



**Bay Area
Armenian National
Committee**

ANC-SF

Position Papers

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Contact Information & Websites

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Websites:

- www.ancsf.org – Main Site
- www.TeachGenocide.org – *Special ANC-SF project* - A website designed specifically for school teachers providing resources for teaching about the Armenian Genocide

Western Region Headquarters

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About the ANC

The Armenian National Committee is a grassroots public affairs organization serving to inform, educate, and act on a wide range of issues concerning Armenian Americans throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Armenian-American Political Activism in the San Francisco Bay Area

The San Francisco Bay Area ANC, or "Hai Tad" committee has been an important presence for Armenian American political action in the Bay Area for decades. Our efforts span a wide range: meeting with political representatives and diplomats about issues affecting our community, participating in local campaigns, publicizing the Armenian Cause and educating the community, fighting historic revisionism, and promoting recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The SF-Bay Area ANC is working to make Armenian American interests effectively part of the political dialogue of our governments and of our own community.

The SF-Bay Area ANC is one of many ANC chapters across the country and around the world, from Armenia to Moscow, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and South America.

Western Region Chapters

Burbank, CA; Crescenta Valley, CA; Fresno, CA; Glendale, CA; Houston, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Orange County, CA; Torrance, CA; Pasadena, CA; Portland, OR; Sacramento, CA; San Diego, CA; San Fernando Valley, CA; San Francisco/Bay Area, CA; San Gabriel Valley, CA

Eastern Region Chapters

Albany, NY; Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Clinton, IA; Detroit, MI; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Granite City, IL; Greater Washington, DC; Hartford, CT; Indianapolis, IN; Little Rock, AR; Lowell, MA; New York, NY; Niagara Falls, NY; Ocala, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Providence, RI; Racine, WI; Durham, NC; Richmond, VA; Ridgefield, NJ; Springfield, MA; St. Louis, MO; Watertown, MA; Worcester, MA

ANC Worldwide

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, England, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Nagorno-Karabakh, Russia, Switzerland, Syria, Uruguay

Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues

The Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues is a bipartisan forum for the discussion of policies to foster increased cooperation between the U.S. and Armenian governments and to strengthen the enduring bonds between the American and Armenian peoples.

Co-chairmen

Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6) – New Jersey
Joseph Knollenberg (R-11) – Michigan

Membership: (As of Aug. 2004)

California

Joe Baca (D-42)
Xavier Becerra (D-30)
Howard L. Berman (D-26)
Lois Capps (D-22)
Christopher Cox (R-47)
Randy (Duke) Cunningham (R-51)
Susan Davis (D-53)
Calvin M. Dooley (D-20)
David Dreier (R-28)
* Anna G. Eshoo (D-14)
Bob Filner (D-50)
Elton Gallegly (R-23)
* Mike Honda (D-15)
Darrell Issa (D-49)
* Barbara Lee (D-9)
* Zoe Lofgren (D-16)
Howard P. (Buck) McKeon (R-25)
Gary G. Miller (R-41)
* George Miller (D-7)
Grace F. Napolitano (D-34)
Devin Nunes (R-21)
* Nancy Pelosi (D-8)
George P. Radanovich (R-19)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-33)
Edward R. Royce (R-39)
Loretta Sanchez (D-46)
Adam Schiff (D-27)
Brad Sherman (D-24)
Hilda Solis (D-31)
* Ellen Tauscher (D-10)
William M. Thomas (R-21)
* Mike Thompson (D-1)
Diane Watson (D-32)
Henry A. Waxman (D-29)
* Lynn C. Woolsey (D-6)

Connecticut

John Larson (D-1)
Christopher Shays (R-4)
Robert Simmons (R-2)

Florida

Michael Bilirakis (R-9)
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-21)
Tom Feeney (R-24)
Mark Foley (R-16)
E. Clay Shaw, Jr. (R-22)

Illinois

Jerry F. Costello (D-12)
Danny Davis (D-7)
Jesse L. Jackson (D-2)
Mark Kirk (R-10)
William O. Lipinski (D-3)
Bobby L. Rush (D-1)
Jerry Weller (R-11)

Indiana

Mark E. Souder (R-4)
Peter J. Visclosky (D-1)

Kentucky

Ernie Fletcher (R-6)

Maine

Thomas Allen (D-1)

Maryland

Steny H. Hoyer (D-5)
Chris Van Hollen (D-8)
Albert R. Wynn (D-4)

