



ՄԵՐ ԱՆԿԻՒՆԵ

Վիեննայէն Մինչեւ Նիւ Եռք

Վիեննայի մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ Յայաստանի վարչապետ Նիկոլ Փաշինանի եւ Աստրավիճանի նախագահ Իլիհամ Ալիեւի միջեւ առաջին պաշտօնական հանդիպումը՝ ԵԱՀԿ Մինսկի Խումբի հովանաւորութեան տակ։ Յանդիպումի աւարտին Մինսկի Խումբի համանախագահները հրապարակեցին յայտարարութիւն մը, շեշտելով որ, հանդիպումը տեղի ունեցած է դրական եւ կառուցողական նթոնորտի մէջ եւ հնարաւորութիւն տուած է Երկու առաջնորդներուն պարզաբանելու իրենց դիրքորոշումները։

Բնականաբար այս յայտարարութեան կարելի չէ եզրակացութիւններ կատարել, սակայն մէկ բան յստակ է, որ վերջին շրջանին Աստրավիժնական կողմը դարձած է շատ աւելի զգուշաւոր, եւ բանակցութիւններուն ձեւաչափը անփոփի մնաց։ բանակցութիւնները կը վարեն Հայաստանը եւ Աստրավիժնը, ինչպէս եւ երկար տարիներ շարունակ։»

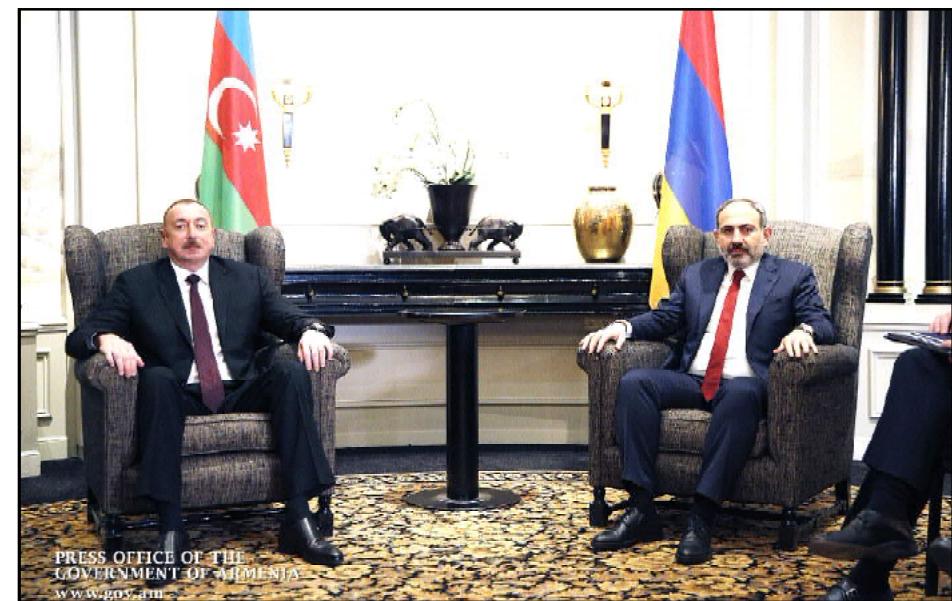
Վիեննայի Բանակցութիւններուն Հարցինայի Մասնակցութեան Հարցը. Փաշինեան

Մարտ 29-ին, Վիեննայի «Պրիմթըլ» հիւրանոցին մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ Լեռնացին Ղարաբաղի հակամարտութեան խաղաղ կարգաւորման շուրջ Հայաստանի վարչպետ Նիկոլ Փաշինեանի եւ Աստրավիժնականի նախագահ Իլհամ Ալիեւի հանդիպումը։

Վերջին օրերուն ատրպէջանական կողմը կու գայ յայտարարութիւններով, որոնք դուրս են համատեղ յայտարարութիւններու շղջանակներէն, այս մասին ֆէխապութեան ուղիղ հեռարձակմամբ յայտարարեց Հայաստանի վարչապետը՝ անդրադառնալով Վիեննայի բանակցութիւններուն։ Բանակցութիւններէն ետք իլհամ Ալիեւը ըսած էր։ «Կարեւոր է այն հանգամանքը, որ բանակցութիւններու ձեւաչափը անփոփի մնաց։ բանակցութիւնները կը վարեն Հայաստանը եւ Աստրավիժնը, ինչպէս եւ երկար տարիներ շարունակ։»

«Համաձայնէք, որ սա շատ լուրջ խնդիր է առաջանում եւ ընդհանրապէս հարցի տակ է դնում գործընթացի ողջ լրջութիւն», ըսաւ վարչապետը։

Հայտ Փաշինեանի, բանակցութիւնները արդիւնաւէտ դարձնելու համար պէտք է մոռնալ հին եւ



Փաշինեան եւ Ալիեւ Վիեննայի մէջ կայացած հանդիպումի ընթացքին կրկնուող թեմաները, որոնք ցոյց տուած են իրենց անարգիւնաւետութիւնը եւ նոր բանակցային գոծընթացին մէջ պէտք է նոր մօտեցումներով առաջնորդուիլ։ Վարչապետը վերահստատուած է՝ Վիեննա գացած են Ստեփանակերտի մէջ յայտարարած օրակարգով եւ Ղարաբաղի բանակցային սեղան վերադառնալու հարցը քննարկուած է։ Այդ նիստում ես ասել էի, որ սա բանակցային ձեւաչափի փոփոխութեան պահանջ եւ ակնկալիք չէ, ոչ էլ քմահաճոյք, ոչ էլ նախապայման։»

