

SR

8

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

Date of 3/25/87 5-DAY NOTICE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNIFORM RULE 23

FURTHER:

**FISCAL NOTE(S) ATTACHED _____ **
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AS 24.08.035
(see below)

2/4/87
Mr. President:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 4/2/87

STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered SR 8

Relating to the Armenian genocide.

and recommended:

[] replace with CS _____ [] same title
[] attached amendment(s) and [] new title

[X] do pass

[] do not pass

[] no recommendation

[] individual recommendations

[] further referral to _____

[] letter of intent adopted and attached

** Committee [X] attached or [] adopted fiscal note(s)
[X] zero [] fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

[Signature]

Chairman signature and recommendation

[X] Committee Backup Attached

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : SR 8
 Title : Relating to the
Armenian genocide
 Sponsor : KERTTULA
 Requestor : STATE AFFAIRS SENATE
 Date of Request : _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : None
 BRU : None
 Components : _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS :

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

No Fiscal Impact

Prepared by : Senate State Affairs

Division : _____

Phone : 465-4522

Date : March 30, 1987

Approved by ^{CHAIRMAN} ~~Commissioner~~ : Senator Mitch Abood

Agency : Senate State Affairs

Date : March 30, 1987

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

Fact Sheet: The Armenian Genocide

During the second half of the nineteenth century, the Armenian population of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire became the target of heightened persecution by the Ottoman government. These persecutions culminated in a three decade period during which the Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland of 3,000 years and eliminated through massacres or exile.

The Pattern of Persecution: 1894-1924

1894-1896 200,000 Armenians massacred during the reign of the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II.
1909 21,000 Armenians massacred in Cilicia.
1915-1923 1,500,000 Armenians perished, and more than 500,000 were exiled from their homes in the Ottoman Empire.

At the beginning of World War I, there were some 2,500,000 Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire. Since the Armenian Genocide, fewer than 100,000 declared Armenians reside in Turkey. Armenian citizens of Russia were also subject to massacre during the Turkish invasions of 1918 and 1920.

Mobilization for World War I Sets the Stage for Genocide

1. On August 2, 1914, general mobilization of the Turkish army was declared. Like their fellow Turkish citizens, all able-bodied Armenian men, with few exceptions, were called up for military service. Beginning in February, 1915, the Armenians in the armed forces were segregated into labor battalions, disarmed, and ultimately worked to death or massacred.
2. Also in August, 1914, the Young Turk government began to release murderers and other confirmed criminals from prisons throughout Asia Minor and placed them in the Special Organization (Teshkileti Mahsusa) for the express purpose of ending the "Armenian Question" by annihilating the Armenians. Whole villages were massacred outright in the fall and winter of 1914 in the eastern provinces.
3. In February, 1915, the Turkish government disarmed the Armenian mountaineers of Zeitun, near Marash, and deported the population to the Salt Desert near Konia, or to the Syrian desert. Packed into boxcars, or forced to walk, often without food or water for days, they quickly perished. Deportations and massacres soon became the plight of Armenians in other areas.
4. On April 24, 1915, about 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople (Istanbul), exiled, or taken to the interior and murdered. Similar measures were executed throughout the empire in all Armenian centers.
5. The Edict of Deportation was formally promulgated on May 27, 1915. Soon afterwards, Armenians throughout the Ottoman Empire were deported on short notice. Men were usually separated from the group and massacred. The remaining women, children, and elderly were marched across Asia Minor and Turkish Armenia to the Syrian desert, constantly attacked by brigands and the Special Organization "guards" who were ostensibly to offer protection. Thousands were kidnapped. Most of the deportees were massacred or died of starvation, disease, or exposure.
6. Approximately 500,000 Armenian refugees escaped to the north across the Russian border, south into Arab countries, or to Europe and the United States. Thus, the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire were virtually eliminated from their ancestral homeland as a result of a carefully executed government plan of genocide.
7. Armenians who did return from exile to their homes following World War I found conditions uncertain, despite assurances by the Allies that their lives and property would be secure. With the rise of Mustapha Kemal (Ataturk) beginning in 1919, the Armenians again were subjected to waves of massacres. Those who survived either fled or were expelled by the Kemalist regime in 1922-24.

"... When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact.

"I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

Henry Morgenthau, Sr., U.S. Ambassador to Turkey
Ambassador Morgenthau's Story
(Doubleday, Garden City, 1918. Second Edition. Plandome, N.Y., 1975.
pp. 309, 321-22.)

For further information and documentation, contact:

Armenian Assembly of America
1420 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
• Phone: (202) 332-3434

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 171

To affirm the Armenian genocide.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1983

Mr. PASHAYAN (for himself and Mr. WAXMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

To affirm the Armenian genocide.

