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Series: Sununu, John, Files
Subseries: Issues Files

OA/ID Number: 29135
Folder ID Number: 29135-008

Folder Title:
Armenian Joint Resolution (1990) [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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Joint Resolution

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That April 24, 1990, is designated as a "National Day of Remembrance" of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Armenian massacres of 1915-23 in the Ottoman Empire and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe this date as a day of remembrance for the 1.5 million people of Armenian ancestry who during the period from 1915 to 1923 were victims of the policies perpetrated (efforts made by?) by Ottoman authorities to destroy the Armenian race, prior to the establishment of the Republic of Turkey and the Adoption in 1948 of the Convention on Genocide by the United Nations General Assembly, and in their memory this date is commemorated by all Armenians and their friends throughout the world.

from Barry Zortman

Resolved as "National Day of Remembrance of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Tragic Killing of Armenians of 1915-23", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to join the millions of Armenians around the world ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ a day of remembrance for ~~the~~ ^{the} Armenian ~~people~~ ^{people} who ~~were~~ ^{were} victims during this tragic period.

We are deeply aware of the terrible suffering of the Armenian people during that period and of their strong conviction that those events were a genocide. The United States responded to the anguish of the Armenian people during this period prior to the establishment of the government of Turkey, by leading the international diplomatic and ~~diplomatic~~ ^{humanitarian} efforts to terminate the tragedy and to aid the millions of victims who survived,

In comm —

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ALTERNATIVE RESOLUTION

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That April 24, 1990, is designated as "National Day of Remembrance of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Tragic Loss of Life that Occurred to Armenians and Others during and after World War I." The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe this date as a day of remembrance for those who suffered during this tragic period.

The Armenian people have a history over three thousand years old, distinguished by their contributions to all fields of human endeavor. They were among the first peoples to have adopted Christianity. The Armenians have also endured immeasurable adversity along with their triumphs. Their greatest tragedy occurred when hundreds of thousands of Armenians lost their lives during the period 1915-23, the anniversary of which the Armenian people will commemorate on April 24, 1990. *(We are deeply aware of the terrible suffering of the Armenian people during that period and of their strong conviction that those events should be characterized as a genocide. We are also aware that large numbers of Moslems of the region also lost their lives during this period, and that historians continue to dispute whether the term genocide accurately characterizes these events.)* The United States responded to the anguish of the Armenian people during that period by leading international diplomatic and missionary efforts to terminate this tragedy and to aid the victims who survived.

In commemorating the Armenian and other victims of this tragic period, the Senate and House of Representatives also wish to emphasize that the United States is pledged as friend and ally to defend the territorial integrity of the Republic of Turkey and that the United States condemns any terrorist violence perpetrated against Turkey.

1) Administration Position on Polish Act
Russell to & Simon



GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR

State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95814

November 3, 1989

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

December will be the first anniversary of the Armenian earthquake. Twenty-five thousand Armenians lost their lives and thousands were seriously injured. Hundreds of thousands are still homeless.

The Armenian people throughout the world will observe another anniversary on April 24, 1990. It is the 75th anniversary of the genocide carried out against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire in which 1.5 million Armenians were massacred.

During your campaign for the Presidency, you took note of the tragic events which befell the Armenians between 1915 - 1918 and you said the following:

"The United States must acknowledge the attempted genocide of the Armenian people in the last years of the Ottoman Empire, based on the testimony of survivors, scholars, and indeed our own representatives at that time, if we are to insure that such horrors are not to be repeated. The American people, our government, and certainly the Bush Administration will never allow political pressures to prevent our denunciation of crimes against humanity, and I would join Congress in commemorating the victims of that period."

The Armenian community was very pleased by your statement and pledge.

Unfortunately, the State Department and the National Security Council are not keeping faith with your clearly stated position in support of the recognition of the Armenian genocide.

I respectfully but urgently request you to commit your administration to recognizing the genocide of the Armenian

The Honorable George Bush
November 3, 1989
Page Two

people and call upon all peoples to work to prevent future acts of inhumanity against mankind.

Committing your administration to reaffirming the historical facts would reflect your stated views and the proud record of the United States in providing assistance to the victims and survivors of that dark period in history.

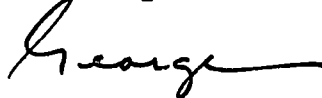
Your announcement of your upcoming meeting with Mr. Gorbachev has been well received and I commend you for your initiative in arranging such a meeting. During your discussions, I hope that you will address the current problems of the Armenians in the Soviet Union and in the neighboring state of Azerbaijan.

In addition to the suffering caused by the earthquake, political unrest in that part of the USSR has recently resulted in blockades, serious shortages of food, medical supplies, equipment, violence and deaths. The Armenian people desperately need to be protected against such hostile activity.

