at the claim that the residents of Akhalkalak were Georgian subjects. Were this the case, why had Georgia sealed the borders to her own people and permitted thousands of them to perish? Only when the opportunity had come to annex Akhalkalak did Georgia suddenly discover that these unfortunate victims were actually Georgian citizens. On December 2 Tigranian protested the appointment of a military governor, and three days later he urged that Georgian troops be kept out of Akhalkalak until a peaceful solution had been reached. Georgia could not have taken Tigranian's unrealistic appeal seriously. Indeed, her troops marched into Akhalkalak that very day. As General Makaev directed the successful maneuver, a small Armenian detachment advanced into the southeastern tip of the Akhalkalak uezd and occupied the Russian sectarian villages of Troitskoe, Efremovka, Gorelovka, and Bogdanovka (see map 8).

On December 8, however, the detachment was confronted by a squadron of Georgian cavalry and a battery of artillery and ordered to withdraw. More Georgian forces arrived the next day, and on December 10 Makaev's men pressed into that sector. With matters apparently under control General Makaev appointed a garrison commander and a uezd commissar for Akhalkalak and moved on to Akhaltsikh, where unrest among the Muslim inhabitants was anticipated. The Armeno-Georgian confrontation had been brief and one-sided. Georgia answered Armenia's protests with two curt explanations: Akhalkalak was Georgian and the occupation was necessitated by the obligation to safeguard the populace. Had the Turks cleared the Yerevan guberniia earlier and had Armenian troops entered Alexandropol, on the main route to Akhalkalak, before December 6, the Armenian tactic might have been quite different. As it was, Georgian units seized the strategic points almost without a challenge.

During this crisis Georgia applied economic pressure to make the Yerevan government more malleable. The routes between Georgia and Armenia were frequently closed on the pretext that the two countries had not concluded a transit agreement. One such incident involved the shipment to Yerevan of forty cisterns of oil and nine cisterns of gasoline purchased in Baku. Georgia demanded 20 percent of the petroleum products in return for transit privileges but then refused to allow any trains except those of the homeward-bound Turkish army to pass to the south, assertedly because the district of Lori, through which the railway ran, was under martial law. These same circumstances deprived Armenia of the little grain her representatives had managed to secure abroad. The reaction of a starving people is not difficult to imagine. Tempers on both sides had reached their limit when Armenian guerrilla activity in northern Lori plunged the two republics into war. For Georgia it was a question of quelling an internal disturbance; for Armenia it was an obligation to defend citizens who had fallen under foreign domination.

THE ARMENIANS OF GEORGIA

The brunt of the war fell not upon the combatants or even the villages of Lori but upon the Armenians of Tiflis and the surrounding communities. Although Zhordania's government repeatedly underscored the distinction between the Armenian people and what it described as a clique of Armenian militarists, it nonetheless took stringent measures against the entire population. On December 24, 1918, the Parliament passed legislation making treason punishable by death and confiscation of properties, and two days later the governor of the Tiflis guberniia declared all Armenians technically prisoners of war. Those Armenians in Tiflis who were natives of the districts under enemy occupation, that is, the southern half of the Borchalu uezd, were required to register within twenty-four hours or face prosecution under the law of treason. This announcement was followed by numerous arrests and the expropriation of many Armenian-owned mansions and business estab-

lishments. Militiamen received exorbitant sums of money as ransom from wealthy Armenians, who were threatened with death or else incarceration in the dread prison of Metekh.

The Armenian and Russian organizations in Tiflis protested in vain. The doors of the National Council of Armenians in Georgia were sealed and members of the council were placed under house arrest. Several newspapers, including the Dashnakist *Ashkhataoor* ("Laborer") and *Nor Horizon* ("New Horizon"), the Social Revolutionary *Trudovoe znamia* ("The Labor Banner"), and the Constitutional Democrat *Eavkazskoe slovo* ("Word of the Caucasus"), were suspended. Dashnakist deputies in the Tiflis City Duma were arrested, and Armenian representatives in Parliament faced the shouts and taunts of the Georgian nationalist factions and the stony silence of the Social Democrat majority.

It was with extreme relief that the Armenians of Georgia greeted the news of the cease-fire, but many new tribulations lay ahead. During January of 1919 hundreds of these people were arrested and deported to Kutais, where they were paraded through the streets as prisoners of war. This tactic, according to the Yerevan government, was intended to bemuddle the fact that Georgia had actually taken few prisoners upon the field of battle and to deceive the public into believing the official propaganda boasts of a stunning Georgian victory. When the Armenian Council of Georgia was subsequently permitted to resume its activities, it denounced with acerbic indignation the unjust, cruel treatment inflicted by the Georgian government. Its protest read in part: "The explanation of the Minister of Interior that this national persecution must be ascribed to the unauthorized acts of individual officials can only leave the most onerous impression upon the Armenian public, especially since the explanation follows that which has become a most common word of late—a word about the supposed respect for the Armenian people, a word that can now only wound the sensitivity of a people living under the most debasing and oppressive of conditions."