Whereas the Armenian genocide was conceived by the Turkish government and implemented from 1915 to 1923, resulting in the extermination of one and a half million Armenian men, women, and children, the deportation of an additional five hundred thousand survivors, and the elimination of a two thousand five hundred-year Armenian presence in its historic homeland;

Whereas the Armenian genocide is amply documented in the archives of the United States, as well as of Austria, France, Germany, and Great Britain;

Whereas United States Ambassador to Turkey Henry Morgenthau organized and led protests by all nations, among them Turkey's allies, over Turkey's program of race extermination;

Whereas an organization known as Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, contributed some \$113,000,000 from 1915 to 1930 to aid the Armenian genocide survivors and, whereas, one hundred and thirty two thousand orphans became foster children of the American people;

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide was confirmed in Senate Resolution 359 dated May 13, 1920, which stated in part, "the testimony adduced at the hearings conducted by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered";

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide was also confirmed in House Resolution 148 which stated in part, "that April 24, 1975, is hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in 1915, and in whose memory this date is commemorated by all Armenians and their friends throughout the world";

Whereas former President Jimmy Carter in a May 16, 1978, speech at the White House stated in part, "I feel very deeply that I, as President, ought to make sure that this (Armenian genocide) is never forgotten";

Whereas the United States, during the March 14 and 16, 1979, sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, voted in support of paragraph 30 in a

report entitled, "Study of the Questions of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" which stated, "Passing to the modern era, one may note the existence of relatively full documentation dealing with the massacres of Armenians.";

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent Federal agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that, "the Armenian genocide should be included in the Holocaust Museum Memorial";

Whereas President Ronald Reagan in Proclamation numbered 4838, dated April 22, 1981, stated in part, "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the holocaust must never be forgotten"; and

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide has been documented, affirmed, and reaffirmed for over six decades:
Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the policy of the United States has em-
- 2 braced and shall embrace these historical events:

○

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 247

To designate April 24, 1984, as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's
Inhumanity to Man".

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1983

Mr. COELHO introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate April 24, 1984, as "National Day of
Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man".

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That April 24, 1984, is hereby designated as "National Day
4 of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man," and the
5 President of the United States is authorized and requested to
6 issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United
7 States to observe such a day as a day of remembrance for all
8 the victims of the genocide, especially the one and one-half
9 million people of Armenian ancestry who were victims of the
10 genocide perpetrated in Turkey between 1915 and 1923, and
11 in whose memory this date is commemorated by all Arme-
12 nians and their friends throughout the world.

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

October 7 (legislative day, October 3), 1983

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. WILSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Armenian genocide was conceived by the Turkish Ottoman Government and implemented from 1915 to 1923, resulting in the extermination of one and one-half million Armenian men, women, and children, the deportation of an additional five hundred thousand survivors, and the elimination of a two-thousand-five-hundred-year Armenian presence in its historic homeland;

Whereas the Armenian genocide is amply documented in the Archives of the United States, as well as of Austria, France, Germany, and Great Britain;

Whereas United States Ambassador to Turkey Henry Morgenthau organized and led protests by all nations, among them Turkey's allies, over Turkey's program of race extermination;

Whereas an organization known as Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, contributed some \$113,000,000 from 1915 to 1930 to aid the Armenian genocide survivors and, whereas, one hundred and thirty-two thousand orphans became foster children of the American people;

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide was confirmed in Senate Resolution 359, dated May 13, 1920, which stated in part, "the testimony adduced at the hearings conducted by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered";

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide was also confirmed in House Resolution 148 which stated in part, "that April 24, 1975, is hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in 1915, and in whose memory this date is commemorated by all Armenians and their friends throughout the world";

Whereas former President Jimmy Carter in a May 10, 1978, speech at the White House stated in part, "I feel very deeply that I, as President, ought to make sure that this (Armenian genocide) is never forgotten";

Whereas the United States, during the March 14 and 16, 1979, sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, voted in support of paragraph 30 in a report entitled, "Study of the Questions of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" which stated, "Passing to the modern era, one may note the existence of relatively full documentation dealing with the massacres of Armenians";

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent Federal agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that, "the Armenian genocide should be included in the Holocaust Museum Memorial";

Whereas President Reagan in Proclamation numbered 4838, dated April 22, 1981, stated in part, "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the holocaust must never be forgotten"; and

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide has been documented, affirmed, and reaffirmed for over six decades; and

Whereas it has been the policy of the United States to acknowledge these historical events: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
2 President and the Secretary of State should, in formulating
3 and carrying out the foreign policy of the United States, rec-
4 ognize and take into account the genocide of the Armenian
5 people.

