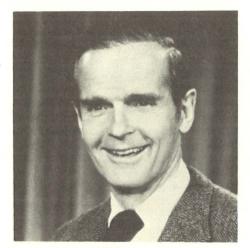
NAASR Newsletter

March, 1985 (Vol. II, No. 1)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

40 Scholars to Participate in Genocide Conference

Forty scholars and public figures have agreed to participate in the National Conference on Genocide and Human Rights, which will take place April 18 to 20 on the Bentley College Campus in Waltham, Mass.



U.S. Sen. William B. Proxmire

Univ. of Conn. Plans Armenian Studies Program

A major effort is underway to establish an Armenian Studies Program at the University of Connecticut.

The program would encompass courses in modern Armenian language and literature, Armenian history in relation to the histories of other peoples of the Caucasus and the Middle East, and modern Armenian artistic, cultural, economic, educational, political, and social affairs.

According to the plans, the program would begin in the fall with one full-time faculty member. An effort is underway to raise an initial \$100,000, which would fund the program over a three-year period.

The program would be centered at the Storrs campus of the University, but Armenian courses may also be offered at the

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U.S. Senator William B. Proxmire of Wisconsin will be the keynote speaker at the final session of the Conference on Saturday afternoon, April 20, dealing with "The Genocide Convention and the Prevention of Genocide." Senator Proxmire has led the continuing efforts in the U.S. Senate to secure ratification of the United Nations Genocide Convention.

Featured at the opening banquet of the Conference on Thursday evening, April 18, will be Harvard Professor and Nobel Prize winner George Wald, who will speak on "Genocide in the Twentieth Century." Prof. Wald became interested in the Armenian Case after participating last spring in the Permanent People's Tribunal, in Paris, that found Turkey guilty of the crime of Genocide against the Armenians.

The National Conference on Genocide

and Human Rights has been planned as part of the world-wide observances this year of the 70th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Sponsored jointly by NAASR and by Bentley College, the Conference has for its theme: "Seventy Years After the Genocide: Lessons from the Armenian Experience."

Also featured at the opening banquet will be Rep. George Keverian, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, who will bring the greetings of the Commonwealth, and Prof. Sol Gittleman, Provost of Tufts University, who will deliver a keynote address on "Stereotypes as a Prelude to Genocide." Welcoming remarks will be given by Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, President of Bentley College and Honorary Chairman of the Conference,

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Contacts with Armenian Scholars in Poland

Prof. Antoni Jakubowicz (Hagopian) of the Armenian Culture Research Center in Krakow, Poland, has forwarded to the NAASR Armenian Reference and Research Library a copy of a book, in Polish, tracing the contacts between Armenians and Poles from the Middle Ages to present times. The book, published in Lublin in 1983 and now out of print, consists of a collection of papers presented at a symposium of Polish and Armenian scholars that took place in Yerevan, Armenia, in 1979. It is a joint publication of the Marie-Curie Sklodowskiej University in Lublin and the Armenian State University in Yerevan.

According to Prof. Jakubowicz, a group of Polish Armenians are in the process of collecting materials in preparation of a Biographical Dictionary of Polish Armenians, covering ancient times to the present. Although Armenians have been a small minority in Poland, they have made an impact as merchants, artist-craftsmen, and diplomats in the past. More recently they have turned to the fields of learning and fine arts.

There are presently an estimated 10,000 Armenians in Poland. Although Armenians in Poland had become assimilated and "Polonized" as early as the 18th century, they have continued to retain their ethnic identity. Even today, through organizations such as the Armenian Culture Research Center in Krakow, Armenians in Poland are making an effort to preserve their culture and to disseminate information about it. There is considerable interest in Poland about Armenians; for example, a book on Armenians in Old Poland, issued two years ago in 2,000 copies, was quickly sold out.

In writing to NAASR recently, Prof. Jakubowicz expressed an interest in initiating cooperative scholarly efforts between NAASR and the Armenian Culture Research Center. This possibility will certainly be fully explored in the weeks and months ahead by the NAASR Board and the leaders of the Center in Krakow.



A SCENE FROM THE PAST, as NAASR continues its 30th anniversary year activities. Celebrating the "Victory Banquet" in Harvard University's Memorial Hall in 1959 when 1,000 Armenians marked the successful completion of the Harvard Armenian Chair campaign are, left to right, Prof. A.J. Meyer, Jr.*, of Harvard, Hollywood film director Rouben Mamoulian and his wife Azaria, Stephen P. Mugar*, Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian*, and Dr. Avedis K. Sanjian. (*=deceased).