All of these events are of great importance to the Armenian people and to me personally. We will greatly appreciate your understanding and assistance in these matters.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

George Deukmejian

CHARLES PASHAYAN, JR.
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

203 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3341



COMMITTEE ON
RULES

COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL
CONDUCT

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 1, 1989

NOTE TO GOVERNOR SUNUNU AND ANDY CARD

SUBJECT: Armenian Genocide: Overall Proposal

I suggest that an agreement be accorded between the President, Governor Deukmajian, Senator Dole, and myself, consisting of five parts:

1. Letters of agreement shall be exchanged between the President and the other parties [attachment #1];
2. The President shall issue a letter to the Hill against S.J.Res. 212 and of neutrality concerning a Concurrent Resolution [attachment #2];
3. S.J.Res. 212 shall be dropped;
4. Senator Dole in the Senate and somebody in the House shall introduce a Concurrent Resolution like S.J.Res. 212; and
5. The President shall issue a Proclamation concerning the first anniversary of the Armenian earthquake, including language on the Armenian Genocide [attachment #3].

The Turkish Government will be handed a victory on point 3. While they will not agree to or even like all the others, the letters should give them confidence that the matter is finally put to rest.

Please observe that there is no mention of the Ottoman Empire or of the Republic of Turkey in the Proclamation.

The language of the letters is conceptual.

Attachments

Clip

PLEASE REPLY TO:

FRESNO COUNTY HOME OFFICE
1702 EAST BULLARD AVE. SUITE 102
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93710
(209) 487-8800

KINGS COUNTY HOME OFFICE
804 NORTH IRWIN
HAMPDEN, CALIFORNIA 93230
(209) 982-2886

TULARE COUNTY HOME OFFICE
831 WEST CENTER STREET
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93281
(209) 937-2700

PORTERVILLE HOME OFFICE
185 NORTH D STREET, SUITE 1
PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 93257
(209) 782-1777

KERN COUNTY HOME OFFICE
201 HIGH STREET
DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93315
(805) 788-7871

11.01.89 17:19 P.02 *PASHAYAN WDC

TRANSMITTED FROM 202 225 3341

ATTACHMENT #1
(Second Letter)

Dear Mr. President:

I am in receipt of your letter outlining the excellent course of action you propose in respect of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian-American community should warmly receive the Proclamation that you promise to make on the occasion of the first anniversary of the earthquake of December 7 last year.

Mr. President, in the campaign you made a pledge to the Armenian-American community, concerning a recognition of the Armenian Genocide. I hail your resolve to carry out your pledge; and for so long as the Executive Branch shall not utter or execute anything contrary to your Proclamation, I shall certainly consider the matter of the United States's recognition of the Armenian Genocide successfully and finally resolved in a way in which you and your Administration can take deserved pride.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Pashayan, Jr.
Member of Congress

ATTACHMENT #1

(First Letter)

Dear [Governor Deukmajian, Senator Dole, Congressman Pashayan]:

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Armenian earthquake, December 7, I shall issue a Proclamation relating to the earthquake. Please see a copy attached.

As you know, the Republic of Turkey, a valued ally of the United States and of NATO, has objected to the passage of S.J.Res. 212. Because of the importance of Turkey, I have urged the Senate to drop S.J.Res. 212. If the House and Senate, however, wish to pass a like Concurrent Resolution, my Administration shall neither support nor oppose it since of course it will not require my signature.

In the campaign, I made an explicit pledge to the Armenian-American community concerning this matter. I hope you agree that the course of events outlined herein shall be a practicable solution. My Administration shall not utter or execute anything contrary to my Proclamation.

Sincerely yours,

The President

Attachment

ATTACHMENT #2

Letters to the Congress

As you know, S.J.Res. 212, introduced by Senator Dole on September 29, 1989, concerns events that occurred within the Ottoman Turkish Empire prior to the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. My Administration finds it understandable that the Republic of Turkey objects to S.J.Res. 212, and because it requires my signature and because of Turkey's importance to NATO, my Administration is joining the protest of Turkey in this regard to S.J.Res. 212. Likewise, my Administration shall oppose any Joint Resolution or Bill containing similar language.

On December 7, I shall issue a Proclamation recognizing the first anniversary of the Armenian earthquake, which shall contain language that I have been assured by leaders of the Armenian-American community will be satisfactory to them.

In respect to a Concurrent Resolution on the subject, however, my Administration shall take no position, since of course it would not require my signature.

Sincerely yours,

The President

The Armenian nation is over three thousand years old and is distinguished by its contributions to all fields of human endeavor. The first to have adopted Christianity as a national religion, the Armenian people have also endured immeasurable adversity along with their triumphs. Their greatest tragedy occurred throughout the era of World War I, when the Armenian people became the first victims of a genocide in this century, the seventy-fifth anniversary of which the Armenian people will commemorate on April 24, 1990. The United States responded by leading international diplomatic and missionary efforts to terminate this crime against humanity and to aid the victims who survived.