Massachusetts

Michael E. Capuano (D-8)
William Delahunt (D-10)
Barney Frank (D-4)
Stephen Lynch (D-9)
Edward J. Markey (D-7)
James P. McGovern (D-3)
Martin T. Meehan (D-5)
Richard E. Neal (D-2)
John W. Olver (D-1)
John F. Tierney (D-6)

Michigan

Dave Camp (R-4)
John Conyers, Jr. (D-14)
John D. Dingell (D-16)
Vernon Ehlers (R-3)
Dale Kildee (D-5)
Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-15)
Sander M. Levin (D-12)
Thaddeus McCotter (R-11)
Candice Miller (R-10)
Michael Rogers (R-8)
Fred Upton (R-6)

Minnesota

Gil Gutknecht (R-1)
Mark Kennedy (R-2)
Betty McCollum (D-4)
Collin C. Peterson (D-7)

Missouri

Karen McCarthy (D-5)

Nevada

Shelley Berkley (D-1)

New Hampshire

Charles Bass (R-2)

New Jersey

Robert E. Andrews (D-1)
Mike Ferguson (R-7)
Rush D. Holt (D-12)
Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2)
Robert Menendez (D-13)
Bill Pascrell (D-8)
Steven R. Rothman (D-9)
Jim Saxton (R-3)
Christopher Smith (R-4)

New York

Gary L. Ackerman (D-5)
Joseph Crowley (D-7)
Eliot L. Engel (D-17)
Maurice D. Hinchey (D-26)
Steve Israel (D-2)
Sue W. Kelly (R-19)
Nita M. Lowey (D-18)
Carolyn B. Maloney (D-14)
Carolyn McCarthy (D-4)
Michael R. McNulty (D-21)
Charles Rangel (D-15)
John E. Sweeney (R-22)
Nydia Velázquez (D-12)
Anthony David Weiner (D-9)

Ohio

Sherrod Brown (D-13)
Marcy Kaptur (D-9)
Dennis Kucinich (D-10)
Steven C. LaTourette (R-19)
Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (D-11)

Oregon

Darlene Hooley (D-5)

Pennsylvania

Mike Doyle (D-14)
Phil English (R-21)
Chaka Fattah (D-2)
Jim Greenwood (R-8)
Melissa Hart (R-4)
Joseph M. Hoeffel (D-13)

Rhode Island

Patrick J. Kennedy (D-1)
James R. Langevin (D-2)

South Carolina

Joe Wilson (R-2)

Texas

Lloyd Doggett (D-10)
Martin Frost (D-24)

Virginia

Eric Cantor (R-7)
James P. Moran (D-8)

Washington

Jim McDermott (D-7)

Washington D.C. (District of Columbia)

Eleanor Holmes Norton
(D-DL)

Wisconsin

Gerald (Jerry) D. Kleczka
(D-4)

* Bay Area Representatives

Basic Facts: Armenia & Nagorno Karabakh



Republic of Armenia

Total Area:

29,800 sq. km
Slightly larger than Maryland

Borders:

Azerbaijan (east) 566 km
Nakhichevan (south) 221 km
Georgia (north) 164 km
Iran (south) 35 km
Turkey (east) 268 km

Population:

3.6 million (68% urban)
110.5 persons/sq. km

Ethnicity:

93.3% Armenian, 1.5% Russian,
1.7% Kurd, 3.5% Assyrian, Greek

Leaders:

Robert Kocharian, President
Andranik Markarian, Prime Minister
Vardan Oskanian, Foreign Minister
Artur Baghdasarian, Parl. Chair

Diplomatic Representation:

The U.S. representative to Armenia is
Amb. John M. Evans.
The Armenian representative to the U.S. is
Amb. Arman Kirakossian.
The Armenian representative to the U.N. is
Ambassador Armen Martirosian.

Republic of Nagorno Karabakh

Total Area:

4,800 sq. km
Slightly smaller than Delaware

Borders:

Azerbaijan

Population:

150,000
31 persons/sq. km

Ethnicity:

95% Armenian, 5% Assyrian,
Greek, Kurdish, other

Leaders:

Arkady Gukasyan, President
Anoushavan Danielian, Prime Minister
Ashot Ghulian, Foreign Minister
Oleg Yessayan, Parliament Chairman

Diplomatic Representation:

The Nagorno Karabakh representative to
Armenia is Arman Melikian.
Vartan Barseghian is the representative of
the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
in the United States.