Research Grants in Armenian Studies

NAASR continues to consider grant applications by qualified candidates for research in the field of Armenian Studies.

Grants are normally made for doctoral or post-doctoral research to individuals living in the United States; they may be used for travel, cost of microfilms or other research material, and for similar expenses for a period not to exceed one year. A limited number of grants up to \$1,000 each are available each year through the incomes of NAASR's various endowed and memorial funds.

The applications are reviewed by the NAASR Academic Committee, consisting of Prof. Richard N. Frye of Harvard University (chairman). Prof. Robert W. Thomson of Harvard (secretary), Dr. Krikor Maksoudian of Columbia, Prof. Dennis R. Papazian of the University of Michigan (Dearborn), and Dr. Nevart Yaghlian of Cornell University.

Applications or inquiries should be directed to the NAASR Headquarters.

Genocide Conference

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and by Manoog S. Young, NAASR Board Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee.

Prof. Richard Hovannisian of the University of California, Los Angeles, will lead off the first of six panel sessions on Friday morning, April 19, with an overview on "The Armenian Question, 1878-1923." Coming the longest distance for the Conference, Prof. Israel Charny of Tel Aviv University in Israel and Executive Director of the International Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide, will deliver a paper on "The Psychology of Denial."

Prof. Charny and Prof. Hovannisian will also participate in the Friday night panel discussion on "The Armenians and the Jews: Genocide and Government Responsibility." The panel session will be free and open to the public and will include also Prof. Irving L. Horowitz of Rutgers University, Set Momjian, member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and Rev. Vartan Hartunian, pastor of the First Armenian Church in Belmont, Mass.

Dr. Yves Ternon and Gerard Chaliand of Paris, Christopher Walker of London, as well as a number of scholars from colleges and universities all across the nation, will come together for this unique event. One innovation will be a session devoted to "The Psychological and Sociological Aftermath of the Genocide," a subject often ignored by the Armenian community.

Richard Ashton of Fresno, a survivor of the massacres, will be the concluding speaker of the Conference.

The registration fee for the entire Conference has been set at \$15, or for individual sessions at \$5 each. There are special rates for students and senior citizens (\$10 for the entire conference or \$3 per session). Luncheon at \$7.50 and dinner at \$15 will be available at the Bentley

Dining Halls set aside for the Conference. Accommodations will be available at nearby hotels for out-of-town guests.

The conference sessions and programs will be open to the general public. A complete schedule of conference events is now available. Further details may be obtained from the NAASR Headquarters, 175 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138; Telephone: (617) 876-7630.

UConn Program

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Stamford and West Hartford campuses of the University. An effort will be made also to reach out to non-degree students and adults across the State through the Office of Non-Credit Programs.

Julie H. Tashjian, the Connecticut Secretary of State, has issued the following official statement strongly supporting the program:

"Armenian culture is well-rooted in world history and today its influence can be found nearly everywhere around the globe. However, because of several traumatic events that occurred in the past, much of this rich heritage has been clouded. I applaud the University of Connecticut's Armenian Studies Program as a vehicle of knowledge that will permit the history of the Middle East to be interpreted and analyzed from a new perspective and permit its students to appreciate the impact and significant contributions of Armenian-Americans."

Representatives of the Office of International Education and Development, the Middle East Studies Program, and the I.N. Thut World Education Center have participated in the planning of the program. Dr. Frank A. Stone, director of the Thut Center and author of the recently published *Academies for Anatolia*, is playing a major role in the development of the program. A Steering Committee of Connecticut Armenian Americans is also participating in the effort.

"This program, which will complement and augment the many other programs at leading American universities initiated or supported by NAASR, is whole-heartedly endorsed by the NAASR Board of Directors," stated Board Chairman Manoog S. Young.

Further information about the program is available by contacting: The University of Connecticut Foundation, Box U-190, Wilbur Cross Building, Storrs, CT 06268.

Armenian Studies in the Age of Communications:

An Analysis and Guide by Barry Zorthian

[The following is an edited text of an address given by Barry Zorthian at NAASR's 28th Annual Assembly Banquet in 1982 in Boston. Mr. Zorthian has held many prominent positions in journalism and government, including Program Manager for the Voice of America, duty with U.S. Foreign Service in India and Vietnam, and Vice President of Time, Inc. He is a member of the AGBU Central Board of Directors, of the NAASR National Advisory Board, and is presently the chairman of the Armenian Assembly Board of Directors.]