Շար.դ էջ 5

Պաշտպանութեան Նախարարի Խորհրդական Արտակ Բշտիկեան Այցելեց ՍՊՀԿ Գրասենեակ



Յայաստանի պաշտպանութեան նախարարի խորհրդական Արտակ Բշտիկեան ՍՊՀԿ ներկայացուցիչներուն հետ

տանեանի։

Հանդիպումի ընթացքին Պր. Բշտիկեան ներկայացուց պաշտպանութեան նախարար Դաւիթ Տոնոյեանի խորհրդական Պր. Արտակ Բշտիկեան, ընկերակցութեամբ ՀՀ Լու Անձեւուի Հիւպատոսութեան խորհրդական Ռազմիկ Մտեփանեանի։

Գրասենեակէն ներս հիւրերը ընդունուեցան ՍՊՀԿ ներկայացուց ցիններու կողմէ, գլխաւորութեան Արեւմտեան Ամերիկայի վարիչ Մարմինի ատենապետ Գրիգոր Խո-

Շար.դ էջ 4

Գոնկրէսականներ կոչ Կ'ընեն Յայաստանի եւ Արցախի Աջակցութիւնը Բարձրացնելու 100 Միլիոն Տոլարի

ԱՄՆ Գոնկրէսի 35 անդամներ միացած են Հայկական Հարցերով խումբի համանախագահ Ֆրենք Փալոնի նախաճեռնութեան եւ կոչ ըրած են աջակցելու՝ 2020 տնտեսական տարուան Հայաստանի եւ Արցախի օգնութիւնը բարձրացնել 100 միլիոն առևարի։

Թրամփի վարչակազմը Գոնկրէսի ներկայացուցած տարեկան պիւտէի նախագծով Հայաստանին նախատեսած է յատկացնել միայն 6.75 միլիոն տոլար օգնութիւն։

Նախապէս ֆրենք Փալոն առաջարկած էր աջակցի Արցախին 6 միլիոն տոլարի օգնութիւն փաթեթիւն՝ աւարտելու համար ականագերծման եւ հաշմանդամներու վերականգնման ծրագրերը, 4 միլիոն տոլար Ռուսի եւ ինկիլի առաջարկներու առաջ մղման համար, 60 միլիոն տոլարի տնտեսական օգնութիւն Հայաստանին, 10 միլիոն տոլար ուազմական օգնութիւն եւ 20 միլիոն տոլար Հայաստանին՝ փախստականներուն օգնութիւն ցոյց տալու համար։

Գոնկրէսականները նաեւ կոչ ըրած են գաղրեցնել Ամրավիժճանին ուազմական օգնութիւն ցոլացքերում։

«ԱԱՍԻՍ»

**Կոմիտաս Վարդապետի 150-Ամեակին
Նուիրուած Միջոցառումներ Կ'անցկացուեն
ԱՄՆ Արեւածանի Թեմում**

ԱՄՆ Արեւածանի թեմը Տ. Յովհաննան Արք. Տէրտէրեանի բարձր հովանաւորութամբ Ապրիլի 6-ին Առաջնորդանիստ Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց եկեղեցում կազմակերպում է ընդգրկուն ծիջոցառում՝ նուիրուած կոմիտաս Վարդապետի ծննդեան 150-ամեայ յոթեամին:

«Վերագտնենք մեր հաւատքը փոփոխուող աշխարհում» խորագրի ներքոյ անցկացուող հանդիսաւոթիւնը լայն ու բազմաբնոյթ ծրագիր ունի:

Բացումը կը լինի առաւտօնեան ժ. 9:30 Բըրբանկի հարոց Սբ. Ղեւոնդեանց առաջնորդանիստ եկեղեցում, Տ. Վագգին Քահ. Մովմէսեանի բացման խօսքով եւ շաբաթօրեայ դպրոցների սաների երգեցողութեամբ:

Ապա գիտաժողովի ընթացքին կոմիտասի կեանքի ու գործունէութեան տարբեր կողմերը բացայացող ելոյթներ կ'ունենան հոգեւորականներ եւ մատառականներ, այդ թւում՝ Տ. Վագգին Քահ. Բոյաջեանը կը ներկայացնի «կոմիտաս Վարդապետը իբրեւ հոգեւորական» գեկուցումը, Տ. Յովհաննան Արք. Տէրտէրեան՝ «կոմիտասեան Պատարագը», Վաչէ Մանկրեանը՝ «Հայերգի հանճարը՝ կոմիտաս վարդապետ», Տ. Զաքարիա Քահ. Սարիբէկեանը՝ «կոմիտաս Վարդապետը որպէս հայ ինքնութեան բացայացողող», Հայկ Մադոյեանը՝ «կոմիտասի կերպարի բացայացումը ըստ նրա նամակ-

ների»:

Յայտագրի երկրորդ կարեւոր մասը կոմիտասեան համերգն է: Երեկոյեան ժ. 18:30 տեղի կ'ունենայ համերգ՝ Լու Անջելէսի կալիֆորնիական համալսարանի «Վէմ» կամերացին նուազախմբի, Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց եկեղեցու «Շնորհալի» երգչախմբի, Վաչէ Մանկրեանի դաշնամուրացին կատարումներով: Կը ներկայացուեն կոմիտասի երգերի գործիքալին եւ երգչախմբացին մշակումներ: Ողջ յայտագրի տոմսի արժէք է սահմանուել՝ \$35, միայն համերգինը՝ \$20: Ընդմիջումներին կը լինեն հիւրասիրութիւններ: Սպասելի են այլ անակնականներ:

Կոմիտասի 150-ամեակիննուիրուած ապրիլի 6-ի այս ծիջոցառումների շարքը կոմիտասեան հանճարի մթնոլորտում լինելու եւ վստահ ենք՝ հոգեւոր վերելքի շատ պահեր պիտի պարզեւի մասնակիցներին՝ մէկ անգամ եւս համոզուելու առիթ տալով, որ գործ ունենք «մարդու ներաշխարհը հրդեհող ու ոգեշնչող յաւիտենական արժէքների» հետ (Յովհաննան Արք. Տէրտէրեան):

**«Տիգրան Մանսուրեան. Խսահակեանի Հետ»
Խորագիրով Համերգային Երեկոյ Երեւանի Մէջ**

«Տիգրան Մանսուրեան. Խսահակեանի հետ» խորագիրով համերգային երեկոյին համերգային կամերացին երգչախմբումը՝ խմբավար Ռուպերթ Մլքէնանի դեկավարութեամբ՝ հնչեցուց մայսթրով այն ստեղծագործութիւնները, որոնք Մանսուրեանը գրած



է՝ ոգեշնչուելով Աւետիք Խսահակեանի բանաստեղծութիւններով: Ներկայացուեցան «Վերջին յորանք իմ ցնորդքի», «Ծով», «Ռաւեննայում»), «Լուսինն ինչպէս կարապ» եւ այլ գործեր:

Համարտութեամբ՝ Երեկոն կայացաւ Մարտ 26-ին, կոմիտասի անուան կամերացին երաժշտութեան տան մէջ:

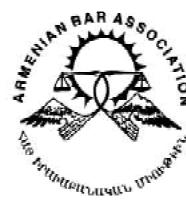
«Խսահակեանին ուշ հասայ: Տարիներ անհրաժեշտ էին զինք խորութեամբ հասկնալու համար, յատկապէս այն շերտերը, ուր առաջ կու զան բանահիւսութիւնն ու մաքուր պոէզիան, որոնք զերծ են արեւելեան գունաւորումներն: Ան երկու ակունքներու միացութիւն է՝ բանահիւսութեան եւ բարձրագոյն համաշխարհացին պոէզիայի. ասոնք են անոր ակունքները», - զրոյցի ընթացքին նշեց Տիգրան Մանսուրեան:

Երաժշտահանի խօսքով՝ Խսահակեանի բանաստեղծութիւնները շատ երգեցիկ են: «Կ'ըսեն՝ ան զրած է երգելով, որպէսզի շեշտադրական համակարգը նոյնը ըլլայ», - ընդգծեց Մանսուրեան:

Երաժշտագիտ Մհեր Նալոյեանի բանաստեղծութիւններով: Ներկայացուեցան «Վերջին յորանք իմ ցնորդքի», «Ծով», «Ռաւեննայում»), «Լուսինն ինչպէս կարապ» եւ այլ գործեր:

Համարտութեամբ՝ Երեկոն կայացաւ Մարտ 26-ին, կոմիտասի անուան կամերացին երաժշտութեան մէջ: Մանսուրեանի չարենցեան շարքը 2000-ականներու սկիզբը ձեւաւորեց հայ խմբերգին պատմութեան մէջ նոր փուլ: Ատիկա խմբերգային լեզուի ձեւաւորման շրջանը եղաւ ոչ միայն Մանսուրեանի արուեստին մէջ, այլև հայ խմբերգային արուեստին, առասարակ: Խսահակեանական խմբերգը ու մեներգերուն ու մեներգերուն մէջ ընդգրկուած են բանաստեղծի քնարերգութեան տարբեր շերտաւորումները», - շեշտեց ան:

Համերգին, իբրեւ մենակատարներ, հանդէս եկան սովորանուներ Սոփիա Սալադեանը, Իրինա Զաքեանը, մեցցօ-սովորանո Քրիստինէ Սահակեանը, ալթահարուհի Եանա Դարեանը, դաշնակահարներ Արթուր Աւանեսովը եւ Լուսինէ Յակոբեանը, ասմունքեց գերասան Բաբեգին Զուկանեանը:



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Pashinyan Rebukes Aliyev After Vienna Summit, Says Artsakh Participation Discussed



PRESS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA
www.gov.am

YEREVAN — Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday accused Azerbaijan's leadership of making misleading statements on his latest meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

Pashinyan at the same time stood by his largely positive assessment of the peace talks held in Vienna on Friday.

"I think that we have a new atmosphere, a new situation, new messages, new prospects and new understandings in the negotiations, and it is not clear why the Azerbaijani side should avoid or be

afraid of accepting these facts," he said in a live Facebook broadcast.