NOW THEREFORE, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, hereby express our support for the Armenian people's continuing efforts to rebuild from the tragedy of the earthquake of December 7, 1988, and I direct all the Executive agencies to apply their programs, whenever available, to aid in the rehabilitation of Armenia.

ATTACHMENT #3

President George Bush
Proclamation
Continuing Relief and Support for the Armenian People
on the Anniversary of the Earthquake of
December 7, 1988

A year ago today, December 7, 1988, a massive earthquake devastated Armenia. Official estimates of the death toll are 25,000. The earthquake left 500,000 people homeless, and the personal suffering was incalculable. Among the most tragic victims were those who had already been made homeless by having been expelled from Azerbaijan only days earlier. Indeed, the Armenian people's quest for democracy and self-determination in Nagorno-Karabakh has led to a further need for international attention.

Immediately after the earthquake, my son and grandson visited Armenia as an example of the goodwill and support we have for the Armenian people. Over time, many other Americans joined the noble effort. The United States fully encourages and supports the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts by Americans for Armenia.

Throughout this century, the United States has enjoyed a special relationship with the Armenian people, who fled to America by the thousands. They and their descendants continue to make enormous contributions to the betterment of the United States.

1 Pic JHS / Pres

✓ 1 JHS with 8 Kids

Harley Eaton —

Mark —

President will
discuss Armenian
Azerbaijan
Gaby.
with
with

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 10.30.89

TO:

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM:

JAMES W. CICCONI

**Assistant to the President and
Deputy to the Chief of Staff**



Information



Action



Let's Discuss

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Memo	From POTUS to Brent Scowcroft, John Sununu, Fred McClure Re: Armenian Resolution (1 pp.)	10/29/89	P-5	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Chief of Staff, White House Office of
Series: Sununu, John, Files
Subseries: Issues Files
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Armenian Joint Resolution (1990) [2]

Open on Expiration of PRA
 (Document Follows)
 By JP (NLGB) on 4/10/08

Date Closed:	12/7/2004	OA/ID Number:	29135-008
FOIA/SYS Case #:	1998-0004-F[1]	Appeal Case #:	
Re-review Case #:	2005-0426-S	Appeal Disposition:	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:		Disposition Date:	
AR Case #:		MR Case #:	
AR Disposition:		MR Disposition:	
AR Disposition Date:		MR Disposition Date:	

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE:

1029-89

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO:

Brent, John S, Fred McGlure 41

REMINDER!

WE NEED TO GET BACK TO SEN. BYRD RE TURKEY

AFTER JOHN SUNUNU MEETS WITH PASHAYAN.

BYRD WANT TO HELP DEFEAT THE RESOLUTION,
RECOGNIZES THAT WE NEED SOMETHING
I WRITING, RECOGNIZES THAT "I UNDERSTAND
YOU CANT SEND THE LETTER TO ME".

JUST A GENTLE RMINDER OH YE GENOCIDE
RESOLUTION FANS!!!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Senator Dole:

I am writing to restate my views on the proposed Joint Commemorative Resolution you have introduced designating April 24, 1990, as day of remembrance of the Armenian tragedy of 1915-23.

I am deeply aware of the terrible suffering of the Armenian people and of the need to commemorate the victims of that tragic period. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians lost their lives under brutal circumstances. Families and entire villages were destroyed. I fully share the conviction that we must never allow the tragedy suffered by the Armenians to be forgotten or repeated.

I am mindful, however, of the differing views of how the terrible events of 1915-23 should be characterized and of the fact that many others besides Armenians -- Turks, Kurds, and others -- lost their lives during the period. I am also sensitive to the close relationship the United States has with our friend and ally, Turkey.

As I wrote when you introduced the resolution, the Administration could support a balanced and appropriate commemorative resolution. The draft you proposed, however, was phrased in a way that compelled me vigorously to oppose it.

That remains my view. I cannot accept the particular language contained in the resolution but am prepared to work toward an acceptable revision of the language that would respond to the concerns of the Armenian community without damaging our national security.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Armenian nation is over three thousand years old and is distinguished by its contributions to all fields of human endeavor. The first to have adopted Christianity as a national religion, the Armenian people have also endured immeasurable adversity along with their triumphs. Their greatest tragedy occurred when ~~hundreds of thousands~~ ^{a million and a half} of Armenians lost their lives during the period 1915-23, the anniversary of which the Armenian people will commemorate on April 24, 1990. I am deeply aware of the terrible suffering of the Armenian people during that period and of their strong conviction ^{that} ~~that~~ those events ~~should be~~ ^{were} ~~characterized as~~ a genocide. The United States responded to the anguish of the Armenian people during that period by leading international diplomatic and missionary efforts to terminate this tragedy and to aid the victims who survived.

