

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection:** Cicconi, James W.: Files  
**OA/Box:** Box 6  
**File Folder:** Armenian-Americans (2)

**Archivist:** kdb  
**FOIA ID:** F1997-066/8, D. Cohen  
**Date:** 08/24/2004

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>1. memo (4584)</del>	<del>Robert McFarlane to James Baker re Armenian-American concerns (w/notations), 1p</del> <i>R 3/20/06 NLSF97-066/9 #3</i>	6/9/84	<del>B1-</del>
2. memo	Lee Verstandig to Baker re Armenian-American concern [w/notations], 2p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	5/31/84	
3. memo	Verstandig to Michael Deaver re Gov. Deukmejian request for a Presidential proclamation, 2p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	4/20/84	
4. memo (3222)	McFarlane to Verstandig re request for Presidential proclamation, 1p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	4/18/84	
5. memo	copy of item 3, 2p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	4/20/84	
6. memo (3222)	copy of item 4, 1p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	4/18/84	
7. memo	draft copy of item 3 [w/edits], 2p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	4/20/84	
8. memo (3222)	original of item 4, w/same notations, 1p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	4/18/84	
<del>9. memo</del>	<del>copy of item 1, w/same notations, 1p</del> <i>R 3/20/06 F97-066/9 #4</i>	6/9/84	<del>B1-</del>
10. memo	copy of item 2, 2p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	5/31/84	
11 memo	copy of item 2, 2p [Item is still under review under the provisions of EO 13233]	5/31/84	

### RESTRICTIONS

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- B-2 Release could 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 commercial 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-7a Release could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA].
- B-7b Release would deprive an individual of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA].
- B-7c Release could reasonably be expected to cause unwarranted invasion or privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA].
- B-7d Release could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA].
- B-7e Release would disclose techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines which could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA].
- B-7f Release could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual [(b)(7)(F) 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 concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

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

WHITE HOUSE

9/20/84

Jim:

Attached is a draft on the  
Ottoman Empire issue.  
I would appreciate your  
comments and a chance to  
talk with you Tuesday  
when I return from Boston.

LEE

Lee:

This looks fine to me.  
Should it be put in  
letter form for discussion  
purposes?

Jim  
7/23

~~Nearly 70 years ago, one of the greatest tragedies in the annals of recorded history occurred when 1-1/2 million innocent men, women and children were massacred in their historic homeland.~~

These Armenians were dispersed throughout the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. Some went to the Soviet Union where today they continue to suffer from religious persecution and other forms of harassment. <sup>In this country,</sup> Armenian-Americans have excelled in virtually every field of endeavor and have clearly enriched our national heritage. They have been vibrant members of our community and their voices are heard in the councils of government.

The memory of that genocide ~~that Armenians~~ suffered, <sup>by the Armenian people</sup> still burns in <sup>our</sup> ~~their~~ hearts. ~~All Americans should join in solemn~~ <sup>In remembering</sup> ~~remembrance~~ of those who suffered by those tragic historical events, <sup>we must also</sup> ~~and~~ resolve that the tragedy of 1915 not be repeated.

~~As I said in 1980,~~



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

July 30, 1984

Dear Lee:

Attached is a copy of a recent editorial comment which appeared in the Armenian (english-language) newspaper, The California Courier.

The columnist, Mr. George Mason, a lawyer-stockbroker with Bear Stearns, is the owner and publisher of this weekly paper.

I am sending it along to you, because it describes, in a brief article, exactly what is happening among Armenian-Americans and especially those who are Republicans.

Most cordially,

George

Attachment

Mr. Lee Verstandig  
Assistant to the President  
for Intergovernmental Affairs  
The White House  
Washington D.C. 20500

*From the desk of*

GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN

## EDITORIAL

**THIS  
& THAT**

By George Mason

**G.O.P. LOSING**

The Republicans are losing the support of countless conservative Armenian Americans. I fear that they may never win such people back because of the depth of their feeling about this issue. It hurts Armenians even more that it is President Reagan who allows such a state of affairs. Reagan had been supported by Armenians way back when he ran for Governor of California and had always professed sympathy and understanding for the the Armenian plight.

Yes, I am a Republican and I continue to support President Reagan. I think he is an excellent leader of the free world and a good man. I feel terrible that he is losing the support of the Armenian Americans who are so closely allied with the policies he espouses — free enterprise, individualism and a commitment to national defense.

As strongly as I support the Republicans, however, I can't sit through another of these funerals — hear about the horrible sufferings perpetrated by the Turks, then overlook the fact that our government refuses to acknowledge such an outrageous event.

Certainly the Turks will be offended if the U.S. acknowledges the historical fact of the genocide. But how much more does America lose as a nation by refusing to do so. President Reagan must realize that the State Department is worried only about its relationship with Turkey. He must worry about the image the U.S. projects, the impact of his policies upon loyal Americans and political supporters, and being consistent with his former promises and declarations. Finally, he should realize that if the Turks are offended, they will quickly get over it. They want our aid and our support. But the Armenian Americans who are offended may never be able to forgive him. In the long run the loss of their political support may be more costly to the country than the temporary irritation of the Turks.

Dear George

I am well aware of your concern + that of the American-American community to the Administration's <sup>series of commitment</sup> ~~condemned support~~ ~~to the~~ ~~remembrance of~~ ~~that~~ ~~occurred~~ ~~against~~ ~~man's~~ ~~inherent~~ ~~to~~ ~~war~~ ~~genocide~~, but also our <sup>interest</sup> ~~interest~~ ~~is~~ ~~resolved~~ ~~up~~ the crisis that has engulfed surrounding these tragic historical events.

I appreciate your personal interest in this issue.