Pashinyan was specifically upset with Aliyev's claim that "the format of negotiations remained unchanged" as a result of the Vienna summit. The Azerbaijani leader referred to Pashinyan's regular calls for Nagorno-Karabakh's direct involvement in Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks which have been rejected by Baku.

"It is important that after the meeting there is no need to look for winners and losers. If we want to achieve a

settlement of the problem, then this approach should be the logic of this stage of the negotiations, and of the negotiations as a whole. I think this is a new approach that we bring to the negotiation process," Pashinyan said in the post.

"When the Azerbaijani side says 'the important thing is that the negotiating format remains unchanged' they mean to imply that they emerged victorious from these discussions," complained Pashinyan. "This is first and foremost incorrect within the framework of the logic which we have agreed upon. Namely, not to look for winners and losers."

Ever since he swept to power in May last year, Pashinyan has repeatedly said that he does not have a mandate to negotiate on behalf of Nagorno-Karabakh's leadership and that the latter should therefore become a full-fledged negotiating party.

He again claimed on Monday that this does not mean Yerevan is seeking changes to the negotiating format, arguing that the Karabakh Armenians were directly involved in the peace process in the 1990s. He said he and Aliyev discussed the matter at Vienna but failed to

Continued on page 2

Armenian Defense Minister's Adviser Artak Bshtikyan Visits SDHP Offices



GLENDALE -- On Friday, March 29, Mr. Artak Bshdikyan an adviser for RA Minister of Defense Davit Tonoyan, accompanied with Razmik Stepanyan, an adviser at the consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles, visited Social Democratic Hunchakian Party Glendale office. The guests were greeted by the representatives of the SDHP, headed by Western Region chairman Krikor Khodanian.

During the meeting, Mr. Bshdikyan presented the new strategy of the Defense Ministry of Armenia, the general situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, production and procurement of

new weapons systems, the Humanitarian Mission to Syria, the changes taking place in the armed forces, the steps being taken to improve the living conditions of the soldiers and the plan to build a new and modern military hospital.

Afterwards, Mr. Bshdikyan answered questions concerning the recent developments on the issue of Artsakh, the negotiating process and news items recently published in the Armenian media some of them criticizing Ministry of Defense.

Mr. Bshdikyan addressed all the issues raised with exhaustive answers and explanations.

Tribute to the Memory of April War Victims

YEREVAN -- Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Parliament Speaker Ararat Mirzoyan, members of government, lawmakers and servicemen visited the Yerablur Pantheon on April 2 to pay tribute to the memory of the heroes that fell during the April war of 2016.

In the early hours of April 2, 2016, Azerbaijan unleashed large-scale military actions along the southern, south-eastern, and north-eastern directions of the line of contact, using armored vehicles, artillery, and air force in an attempt to infiltrate deep into the defensive lines of the Artsakh Defense Army.

The adversary performed artillery attacks on the peaceful settlements and permanent deployment places of several military units. Heavy fighting continue along the contact line.

The Azerbaijani armed forces fired MM-21 (Grad) multiple rocket launcher in the direction of Zoravan, Martuni, killing 12-year-old Vagharsak Grigoryan and wounding Gevorg Grigoryan, 11, and Vardan Andreasyan, 12.

The Armenian armed forces lost more than 100 soldiers in the fighting, hundred sustained injuries.

Members of Congress Call for Substantial Increase in Aid Amounts for Armenia and Artsakh

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of Congress sent a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs that significantly increases prior aid requests to strengthen United States-Armenia relations and outlines key priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly). With sweeping cuts across the State Department's budget, the Administration proposed \$6.75 million for Armenia. A prior congressional effort requested \$70 million, but today's action increases the request to a total of \$100 million for Armenia and Artsakh.

The Caucus initiative requests:

\$60 million for economic governance and rule of law assistance to Armenia through State Department and USAID accounts;

\$10 million for military aid for Armenia through Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military and Education Training (IMET) programs;

\$20 million for Armenia to be a regional "safe haven" for refugees;

\$6 million for Artsakh de-mining, rehabilitation programs, and water supply systems;

\$4 million for implementation of the Royce-Engel peace proposals, including placement of OSCE-monitored, advanced gunfire locator systems;

That the State Department and USAID lift any official or unofficial restrictions on U.S. travel, communication, or contacts with Artsakh government officials; and