X
along with Rafael
Lempken, author of
the form.

EDITOR'S VIEWS

Armenians Who Supported Bush Should Hold His Feet to The Fire

By HARUT SASSOUNIAN

It is becoming increasingly clear that in addition to the State and Defense Departments, the White House is actively seeking the defeat of the Armenian Genocide Resolution in Congress.

Various Senators have reported both privately and during the Senate deliberations that the President's men, particularly Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, are doing everything they can to kill the bill.



How can we reconcile these efforts with the President's own campaign promise last October of acknowledging the Armenian Genocide? He pledged that "The American people, our government, and certainly the Bush Administration will never allow political pressures to prevent our denunciation of crimes against humanity, and I would join Congress in commemorating the victims of that period."

The Bush Administration is doing now the exact opposite of what the President said he would do last year. Bush himself has remained silent, but has allowed high-ranking members of the White House and other officials to lobby vigorously against the bill.

To make matters worse, the leaders of Turkey are pressuring Pres. Bush to make an outright statement against the Resolution. We cannot let the Turks push him even further away from us. It is important that we start doing some pushing of our own.

A month before last November's elections, we published a news item announcing the formation of "Armenian-Americans for Bush Quayle '88 Committee," composed of 50 more or less well-known individuals, charged with mobilizing Armenian support for Bush.

Barry Zorthian, the National Chair of the Committee, was quoted as saying that "the enthusiastic support voiced by the members of the committee reflected the basic judgement that the election of George Bush as President of the United States is not only the best choice for the country as a whole, but also for the long-term interests of the Armenian-American community."

These 50 individuals now have a duty and an obligation to deliver the goods they promised to all of us last October. They reassured us that electing Bush was in the best interest of our community. They asked us to donate to Bush's campaign and vote for him.

Now that he is President, partially with the help of Armenian money and votes, the least these committee members could do is let him know that they have not forgotten his promises. They should write to him ~~personal embarrassment for apparently having misled the Armenian community.~~ ~~that they have not forgotten his promises. They should write to him~~ ~~personal embarrassment for apparently having misled the Armenian community.~~

We leave the choice of words to them. The important thing is not to remain silent. Help ensure that the Turkish pressure is balanced by our counter-pressure. We urge these 50 individuals to act now! Gov. George Deukmejian and Cong. Charles "Chip" Pashayan were the Honorary Chairmen of the Committee, with Zorthian as the National Chair. The other 47 members were:

California: Elizabeth Agbabian, Jack Bouchakian, Vahan Garboushian, Kenneth Khachigian, Richard Peters, Charles Poochigian, Karl M. Samuelian, and Joyce P. Stein;

Connecticut: Grace Guroian; District of Columbia: Margaret Zorthian; Florida: Ann Hintlian; Illinois: Mark Markarian, Pearl Markarian, and Nina Terzian;

Maryland: James Keshishian, Sike Sharigan; Massachusetts: Marianne Papoyans, Robert Semonian, and James Tashjian;

Michigan: Arthur Hamparian, Edward Mardigian, Helen Mardigian, and Edward Haroutunian; New Hampshire: Elsie Vartanian;

New Jersey: Arthur Halvajian, Garabed Haytaian, Joan Haytaian, Robert Hekemian, Anna Hovnanian, Hirair Hovnanian, Kevork Hovnanian, Sirvart Hovnanian, Vahakn Hovnanian, Melcon Melconian, Alice Philibosian, and George Philibosian;

New York: Michael Haratunian, Nikit Ordjanian, Gregory Peterson, and Peter Peterson; Ohio: Matthew Hatchadorian;

Pennsylvania: John Bogosian, Edward H. Kuljian, and Henry Sahakian; Rhode Island: Scott Avedisian; Virginia: Myron Erkeletian, and Harry Sachaklian.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, That April 24, 1990, is designated as "Armenian Martyr's Day," commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the systematic destruction and deportation of the Armenian people in the period from 1915 to 1923. Congress calls on the people of the United States to join the millions of Armenian and other people around the world who commemorate April 24 as the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a day of remembrance for the one-and-one-half million Armenian people who were the victims of that period, prior to the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

*bullying
tragic and inhumane massacre*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1990

Dear Senator Dole:

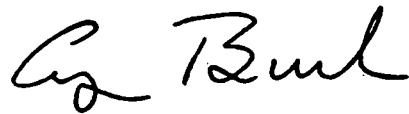
I am writing to reiterate my views on Senate Joint Resolution 212 that you have introduced designating April 24, 1990, as the day of remembrance of the Armenian tragedy of 1915-23.

The language and form of the resolution compel me to oppose Senate Joint Resolution 212 or any such joint resolution.