During the course of the retaliatory measures against the Armenian civilian population, the governor of the Tiflis

guberniia issued to a few prominent Armenians papers that gave them the right to come and go freely and exempted them from being arrested simply because they happened to be Armenian. Highly incensed by this discrimination and hypocrisy, the widely respected Menshevik-Internationalist, Arshak G. Zohrabian (Zurabov), returned one such document to the Georgian government with the taunt that he wished to share the fate of the Armenian people, however bitter that fate might be. He condemned the chauvinism of his Georgian colleagues and exclaimed to Premier Zhordania that the outrageous and shameful acts being committed on the streets of the city they both loved so dearly were worse than at any time during the abhorrent days of the tsars.

In the countryside, meanwhile, lawless bands and organized units of the People's (Red) Guard plundered Armenian villages and spread terror to gain retribution and to punish the "disloyal and treacherous" inhabitants. The Armenians of Shulaver and Bolnis-Khachen, for example, were driven from their homes, the town of Belyi-Kliuch was sacked, and the girls of its Armenian orphanage ravished by guardsmen.

The Georgians further exploited the crisis to take control of the city administration of Tiflis by dismissing scores of Armenian civic officials, police, and workmen, and calling new municipal elections, giving notice that those eligible to vote must be registered as Georgian citizens. The Armenian plurality of Tiflis, from anger, fear, and humiliation, stayed away from the polls, as did thousands of Russians, who would not condescend to accept the status of Georgian subjects. Tiflis thus finally became a Georgian city ruled by Georgians. Armenians who previously could not have imagined residing anywhere but in the magnificent capital of the Caucasus now began to look toward Yerevan. If Armenia endured and expanded, the trickle of Georgian Armenians emigrating to the south would undoubtedly become a surging current.

The negative aspects of the war between Georgia and Armenia were clearly apparent and reached far deeper than the misfortunes that befall the Georgian Armenians. For more than one reason the two republics needed each other, yet they had pulled in opposite directions.



ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PRESIDENT ROBERT KOCHARIAN WILL ADDRESS THE PUBLIC

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Uruguay...

continued from page 1

Uruguayan parliamentarians.

In his remarks, Trobo also stressed the importance of developing trade and economic cooperation, saying that the appointment of Armen Hayrapetian as honorary consul of Uruguay to Armenia will contribute to this process as well.

At the request of the Uruguayan parliamentarians, Darbinian outlined Armenia's policy in the region. He stressed that economic cooperation is a step toward resolving regional problems and that the development of economic structures, infrastructure and especially communications will create a basis for political solutions in the region.

Trobo also met with the speaker of Armenia's National Assembly, Khosrov Harutunian. The chairmen of the two parliaments commented on the results of the meeting at the request of journalists.

"My main task is to strengthen the existing friendly relations between Armenia and Uruguay. Although we are situated a long

way from each other, our ties are very close. It seems to me that this cooperation between our legislators will unequivocally serve the deepening of our relations," said Trobo.

"Confirming the words of my colleague, I must only add that for this short period of time—about 30-35 minutes—we tried to discuss the spheres of interparliamentary activities of mutual interest. We agreed on cooperation not only at the level of friendship, but also at levels of other parliamentary structures, including different international structures. In particular, we will cooperate over very important documents in Moscow in the near future. The matter concerns, in particular, our initiative which we will try to present at the 100th conference of the Interparliamentary Union in connection with the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Genocide Convention," said Khosrov Haroutunian.

Trobo added: "Today I want to state that at the forthcoming session of the UN our country will be represented by the foreign minister. Simultaneously, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of

Human Rights will be marked; accordingly, Armenia submitted amendments to the Genocide Convention. Uruguay will act as a co-author of this proposal. The chairman pointed out that his country was the first to formally acknowledge the Genocide of the Armenians, doing so through legislation drafted in 1965.

According to Trobo, Uruguay's stance is conditioned by the fact that it is a politically independent country which also houses a substantial Armenian community.

Trobo added that Uruguay cannot remain indifferent to the problem of establishing ultimate peace in Armenia as well as in the region as a whole.

DELEGATION VISITS ECHMIADZIN

The Uruguay delegation also visited the Holy See of Echmiadzin on Friday, meeting with Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I.

"We will never forget that Uruguay was the first country to formally recognize the Genocide, after which a golden chain

opened and other countries followed suit," said His Holiness. "I, as the head of the Church, on behalf of eight million Armenians, express my deep gratitude." He also pointed out that it is also necessary to develop economic ties between the two countries in addition to spiritual ties.

Addressing the celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the adoption of Christianity as a state religion in Armenia, the spiritual leader of Armenians reported that an exhibition of Armenian culture will be arranged at the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican next year.