ANC on the Issues

OVERVIEW

Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

The Congress needs to pass an Armenian Genocide Resolution and President Bush should honor his pledge to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

U.S. Aid to Armenia

The Congress should adopt a \$125 million hard-earmark for Armenia in the FY2003 foreign aid bill to offset the multi-billion dollar impact of the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades.

U.S. Aid to Nagorno Karabakh

The Congress, in the FY2003 foreign aid bill, should encourage the Administration to deliver previously appropriated aid to Nagorno Karabakh, and allocate no less than \$10 million specifically for Nagorno Karabakh's reconstruction and economic rehabilitation.

Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act

The Congress should include a "sunset" provision in the FY2003 foreign aid bill that allows the President to extend the authority to waive Section 907 on a year-to-year basis only with explicit Congressional approval.

U.S. Military Aid to Azerbaijan

The Congress should oppose, and the Administration should withhold, U.S. military assistance, transfers, and sales to Azerbaijan.

U.S. Arms Sales/Transfers to Turkey

Congress should scrutinize proposed sales and transfers of U.S. arms to Turkey they may be used for offensive purposes or to commit human rights abuses.

Self-Determination for the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh

The U.S. should formally recognize the independent Republic of Nagorno Karabakh's right to self-determination within secure borders.

Expanding the U.S.-Armenia Relationship

The Administration and Congress should expand bilateral programs, such as the U.S.-Armenia Task Force, and approve the U.S.-Armenia Tax Treaty and Social Security Agreement.

U.S. Financing of Baku-Ceyhan Pipeline Routes that Bypass Armenia

The Congress should adopt legislation, such as H.Con.Res.162, and withhold U.S. taxpayer support for the planning or construction of a Baku-Ceyhan pipeline that bypasses Armenia.

Restrictions on the Armenian Community in Turkey

The State Departments should more thoroughly document and more vigorously protest the continued violation of the individual and community rights of the Armenian population in Turkey.

U.S.-Armenia Anti-Terrorism and Security Cooperation

The Administration should expand its security cooperation with Armenia, particularly on programs designed to reduce the military threat to Armenia from Turkey and Azerbaijan.

U.S. Aid to Armenia

The ANC supports a hard-earmark of at least \$125 million for Armenia for fiscal year 2003 to help offset the devastating effects of the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, estimated, according to World Bank figures, at over \$570 million a year. This assistance will help the Armenian people overcome the obstacles they face as they expand their economic partnership with the United States and integrate into the international economic system.

According to the World Bank, the blockades of Armenia are costing Armenia between 30 to 38% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and blocking up to 50% of Armenia's potential exports.

Using the World Bank figure for Armenia's 2000 GDP of \$1.9 billion, **the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades costs Armenia between \$570 million to \$722 million annually.**

In human terms, these blockades have caused **economic hardships that have caused over 800,000 Armenians to leave their homeland** out of desperation.

Despite strong Congressional opposition to these illegal blockades, the Administration has not taken any meaningful steps to bring them to an end.

POSITION:

The Congress should approve a hard-earmark of at least \$125 million for Armenia in the fiscal year 2003 foreign aid bill to help offset the multi-billion dollar impact of the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades.

World Bank: Armenia Country Assistance Strategy 2001-2004

Section III. Economic Reform Successes and Risks

Gains from Re-Opened Borders:

The unresolved conflict over Nagorno Karabagh has closed most of Armenia's land borders, cutting off rail links to the east and west. As a result Armenia is heavily dependent on trans-shipment of goods through Georgia. This has significantly raised its trade costs, given the high costs of all modes of transport (road, rail and port) in Georgia. A recent report suggests that re-opening of Armenia's borders with Turkey and Azerbaijan could result in a reduction in transport costs of 30-50%, a doubling of exports, and an increase of 30-38% in GDP.

Source: Trade, Transport and Telecommunications in the South Caucasus: Current Obstacles To Regional Cooperation (World Bank 2001)

U.S. Aid to Nagorno Karabakh

The continuation and expansion of the United States direct assistance program to Nagorno Karabakh represents an important confidence-building measure and a key element of the ongoing Nagorno Karabakh peace process organized under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

This assistance, approved for the first time in the fiscal year 1998 foreign aid bill, was originally opposed by the State Department, which in May of 1997 sent an Assistant Secretary of State to testify before Congress against its adoption. Until Congress overruled the State Department's objections, Nagorno Karabakh was the only population in the Caucasus to have been denied any United States assistance.