The Administration could support a balanced, commemorative concurrent resolution. I have reviewed a draft of a concurrent resolution that properly reflects views I expressed in 1988 as Vice President. I commend that to you as a concurrent resolution, in lieu of the present joint resolution.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Enclosure - Concurrent Resolution Language

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, That April 24, 1990, is designated as "Armenian Martyrs' Day," commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the systematic destruction of the Armenian people in the period from 1915 to 1923. Congress calls on the people of the United States to join the millions of Armenian and other people around the world who commemorate every April 24th as the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a day of remembrance of the one-and-one-half million Armenian people who were the victims of the Government of the Ottoman Empire of that period, prior to the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

1222 "C" STREET, N.W. • SUITE 350 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 393-3434

QUESTIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

1. Do you favor the congressional resolution that would designate a National Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923? Would you sign such a resolution if it was passed by the Congress and even in the face of strong opposition and threats from the Republic of Turkey?
2. According to Amnesty International, Helsinki Watch, and other human rights/minority rights organizations, the Republic of Turkey still has a long way to go in improving its treatment of Armenians, Kurds, and other ethnic minorities. How would you approach urging Turkey to improve its human rights/minority rights record? What role should the questions of human rights/minority rights play in the formulation of U.S. foreign policy?
3. The United States has long been a staunch supporter of the Helsinki Accords and other human rights agreements. In the context of these accords, what would be your position on the request of the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, who are seeking an end to cultural, social and economic discrimination, as well as the opportunity to reunite with their kinsmen in the adjacent Armenian Republic?
4. Construction of a national Holocaust Memorial Museum in the nation's capital is now underway. The main focus of the museum will be to remind mankind of the horrors of the Holocaust and to ensure that we learn from that tragedy. The members of the Holocaust Memorial Council have also resolved that the story of the Armenian Genocide will be included in the museum. Do you support the decision of the Holocaust Council to include the Armenian Genocide?
5. Would you support Senate ratification of an international torture convention?
6. Armenians from the Middle East and Soviet Union are seeking the opportunity to resettle in the United States. How would your policy differ from the current administration on this question?

Translation

BUSH

TEL No.2026248823

Oct 3, 88 3:38 No.008 P.01

George Bush for President

October 3

to: Carol Long
from: Andrew Farkiewicz

As discussed

Roger

AF

624 8601

fax 624 8803

George Bush for President

Answers to questions of the Armenian Assembly of America

1. The United States must acknowledge the attempted genocide of the Armenian people in the last years of the Ottoman Empire based on the testimony of survivors, scholars, and indeed our own representatives at the time, if we are to insure that such horrors are not repeated. The American people, our Government, and certainly the Bush Administration will never allow political pressures to prevent our denunciation of crimes against humanity, and I would join Congress in commemorating the victims of that period. I recognize that the events of 1915 were not the responsibility of the present Republic of Turkey, and I am aware that the Republic of Turkey opposes the characterization of that period as genocide. As President, I will urge the leaders of Turkey to enter into a dialogue with representatives of the worldwide Armenian community in order to resolve their differences, just as I will support the continuation of military and economic assistance to Turkey within the framework of NATO.

2. The issues of human and minority rights are fundamental to our view of the world. We are true to our beliefs, and the national interest of the United States is best served, when we defend and promote freedom and the rights of man throughout the world. Bilateral and multilateral agreements must be observed by all nations, and I will use the power of the Presidency to address violations whenever and wherever they occur.

3. The Armenian citizens of the USSR have captured the attention of the entire world. They are in the forefront of a peaceful and constitutional people's movement to define Mr Gorbachev's claimed readiness to give some recognition to national and individual rights of the peoples of the USSR. I welcome the improved relations with the USSR, secured by the peace through strength policies of the Reagan/Bush Administration, but I have made it clear that real progress continues to rest on such issues as concrete evidence of real Soviet recognition of the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people.

4. Yes.

5. Yes.

6. The United States must maintain its commitment to be as generous as resources permit to those seeking freedom and opportunity in America. We must also support those states that accept "first asylum" refugees in recognition of the crucial role they play in saving lives.

The right to emigrate should be absolute. The right to enter the United States is governed by laws I fully support, and I endorse the current application of these laws by the Administration. At the same time, I would also favor special provisions for applications and admissions of immigrants from the USSR where the normal flow of emigration has been severely restricted in violation of even basic humane considerations.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN SUNUNU ✓
BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: FRED MCCLURE *fm*

SUBJECT: Cloture Vote On Armenian Resolution

As you know, the vote today on the motion to proceed to the joint resolution supported by Senator Dole was 49 to 49. We thought you would like to see a copy of the vote count.