"It seems to me that the feeling of solidarity of Uruguay with Armenia is conditioned by the fact that Uruguay is a small country and protects human rights," said Trobo, adding that after the acknowledgment of the Genocide, Uruguay is going to continue to deal with such problems. "The Armenian people made a major contribution to the development of humankind and now it's time that the debt is repaid to it."

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Uruguay ANC sends letter to UN General Assembly

WATERTOWN, MA—The Armenian National Committee reports that a letter has been sent by representatives of Armenia, Bolivia, Cyprus, Burundi, Uruguay and Rwanda to the General Secretary of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, urging that the UN General Assembly appropriately mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Human Rights and Genocide.

The 63rd session of the United Nations opened on Wednesday, September 9, and is being chaired by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr. Didiet Oper.

Uruguay was the first nation to publicly acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, and according to ANC sources has been consistently responsive to Armenian issues. Taking this fact into consideration, the ANC of Montevideo and the "Gomidas" radio station presented Uruguay's foreign minister with a letter and information pamphlet addressing the issue of the Armenian Genocide, prior to his departure for New York.

The letter warmly congratulates the Prime Minister upon his election as president of the General Assembly, which is a source of pride for the Armenian community in Uruguay.

The letter also asks Oper to address the issue of Genocide at the general assembly and thus assure that no such further violations of human rights will take place in the world.

The "United Nations Convention on Human Rights and Genocide" was approved by the United Nations on December 9, 1948 and one of the genocides considered during the ratification process was the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New England

SEPTEMBER 13, 1998 • "LITURGY OF STONES," A journey through historical Armenia. Multi-media presentation by Dr. Herand Markarian, sponsored by Lowell ARF Committee, 1pm, St. Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover, MA. Travelogue through Cilicia and Eastern Anatolia, including URFA, HAVAF, Dikranagerd, Moush and Van. Luncheon and Program. Admission: \$10 for Adults, \$5 for students.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1998 • ARMENIAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SPEAKER PROGRAM PRESENTS JANET JEGHELIAN, Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, on "Armenians in Politics." 8 pm at the NAASR Center, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont. Reception following, with refreshments. Admission is free.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1998 • KNIGHTS OF VARTAN NEW ENGLAND INTERLODGE PICNIC featuring food, fun, music by the New England Ararat Orchestra. American Legion Farm, Haverhill MA, 1 pm. For additional information call (508) 754-9016 or (401) 767-2969.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1998 • ADULT ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Classes start Sept. 21, 1998 at St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA from 7 pm to 9:30 pm. Tuition is \$95 (\$115 after September 16) for 12 classes once a week. Please call (617) 923-8860 for more information

OCTOBER 3, 1998 • AYF 65TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE hosted by North Andover "Sassoun" AYF at the Franciscan Center, 7 pm. Music by the John Berberian Ensemble with Onnik Dinkjian. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For more information call Jessica Garabedian at (603) 893-4143 or Shakeh Dagdigian at (978) 772-9417.

OCTOBER 10, 1998 • 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP HAIASTAN DINNER/DANCE at Dikran Tzamour Hall- \$25. Contact Bob Avakian at (508) 528-0505

OCTOBER 23, 1998 • DINNER AND DANCE at the Holiday Inn, Worcester, MA sponsored by the Armenian National Committee of Central Massachusetts at 7:30 pm. Featured speakers will be Tevan Poghosian, Director of the Nagorno-Karabagh Public Affairs Office. Music by Onnik Dinkjian, John Berberian, Carnig Mikitarian, Greg Janian and Bruce Gigarjian. Contact George Aghjayan for ticket information at (508) 852-5818 or Gaghjayan@aol.com

OCTOBER 16-17, 1998 • ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH WILL HOLD ITS 51ST ANNUAL BAZAAR in the Cultural and Youth Center. Come enjoy lunch

and dinner and partake of the delicacies prepared by our Women Parishoners. There will be a country store, entertainment for the kids and over a hundred prizes in our \$2 raffle. Doors open at 10 am to 10 pm.

OCTOBER 31, 1998 • GRAND BANQUET TO CELEBRATE THE CULMINATION OF THE HAIRENIK BUILDING MORTGAGE-BURNING DRIVE. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA. Details to follow.

NOVEMBER 6,7,8, 1998 • 28TH ANNUAL KEF TIME HARTFORD featuring Richard Hagopian, Hachig Kazarian, Jack Chalikian and Harry Minassian... also Mal, Jack Z, Harry B, Paul M, Roger K, Kenny K, Harold, Ron Tut, Roger D, Jim "King" and DJ Spitfire... Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, Connecticut. For hotel reservations call (860) 635-2000 or (800) 333-3333. For more information, dance tickets, call Kef Hotline: (860) 747-6669.

NOVEMBER 21, 1998 • LUNCHEON/AUCTION sponsored by Armenian Women's Welfare Association to benefit Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. 11 am at the Burlington Marriott Hotel.