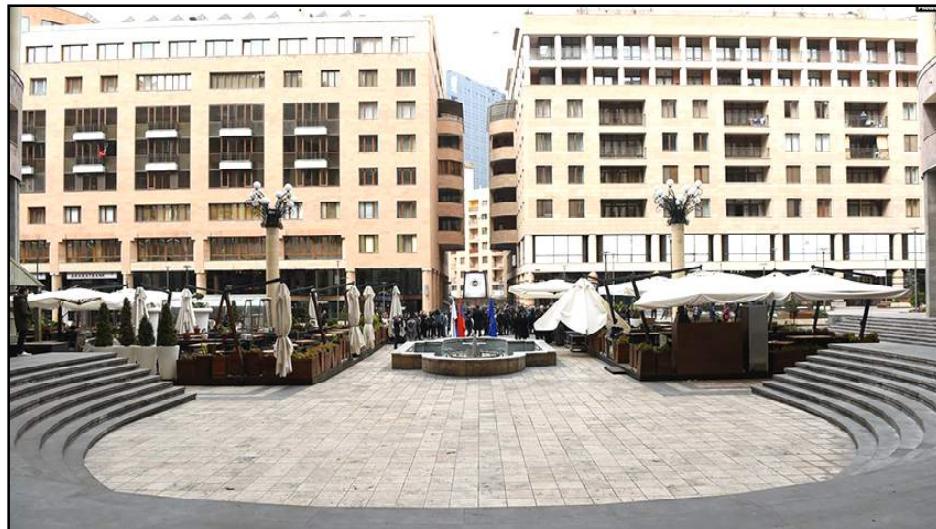
The suspension of U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan until it has been verified to have ceased all attacks against Armenia and Artsakh.

The letter states in part: "In the wake of the Republic of Armenia's remarkable Velvet Revolution, we are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its longstanding leadership in support of both Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh). As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2020 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, we ask you to include... provisions supporting a broad-based strategic upgrade of a U.S.-Armenia partnership based upon shared interests and common values."

The Members of Congress also called for stricter provisions of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act to ensure that Azerbaijan not take hostile actions against Armenia or Artsakh, and pledge to demonstrate its commitment to pursuing lasting peace through solely non-violent means.

The letter concludes: "Taking these steps will continue to build on the U.S.-Armenia strategic relationship and help to grow the seeds of pro-democratic and civil society institutions in Armenia."

Europe Square Inaugurated in Yerevan



YEREVAN—The president of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), Liliane Maury Pasquier, praised Armenia's "democratic institutions" and inaugurated a square in Yerevan named after Europe during a three-day visit to the country which ended on Thursday.

Pasquier met with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, parliament speaker Ararat Mirzoyan and other senior Armenian lawmakers. She also delivered a speech in the Armenian parliament on Wednesday.

"Armenian institutions have recently undergone a major transformation thanks to a profound constitutional reform," she said referring to the transition to a parliamentary system of government initiated by the country's former leadership. "This reform, welcomed by the Council of Europe, was prepared and carried out in close collaboration with the Venice Commission."

"I want to commend the people of Armenia and the Armenian political class for using the new constitutional and political mechanisms in the context of a major political change that has taken place peacefully and within the constitutional, legal and demo-

cratic framework. This testifies to the solidity of the democratic institutions and the high quality of the political class, all parties combined," Pasquier added in her speech.

She referred to the generally smooth political transition that followed last spring's "velvet revolution" in the South Caucasus state. It ended with the holding on December 9 of snap parliamentary elections won by Pashinyan's My Step alliance. The PACE and other pan-European organizations recognized the vote as democratic.

Pasquier joined deputy parliament speaker Alen Simonyan and Yerevan's Mayor Hayk Marutyan in inaugurating on Thursday Europe Square located on the city's main pedestrian avenue.

The ceremony was timed to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Council of Europe. Armenia joined the Strasbourg-based organization promoting human rights and democracy in 2001.

"Europe Square in Yerevan is a reminder of the fact that Europe is not a geographic area but a set of our freedoms and rights, and we must all be steadfast in defending our freedoms and rights," Pasquier said at the ceremony.

Pashinyan Rebukes Aliyev After Vienna Summit

Continued from page 1

reach any agreements.

"Does this mean that the issue has been removed from [the agenda of] discussions?" the Armenian premier went on. "Of course not. It means that we are going to continue discussions on this topic."

He also stated that no explanations had been received on all the issues that had been raised before the meeting in Vienna.

"They are very large-scale questions and during one discussion it was

impossible to get answers. This means that they should be raised further, and the foreign ministers are instructed to continue these discussions," the premier said.

Pashinyan said these issues include the preparation of nations for peace. "It is in this context that we have reached certain agreements to implement a number of humanitarian activities. I want to note that in this aspect it is very important that the joint statement referred not only to the agreements reached in Dushanbe, but it also stated that the cease-fire should be maintained and strengthened," he said.

Bi-Partisan US Senators Introduce Bill to Stop F-35 Fighter Jet Sales to Turkey

WASHINGTON, DC — Four U.S. senators on Thursday introduced a bipartisan bill to prohibit the transfer of F-35 fighter aircraft to Turkey until the U.S. government certifies that Ankara will not take delivery of a Russian S-400 air defense system, a statement on the move said.

The senators—Democrats Jeanne Shaheen and Chris Van Hollen and Republicans James Lankford and Thom Tillis—have all expressed alarm over Turkey's planned purchase of Russian missiles and said the NATO ally cannot have both.

"The prospect of Russia having access to U.S. aircraft and technology in a NATO country, Turkey, is a serious national and global security risk," Shaheen said. Reuters last week reported that the United States could soon freeze preparations for delivering F-35s to Turkey. While no decision has been made, any such move would be a massive blow to already strained ties between Washington and Ankara.

"Turkey is an important NATO ally and willing partner in addressing a number of U.S. national security priorities," said Lankford. "It's concerning that Turkey would seek close defense cooperation with Russia, whose authoritarian ruler seeks to undermine NATO and U.S. interests at every turn." So far Ankara has not shown any



willingness to reverse the S-400 purchase.