FEB 22 (LEG. DAY JAN 23) 1990
(Date)

Roll Call Vote

Legislative
Committee

NO. 16

SUBJECT CLOTURE MOTION

(RE: MOTION TO PROCEED TO S.J. RES. 212)

YEAS		NAYS
	Adams	
1	Armstrong	
	Baucus	
	Bentsen	
	Biden	
	Bingaman	
	Bond	
	Boren	
	Boschwitz	
	Bradley	
	Breaux	
	Bryan	
	Bumpers	
	Burdick	
	Burns	
	Byrd	
	Chafee	+
	Coats	
	Cochran	
	Cohen	
	Conrad	
	Cranston	
	D'Amato	
	Danforth	
	Daschle	
2	DeConcini	
	Dixon	+
	Dodd	
3	Dole	
4	Domenici	
	Durenberger	
	Exon	1
	Ford	
	Fowler	
	Garn	
	Glenn	
	Gore	2
	Gorton	
	Graham, Florida	
	Gramm, Texas	
	Grassley	
	Harkin	
	Hatch	
	Hatfield	
	Healin	
	Heinz	
	Helm	

Hefflin	
Heinz	
Helms	
Hollings	
Humphrey	
Inouye	
Jeffords	
Johnston	
Kassebaum	
Kasten	
Kennedy	
Kerrey, Nebraska	3
Kerry, Massachusetts	
Kohl	
Lautenberg	
Leahy	
Levin	
Lieberman	
Lott	
Lugar	
Mack	
Matsunaga	
McCain	
McClure	
McConnell	
Metzenbaum	
Mikulski	
Mitchell	
Moynihan	
Murkowski	
Nickles	
Numa	
Packwood	
Pell	
Pressler	
Pryor	
Reid	
Riegle	
Robb	
Rockefeller	
Roth	
Rudman	
Sanford	
Sarbanes	
Sasser	
Shelby	
Simon	
Simpson	
Specter	
Stevens	
Symms	
Thurmond	
Wallop	4
Warner	
Wilson	
Wirth	5

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1990

Dear Senator Dole:

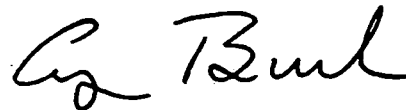
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The language and form of the resolution compel me to oppose Senate Joint Resolution 212 or any such joint resolution.

The Administration could support a balanced, commemorative concurrent resolution. I have reviewed a draft of a concurrent resolution that properly reflects views I expressed in 1988 as Vice President. I commend that to you as a concurrent resolution, in lieu of the present joint resolution.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Enclosure - Concurrent Resolution Language

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, That April 24, 1990, is designated as "Armenian Martyrs' Day," commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the systematic destruction of the Armenian people in the period from 1915 to 1923. Congress calls on the people of the United States to join the millions of Armenian and other people around the world who commemorate every April 24th as the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a day of remembrance of the one-and-one-half million Armenian people who were the victims of the Government of the Ottoman Empire of that period, prior to the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
02. memo	From Virginia Lampley to Brent Scowcroft Re: Draft Letter to Senator Dole on SJ Res 212 (1 pp.)	2/20/90	P/	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Chief of Staff to the President, Office of the
Series: Sununu, John H.
Subseries: Issues Files
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Armenian Joint Resolution (1990) [2]

Open on Expiration of PRA
 (Document Follows)

By gl (NLGB) on 5.12.05

Date Closed: 12/7/2004	OA/ID Number: 29135-008
FOIA/SYS Case #:	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #: 2005-0426-S	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:	MR Case #:
AR Disposition:	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

1338

February 20, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: VIRGINIA A. LAMPLEY *Vol*
SUBJECT: Draft Letter to Senator Dole on SJ Res 212

Attached is a draft letter to Senator Dole restating the Administration's position on his original resolution, SJ Res 212. Our understanding is that it is Senator Dole's intent to use the attached letter to obtain cloture vote on the motion to proceed with the resolution, and then offer the alternative concurrent resolution. We understand from Dole's office that he would like to have the letter address our specific concerns with SJ Res 212 so that he may be able to address those concerns once motion to proceed is passed.

Senator Dole has specifically requested that either you or Governor Sununu speak with him prior to this letter being finalized and sent. The attached letter is basically a restatement of the original letter sent to Senator Dole. Specifics have not been included in that our original objections were the word "genocide", the date 1915-23, and 1.5 million Armenians and inadequate mention of additional ethnic groups killed during that period. Very few of these specific concerns are met in the new concurrent resolution; and it is, therefore, difficult to draft a document which Dole can use on the floor that will not undermine the quiet understanding that the Governor has with the Armenian Assembly or the justifications that we have given to the Turkish government.

Concurrences: Robert *BB* Blackwill, Robert *R218* Hutchings

Attachment

Tab I Letter to Senator Dole

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Senator Dole:

I am writing to reiterate the President's views on Senate Joint Resolution 212 that you have introduced designating April 24, 1990, as day of remembrance of the Armenian tragedy of 1915-23.