MAY 8, 1999 • BANQUET TO HONOR HAIG DER MANUELIAN, Armenian Library and Museum of America, Boston, MA.

Mid-Atlantic

SEPTEMBER 13 • RICHMOND ARF PICNIC St. James Armenian Church picnic grounds-Pepper and Patterson Avenues Richmond, VA. Shish Kebab, Tavloo tournament, Rug Raffle and Armenian Music by The Ricky Shibley Ensemble featuring Gus Harika, vocalist-Armenian, Arabic, and Greek Music. Rain or shine indoor/outdoor facilities 1:00pm till dusk. For advanced shish kebab tickets or details call Dr. Murad Kerneklian at (804) 784-4002 advanced kebab \$9.00, regular price \$12.00.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1998 • NJ INDEPENDENCE DAY DANCE at Sts. Vartanantz Church, Ridgefield, NJ at 6:00pm. With music and dinner. For more information, please call Shakeh Tashjian: (201) 996-9123.

OCTOBER 3, 1998 • 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF VERY REVEREND ANOUSHAVAN TANIELIAN—Saint Sarkis Church. Testimonial Dinner at Terrace on the Park, Flushing, NY, 7:30 pm. For information please call Mr. Barsamian (212) 689-6273 or Mr. Mardiros (718) 224-2275.

OCTOBER 3, 1998 • ACSA 25TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE at the Holiday Inn in Tinton Falls, NJ. 7:30 pm to 1 am 5, 5 hours open bar \$65 per person. Johnny Rubian Ensemble. For

more information call Serpoochi (732) 671-5763 or Norik (732) 872-2595.

OCTOBER 10, 1998 • ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY'S 66TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION DINNER DANCE at the Holiday Inn, Saddle Brook, New Jersey at 7:30 pm. Featuring Arthur Apharian with the Armenian Band (from Montreal). \$50 per person. Call Knar Kiledjian (201) 943-4056.

OCTOBER 17, 1998 • AYF ALUMNI FILET MIGNON DINNER DANCE at Sts. Vartanantz, Ridgefield, NJ 6:30 pm \$30 per person BYOB. Dance only \$15 per person after 10 pm. RES REQD Call Bea at (201) 445-6867, Margo at (201) 461-5368, or Alice at (201) 387-8948.

NOVEMBER 14 • PHILADELPHIA'S 3RD ANNUAL ARF/AYF DINNER DANCE CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AYF Saturday, November 14, 1998 at Terhanian Hall, St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, 8701 Ridge Avenue in Roxborough. Music by Aravod Ensemble with Armen Sevag - Violin, Antranig Kzirian - oud, James Kzirian - dumbeg/vocals, Vahe Sarkissian - guitar, Aram Hovagimian - dumbeg, def. On the Occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the AYF, Hephapoghagan songs performed by Harout Keoseyan. Dinner at 7 pm: \$30, Dance at 9:30 pm: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Speaker to be announced. For more information call: Antranig Kzirian: (215) 745-6845, Sevag Shirozian: (610) 292-9483, Joe Frounjan: (215) 368-9824, Christine Temoyan: (609) 235-9231, Aram Hovagimian: (609) 829-1642, Jack Derderian: (215) 333-5025.

Mid-West

SEPTEMBER 26, 1998 • ARS MID-COUNCIL OF DETROIT, Highland Park, Sybille, Maro, Shakeh & Tzolg chapters celebrate the 88th anniversary of the ARS 75th anniversary of the ARS Mid-Council, featuring renowned singer Anahid Shahnazarian from Armenia & acclaimed pianist Armen Aharonian. St. Sarkis Lillian Arakelian Fellowship Hall, 19300 Ford Rd., Dearborn, MI. Doors open at 7:30 pm, dinner is served at 8 pm. Donation: Adults \$30. For tickets call Sona Der Hovakimian (734) 261-1764 or Elo Darakjian (248) 350-9872.

Western Region

OCTOBER 2-4, 1998 • WEEKEND IN LAS VEGAS. XXX fraternity presents its 2nd Annual Play Time, featuring John Bilezikjian for all 3 days. Room reservations, call Gold Coast Hotel/Casino at (888) 402-6278. Room rates only \$59. Mention XXX. Cut-off date September 1. For added information, call Gil Surabian at (702) 361-5289. Bring your friends and family.

Chorale...

continued from page 5

Radio Ensemble for 5 years, and has performed in concerts internationally, including France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, and Canada.

Since 1988, he has been a resident of Los Angeles and has appeared in 30 concerts. For his performance in Rhode Island, Mr. Hunanian will offer operatic arias and Armenian classical and folk songs.

A special performance will be made by Rhode Island's well-known soprano, Joanne Mouradjian. Joanne has sung with the Ocean State Light Opera and is currently a music teacher at Rhode Island College.