While these Congressional appropriations have been an important step toward a lasting settlement, the ANC remains troubled by the slow pace of the Administration's implementation of its humanitarian aid package to Nagorno Karabakh and, even more importantly, by its reluctance to expand United States assistance programs to help meet the pressing economic, development, and reconstruction challenges faced by the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

The United States can play a critical role in supporting the people of Nagorno Karabakh as they seek to bring an end to a conflict that has already claimed too many lives. Blockaded by a hostile Azerbaijan, with the strong backing of Turkey, the people of Nagorno Karabakh are faced with pressing developmental and humanitarian needs and the difficult task of rebuilding the social and economic infrastructure of their republic. It is therefore imperative that the United States continues sending relief assistance and to participate in broad-based reconstruction efforts without waiting for the final outcome of the OSCE negotiations. Over time, targeted reconstruction support to Nagorno Karabakh will prove to be an investment in peace in a region of great strategic significance to the United States.

POSITION:

The Congress, in the fiscal year 2003 foreign aid bill, should encourage the Administration to deliver previously appropriated aid to Nagorno Karabakh in a timely manner, and to allocate no less than \$10 million specifically for reconstruction and economic development activities to help the people of Nagorno Karabakh recover from more than a decade of Azerbaijani aggression and blockade.

Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act

In 1992 the Congress responded to Azerbaijan's attempts to isolate and cripple Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh by enacting Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, a law prohibiting certain types of direct U.S. assistance to the government of Azerbaijan until it has ended its aggression and lifted its blockades against Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

This law represented a concrete manifestation of our nation's enduring belief in open borders, free trade, and the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. While restricting certain types of direct government-to-government aid, including military aid, this law has not prevented over \$200 million in humanitarian, democracy-building, anti-crime, and anti-proliferation aid to Azerbaijan. For more than nine years, Section 907 stood as our government's most powerful statement against Azerbaijan's illegal blockades.

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States, Azerbaijan took advantage of a tragic situation to demand the repeal of this long-standing provision of law in exchange for its cooperation in the U.S.-led war on terrorism. The Congress, under intense pressure from the Administration, Azerbaijan and its oil industry allies, approved an amendment to the fiscal year 2002 foreign aid bill giving the President open-ended authority to waive Section 907 despite Azerbaijan's failure to meet its conditions. The amendment includes certain limitations and several reporting requirements for the use of U.S. aid provided under the waiver and, in the conference manager's report accompanying the bill, states that Congress intends "to review and reserve[s] the right to amend the waiver language in the FY2003 appropriations process."

The waiver authority granted to the President undermines U.S. interests in the region by encouraging Azerbaijan to maintain its blockades and remain intransigent in the peace talks. The exercise of this waiver, in addition to representing a retreat from a principled stand against aggression and blockades, sends the dangerous signal to Azerbaijan that the U.S. will not respond decisively to renewed aggression against Karabakh or Armenia.

POSITION:

The Congress should reassert its authority to legislate guidelines governing our foreign aid policy by including a provision in the fiscal year 2003 foreign aid bill which allows the President to extend the authority to waive Section 907 on a year-to-year basis only with explicit Congressional approval.

U.S. Military Aid to Azerbaijan

The adoption in October of last year of an amendment to the fiscal year 2002 foreign aid bill allowing the President to waive Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act has opened the door to U.S. military assistance, transfers, and sales to the Azerbaijani government.

This development will have far-reaching negative impact on American interests in the Caucasus and Caspian region by:

1) destabilizing the regional balance by arming an Azerbaijani government whose senior officials, including the President, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister, regularly announce their intention to use their increased military capabilities against Nagorno Karabakh. Azerbaijan reinforced this point, during Congressional debate on Section 907 last October, by its absolute insistence that the amendment providing the President with the authority to waive this law not include a specific prohibition on the use of U.S. military aid against Nagorno Karabakh;

2) sending the dangerous signal to Azerbaijan that the U.S. does not take seriously - or even tacitly supports - renewed aggression against Nagorno Karabakh or Armenia;

3) hindering the OSCE peace process by increasing the threat to Nagorno Karabakh;

4) placing U.S. weapons in the hands of an Azerbaijani government that, according to the Director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, has allowed Islamic terrorists the "free flow of people, weapons and ordnance through Azerbaijan" in exchange for not interfering with or overthrowing the government of Azerbaijani president Geidar Aliyev. (Defense & Foreign Affairs' Strategic Policy," The New Azerbaijan Hub: How Islamist operations are targeting Russia, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh," October 1999).