We are deeply aware of the terrible suffering of the Armenian people. We fully share the conviction that we must never allow the tragedy suffered by the Armenians to be forgotten or repeated.

We are mindful, however, of the differing characterizations of the terrible events of 1915-23, and of the fact that many others besides Armenians lost their lives during that period. We are also sensitive to the close relationship the United States has with our friend and ally, Turkey.

As the President wrote when you introduced the resolution, the Administration could support a balanced and appropriate commemorative resolution. The draft you have introduced, however, is phrased in a way that has compelled the Administration vigorously to oppose it.

It is our understanding that a concurrent resolution exists as a possible alternative. I would commend that to your attention in that it is not inconsistent with views the President expressed as Vice President in 1988.

Sincerely,

John H. Sununu
Chief of Staff

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1990

Dear Senator Dole:

I am writing to reiterate my views on Senate Joint Resolution 212 that you have introduced designating April 24, 1990, as the day of remembrance of the Armenian tragedy of 1915-23.

As I wrote when you introduced the resolution, the Administration could support a balanced and appropriate commemorative resolution. However, as noted in my letter to you on November 2, 1989, the language in your resolution, which is now before the Senate, is phrased in a way that has compelled me to oppose it.

I have reviewed a draft of a concurrent resolution that broadly reflects views I expressed in 1988 as Vice President. I commend that language to you, in lieu of the present resolution, as appropriate.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Enclosures

- (1) Concurrent Resolution Language
- (2) My letter of November 2, 1989

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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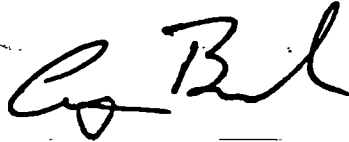
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As I wrote when you introduced the resolution, the Administration could support a balanced and appropriate commemorative resolution. The draft you proposed, however, was phrased in a way that compelled me vigorously to oppose it.

That remains my view. I cannot accept the particular language contained in the resolution but am prepared to work toward an acceptable revision of the language that would respond to the concerns of the Armenian community without damaging our national security.

Sincerely,

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The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Direct

February 22, 1990

Dear Senator Dole:

I am writing to reiterate my views on Senate Joint Resolution 212 that you have introduced designating April 24, 1990, as the day of remembrance of the Armenian tragedy of 1915-23.

The differing characterizations of this tragedy and foreign policy implications of this issue compel me to oppose Senate Joint Resolution 212 *or* ~~and any joint resolution that would require my signature.~~

The Administration could support a balanced, commemorative concurrent resolution. I have reviewed a draft of a concurrent resolution that *properly* ~~broadly~~ reflects views I expressed in 1988 as Vice President. I commend that, to you, in lieu *as a concurrent resolution* of the present joint resolution, ~~as appropriate.~~

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Enclosure - Concurrent Resolution Language

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

February 21, 1990

Dear Senator Dole:

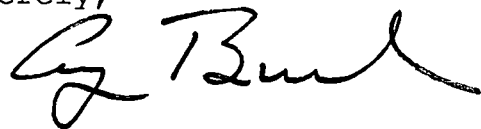
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Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of this issue.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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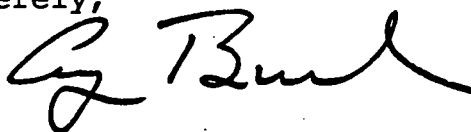
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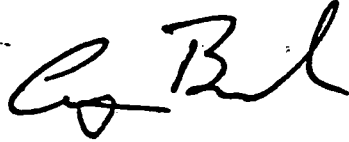
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Sincerely,

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The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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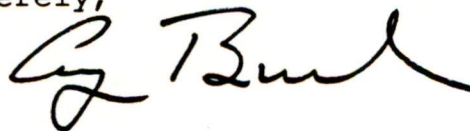
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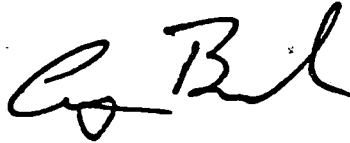
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THE WHITE HOUSE

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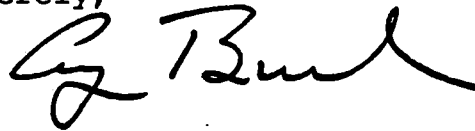
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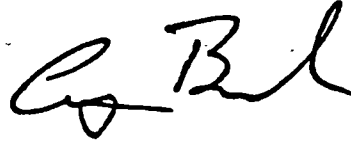
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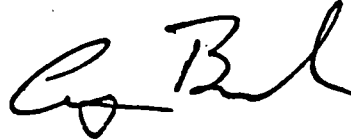
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The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 22, 1990

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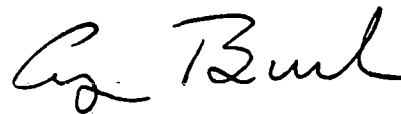
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Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
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Enclosure - Concurrent Resolution Language

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Feb 5, 1990

Governor -

The Deukmejian letter on Armenia, as requested.