The honorary guest of the evening will be the Reverend Dr. Mesrob Tashjian, who has served as the pastor of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church for many years. Rev. Tashjian has also participated in the Chorale and contributed toward its success and progress with his organizational skills and support of its programs.

The entire concert and program has been prepared under the leadership of Composer and Artistic Director, Maestro Konstantin Petrossian, who is also the Artistic Director of the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church. Besides his ex-

ceptional musical greatness, Maestro Petrossian has shown an unusual gift as producer of extravagant and enriching serious programs.

Marie Panosian, pianist, has been the accompanist for the Armenian Chorale of RI since 1995. She has received many awards and honors in piano competitions in Russia, Armenia, and the United States, and will be accompanying the performers during the concert.

A \$15.00 donation is requested, and a reception will follow. For further information, call Joyce at (401) 354-8770 or Ken at (401) 884-6665.

—Lucy Muradian

My Turn...

continued from page 4

way too long before sending in their checks because the event may be sold out.

On a more positive note, those who cannot attend the Sept. 26 banquet have several opportunities to see Pres. Kocharian and the two Vehapars at several events during that weekend. The details of their appearances can be obtained by contacting the Diocese, the Prelacy, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles

Expansion...

continued from page 6

hoped that the goal will be reached by September 15. APC is reaching out to the entire Armenian community, and gifts in various forms are being accepted. Donations in cash, pledges, appreciated stock or real estate, endowed funds, trusts or bequests are encouraged.

APC's Centennial Celebration will culmi-

nate with a Gala Banquet on November 22, 1998. It is the hope of the 100th Anniversary Committee that its goal of raising the \$500,000 required to purchase and renovate the two homes adjacent to its property will be achieved by that time. All contributions will be noted in the Centennial Commemorative Souvenir Booklet which will be distributed at the banquet. Anyone interested in supporting this endeavor is encouraged to contact Nick Aynilian at his office at (212) 925-7233, or the church office at (201) 265-8585.

US appoints new envoy to OSCE Minsk Group

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—Changes are currently being made in the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairmanship, Armenia's Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian said in an interview this week with Noyan Tapan. According to Oskanian, from now on, the United States will be represented by Donald Keiser, an experienced diplomat of the US State Department. The previous US representative to the OSCE Minsk Group has since been appointed US Ambassador to Malaysia.

Oskanian maintained that these changes would not affect the OSCE general concepts; however, he added, to a certain degree they could hamper the negotiating process, as it will take new faces some time to study the current state of affairs.

Oskanian thinks that a certain activation in the negotiating process can be expected by November when the OSCE Minsk Group settles its internal problems and the presidential election in Azerbaijan concludes.

Armenia in Brief

REFUGEES DEMAND TRAVELING DOCUMENTS, REFUSE CITIZENSHIP

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—Refugees staged another protest-demonstration near the residence of the president of Armenia last Thursday, Sept. 3. Members of the "Labor & Charity" public organization, which deals with problems of refugees, continue to demand that Armenian authorities of Armenia provide refugees with "traveling documents" so that they may go abroad as refugees.

The Armenian government is said to be encouraging refugees to receive citizenship, while the demonstrators flatly refuse to acquire the citizenship of Armenia until their housing problems are resolved. Most of refugees still live in hostels and makeshifts.

Some of the demonstrators accused the government of "expelling refugees from Yerevan" by refusing to register them in residential areas when they apply for Armenian passports.

Presidential spokeswoman Gassia Apkarian promised to present an official reply in a week's time.

GAZPROM BOLSTERS PRESENCE IN ARMENIA

YEREVAN (RFE/RL)—The Armenian government has formally ratified an agreement with Russia's Gazprom natural gas monopoly that effectively gives the latter control over the natural gas distribution system in Armenia.

The agreement between the Armenian Energy Ministry and Gazprom, which was signed on July 2, stipulates the transfer of Armenia's natural gas infrastructure to the ArmRosGazprom joint venture.

The Armenian government has a 45 percent stake in that company, with the remaining 55 percent owned by Gazprom and one of its subsidiaries.

ArmRosGazprom was formally set up in December, 1997, to handle Russian gas supplies to, and possibly also transit through, Armenia. The joint venture signaled Armenia's growing reliance on Russia (rather than Turkmenistan) for energy resources.

Armen Harutiunian, an adviser to the energy minister, held an interview with RFE/RL last week, during which he denied reports that the agreement could undercut Armenia's economic independence. He also said that the ongoing financial turmoil in Russia will not affect the joint venture as all bilateral agreements are based on US dollar equivalents. He said Gazprom's share in ArmRosGazprom's \$280 million capital will largely be covered by gas supplies, while Armenia will pay in cash.

The new company is due to launch its operations later this month.

ARMENIAN CHESS PLAYERS SET PACE AT EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—The third round of the European Junior Chess Championships was held at the "Erebuni" Hotel on Monday, September 7.