~~presently~~ ~~for~~ ~~you~~ I was particularly distressed to learn that appears to be some confusion about my views regarding certain issues of concern to the American-American community, particularly the <sup>terrible</sup> ~~tragic~~ ~~historical~~ events that occurred ~~in 1915~~ nearly 70 years ago. At that time, in one of the greatest tragedies in the annals of recorded history, 1 1/2 million innocent . . .

<sup>all Americans</sup>  
In remembering ~~those~~ ~~who~~ ~~suffered~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ tragic events of 1915, we must ~~be~~ resolve that the suffering of the Armenian people

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4584

CONFIDENTIAL

June 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE *Rud*

SUBJECT: Armenian-Americans Concerns

DECLASSIFIED  
NLS F97-066/9 #3  
NARA DATE 3/20/06

6/12

*Lee:*  
*Work w/ Dennis + Bond M.F.*  
*JAM*

In response to your note on Lee Verstandig's memo Tab A, I have asked State to draft a Presidential letter aimed at alleviating Armenian-American concerns about U.S. policy in this sensitive area. The statement, however, would also clearly denounce Armenian terrorist activities and would lay out the foreign policy implications (i.e., especially relations with Turkey) that the President must consider. I suggest that the letter go to Deukmejian under a cover letter from me. We could consider public release of the President's letter at an appropriate time during the campaign.

I have several points to make with regard to the general tenor of Lee's memo. The President's meeting with the Armenian-Americans was set up without consultations with the NSC. We did respond to a last-minute request from Lee's staff for talking points, in which we tried to steer the President clear of the thorny 1915 genocide question. Governor Deukmejian appears to be trying to take advantage of a vague Presidential promise "to follow up." At Lee's request we considered various options, but thought the Governor was being less than straightforward given that he knew the State Department had issued a clarification to its earlier alleged controversial statement in the Department's Bulletin. Moreover, Deukmejian surely was also aware that for foreign policy reasons we could not be as forthcoming as he hoped.

We subsequently drafted a reply from Lee to Deukmejian, but as you may recall we agreed it would be better for me to call the Governor--which I did--rather than for me to send a letter.

As I indicated at the outset, we wish to be helpful, but must be mindful of Turkish sensitivities (they have made a number of high level representations concerning the Congressional resolutions) and be particularly alert to any language which appears to condone or offer excuses for Armenian terrorist activities.

Attachment  
Tab A Verstandig memo

*[Handwritten initials]*

July 3, 1984

I understand that you and others in the "Named ethnic group" community are concerned over our position on a resolution designating April 24 as a National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man. I deeply sympathize with all those who suffered during the terrible days of 1915. My heart goes out to them and to their families who continue to live in the shadow of the intense feelings aroused by these tragic historical events. At the same time, we must remain sensitive to the modern phenomenon of the international terrorism, which has taken on an increasingly ugly role on world affairs and is a major concern of our Administration. Mindful of the climate in which terrorism thrives, the Department is concerned, as am I, the Congressional action highlighting the events of 1915 could unintentionally encourage extremist groups which have carried out terrorist attacks against the "Named" government and its people. We are also concerned over the potential broader foreign policy implications of such a resolution. I appreciate your personal interest and delicate position.

Please let me assure you that our position is in no way intended to overlook or condone the tragic historical events which befell the "Named" people.

Nearly 70 yrs ago, one of the greatest tragedies - the annals  
of recorded history occurred when 1.5 M innocent A men, &  
+ children were <sup>murdered - thousands</sup> ~~their historic~~ / some went to Soviet U - live today  
They were dispersed - some came to US - <sup>they continue to suffer from religious</sup> ~~prosecution + other forms of harassment~~  
vibrant members of country - represented - halls of Govt  
The memory still lives in their hearts - their hearts memory of  
genocide that A ancestors suffered. All Americans  
should join in solemn remembrance + resolve that  
tragedy of 1915 not be repeated

awful  
- rivaled  
every field  
of endeavor  
murdered  
of national  
heritage



THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 16, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN

SUBJECT: REQUESTS PROCLAMATION BE ISSUED ON APR 24 84 \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
1915-23 \_\_\_\_\_

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LEE VERSTANDIG	ORG	84/04/16		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
ANDREW CARD	RSA	84/04/16		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2110 \_\_\_\_\_

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

- ```

*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                       * CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED                *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *      OF SIGNER   *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED             *      CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED              *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *      OUTGOING    *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
*****

```

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.



GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN  
GOVERNOR

State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
SACRAMENTO 95814

April 13, 1984

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

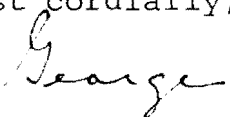
Each year on April 24, Armenians throughout the world commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23. Your eloquent statement of April 15, 1980 and your reference to the Armenian tragedy in proclamation 4838 last year demonstrated to the community your strong sense of commitment to remembrance of such crimes against humanity in order to prevent the recurrence.

During the recent memorable meeting in your office, the delegation of Armenian-Americans were delighted and grateful with your continuing support for not only recognition of the Genocide but more importantly your genuine interest in resolving the crisis which has lingered for far too long between the Armenian and Turkish people.

It had been the fervent hope of the Armenian-American community that the House and Senate resolutions calling for designation of April 24, 1984 as a National Day of Remembrance of man's inhumanity to man would have been enacted and that you would then issue a proclamation in recognition of this most solemn day. I regret to relate that I have been advised that the resolutions did not pass in either branch and that the failure of these resolutions was due in large measure to a campaign of the State Department in opposition.

I would like every American, every American of Armenian descent to realize what I know to be the case: that opposition to this legislation did not reflect your views. Consequently, I respectfully request that you issue a proclamation on April 24 of this year recognizing this tragic historical event with the hope that the world will never experience another genocide.