6 *SEC. 2.* It is further the sense of the Senate that the
7 President should direct his representatives, including the Per-
8 manent Representative of the United States to the United
1 Nations, to communicate at all appropriate times in interna-
2 tional forums the abhorrence of the United States Govern-
3 ment to the genocide of the Armenian people.

4 *SEC. 3.* The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a
5 copy of this resolution to the President and the Secretary of
6 State.



84-020

* HONORING - DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE *

The 13th Alaska Legislature calls to the attention of all Alaskans "Days of Remembrance" a national commemoration of the lives lost in the Holocaust, which has been scheduled for April 29 - May 6, 1984.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Council, created in 1980 at the request of a presidential commission, serves to coordinate, on a national scale, a period of time during which each American can participate in a united remembrance of, and tribute to, the victims of the Holocaust.

We find it appropriate to invite all Alaskans to join with the members of this body in a moment of silent reflection upon the unspeakable horrors that were visited upon our fellow man during this terrible period in the history of mankind and to renew yet again our deepest commitments to creating a world in which such violations of human dignity will no longer be tolerated.

Alaskans join all Americans in recognizing the period April 29 - May 6, 1984 as "Days of Remembrance".



Joe Z. Hansen
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

J. M. Kerttula
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Date: February 9, 1984

Requested by: Sens. Kerttula, V. Fischer, Ray
& Josephson; Reps. M. M. Miller
& Goll

State Dept. Hit for Opposing Hill Mention of Armenian 'Genocide'

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

State Department lobbying against a congressional resolution recalling "the genocide of the Armenian people" has sparked charges from Congress and the Armenian-American community that pressure from Turkey has caused the department to deny the facts of history.

At issue is a nonbinding congressional resolution that has prompted intense criticism in Turkey because it states that Turkish authorities from 1915 to 1923 systematically eliminated a 2,500-year Armenian presence in the country by killing 1.5 million people and deporting 500,000 more.

Most impartial historians agree that large-scale persecution and killing occurred, but successive Turkish governments have denied that there was a genocide campaign and have reacted furiously to charges like

those in the congressional resolution. Accordingly, the Turkish Embassy here and its public-relations representative, Gray & Co., mounted a strong effort on Capitol Hill and gained the support of the State Department, which regards Turkey as an important ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Despite the opposition, the House passed the resolution Sept. 10. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved it Sept. 12, but because it did not go before the full Senate for a vote last week in the rush to adjournment, it has died for this session.

In a statement Thursday, Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), one of the principal sponsors, told the Senate that because of procedural questions he had decided against trying to attach it as a rider to the continuing appropriations bill. However, his lengthy remarks contained harsh words for the State Department.

Echoing criticism by other members of the House and Senate, Levin noted that President Reagan, in a 1981 proclamation memorializing the World War II holocaust of the Jews, had specifically cited "the genocide of the Armenians before it."

Yet, Levin continued, State Department officials, seeking to dissuade him from sponsoring the resolution because it would "muck up relations with the Turkish government," had insisted "that the Armenian genocide has never been documented."

"Neither the republic of Turkey nor the State Department should be allowed to deny the facts of the Armenian genocide or the role of the United States in attempting to stop it," Levin said.

The department's position was spelled out in June by Richard R. Burt, assistant secretary for European affairs.

He told Congress that passing the resolution might encourage Armenian terror-

ists who have assassinated more than 50 Turks in different countries since 1975 and that it would damage U.S. relations with Ankara by giving the impression that Washington sides with the terrorists and is not a reliable ally.

Lastly, Burt argued that the events described in the resolution were a "matter of historical record" and the department thus saw "no utility" in characterizing them. That was an attempt to avoid taking a stand on whether the charges were true.

However, Levin and other congressional sources said that department officials, lobbying against the resolution, repeatedly had made the argument that the charges against Turkey are ambiguous and cannot be proven with certainty now.

That was described by Levin as "an unbelievable and outrageous denial of decades of U.S. policy which infuriated me and others in Congress, as it did the Armenian

community and those students of history who know the difference between fact and fiction."

Department officials argue privately that the real issue is not arguing about events of almost 70 years ago but avoiding an anti-American reaction that they say threatens to sweep Turkish society. That, they contended, would damage NATO's southern defenses and undermine U.S. efforts to influence internal Turkish stability and resolution of Turkey's dispute with Greece over Cyprus.

But Levin saw the matter differently. He noted that the State Department had advocated ratification of a 37-year-old international treaty outlawing genocide and said:

"We are also being urged by the same State Department to not acknowledge that the first genocide of the 20th century ever happened."