The bill defines the "transfer" of the F-35s as being relocated outside the continental U.S. and does not apply to fighter jets being operated by American forces.

Two F-35s have already been delivered to Turkey, and are currently at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, where Turkish pilots are training with the aircraft. These jets were scheduled to be transferred in November.

Two more jets are expected to be delivered soon.

Washington has cautioned the S-400 system might covertly obtain critical information on the advanced fighter jets, including their detection range, which could then be relayed to Russia.

"This bill makes it clear that NATO's integrity, interoperability, and security is a top foreign policy concern across all branches of the U.S. government," the senators said.

Armenian Defense Minister Meets with Kansas Governor



TOPEKA, KA — Armenian Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan accompanied with Ambassador Varuzhan Nersesyan and Defense Attaché COL Arman Mkrtchyan met with Kansas Governor Laura Kelly to discuss cooperation development prospects between the state and Armenia.

Minister Tonoyan is visiting State of Kansas to celebrate over 15 years of Partnership Program with the Kansas National Guard. Initiated in 2003, the partnership between Armenia and Kansas has over the years grown, covering various areas of international civil-military cooperation, defense training and emergency management and preparedness, and facilitating strategic cooperation between Armenia and the State of Kansas.

Minister Tonoyan thanked Kelly for effective cooperation, after which they discussed ways to deepen it. The minister gave the governor historical documents, in which episodes of the

United States' humanitarian missions for the last 50 years are presented.

Governor Kelly, on her side, informed Tonoyan about the declaration of March 27 the day of cooperation between Kansas and Armenia and gave him the declaration.

During the visit the Armenian delegation, accompanied by Major General Lee E. Tafanelli, Adjutant General of Kansas National Guard, met with Kansas Governor Laura Kelly, who issued a proclamation to recognize March 27 as Kansas-Armenia Partnership Day.

Later during the day Minister Tonoyan and Ambassador Nersesyan met with a number of state officials to discuss prospects for enhancing cooperation between Armenia and Kansas in areas, such as agriculture, healthcare, trade and exports.

The Armenian defense minister is in the United States for the UN peacekeeping conference.



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Landmark Armenian History Volumes from the 1780s Donated to NAASR



BELMONT, MA—On March 12, 2019, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) received a rare first-edition set in excellent condition of the landmark work *Patmut‘iwn Hayots* (History of the Armenians) by Fr. Mikayel Chamchian (1738-1823), published in Venice in 1784-86, from a very generous donor Edward Simsarian of Worcester, MA, whose family had protected these volumes for well over a century.

Father Chamchian was born in Constantinople in 1738, and became an Armenian Catholic Mekhitarist priest, educator, and writer, publishing this three-volume History in Venice in the 1780s.

“Not since Movses Khorenatsi was there such a comprehensive and systematic treatment of Armenian history in its entirety,” noted Dr. Razmik Panossian in his book *The Armenians: From Kings and Priests to Merchants and Commissioners*, calling it “the definitive Armenian history text in this formative period of mass national identity” and remarking that “Chamchian’s book remained the most authoritative source on the subject until the end of the nineteenth century.”

Saved from Destruction in Diarbekir in 1890s

How these volumes survived for over 230 years including the time of turbulence, destruction, and massacres in the late Ottoman Empire and made it to the United States is testament to the reverence and prescience of the Simsarian family for preserving Armenian history for generations to come. “We are truly honored to receive Chamchian’s History and for NAASR to be the last stop on this book’s very long journey,” said NAASR’s Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian. “The story of the continued existence of these books is in many ways emblematic of Armenian survival and rebirth after the destruction of their ancestral homeland.”

The books came into Edward Simsarian’s hands from his father, the late Dicran Simsarian, who was born in Dikranagerd/Diarbekir in 1890. As a young boy at the age of six, Dicran saw his father hiding these precious volumes in tin boxes in their home in Dikranagerd to save them from impending destruction. As Dicran Simsarian wrote, in an account in his own words provided to NAASR:

About the year 1896 when I was living with my parents in Dikranagerd

(Diarbekir, Turkey) ... because of a rumor that the Turks were searching all the homes for guns and literary material, [my father] physically burned a large amount of books in our court yard. He saved these three volumes and an atlas which he had in specially made tin boxes.

The second floor of our home was layered with dirt and covered with a beautiful oriental rug. The room must have been 20’ x 30’. I remember one day he dug the dirt on the second floor, buried the three tin boxes of books in the floor and covered same with the oriental rug. A few years later after he died when we were preparing to immigrate to America I reminded my mother that father had buried three books in the floor. We dug up the boxes and entrusted them to Mardig Agopian and his wife Lucia who was my aunt’s daughter. We knew they were coming to the United States and we asked them to bring the books with them.

It must have been 1908 when a constitutional form of government was established in Turkey and the inhabitants were permitted to depart. I am not sure of the date, but during that period the Agopians came to the United States and true to their promise brought the books and delivered them to us ... These books have been in our home ever since.

Handed Down from Father to Son

Dicran Simarian went on to become a lawyer in New York City and was for decades very involved in Armenian affairs, particularly the AGBU and ADL/Ramgavar party. He died in New Jersey in 1978.