Most cordially,

  
George Deukmejian

TO: LEE VERSTANDIG

FROM: KEN KHACHIGIAN AND GREG KAHWAJIAN  
CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
(916) 324 - 3622

---

STATEMENT ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

April 15, 1980

65 years ago, one of the greatest tragedies in the annals of recorded history occurred when one and a half million innocent Armenian men, women and children were massacred in the shadow of Mt. Ararat.

Their only "crime" was their century old dedication to live their lives as free Armenians professing their Christian beliefs in a home land that had previously dazzled Asia minor with its prominence and power.

To this day, the Armenian diaspora is recovering from the blood bath of 1915. Armenians in Lebanon, Turkey and other parts of the Middle East are still suffering from ancestral hatreds and discrimination. Armenian freedom fighters in the Armenian SSR are still anguishing in prisons and asylums and in this country, the Armenian cause is still only dimly understood.

The 1980's must be that period when the voices of Americans of Armenian ancestry are heard in the councils of government. It must be that period when America and its allies throughout the free world resolve that the tragedy of 1915 never again be repeated. I join with the American-Armenian community in solemn remembrance of the martyrs of 1915.

Ronald Reagan

Proclamation 4838 of April 22, 1981

## Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust

By the President of the United States of America

### A Proclamation

The Congress of the United States established the United States Holocaust Memorial Council to create a living memorial to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. Its purpose: So mankind will never lose memory of that terrible moment in time when the awful spectre of death camps stained the history of our world.

When America and its allies liberated those haunting places of terror and sick destructiveness, the world came to a vivid and tragic understanding of the evil it faced in those years of the Second World War. Each of those names—Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, Treblinka and so many others—became synonymous with horror.

The millions of deaths, the gas chambers, the inhuman crematoria, and the thousands of people who somehow survived with lifetime scars are all now part of the conscience of history. Forever must we remember just how precious is civilization, how important is liberty, and how heroic is the human spirit.

Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it—and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten.

As part of its mandate, the Holocaust Memorial Council has been directed to designate annual Days of Remembrance as a national, civic commemoration of the Holocaust, and to encourage and sponsor appropriate observances throughout the United States. This year, the national Days of Remembrance will be observed on April 26 through May 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby ask the people of the United States to observe this solemn anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps, with appropriate study, prayers and commemoration, as a tribute to the spirit of freedom and justice which Americans fought so hard and well to preserve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

RONALD REAGAN

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1984

6/11  
Bud:  
See last pp.  
Can we do?  
JAB III

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: LEE L. VERSTANDIG *lee*

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN-AMERICAN CONCERN

The relationship between the Administration and the Armenian-Americans has now become a significant political issue that appears to be extending beyond the Armenian community to Greek-American and Jewish communities as well.

Governor George Deukmejian (R-CA) met with me last week during the Western Governors' Association conference and again raised the Armenian issue which he believes is becoming a major political embarrassment for the Administration. His concern stems from the lack of follow-up promised by the President at last December's Oval Office meeting with the Governor and leaders of the Armenian-American community.

During that very congenial meeting the Governor, citing the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23, expressed grave concern about a footnote to an article printed in the August, 1982 State Department Bulletin, which said: "... the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish Government committed a genocide against the Armenian people."

The President indicated that he was unaware of the State Department disclaimer until that time but promised the Governor he would "follow-up."

I have repeatedly asked NSC to "follow-up" on that matter to enable me to get back to the Governor.

In early April the Governor personally called me inquiring about the "follow-up." My repeated urgings of NSC received no response.

Soon thereafter, the Governor wrote to the President requesting a resolution and/or proclamation commemorating April 24, 1984 as a National Day of Remembrance in recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The letter also expressed regret that a resolution was not passed in Congress due to State Department opposition. In order to solicit a response to the Governor's letter, it was forwarded to NSC and State for reply.

Finally, NSC suggested a response from me that I found to be untimely. Upon learning that the Governor was preparing to call the President directly about the request, I telexed the attached memo and materials to Mike Deaver at the Western White House. Note that I recommended Bud McFarlane call the Governor in response to his letter and provide an explanation of the situation.

Bud did talk with the Governor. However, the Governor continues to be concerned.

During my conversation at the Western Governors' Association meeting, Governor Deukmejian reemphasized his feelings that it is extremely important that the President reaffirm his "strong sense of commitment" on this matter. The President issued a statement during the 1980 campaign (April 15) and signed a proclamation on April 27, 1981. The Governor noted that both Walter Mondale and Gary Hart have released statements this year recognizing the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23.

Since my meeting with the Governor, the State Department has indicated in a draft letter prepared for Secretary Shultz, that State acknowledges that it retracted that footnote in a Bulletin issued after August 1982.

Given the sensitivity of the issue with Armenians and other significant ethnic groups, I recommend we review our statements with a view toward clarifying the President's position on this matter.

UNCLAS

CLASSIFICATION

CIRCLE ONE BELOW

MODE

PAGES 2

IMMEDIATE

DACOM # \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASER \_\_\_\_\_

PRIORITY

DEX # \_\_\_\_\_

DTG 021233Z JUN 84

ROUTINE

TTY # \_\_\_\_\_

FASTFAX# 04

FROM/LOCATION/

1. R. KIMMITT ASHFORD CASTLE

TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. JOHN POINDEXTER WHSR 021242Z JUN 84

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION ADDRESSEES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

UNCLAS

CLASSIFICATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEEVER

FROM: LEE L. VERSTANDIG

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR DEUKMEJIAN (R-CA) REQUEST FOR A  
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON ALLEGED ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

---

This is to alert you to an issue which the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs has been working on which has significant political and foreign policy ramifications.

In fact, Governor George Deukmejian (R-CA) may call the President (or Secretary Shultz) this weekend with his appeal for a proclamation on April 24 commemorating the Armenian genocide of 1915.

The Governor wrote a letter to the President requesting the proclamation on April 13. My office received the letter on April 17.