POSITION:

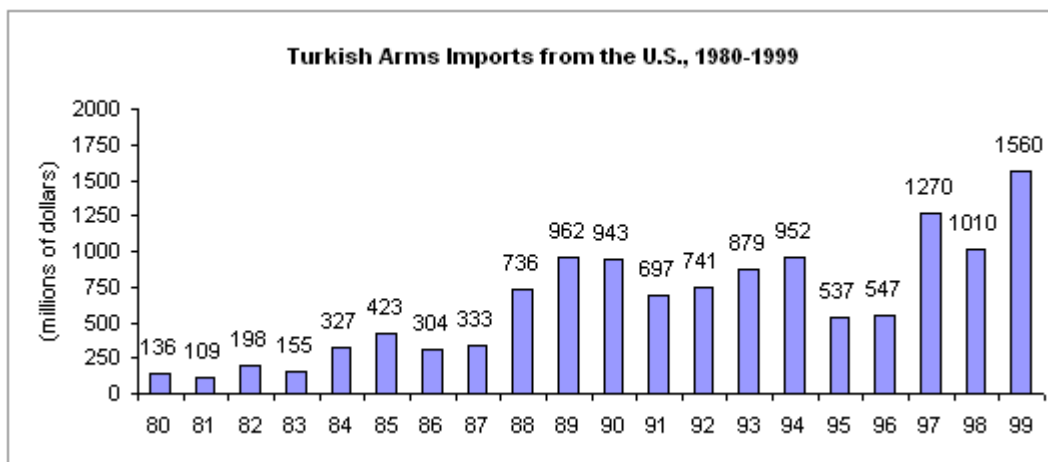
The Congress should oppose and the Administration should withhold U.S. military assistance, transfers, and sales, including those of dual-use technologies, that could potentially be used by the Azerbaijani government against Nagorno Karabakh or Armenia.

U.S. Arms Sales/Transfers to Turkey

With the steady decline over the past decade in Congressionally appropriated military and economic assistance to the government of Turkey, successive Administrations have increasingly relied upon military sales and transfers - either at no expense or on very favorable terms - to support Turkey's military-led government. The government of Turkey, an over-armed and unrepentant perpetrator of genocide against the Armenian people, represents a clear and present security threat to the Republic of Armenia.

Today, U.S. military grants and loans to Turkey have been reduced to zero, from a 1991 high of over \$600,000,000 a year, due to Congressional concern over Turkey's abuse of human rights at home and aggression abroad. Among the factors cited by Congress as reasons for the elimination of appropriated U.S. military aid were Turkey's refusal to 1) abandon its shameful campaign to deny the Armenian Genocide; 2) lift its blockade of U.S. aid to Armenia; 3) improve its human rights record; 4) remove its troops from Cyprus; 5) recognize the rights of the Kurds; and 6) lift unfair restrictions on Christian communities.

Unfortunately, this decrease in appropriated assistance to Turkey was matched by a dramatic expansion of arms sales and transfers to the Turkish military. As indicated on the chart below, in the years 1980 to 1990, Turkey imported over \$11.5 billion in U.S. arms, close to twice the value of all grants and loans provided during this same time period.



POSITION:

Congress should carefully scrutinize proposed sales and transfers of U.S. military hardware to Turkey, and ensure strict enforcement of Code of Conduct legislation limiting arms sales to regimes, including Turkey, that violate human rights or engage in aggression against neighboring states.

Self-Determination for the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh

Nagorno Karabakh is an integral part of the Armenian homeland that was arbitrarily carved out of Armenia in 1921 by Joseph Stalin and placed under Azerbaijani administration as part of the Soviet divide-and-conquer strategy in the Caucasus.

During seven decades of Soviet Azerbaijani rule, the Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh was subjected to discriminatory policies aimed at its removal from its homeland. By 1988 this had taken the form of outright aggression, ethnic cleansing, and blockades. The people of Nagorno Karabakh, realizing that Azerbaijan's policies would result in their destruction, sought to resist these efforts through peaceful means, responding to this oppression with the first pro-democracy movement in the Soviet Union, setting an example, at great human cost, that marked the beginning of the end of the Soviet Empire.