On hand were some of the best young chess players of Europe, who were welcomed by Armenia's Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports, Youth Affairs Ishkhan Zakarian, along with FIDE Vice-President Vanik Zakarian and chief referee Ashot Vardapetian.

In the ensuing competition, Artur Chibukhchian and Andranik Matikozian, who were among the leaders going in, decided not to risk their standing and drew (tied).

Gabriel Sargsian did participate and registered his third victory in succession over Christos Banikas of Greece, while Milen Vasilev of Bulgaria beat Mher Hovhannisian. Vasilev tied Sargsian for the most amount of points (3) and will play against him in the fourth round.

Levon Aronian, who beat Halkias of Greece in the third round, is tied with Chibukhchian, Matikozian, Varuzhun

Hakobian of Armenia and Mikhail Mchedlishvili of Georgia are at 2.5 points, just off the pace.

In the girls' competition, the individual leader is Sofia Tgheshelashvili of Georgia, who in the third round beat Lilit Mkrtchian of Armenia. Yovanka Hoska of Great Britain, Helen Miloradovich of Yugoslavia and Leila Javakhishvili are 0.5 points behind the Georgian chess-player. The best result of Armenian chess-players among girls belongs to Lilit Mkrtchian and Elina Danielian, who have two points each.

ARMENIAN CULTURE PROMOTED IN GERMANY

MUNICH, Germany (ANIS)—The opening ceremony of "Armenia's Cultural Days" took place in Bonn, Germany last Thursday, Sept. 3. The ceremony was led by Armenia's Minister of Culture, Sports, and Youth Affairs, Roland Sharoyan, who had been invited especially for the occasion. Also present at the event was the Armenian Ambassador to Germany, Ashot Vosganian.

"Armenian Cultural Days" were organized in the cities of Bonn, Bielefeld, Halle, Magdeburg, Luthershdadt, and Vittenburg and will last from September 3 until October 16 under the patronage of Sharoyan and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

The opening ceremonies took place in the "Beethoven" hall in Bonn. Speaking at the event were Sharoyan, Bonn mayor Dorothy Vas-Vaingartz, as well as the Secretary to the German Foreign Minister, Hans-Fredrich Von Blotts. The latter stressed the importance of Armenian-German relations and future cooperation.

After the opening speeches, an Armenian cultural concert was held, followed by a public discussion. The Armenian Diocese in Kohl organized the Armenian representatives' meeting with the attendance of many Armenian organizations. Among the invitees was Munich's Institute for Armenian Research. Many issues surrounding the Armenian language, education and cultural events were discussed along with the latest events taking place in Armenia. Sharoyan stated that lately there has been an increase in interest surrounding cultural and patriotic issues among Armenia's youth. This has given rise to feelings of pride and respect for cultural events such as the one being held, he said.

On the behalf of the Institute for Armenian Research, Alice Maroukhian spoke and addressed the question of whether or not the Diaspora is considered in Armenian cultural policy. Maroukhian stated that until today, the government has not issued a clear "cultural" policy; however, she is completely in agreement with the idea of "one people, one culture," thus involving the diaspora in all cultural activities pertaining to Armenia.

The Armenian delegation was also present at the opening of the "Mesrob" Armenian Educational Center.

"Armenian Cultural Days" was founded in 1995 following an agreement between the two nations. During this festival of Armenian events, Armenian dance, theater, music, and photography will be on display. Ancient, hand written works, cultural and religious art, cultural dress, and arts and crafts will also remain on display. Educational and cultural information sessions will also accompany the festival.

KOCHARIAN PRAISES US-ARMENIA RELATIONS

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—"In my opinion, Armenian-American relations are developing in a right direction," said President Robert Kocharian as he received Peter Tomsen, the outgoing US Ambassador, last week.

In commending Tomsen's activities in Armenia during his term in office, the president pointed out that he had made a valuable contribution to the development of bilateral relations.

Tomsen said he regretted having to leave Armenia where he spent very fruitful and pleasant years. Thanking the Armenian

government for its effective cooperation and assistance, he expressed hope that his work would also promote stronger ties between the two countries.

Ambassador Tomsen reportedly hailed Armenia's economic policy aimed at making a consistent advancement towards liberal reforms. According to him, the United States will continue to render assistance to Armenia. In general, financial, banking, energy, democratic and judicial reforms and private sector development will be at the center of attention.

Highly assessing the importance of US assistance to Armenia, Robert Kocharian underlined that the character of assistance is changing today, passing from humanitarian programs to development programs. During the meeting the two exchanged views on the Karabagh issue, regional integration and cooperation.

"HAYASTAN" FUND LACKS MEANS TO CONTINUE PROGRAMS, SAYS HOVANNISIAN

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—The Board of Trustees of the "Hayastan" All-Armenia Fund met last Thursday, Sept. 3 to discuss the Fund's ongoing programs, according to an interview between Noyan Tapan and the Fund's public relations department. Attending the meeting were also some diasporan members of the Board of Trustees.