The request stems from the President's meeting in the Oval Office with Governor Deukmejian and leaders of the American-Armenian Community last December at which time they questioned a disclaimer of recognition of the Armenian genocide in a State Department publication. The President expressed concern and said he would look into it.

Since that time I have made inquiries through NSC as a follow-up to the President's concern. Ken Khachigian has contacted my office several times regarding that follow-up.

During my regular contact with Steve Merksamer, the Governor's Chief of Staff, he never expressed any concern about the Governor's follow-up inquiries. Since December, NSC has reported the State Department's reluctance to modify the August 1982 state disclaimer.

The Governor called me April 10 (Steve was not aware until I informed him) and inquired as to the status of the follow-up response to the American-Armenian question.

Upon receiving the telephone call I again urged NSC to provide me with some response on the follow-up matter.



The Governor's most recent letter expresses concern about the failure of Congress to pass a resolution commemorating the Armenian genocide and urges a Presidential proclamation for a National Day of Remembrance (April 24). Upon receipt, I sent a copy to NSC for an immediate response.

NSC responded by advising me that it was not in our foreign policy interest to have the President issue such a proclamation. Rather, NSC submitted a draft response to the Governor from me.

After discussing this matter with Bob Kimmitt and John Poindexter, we would recommend the following action:

1. That no proclamation be issues at this time.
2. That Bud McFarlane call the Governor in response to his letter to the President and provide an explanation of the situation.
3. That a member of the NSC staff call Ken Khachigian and provide a suitable explanation.

Attachments

cc: Robert Kimmitt

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN  
(R - CALIFORNIA) AND EIGHT ARMENIAN-AMERICAN LEADERS

Date: December 6, 1983

Location: Oval Office

Time: 4:30-4:45 P.M.

From: Lee L. Verstandig *lee*

1. Purpose

Governor Deukmejian has not visited with you in the Oval Office since he became Governor of California. The Governor has asked that during his meeting with you he be able to introduce you to a small delegation of National Armenian-American leaders.

2. Background

Governor Deukmejian is paying a courtesy call on you and chose not to take your time to bring up issues of concern to the state of California nor to discuss national domestic policy. Instead, the Governor wanted to give you the opportunity to meet with some of the Armenian-American leaders from across the country.

Attached are brief biographical sketches of the attendees.

The American-Armenians are expected to raise the issue of the so-called Armenian genocide which took place in Turkey in 1915.

They will likely call attention to an August, 1982 Department of State Bulletin article that appeared entitled "Armenian Terrorism: A Profile."

The note at the end of the article states the following:

"Because the historical record of the 1915 events in Asia Minor is ambiguous, the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish government committed a genocide against the Armenian people."

The Armenian community has been most upset with this statement.

The Armenian-Americans are expected to agree with a comment that you made at a recent reception for ethnic newspapers that Armenians and Turks should sit down and settle their long standing differences.

Finally, the Armenian-Americans may ask you to consider appointing another person of Armenian heritage to the U.S Holocaust Memorial Council. Of sixty members, only one is an Armenian American.

3. Participants

Governor George Deukmejian (R-California)  
Archie Dickranian  
Hirair Hovnanian  
Kenneth Khachigian  
Edward Mardigian  
Alex Manoogian  
Karl M. Samuelian  
David Shakarian  
Barry Zorthian  
Lee L. Verstandig  
Andrew H. Card, Jr.

4. Press Plan

White House photographer.

5. Sequence of Events

4:30 P.M. - Lee Verstandig will accompany the Governor and the eight Armenian Americans into the Oval Office.

4:30 - 4:10 P.M. - Governor Deukmejian and the eight Armenian-Americans will raise issues of concern to the Armenian-American community.

4:10 - 4:45 P.M. - You can respond to Governor Deukmejian's and the Armenian-Americans presentation and follow with a general discussion. (Talking points attached.)

---

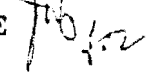
Attachments.

MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 18, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR LEE VERSTANDIG

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE 

SUBJECT: Request for Presidential Proclamation on Alleged  
Armenian Genocide

Thank you for the opportunity to draft the reply to Governor Deukmejian. While we in no way wish to condone genocide, it does not serve our foreign policy interests, particularly as they relate to international terrorism and to Turkey, to make an annual issue of the tragic events of 1915.

I fully recognize that the reply we have drafted for your signature will not please Governor Deukmejian, but we believe it explains to him, in polite terms, our concerns and policy objectives.

Attachment

cc: Dick Darman  
Faith Whittlesey

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DRAFT

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

The President asked me to respond to your letter requesting that he issue a proclamation on April 24 recognizing the tragic historical event of 1915.

We recognize and appreciate your prominent role in the Armenian-American community and have taken a close look at your request, in conjunction with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. As a result of this review, I must inform you that the President will not be issuing a proclamation. We know you will be disappointed by our decision, but hope you will understand.

International terrorism has taken on an increasingly ugly role in world affairs and is a major concern of the Administration's. Against this background, we are deeply concerned that a Presidential proclamation or Congressional resolution could unintentionally encourage extremist groups to carry out a terrorist campaign against the Turkish government and its people.

I have been asked to reemphasize that we appreciate your interest and delicate position. Again thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Lee Verstandig

The Honorable George Deukmejian  
Governor of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

July 3, 1984

In forwarding the letter on the tragic historical events of 1915, I wish to reiterate our position on the controversy - of which you are well aware - which arose two years ago over the incorrect insertion in a footnote to an article on terrorism in the Bulletin.

The footnote stated that the Department "does not endorse allegations that the "Named" Government committed a genocide against the "Named" people." The Department, as you probably know, issued a clarification in a subsequent issue of the Bulletin stating that the earlier article and its accompanying notes and footnotes: . . . " were not intended as a statement of policy. Nor did they represent any change in policy."