My comments to you tonight will be presented from a different vantage point than those you have heard already. The story of the origins of your organization reminds us all of the motives and commitments of your chosen emphasis on studies and research. That is a direction that puts great weight on the longer view, that rises above the pressures of the moment to look for the meaning and lessons of our experience. Your pursuit of those goals needs no explanation or analysis from me. You are the specialists and experts in your chosen fields.

Let me speak to you from what I would regard as an allied field, the field of communications. The age in which we live has been described in many ways, but my own professional background leads me to opt for those who speak of it as the age of communications. Whatever the merits of that label, it is certainly true that we have achieved astounding progress in our means of communicating; technologically, we are in the midst of a communications explosion. We have the capacity to communicate in ways that even a few short years ago would have seemed to be in the realm of science fiction.

It is entirely possible today, technically, to have this dinner heard and seen live — in color — by every single person alive on this globe — all four billion of them. And the reverse is true. It is possible for us to sit here and see visually in color any other spot or event on earth. We can store information without limit, transmit it instantaneously wherever we want, recover it for use at a moment's notice, convert it into other forms and combinations. All this we can do and more.

The only question is one of cost. Is the result worth the expenditure that would be required? Obviously, it would not be in the examples I have given — although I do note that we approach some of the ultimate possibilities occasionally when we experience such occasions as six hundred million people around the globe watching the descent of a space vehicle live thousands of miles away in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. But is it worth the cost even in the case of much more modest examples? Put another way, the great question we have today in the field of communication is not the means of communication but the substance. Now that we have the technical means, what do we have to say? Is it worth hearing?

And there I suggest to you is a dilemma of our time — and a challenge for you. For while we have created these technical marvels, I am not near as certain that we have made much progress in the content of what we communicate. The misunderstandings of the world seem much the same; the tensions and strains are still as high; our information is available in copious quantities; but our interpretation and understanding seems just as limited.

Part of the the solution to these problems, I suggest, lies in the hands of you and your colleagues in the academic world. For it is your chosen role to reflect and analyze; to seek meaning and significance; to place in order and perspective. I suggest to you that it should equally be your role to communicate the results of your effort; to pass on through those expanded technical capabilities the information, the evaluation, the distilled wisdom and knowledge which you acquire.

What will that achieve? The Spanish philosopher Ortega y Gasset said: "Culture is not life in its entirety but just the moment of security, strength and clarity." In our case, in the case of ethnic Armenians, this requires greater understanding of ourselves, greater awareness of our roots and our ethos — and thus a firmer foundation for the future.

Let me presume to suggest that the vital task of study and research you have undertaken is not an end in itself. The commitment you have made requires also this communication of your results — in forms and through means that will make the results available and understandable to others, to those in the Armenian community and to those in other communities whose interest and attention we can attract. What is it you have distilled, what



Barry Zorthian

are the lessons you have learned? I recognize the effort you make through the medium of books. I suggest this is not enough. The new technologies must be used if you are to reach all segments of the community. The task you have undertaken is not finished, I think, until this process is complete.

And what will be the result? Well, I can't predict with any real assurance. I know what I think will happen. I would hope that by examining our history, our culture, our strengths and our weaknesses with an honest and candid — though sympathetic — eye, we will develop a greater realism about ourselves and about our future. I suggest that such knowledge of ourselves will give us increased faith in ourselves and will strengthen our prospects for the years ahead. I would hope that we will look more realistically at the role and future of the communities in the diaspora; that we will recognize that our continued existence ethnically lies in understanding and renewing our culture and history and contributing our assets to the mosaic of the greater society we live in.

We are a people of strength and achievement. We are also a people who want and deserve a continued ethnic identity. Here in the United States, at least, we

"Knowledge of ourselves will give us increased faith in ourselves and will strengthen our prospects for the years ahead."

Recent and Selected Titles of Note

A sampling of some recent and noteworthy additions to NAASR's Armenian Book Clearing House list appears below. Figures in parentheses represent reduced prices for NAASR members in good standing. A complete list of recent titles is available upon request.

Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia. (Editions Erebouni), Full-color pictures of the treasures in the Manoogian Museum, along with photos of the museum building and of the ceremonies marking its opening in 1982. With an introduction by Mania Khazarian, and text of speeches delivered at the opening by His Holiness Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, and by philanthropist and benefactor Alex Manoogian. (In Armenian and English). A130. \$20.00 (\$16.95).