His son Edward Simsarian graduated from Princeton in 1945 and also became a lawyer and partner in the firm of Tashjian & Simsarian LLP in Worcester. Several years ago, he entrusted some of his father’s files and papers to the NAASR library and gave the atlas to Harvard University.

A strikingly vigorous nonagenarian, he welcomed Mamigonian at his office in Worcester on March 12 and handed over these precious volumes.

Honoring a Remarkable Past

Many books in NAASR’s Mardigian Library tell amazing stories, not just in the contents in the books’ pages, but also the journeys of the books themselves—from publishers and printers in Constantinople, Tiflis, Jerusalem, Venice, and many other

AGBU Hye Geen Presents: Parenting in The Digital Age



PASADENA -- On Saturday, March 23rd, 2019, AGBU Hye Geen held its 13th annual conference, focusing on “Parenting in The Digital Age.” This year’s conference aimed to address the growing concern of students’ attachment to their phones, something that is seen at home and at schools. The conference took place at AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian Center’s newly built theater complex. Registration began at 9:00a.m., and the conference itself began at 10:00a.m. Mrs. Sona Yacoubian gave the opening remarks, along with a concise history of AGBU Hye Geen and its accomplishments.

The first speaker, Shakeh Yegavian, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, has worked for over twenty years at the Glen Robert’s Child Study Center and is now working in a private practice. Ms. Yegavian opened the discussion as the moderator for the first panel, composing of two teens and a mother. She spoke about growing up in the pre-digital age and raising two daughters in the pre-digital age. Ms. Yegavian asked the panel a series of questions, including if the youth think they would be more productive without their phones, if their phones have affected their relationships with others, and if social media has put the youth in a position to compare themselves to others. These questions were more geared towards the youth, but the parent volunteer was asked questions as well, such as what she would remove from technology if she could, and if she uses modern technology for discipline purposes.

This panel was then followed by the first speaker, Dr. Armine Movsisyan, an educator and past principal of AGBU Vatche & Tamar Manoukian High School. Dr. Movsisyan earned her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership with a focus in teacher education from the University of Southern California, leadership training from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and her Tier I and Tier II Administrative Credentials from CSULB and UCLA/UC Berkley, respectively. She is currently the director of curriculum, instruction, learning, and innovation, as well as the superintendent at Intellectual Virtues Academy. She began her presentation with a discussion about what the audience’s vision is for technology, then moved towards a discussion about social media and how it has

become a true addiction. This was followed with the effects of the addiction the youth faces on their education and their success overall. Dr. Movsisyan concluded her presentation by solidifying the idea of preparing the youth to be smart users of technology, and the significance of technology in the changing society today.

The second speaker of the conference was Nora Chitilian-Keleshian, a practicing Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, who works in both a private practice in Glendale, and is an independent contractor at the Glendale Unified School District. She also works as a school-based counselor at various private Armenian schools, a board member at Richard Tufenkian Armenian Preschool, one of the founders of the Armenian Autism Outreach Project, and a co-founder and social skills teacher at Camp Zavarian. She began her presentation with a statistic that many audience members found to be shocking—one out of seven teens deal with some form of anxiety. Technology has played a large role in the rise of anxiety among teens, more specifically social media. The important things to remember when parenting in the digital age are to model behaviors for the youth, for example, if a parent expects their child to not use their phone at the dinner table, then neither should the parent; goal-oriented parenting is the second key topic she spoke about, stating that goals should drive the relationships between parent and child.

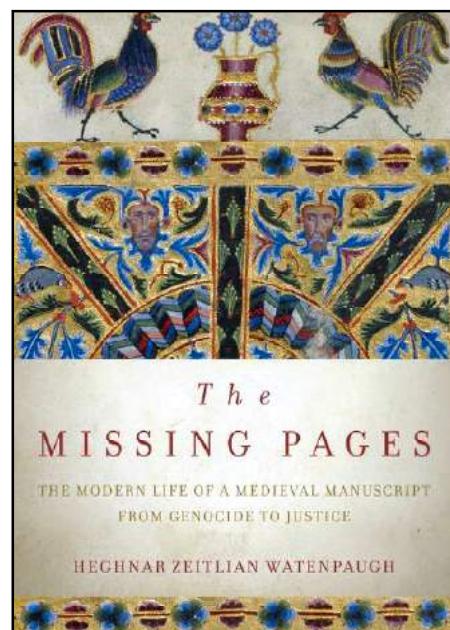
The first two speakers were then brought back onto the stage for a question and answer period, where the audience had the opportunity to ask any questions, they had during morning session of the conference. Shakeh Yegavian served as the mediator once again, and also took part in answering questions asked. The questions that were discussed include the recommended age for the youth to have phones, the role of fathers in this issue, and the effects of phone addiction in the classroom. This session was followed by a lunch break, which gave audience members another chance to ask questions to the speakers as well as discuss the topic with others.

Following the lunchbreak, Dr. Edrick Dorian, a board certified clinical and police psychologist with the Los Angeles Police Department and in private practice in Encino, spoke about

Ararat-Eskijian Museum Lecture “The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript, from Genocide to Justice”

MISSION HILLS, CA — The Ararat-Eskijian Museum (AEM), National Association for Armenian Studies (NAASR), is pleased to announce an upcoming lecture “The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript, from Genocide to Justice” by Dr. Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh Professor of Art History, University of California, Davis. Sunday April 07th, 2019, 4PM Ararat-Eskijian Museum/Sheen Chapel 15105 Mission Hills Rd., Mission Hills Ca 91345.