I wish to repeat our position:

The Department has confirmed that neither the article on "Named Ethnic group" terrorism in the August 1982 Bulletin, its accompanying note or footnotes were intended as statement of policy. Nor did they represent any change in policy. An editor's note to this effect was included in the April 1983 issue of the Bulletin.

We hope this reaffirmation addresses your questions.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEAVER

FROM: LEE L. VERSTANDIG

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR DEUKMEJIAN (R-CA) REQUEST FOR A  
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON ALLEGED ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

---

This is to alert you to an issue which the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs has been working on which has significant political and foreign policy ramifications.

In fact, Governor George Deukmejian (R-CA) may call the President (or Secretary Shultz) this weekend with his appeal for a proclamation on April 24 commemorating the Armenian genocide of 1915.

The Governor wrote a letter to the President requesting the proclamation on April 13. My office received the letter on April 17.

The request stems from the President's meeting in the Oval Office with Governor Deukmejian and leaders of the American-Armenian Community last December at which time they questioned a disclaimer of recognition of the Armenian genocide in a State Department publication. The President expressed concern and said he would look into it.

Since that time I have made inquiries through NSC as a follow-up to the President's concern. Ken Khachigian has contacted my office several times regarding that follow-up.

During my regular contact with Steve Merksamer, the Governor's Chief of Staff, he never expressed any concern about the Governor's follow-up inquiries. Since December, NSC has reported the State Department's reluctance to modify the August 1982 state disclaimer.

The Governor called me April 10 (Steve was not aware until I informed him) and inquired as to the status of the follow-up response to the American-Armenian question.

Upon receiving the telephone call I again urged NSC to provide me with some response on the follow-up matter.

The Governor's most recent letter expresses concern about the failure of Congress to pass a resolution commemorating the Armenian genocide and urges a Presidential proclamation for a National Day of Remembrance (April 24). Upon receipt, I sent a copy to NSC for an immediate response.

NSC responded by advising me that it was not in our foreign policy interest to have the President issue such a proclamation. Rather, NSC submitted a draft response to the Governor from me.

After discussing this matter with Bob Kimmitt and John Poindexter, we would recommend the following action:

1. That no proclamation be issues at this time.
2. That Bud McFarlane call the Governor in response to his letter to the President and provide an explanation of the situation.
3. That a member of the NSC staff call Ken Khachigian and provide a suitable explanation.

Attachments

cc: Robert Kimmitt





AGE DEUKMEJIAN  
GOVERNOR

State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
SACRAMENTO 95814

April 13, 1984

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

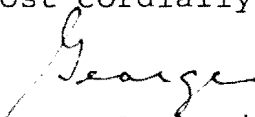
Each year on April 24, Armenians throughout the world commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23. Your eloquent statement of April 15, 1980 and your reference to the Armenian tragedy in proclamation 4838 last year demonstrated to the community your strong sense of commitment to remembrance of such crimes against humanity in order to prevent the recurrence.

During the recent memorable meeting in your office, the delegation of Armenian-Americans were delighted and grateful with your continuing support for not only recognition of the Genocide but more importantly your genuine interest in resolving the crisis which has lingered for far too long between the Armenian and Turkish people.

It had been the fervent hope of the Armenian-American community that the House and Senate resolutions calling for designation of April 24, 1984 as a National Day of Remembrance of man's inhumanity to man would have been enacted and that you would then issue a proclamation in recognition of this most solemn day. I regret to relate that I have been advised that the resolutions did not pass in either branch and that the failure of these resolutions was due in large measure to a campaign of the State Department in opposition.

I would like every American, every American of Armenian descent to realize what I know to be the case: that opposition to this legislation did not reflect your views. Consequently, I respectfully request that you issue a proclamation on April 24 of this year recognizing this tragic historical event with the hope that the world will never experience another genocide.

Most cordially,

  
George Deukmejian

MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 18, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR LEE VERSTANDIG

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE SUBJECT: Request for Presidential Proclamation on Alleged  
Armenian Genocide

Thank you for the opportunity to draft the reply to Governor Deukmejian. While we in no way wish to condone genocide, it does not serve our foreign policy interests, particularly as they relate to international terrorism and to Turkey, to make an annual issue of the tragic events of 1915.

I fully recognize that the reply we have drafted for your signature will not please Governor Deukmejian, but we believe it explains to him, in polite terms, our concerns and policy objectives.

Attachment

cc: Dick Darman  
Faith Whittlesey

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

The President asked me to respond to your letter requesting that he issue a proclamation on April 24 recognizing the tragic historical event of 1915.

We recognize and appreciate your prominent role in the Armenian-American community and have taken a close look at your request, in conjunction with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. As a result of this review, I must inform you that the President will not be issuing a proclamation. We know you will be disappointed by our decision, but hope you will understand.

International terrorism has taken on an increasingly ugly role in world affairs and is a major concern of the Administration's. Against this background, we are deeply concerned that a Presidential proclamation or Congressional resolution could unintentionally encourage extremist groups to carry out a terrorist campaign against the Turkish government and its people.

I have been asked to reemphasize that we appreciate your interest and delicate position. Again thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Lee Verstandig

The Honorable George Deukmejian  
Governor of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEEVER

FROM: LEE L. VERSTANDIG

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR DEUKMEJIAN (R-CA) REQUEST FOR A  
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON ALLEGED ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

*This is to*  
~~I am alerting you to a problem~~ *an issue which the Office of* Intergovernmental Affairs has  
been working on, ~~but cannot resolve which~~ *is a complex political*  
Governor George Deukmejian (R-CA) may call the President this *+ foreign policy implications*  
weekend to try to solicit his assistance. *remembrance*

The Governor wrote to the President on April 13, 1984  
requesting a proclamation on April 24 commemorating the  
Armenian genocide of 1915. *(See 7/2/84)*

The following relate to the Governor's request:

- o April 15, 1980, candidate Ronald Reagan issues a statement  
on Armenian Genocide
- o April 22, 1981, the President included a reference to the  
"genocide of the Armenians" in Proclamation 4838 "Days of  
Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust"
- o December 7, 1983, the President met in the Oval Office  
with Governor Deukmejian and leaders of the American-  
Armenian Community.  
They questioned a disclaimer of recognition of the  
Armenian genocide in a State Department publication.  
The President expressed concern and said he would look  
into it.
- o Since the meeting, Ken Khachigian has contacted our office  
several times for follow-up. NSC was handling the issue.
- o Steve Merksamer, the Governor's Chief of Staff was in  
regular communications with me but never expressed  
real concern about the Governor's inquiry.
- o The Governor called last week - Steve was not aware - and  
inquired as to the status of the President's response to  
the American-Armenian question.