Ark: A Novel, by David Daniel (St. Martin's/Marek, New York). The search for Noah's Ark becomes an object of fierce competition between the superpowers in this spy-thriller whose action takes place for the most part in eastern Turkey and whose characters include a band of Armenian terrorists. T110. \$16.95 (\$14.50).

Armenia: The Continuing Tragedy (Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches). Background information about the history of the Armenian people with special reference to the Armenian Genocide, prepared in response to the resolution on the Armenian Genocide adopted at the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver, Canada, in 1983. H241p. \$3.00 (\$2.75).

Armenian Needlelace and Embroidery, by Alice Odian Kasparian (EPM McLean, Va.). Publications, photographic collection of more than 100 samples of Armenian needleart (a third in color) plus step by step instructions for making several patterns, with historical and background information, a foreword by Dickran Kouymjian, and a brief account of the author's experience in her native Angora and in Constantinople in 1915-16. A NAASR Best-Seller. A111. \$29.95 (\$25.95)

The Complete Armenian Cookbook, Including Favorite International Recipes, by Alice Bezjian (Rosekeer Press, Fairlawn, N.J.). A large, beautifully illustrated book with over 500 recipes from a variety of cultures, mostly Armenian and Middle Eastern, but including also French, Russian, Hawaiian, Japanese, and other specialties. X161. \$25.00 (\$21.95).

A Portfolio of Charted Armenian Designs for Needlework, by Gary Lind-Sinanian (Hye-Handed Works, Hyde Park,

Mass.). A collection of designs derived from Armenian rugs and embroideries for use in needlework, including some modern adaptations of common motifs: dancers, the cross, and the alphabet. Vol. #1, A127p. \$6.50 (\$5.00). Vol.#2, A128p. \$6.50 (\$5.00).

Toward the Understanding and Prevention of Genocide: Proceedings of the International Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide, edited by Israel W. Charny (Westview Press, Boulder & London). A selection of papers presented at the International Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide in Tel Aviv in 1982, along with the discussions that took place over the crisis that arose when the Israeli government, responding to the pressure by Turkey over Armenian participation, attempted to cancel the conference. With papers by Abp. Shahe Ajamian, Richard Hovannisian, Marjorie Housepian-Dobkin, Leo Kuper, Helen Fein, and others. H235. \$31.00 (\$28.50).

Village of Parchanj: General History (1600-1937), by Manoog B. Dzeron, translated by Arra S. Avakian (Panorama West Books, Fresno). English language edition of the Armenian original published in 1938 about this small village in Kharpert province, Turkish Armenia. With sections customs, religion, education, economics, politics; black and white photos and sketches. H236. \$20.00 (\$16.95).

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are not going to have a political existence; our continued ethnic identity will come only through our culture and intellectual achievements and contributions. And it is difficult, if not impossible, to make such contributions unless we understand our past. So your task is vital to our continuation as an ethnic community. But I emphasize to you that the results of your efforts must be communicated widely and in forms that can be absorbed by all in the community and those outside who are interested.

I suggest that the communication of your work should help bring another result that I believe is essential to the continuation of our ethnic identity.

We are people who have suffered an historic wrong; the events that came to a climax in the horrors of 1915 and touched the lives of all in our community have dominated our thoughts and actions since then. I suggest that the time has come to put these events in their historic context - even if they happened during the lifetime of many still alive — and to regard them as a dark and tragic chapter in the history of our community but one which

the strength and vitality of our people have overcome. Your work, your study can give us the perspective and sense of confidence to enable us to put that experience behind us and turn to the future.

Our energies, our commitment should be devoted to what our community can achieve, not to what has happened to us in the past. For that tragedy cannot be righted; our losses cannot be recovered; the parts can never be put together again. I suggest not that we forget what happened how can we? - but that we devote all our energies to our future. Your work can bring

How You Can Help:

- **▶** Join
- ► Renew
- Reinstate
- Participate
- ► Publicize
- ► Contribute

about such a result, can help turn those whose frustration and anger about the past leads them to speak through violence and terror to a more positive and constructive outlet for their passion and energy by providing perspective and confidence in their community's capabilities and continuity.

A great deal can flow from what you are doing. You are essential to our ethnic future. But to make your maximum contribution, I urge you to communicate as well as produce. And I urge you to devote equal attention to that task in your program ahead. I do not think that it is too much to say that the continued existence of our community depends ultimately on the results of these efforts by you and your colleagues.



National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Inc.

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