Following organized massacres and direct military aggression by Azerbaijan, the people of Nagorno Karabakh organized a self-defense effort and then moved to secure their borders, eventually succeeding in driving Azerbaijani occupying forces out of their territory. In January of 1992, the democratically elected leaders of Nagorno Karabakh exercised their right to self-determination, in accordance with international law, by declaring the independence of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

Since 1992, Nagorno Karabakh has repeatedly sought to engage in direct bilateral negotiations with Azerbaijan to establish a durable cease-fire and negotiate a lasting and equitable peace. Successive Azerbaijani governments have responded with escalating violence, the introduction of foreign mercenaries, and the involvement of the Turkish military in their war against Nagorno Karabakh. The current cease-fire, which has lasted over seven years, is largely the result of Azerbaijani President Geidar Aliev's realization that his military forces have been unable to defeat Nagorno Karabakh on the battlefield.

POSITION:

The United States should formally recognize the independent Republic of Nagorno Karabakh's right to self-determination within secure borders and to encourage Azerbaijan to enter into direct negotiations with Nagorno Karabakh on a final resolution of status and security issues.

Expanding the U.S.-Armenia Relationship

The enduring friendship between the American and Armenian peoples dates back to the era of the Armenian Genocide. American leaders, such as President Woodrow Wilson, diplomats, most notably U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau, and relief workers, among them American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, played a critical role in protesting Ottoman Turkey's systematic destruction of the Armenian people and in helping to alleviate the suffering of those that survived. These noble efforts, to a very great extent, marked the introduction of the United States on the world stage as an advocate for international justice, human rights and humanitarian values.

Throughout the Cold War, the United States championed the right of the Armenian people to an independent homeland and, in December of 1991, was among the first to recognize Armenian independence. Even prior to Armenia's independence, in December of 1988, the U.S. government and the American people, in an unprecedented act of compassion across the iron curtain, extended their generosity to the Armenian people as they recovered from a devastating earthquake that took over 40,000 lives.

In the decade since 1991, the U.S. and the Armenian governments have steadily expanded relations based on a history of shared values and common interests in a secure stable Caucasus and Caspian region. At the national level, the U.S.-Armenia Economic Task Force, launched in January of 2000, coordinates this effort by bringing together officials from the Departments of State, Commerce and Treasury, the Trade Development Agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the National Security Council, to promote economic cooperation between the United States and Armenia.

Similar efforts are also underway at the state level, with the creation in August of 2001 of the Virginia Armenian Advisory Commission to advise the Governor of that state on programs to expand cooperation between the Virginia and Armenia, as well as the signing, in December 2001, of a Memorandum of Understanding between California and Armenia on economic cooperation and the establishment of a California Trade Office in Yerevan.

POSITION:

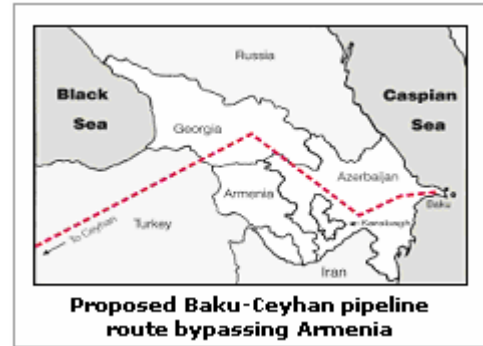
The Administration and Congress should expand joint programs between the U.S. and Armenia, such as the U.S.-Armenia Task Force, and move forward in finalizing a Double Taxation Treaty, a Social Security Agreement, and other bilateral arrangements to facilitate increased economic cooperation.

U.S. Financing of Baku-Ceyhan Pipeline Routes that Bypass Armenia

American taxpayers are being asked to help cover hundreds of millions of dollars in increased costs for a proposed Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline route that, at the insistence of Turkey and Azerbaijan, would bypass the more economic and commercially viable route through Armenia.

Legislation now before Congress, H.Con.Res. 162 would protect U.S. tax dollars by specifically stating:

- 1) the United States should not subsidize any oil or gas pipeline in the South Caucasus whose commercial viability is in doubt or which hinders the United States goal of integrating Armenia into a secure and prosperous regional economic framework;
- 2) all proposals for South Caucasus oil and gas pipeline routes should be carefully evaluated to ensure that all nations of the Caucasus are included in consideration of energy and trade routes;
- 3) any U.S. funded engineering/feasibility study or any project implementation focusing on the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline, or similar energy transportation projects, must include trans-Armenian routes;
- 4) the Trade Development Agency should fund and support an oil and gas pipeline feasibility study to determine the cost savings of a trans-Armenia Baku-Ceyhan pipeline.