Since December, we have been in touch with NSC, and State about the Governor's interest. NSC has prepared a response to the Governor's letter expressing NSC's concern.

NSC does not think the President should issue a proclamation due to the sensitive relationships existing regarding Turkey and Cyprus.

NSC advised that I write and or call the Governor to tell him why we cannot comply with his request. My contact may not satisfy the Governor and Ken Khachigian suggests that the Governor may try to call the President directly to get assistance.

You should also be aware that an article in today's Washington Times points to the controversy of Mayor Edward Koch's proclamation of Turkish-American Day in New York. Tuesday, April 24 is observed by Armenian groups as "Armenian Genocide Day" and some fear that remembrance of that day would invite conflict with the Turkish community celebrating April 23's traditional "Children's Day."

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN  
(R - CALIFORNIA) AND EIGHT ARMENIAN-AMERICAN LEADERS

Date: December 6, 1983

Location: Oval Office

Time: 4:30-4:45 P.M.

From: Lee L. Verstandig *lee*

1. Purpose

Governor Deukmejian has not visited with you in the Oval Office since he became Governor of California. The Governor has asked that during his meeting with you he be able to introduce you to a small delegation of National Armenian-American leaders.

2. Background

Governor Deukmejian is paying a courtesy call on you and chose not to take your time to bring up issues of concern to the state of California, nor to discuss national domestic policy. Instead, the Governor wanted to give you the opportunity to meet with some of the Armenian-American leaders from across the country.

Attached are brief biographical sketches of the attendees.

The American-Armenians are expected to raise the issue of the so-called Armenian genocide which took place in Turkey in 1915.

They will likely call attention to an August, 1982 Department of State Bulletin article that appeared entitled "Armenian Terrorism: A Profile."

The note at the end of the article states the following:

"Because the historical record of the 1915 events in Asia Minor is ambiguous, the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish government committed a genocide against the Armenian people."

The Armenian community has been most upset with this statement.

The Armenian-Americans are expected to agree with a comment that you made at a recent reception for ethnic newspapers that Armenians and Turks should sit down and settle their long standing differences.

Finally, the Armenian-Americans may ask you to consider appointing another person of Armenian heritage to the U.S Holocaust Memorial Council. Of sixty members, only one is an Armenian American.

3. Participants

Governor George Deukmejian (R-California)  
Archie Dickranian  
Hirair Hovnanian  
Kenneth Khachigian  
Edward Mardigian  
Alex Manoogian  
Karl M. Samuelian  
David Shakarian  
Barry Zorthian  
Lee L. Verstandig  
Andrew H. Card, Jr.

4. Press Plan

White House photographer.

5. Sequence of Events

4:30 P.M. - Lee Verstandig will accompany the Governor and the eight Armenian Americans into the Oval Office.

4:30 - 4:10 P.M. - Governor Deukmejian and the eight Armenian-Americans will raise issues of concern to the Armenian-American community.

4:10 - 4:45 P.M. - You can respond to Governor Deukmejian's and the Armenian-Americans presentation and follow with a general discussion. (Talking points attached.)

---

Attachments.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH  
GEORGE DUEKMEJIAN AND EIGHT ARMENIAN AMERICANS

-- Duke, I am pleased to see you again and I welcome you to the Oval Office.

-- I am also pleased that you would bring some of your friends from the Armenian-American community.

Ken, I am especially pleased to see you again.

-- I share the Armenian community's revulsion for terrorism and deeply regret the terrible calamity which befell the Armenian community at the turn of the century.

-- I am aware that the State Department expresses regret over the note which appeared at the end of the State Department Bulletin in August of 1982 and I understand that the State Department's exchanges with Congressman Chip Pashayan and others have resolved it.

-- I sincerely believe that all persons with differences ought to sit down and work them out, but the individuals directly concerned must determine themselves how they will do this.



Washington Times 4-20-84

## Ethnic feud forces new Turkish-

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Proclamation of Monday as "Turkish-American Day" by New York Mayor Edward Koch was moved to tomorrow because of concerns that violent protests by Armenians would accompany a mid-Manhattan parade.

Tuesday, April 24, is observed by Armenian groups as "Armenian Genocide Day," and Mr. Koch was advised not to permit a parade of Turkish-American schoolchildren the day before, a spokesman for the mayor's office said.

Sources in the Turkish commu-

nity in Washington said they had been told of "many" threats to disrupt the parade, scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. at 60th Street and Fifth Avenue.

But police spokesmen in New York declined to state whether they had received any specific threats.

## American day in N.Y.

"It's not unlikely — they have an outstanding feud," said an officer in the New York police intelligence division.

But Lt. David Tarantino of the Manhattan South Division said he had interviewed the leadership of the Federation of Turkish-

American Societies, sponsor of the parade, and "it didn't come up in the conference with them."

April 23 is a special date for Turks, marking Cocuk Bayran, Children's Holiday, said Erol Gurun, president of the federation and grand marshal of the parade.