His original letter to the President was
apparently never received in the President's
system.

katie



GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR

State of California
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95814

January 26, 1990

Governor John H. Sununu
The White House
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear John:

You will recall that during a telephone conversation that we had in early November of last year, you invited me to write a letter to the President on the Armenian genocide resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 212, and the current Armenian-Azerbaijan dispute. A copy of that letter is attached.

To date, I have no record of having received a reply from the President. I would appreciate receiving a formal reply, prior to his visit to Los Angeles next month.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

I look forward to seeing you in February. Gloria is wondering whether Nancy will be coming with you. If so, she'd like to get together with her.

Most cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'George'.

George Deukmejian

lb
attachment



GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR

State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95814

November 3, 1989

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

December will be the first anniversary of the Armenian earthquake. Twenty-five thousand Armenians lost their lives and thousands were seriously injured. Hundreds of thousands are still homeless.

The Armenian people throughout the world will observe another anniversary on April 24, 1990. It is the 75th anniversary of the genocide carried out against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire in which 1.5 million Armenians were massacred.

During your campaign for the Presidency, you took note of the tragic events which befell the Armenians between 1915 - 1918 and you said the following:

"The United States must acknowledge the attempted genocide of the Armenian people in the last years of the Ottoman Empire, based on the testimony of survivors, scholars, and indeed our own representatives at that time, if we are to insure that such horrors are not to be repeated. The American people, our government, and certainly the Bush Administration will never allow political pressures to prevent our denunciation of crimes against humanity, and I would join Congress in commemorating the victims of that period."

The Armenian community was very pleased by your statement and pledge.

Unfortunately, the State Department and the National Security Council are not keeping faith with your clearly stated position in support of the recognition of the Armenian genocide.

I respectfully but urgently request you to commit your administration to recognizing the genocide of the Armenian

The Honorable George Bush
November 3, 1989
Page Two

people and call upon all peoples to work to prevent future acts of inhumanity against mankind.

Committing your administration to reaffirming the historical facts would reflect your stated views and the proud record of the United States in providing assistance to the victims and survivors of that dark period in history.

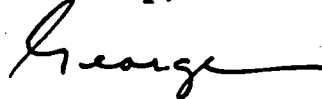
Your announcement of your upcoming meeting with Mr. Gorbachev has been well received and I commend you for your initiative in arranging such a meeting. During your discussions, I hope that you will address the current problems of the Armenians in the Soviet Union and in the neighboring state of Azerbaijan.

In addition to the suffering caused by the earthquake, political unrest in that part of the USSR has recently resulted in blockades, serious shortages of food, medical supplies, equipment, violence and deaths. The Armenian people desperately need to be protected against such hostile activity.

All of these events are of great importance to the Armenian people and to me personally. We will greatly appreciate your understanding and assistance in these matters.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,



George Deukmejian

Standard language on the Armenian-Azeri conflict in the Caucasus
valid on 2/2/90

We share your concern about the tragic situation faced by Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and throughout Azerbaijan. We are also concerned about the impact the economic blockade by Azerbaijanis is having on Armenia, particularly in light of Armenia's devastated condition following the tragic earthquake in December 1988.

The nationalities situation in the Soviet Union as a whole was discussed at the December meeting in Malta between President Bush and Chairman Gorbachev. The Soviet leadership is clearly aware of our concern about this troubling issue for Armenians, Azeris, and many other nationalities in the Soviet Union.

After so much bloodshed, tensions over Nagorno-Karabakh remain high on both sides. While we have publicly stated our understanding of Moscow's right to use measured force to quell ethnic violence in the region, we have made it clear to Soviet leaders that we support the basic principles of self-determination and peaceful resolution of conflicts through political means. We hope to see the early creation of conditions in which a political dialogue can be undertaken. Such a dialogue must accommodate the aspirations of all the peoples in the region.

We will use all appropriate opportunities to press Soviet officials to protect the rights of the Armenians and all other peoples in the region.

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Cleared: EUR/SOV/SOBI:JCStruble
EUR/SOV:JFTefft
EUR:CWKamman
H:MBova

Standard language on the Armenian genocide resolution/question
valid on 2/2/90

We are aware of the strong feelings Americans on both sides of the issue have about this resolution, which was introduced in the last session of Congress on September 29. While the Administration is sensitive to the tragic suffering of the Armenian people and the need to commemorate the victims of that period, we are equally mindful of our close relationship and strong friendship with Turkey and of the differing views of how the terrible events during that time should properly be characterized. Accordingly, the Administration opposes S.J. Res. 212.