At present the Fund has no means for implementing further programs, said Hayastan Fund Chairman Raffi Hovannisian. Talking to reporters, Hovannisian denied rumors that the Board of Trustees will not appoint him executive director of the Fund.

The meeting also discussed the organization of a publicity campaign for the restoration of the disaster area, alongside the construction of a highway to connect the North and the South of Nagorno Karabagh. This arrangement will be aimed at involving all Armenians of the world in the restoration of the disaster area.

The Presidium of the Board of Trustees also decided to include Tigran Izmirlian (Switzerland) as a member of the board.

Also attending the meeting were Parliament Speaker Khosrov Harutiunian; Prime Minister Armen Darbinian; Constitutional Court Chairman Gagik Harutiunian; Minister of Finance and Economy Edward Sandoyan; Chairman of the Armenian Assembly of America Hirair Hovnanian, and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I. Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian and Karabagh's Prime Minister Jirair Poghosian, who are not members of the Presidium of the Board of Trustees, were also invited to attend the meeting.

HOT WEATHER DELAYS START OF SCHOOL YEAR IN CENTRAL ARMENIA

YEREVAN (RFE/RL)—Unusually hot weather has led Armenia's education ministry to postpone by one week the start of classes in secondary schools of Yerevan in the country's central provinces.

The average temperature in the areas involved has stood at around 40 degrees Celsius (-105 degrees Fahrenheit) for several days running. Weather forecasters say the heat is unprecedented for this time of the year and predict that temperature is unlikely to fall for at least one week.

The school year in Armenia traditionally begins on September 1, following a long summer recess.

DEATH FROM MINEBLASTS CONTINUE IN MARDAKERT REGION

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—According to recent reports, there are currently 5,290 hectares of arable lands in Karabagh's Mardakert region that remain mined to this day. An official of the Mardakert regional administration told Noyan Tapan that even during peacetime 380 people were blown up by mines, 196 of whom were men, 159 women and 25 children. The former head of the regional administration and his driver were blown up by a mine on April 7,

1998.

According to the official, 85-90 thousand drams (\$170-180) are needed to de-mine one hectare of land, while the government has no funds for this effort. He also pointed out that it is still uncertain today what approach should be displayed toward mined territories during their privatization.

According to government estimates, 629 residents of the Mardakert region were killed in the Karabagh war, 261 people were taken hostages, 132 of whom were later released. 68 of the 129 people now held hostages are men, 60 are women and there is one child.

NEW QUALIFICATIONS PROPOSED FOR PRESIDENT

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—At the September 5 meeting of the Presidential Constitution Amendment Commission, the working group presented proposals regarding the chapter on "The President of the Republic."

Discussions were held in particular regarding the citizenship and residence qualification for the President of Armenia: it was proposed to lower the currently stipulated ten-year citizenship and residence qualification down to five years. The submitted proposals will be elaborated at the session of the working group and submitted for approval at the commission's next meeting on Sept. 17.

The meeting was attended by President Robert Kocharian, but reporters were not present.

According to Commission Chairman Baruyr Hairikian, the president positively assessed the institution of dual citizenship, however, he said, this issue should be solved within the framework of a relevant law. Hairikian also reported the position of the president regarding the issue of government formation which is as follows: During a transition period, this issue should entirely depend on the head of the executive power in avoidance of government crisis.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT GRANTS ARMENIA \$322,000

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—The Japanese government recently granted \$322,000 for the development of Armenia's water supply network, the office of the irrigation rehabilitation program told Noyan Tapan. The grant was donated in order to implement the second stage of "Armenia's Irrigation Rehabilitation Program."

No further information was available as to the terms and conditions of the grant.

FINNISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ARMENIA

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan)—A Finnish parliamentary delegation led by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Marcus Aaltonen arrived in Armenia on Thursday, August 27, for a three-day working visit.

Talking to journalists at the Zvartnots airport, Aaltonen said that next year Finland will chair the Council of Europe and that representatives of the country's legislative body will be paying regular visits to various European countries.

Armenia is not an exception, and the Finnish MPs are willing to become acquainted with the country and its internal political situation, he said. When asked about his expectations of the meeting with their Armenian colleagues, the leader of the Finnish delegation pointed out that cooperation between the two countries' legislators will create pre-conditions for the further development of relations between the two countries.

The members of the delegation will meet with the speaker of the Armenian Parliament, prime minister, foreign minister, as well as will visit St. Echmiadzin and Tsitsernakaberd.

The Finnish Parliament consists of one chamber and includes 200 members, 67 of whom are women. Deputies are elected for four years. The Parliament has 13 special committees and one large standing committee.