Mr. Gurun said he had not personally received any threats, but said he was rebuffed by the mayor's office in attempts to have the 23rd proclaimed "Turkish-American" day because of potential problems arising from Armenian resentment over alleged massacres of Armenians by Ottoman troops between 1880 and 1920.

— Edmond Jacoby

MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 18, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR LEE VERSTANDIG

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

SUBJECT: Request for Presidential Proclamation on Alleged  
Armenian Genocide

Thank you for the opportunity to draft the reply to Governor Deukmejian. While we in no way wish to condone genocide, it does not serve our foreign policy interests, particularly as they relate to international terrorism and to Turkey, to make an annual issue of the tragic events of 1915.

I fully recognize that the reply we have drafted for your signature will not please Governor Deukmejian, but we believe it explains to him, in polite terms, our concerns and policy objectives.

Attachment

cc: Dick Darman  
Faith Whittlesey

A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

The President asked me to respond to your letter requesting that he issue a proclamation on April 24 recognizing the tragic historical event of 1915.

We recognize and appreciate your prominent role in the Armenian-American community and have taken a close look at your request, in conjunction with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. As a result of this review, I must inform you that the President will not be issuing a proclamation. We know you will be disappointed by our decision, but hope you will understand.

International terrorism has taken on an increasingly ugly role in world affairs and is a major concern of the Administration's. Against this background, we are deeply concerned that a Presidential proclamation or Congressional resolution could unintentionally encourage extremist groups to carry out a terrorist campaign against the Turkish government and its people.

I have been asked to reemphasize that we appreciate your interest and delicate position. Again thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Lee Verstandig

The Honorable George Deukmejian  
Governor of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

- I appreciate your interest in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. I understand that there is already a very active and able Armenian representative on the Council, Set Momjian.
  
- Duke, while I think of it, thank you for offering that resolution in support of the Line Item Veto at the Republican Governors Association meeting. The unanimous support of the RGA helped bring the issue national attention.
  
- Again, it is my pleasure to be able to meet all of you and Duke, I hope you will give my best to everyone back in California.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4584

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE *Bud*

DECLASSIFIED  
NLS 197-066/9 #4  
BY CU NARA DATE 3/20/86

SUBJECT: Armenian-Americans Concerns

In response to your note on Lee Verstandig's memo Tab A, I have asked State to draft a Presidential letter aimed at alleviating Armenian-American concerns about U.S. policy in this sensitive area. The statement, however, would also clearly denounce Armenian terrorist activities and would lay out the foreign policy implications (i.e., especially relations with Turkey) that the President must consider. I suggest that the letter go to Deukmejian under a cover letter from me. We could consider public release of the President's letter at an appropriate time during the campaign.

I have several points to make with regard to the general tenor of Lee's memo. The President's meeting with the Armenian-Americans was set up without consultations with the NSC. We did respond to a last-minute request from Lee's staff for talking points, in which we tried to steer the President clear of the thorny 1915 genocide question. Governor Deukmejian appears to be trying to take advantage of a vague Presidential promise "to follow up." At Lee's request we considered various options, but thought the Governor was being less than straightforward given that he knew the State Department had issued a clarification to its earlier alleged controversial statement in the Department's Bulletin. Moreover, Deukmejian surely was also aware that for foreign policy reasons we could not be as forthcoming as he hoped.

We subsequently drafted a reply from Lee to Deukmejian, but as you may recall we agreed it would be better for me to call the Governor--which I did--rather than for me to send a letter.

As I indicated at the outset, we wish to be helpful, but must be mindful of Turkish sensitivities (they have made a number of high level representations concerning the Congressional resolutions) and be particularly alert to any language which appears to condone or offer excuses for Armenian terrorist activities.

Attachment  
Tab A Verstandig memo

6/12  
[Handwritten notes and initials on the left margin]

[Handwritten initials on the left margin]

6/11  
Bud:  
See last PP.  
Can we do?  
JAB III

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: LEE L. VERSTANDIG *lee*  
SUBJECT: ARMENIAN-AMERICAN CONCERN

---

The relationship between the Administration and the Armenian-Americans has now become a significant political issue that appears to be extending beyond the Armenian community to Greek-American and Jewish communities as well.

Governor George Deukmejian (R-CA) met with me last week during the Western Governors' Association conference and again raised the Armenian issue which he believes is becoming a major political embarrassment for the Administration. His concern stems from the lack of follow-up promised by the President at last December's Oval Office meeting with the Governor and leaders of the Armenian-American community.

During that very congenial meeting the Governor, citing the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23, expressed grave concern about a footnote to an article printed in the August, 1982 State Department Bulletin, which said: "... the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish Government committed a genocide against the Armenian people."

The President indicated that he was unaware of the State Department disclaimer until that time but promised the Governor he would "follow-up."

I have repeatedly asked NSC to "follow-up" on that matter to enable me to get back to the Governor.

In early April the Governor personally called me inquiring about the "follow-up." My repeated urgings of NSC received no response.

Soon thereafter, the Governor wrote to the President requesting a resolution and/or proclamation commemorating April 24, 1984 as a National Day of Remembrance in recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The letter also expressed regret that a resolution was not passed in Congress due to State Department opposition. In order to solicit a response to the Governor's letter, it was forwarded to NSC and State for reply.

Finally, NSC suggested a response from me that I found to be untimely. Upon learning that the Governor was preparing to call the President directly about the request, I telexed the attached memo and materials to Mike Deaver at the Western White House. Note that I recommended Bud McFarlane call the Governor in response to his letter and provide an explanation of the situation.

Bud did talk with the Governor. However, the Governor continues to be concerned.

During my conversation at the Western Governors' Association meeting, Governor Deukmejian reemphasized his feelings that it is extremely important that the President reaffirm his "strong sense of commitment" on this matter. The President issued a statement during the 1980 campaign (April 15) and signed a proclamation on April 27, 1981. The Governor noted that both Walter Mondale and Gary Hart have released statements this year recognizing the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23.