POSITION:

The Congress should adopt legislation such as H.Con.Res.162 to withhold U.S. taxpayer support for the planning or construction of a Baku-Ceyhan pipeline that bypasses Armenia.

Restrictions on the Armenian Community in Turkey

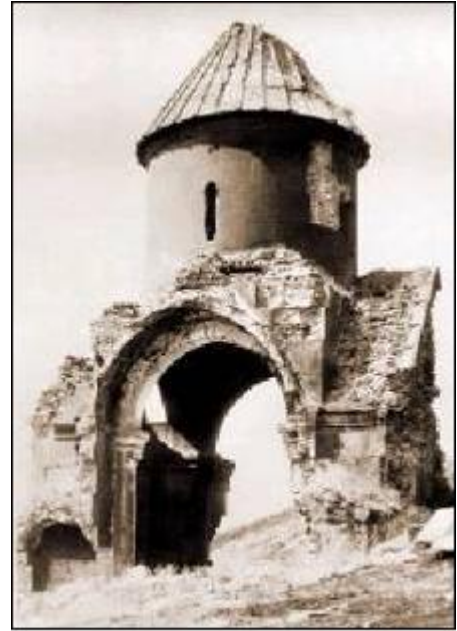
The remaining Armenian and other Christian communities in Turkey face unfair official restrictions on their individual and communal rights on issues ranging from ownership of churches, selection of religious leaders and Christian education to freedom of expression and association.

Recent examples illustrating the Turkish government's attitude toward Armenians and the issue of the Armenian Genocide took place in 2001 with the arrests and prosecutions of Syriac priest, Father Yusuf Akbulut, and a Turkish human rights activist, Akin Birdal, simply for making statements about the Armenian Genocide during World War I.

Successive Turkish governments have also deliberately destroyed the immense cultural heritage of the Western Armenian homeland. This effort, alongside Turkey's ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide, represents the most recent stage of the Turkish government's systematic campaign to erase evidence of the historic Armenian presence in Eastern Anatolia.

POSTION:

The State Departments should more carefully document and more vigorously protest the continued violation of the individual and community rights of the Armenian population in Turkey. The U.S. Embassy in Ankara should, on an annual basis, monitor the condition of Armenian historical and cultural monuments throughout Turkey and report their findings to the Congress, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the State Departments office on International Religious Freedom.



Destroyed Armenian Church in the Ancient City of Ani

U.S.-Armenia Anti-Terrorism and Security Cooperation

The Armenian American community, having witnessed the terrible human suffering inflicted on Nagorno Karabakh from 1992 through 1994 by Azerbaijani-financed Afghan-Taliban mercenaries, is deeply proud of Armenia's role as a partner of the United States in the war against international terrorism. Armenian Americans welcomed Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's personal expression of appreciation to Armenian President Robert Kocharian for this cooperation during their December 15, 2001 meeting in Yerevan.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, Armenia took immediate security measures to protect the American Embassy in Yerevan and implemented a series of measures to cooperate with the United States, including, 1) granting blanket clearance for U.S. flights over Armenian territory, as well as refueling and landing rights for U.S. aircraft; 2) offering to share intelligence with relevant U.S. agencies; 3) offering medical treatment for U.S. troops in Armenia's hospitals, including the specialized Spinal Injuries Treatment Hospital of the Armenian Red Cross in Yerevan; 4) implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373 to freeze bank accounts that terrorists and their supporters may have in Armenia's financial institutions, and; 5) ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

Security-related cooperation between the United States and Armenia extends beyond the war on international terrorism and include joint efforts to combat weapons of mass destruction proliferation and transnational crime, and to improve export control and border security programs. Among the key programs in these areas are: 1) Department of Defense/Customs Service Counter-proliferation Program; 2) Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; 3) Department of Defense Warsaw Initiative/NATO Partnership for Peace; 4) Department of State International Science and Technology Center; 5) U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation, and 6) Department of State Export Control/Border Security Assistance, including the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund, and Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Activities.

POSITION:

The Administration should expand its security cooperation with Armenia, particularly on programs designed to reduce the military threat to Armenia from Turkey and Azerbaijan.