The 1998 staff of Camp Haiastan

Camp Haiastan 1998

This year, my first year at camp, was a whole new experience for me. I met so many new people, and learned a lot about Armenia and its history. But one of the things I will always remember that I learned at camp was not just how to make friends and keep them, but how to treasure them and not take them for granted. Camp has taught me that I can come out of my shell and be outgoing. It has taught me to have confidence in myself and to take risks. It has taught me that I can make friends if I try. Camp has made me stronger, physically and mentally. Camp was an experience for me that I will never forget. I hope other people like me will choose to come to camp and feel the thrill I have felt and learn the things I've learned. I'll never forget my first year at camp and its affect on me. I love Camp Haiastan and can't wait until next year.

By Anoush Essajanian

Camp is great! I am having so much fun. Every day I look forward to instructional swim, free swim and Armenian class because I love to swim and I'm looking forward to learning the Armenian language. I also like the younger group games such as newcomb and kickball. All the counselors are so nice. The campers are too. Ungerouhi Dawn is my counselor and she is nice.

Every night I seem to see two. A lot of times my cabin (cabin 12) hears sounds. I think it sounds like a fan we have in the cabin.

I have a lot of fun here and the friendships here that I made at Camp will last a lifetime.

By Deanna Marie Schanz

Camp's great, but the best thing here is Backbreakers. It's so much fun. It's a race with three different teams. They assign you to do something crazy. It's the best. I can't wait until next year.

By Melanie Mardoian

Why I come to Camp

When I was eight years old I thought to myself before I came to camp, 'why am I going all the way to Massachusetts from California to go to a dumb camp? I mean, why don't I just go to a camp in California?'

What I didn't know was in the next 6 years I would make friends across the world. I think that is one of the unique things about Camp Haiastan. Now I have friends in Italy, Brazil, and all of the east coast.

When people ask me, "Why go all the way to Boston for a camp when you could go to a camp in California?" I reply, "So I can make new friends and see old ones." Every year I go back to California knowing that in one year I get to see all my friends again.

To me Camp Haiastan is not a dumb Camp. It is a Camp where I make friends and keep my Armenian patriotism.

By Haig Yenikomshian

Remember

Do you remember sitting on the dock
Looking at the stars
Listening to the loud frogs
Croaking in the pond.
The gentle stroke of each silent ripple
Makes the moon's reflection tickle.
Let's take the canoe and head out on
the lake.

It is free and calm out there
It releases all of our pressures and
Takes all our tensions away.
Gone 'til tomorrow
And not-so-far away place.

By Sara Ornazian

AND THE ANSWER IS...



For those of you salivating over the thought of our upcoming Olympic issue, here's something to hold you over: another AYF Mystery Photo answer! This was a tough one, so congrats to anyone who got it. Pictured above is the FRONT of the organizers of the 1989 AYF Olympics in Boston, shown strutting their T-shirts at the 1988 games in Philadelphia, who we showed the BACK of in the original photo (reprinted at left). Pictured (l to r) are:

Seda Aghamianz, Silva Parseghian, Stepan Parseghian, Dikran Kaligian, Vahe Maroukian, Mano Parseghian (in back), Zohrab Kaligian, Eddie Garibian (in back, not shown in front view), Souren Etyemezian, Salpi Etyemezian, Sevag Arzoumanian, Roupen Karakashian, Aris Dakessian, and Ara Khachadourian (not shown in front view).

A NEW Richmond Junior Chapter

The Richmond Roupen AYF Chapter has for many years been a joint junior-senior AYF chapter. But, now we have separated into two separate chapters. The senior chapter is headed by Anthony Deese. Our junior chapter's president is Anthony Deese. All the juniors are really excited about this opportunity to show ourselves as responsible young Armenians that have a voice. We are all involved in church through Sunday School, Armenian School, the choir, and even serving on the altar. We hope this will be a great year for us. About half the junior chapter went to Junior Seminar this May. It was my third time and a new experience for the rest of the juniors coming. Almost all of the senior chapter will be in attendance. I am positive the upcoming year will be exciting.

Angela Deese
Richmond "Roupen" Juniors

Grand Banquet

CELEBRATING THE CULMINATION OF THE

H A I R E N I K B U I L D I N G

MORTGAGE-BURNING DRIVE

\$160,000

\$140,000

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\$100,000

\$80,000

\$60,000

\$40,000

\$33,950

\$20,000

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His Grace Bishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate

DINNER AND PROGRAM TO FEATURE

- Photo exhibit devoted to the history of the Hairenik Association
- Full-course dinner
- Program to feature recognition of past Hairenik editors, managers, and other contributors

WITH SPECIAL TRIBUTES TO

James H. Tashjian

Former editor, *The Armenian Weekly*
and *The Armenian Review*

AND

Sarkis Atamian

Author and former Hairenik contributor

Saturday, October 31, 1998

Armenian Cultural & Educational Center

47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA

Cocktail hour - 7:00 pm, Dinner - 8:00 pm

Admission: \$40

FOR TICKETS OR FOR INFORMATION, CALL THE HAIRENIK ASSOCIATION AT (617) 926-3974