Since my meeting with the Governor, the State Department has indicated in a draft letter prepared for Secretary Shultz, that State acknowledges that it retracted that footnote in a Bulletin issued after August 1982.

Given the sensitivity of the issue with Armenians and other significant ethnic groups, I recommend we review our statements with a view toward clarifying the President's position on this matter.



UNCLAS

CLASSIFICATION

CIRCLE ONE BELOW

MODE

PAGES 2

IMMEDIATE

DACOM # \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASER \_\_\_\_\_

PRIORITY

DEX # \_\_\_\_\_

DTG 021233Z JUN 84

ROUTINE

TTY # \_\_\_\_\_

FASTFAX# 04

FROM/LOCATION/

1. R. KIMMITT ASHFORD CASTLE

TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. JOHN POINDEXTER WHSR 021242Z JUN 84

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

INFORMATION ADDRESSEES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

UNCLAS

CLASSIFICATION

6/11  
Burd:  
See last pp.  
Can we do?  
JAB III

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. BAKER, III

FROM: LEE L. VERSTANDIG *lee*

SUBJECT: ARMENIAN-AMERICAN CONCERN

---

The relationship between the Administration and the Armenian-Americans has now become a significant political issue that appears to be extending beyond the Armenian community to Greek-American and Jewish communities as well.

Governor George Deukmejian (R-CA) met with me last week during the Western Governors' Association conference and again raised the Armenian issue which he believes is becoming a major political embarrassment for the Administration. His concern stems from the lack of follow-up promised by the President at last December's Oval Office meeting with the Governor and leaders of the Armenian-American community.

During that very congenial meeting the Governor, citing the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23, expressed grave concern about a footnote to an article printed in the August, 1982 State Department Bulletin, which said: "... the Department of State does not endorse allegations that the Turkish Government committed a genocide against the Armenian people."

The President indicated that he was unaware of the State Department disclaimer until that time but promised the Governor he would "follow-up."

I have repeatedly asked NSC to "follow-up" on that matter to enable me to get back to the Governor.

In early April the Governor personally called me inquiring about the "follow-up." My repeated urgings of NSC received no response.

Soon thereafter, the Governor wrote to the President requesting a resolution and/or proclamation commemorating April 24, 1984 as a National Day of Remembrance in recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The letter also expressed regret that a resolution was not passed in Congress due to State Department opposition. In order to solicit a response to the Governor's letter, it was forwarded to NSC and State for reply.

Finally, NSC suggested a response from me that I found to be untimely. Upon learning that the Governor was preparing to call the President directly about the request, I telexed the attached memo and materials to Mike Deaver at the Western White House. Note that I recommended Bud McFarlane call the Governor in response to his letter and provide an explanation of the situation.

Bud did talk with the Governor. However, the Governor continues to be concerned.

During my conversation at the Western Governors' Association meeting, Governor Deukmejian reemphasized his feelings that it is extremely important that the President reaffirm his "strong sense of commitment" on this matter. The President issued a statement during the 1980 campaign (April 15) and signed a proclamation on April 27, 1981. The Governor noted that both Walter Mondale and Gary Hart have released statements this year recognizing the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23.

Since my meeting with the Governor, the State Department has indicated in a draft letter prepared for Secretary Shultz, that State acknowledges that it retracted that footnote in a Bulletin issued after August 1982.

Given the sensitivity of the issue with Armenians and other significant ethnic groups, I recommend we review our statements with a view toward clarifying the President's position on this matter.

Proclamation 4838 of April 22, 1961

## Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust

By the President of the United States of America

### A Proclamation

The Congress of the United States established the United States Holocaust Memorial Council to create a living memorial to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. Its purpose: So mankind will never lose memory of that terrible moment in time when the awful spectre of death camps stained the history of our world.

When America and its allies liberated those haunting places of terror and sick destructiveness, the world came to a vivid and tragic understanding of the evil it faced in those years of the Second World War. Each of those names—Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, Treblinka and so many others—became synonymous with horror.

The millions of deaths, the gas chambers, the inhuman crematoria, and the thousands of people who somehow survived with lifetime scars are all now part of the conscience of history. Forever must we remember just how precious is civilization, how important is liberty, and how heroic is the human spirit.

Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it—and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten.

As part of its mandate, the Holocaust Memorial Council has been directed to designate annual Days of Remembrance as a national, civic commemoration of the Holocaust, and to encourage and sponsor appropriate observances throughout the United States. This year, the national Days of Remembrance will be observed on April 26 through May 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby ask the people of the United States to observe this solemn anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps, with appropriate study, prayers and commemoration, as a tribute to the spirit of freedom and justice which Americans fought so hard and well to preserve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

RONALD REAGAN

TO: LEE VERSTANDIG

FROM: KEN KHACHIGIAN AND GREG KAHWAJIAN  
CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
(916) 324 - 3622

---

STATEMENT ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

April 15, 1980

65 years ago, one of the greatest tragedies in the annals of recorded history occurred when one and a half million innocent Armenian men, women and children were massacred in the shadow of Mt. Ararat.

Their only "crime" was their century old dedication to live their lives as free Armenians professing their Christian beliefs in a home land that had previously dazzled Asia minor with its prominence and power.

To this day, the Armenian diaspora is recovering from the blood bath of 1915. Armenians in Lebanon, Turkey and other parts of the Middle East are still suffering from ancestral hatreds and discrimination. Armenian freedom fighters in the Armenian SSR are still anguishing in prisons and asylums and in this country, the Armenian cause is still only dimly understood.

The 1980's must be that period when the voices of Americans of Armenian ancestry are heard in the councils of government. It must be that period when America and its allies throughout the free world resolve that the tragedy of 1915 never again be repeated. I join with the American-Armenian community in solemn remembrance of the martyrs of 1915.

Ronald Reagan