The Missing Pages is the biography of the Zeytun Gospels, a manuscript illuminated by the greatest medieval Armenian artist, Toros Roslin, and which is at once art, sacred object, and cultural heritage. Its tale mirrors the story of its scattered community as Armenians have struggled to redefine themselves after genocide and in the absence of a homeland. Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh follows in the manuscript’s footsteps through seven centuries, from medieval Armenia to the killing fields of 1915, the refugee camps of Aleppo, Ellis Island, Soviet Armenia, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and ultimately to a Los Angeles courtroom. Reconstructing the path of the pages, Watenpaugh uncovers the rich tapestry of an extraordinary artwork and the people touched by it. At once a story of genocide and survival, of unimaginable loss and resilience, The Missing Pages captures the human costs of



war and persuasively makes the case for a human right to art.

Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh is Professor of Art History at the University of California, Davis. She is the award-winning author of *The Image of an Ottoman City: Architecture in Aleppo* (2004). Her writing has also appeared in the Huffington Post and the Los Angeles Times.

Copies of the missing pages will be available for purchase.

Admission free (Donations appreciated) Reception following program For more information call the Ararat-Eskijian Museum at 747- 500-7585 or email eskijian@ararat-eskijian-museum.com

The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance & Antaeus Theatre Present “Triumph of the Armenian Spirit”



GLENDALE - The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA), in partnership with Antaeus Theatre Company, will present a special performance to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 7:30pm at Antaeus Theater's Kiki & David Gindler Performing Arts Center, 110 E. Broadway, Glendale, CA 91205 (between N. Brand Blvd. & Artsakh Ave.).

ADAA is proud to collaborate once again with the Antaeus Theatre Company. Antaeus is an actor-driven theater company that explores and produces timely and timeless works, grounded in our passion for the classics, illuminating diverse human experiences through performance, training and outreach.

To honor Armenian arts and heritage — and to celebrate a momentous past year in Armenian modern history — ADAA and Antaeus will present Triumph of the Armenian Spirit, featuring excerpts of new Armenian plays from some of Los Angeles’ brightest writers, actors and directors:

Directors Michael Arabian, Susan Kelejian, Armina LaManna and Michael Peretzian will present pieces by Michael

Arlen, Bianca Bagatourian, Susan Kelejian and Adriana Sevahn Nichols, including a vast cast of actors.

The program will be dedicated to the memory of world-renowned Armenian composer Michel Legrand and will feature his music, performed by Alene Aroustamian, Greg Hosharian and Salpy Kerkorian. The show will be introduced by Antaeus Executive Director Ana Rose O'Halloran and produced by ADAA President Bianca Bagatourian, who stated, “We are very excited about year’s program. The aim is to give space to various artists to experiment with new pieces of writing.” Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church will be in attendance to present the invocation. A reception with the cast and crew will take place in the library directly following the performance.

Tickets will be available to the public for a small donation on www.ArmenianCalendar.com. For sponsorship opportunities or questions, contact armeniandrama@gmail.com or donations may be mailed to: ADAA, c/o Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, 3325 N. Glenoaks Blvd. Burbank, CA, 91504.

Panel at Harvard to Look at “Democratization in Armenia and Authoritarianism Worldwide”

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH (NAASR) / CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION SERIES ON CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ISSUES, AGBU-YP BOSTON, AND THE HARVARD ARMENIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Present a Panel Discussion

A TREND OR AN EXCEPTION? DEMOCRATIZATION IN ARMENIA AND AUTHORITARIANISM WORLDWIDE

Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Moderated by Dr. Lisa Gulessarian

Lecturer on Armenian, Dept. of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Harvard University

BOSTON — A panel discussion entitled “A Trend or an Exception? Democratization in Armenia and Authoritarianism Worldwide,” will take place at Harvard University’s Fong Auditorium (Boylston Hall), on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

The panel will be moderated by Dr. Lisa Gulessarian, Lecturer on Armenian in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Harvard University, and will feature a panel including Anna Ohanyan (Stonehill College), Dimitri Sotiropoulos (Visiting Scholar, Center for European Studies, Harvard), and Valerie Sperling (Clark University).

The event is organized by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, with the co-sponsorship of AGBU-YP Boston, and the Harvard Armenian Students Association.

At a time when there is great con-

cern over the apparent decline of liberal democracy around the world, in 2018 Armenia seemed to be a notable exception and was hailed as “badly needed good news for democracy” by the Washington Post. As the one-year anniversary of the Velvet Revolution approaches, is the news still good? Is Armenia an outlier, an exceptional case in a world where government-by-strong-man increasingly is the model? What can be learned from the examples of other states where democracy is in peril? Join with a panel of distinguished scholars to discuss these and other issues relating to democracy and authoritarianism in Armenia and around the world.

This event is free and open to the public. A reception and refreshments will immediately follow the program and question-and-answer session

For more information about this program, contact NAASR at 617-489-1610 or hq@naasr.org.

Landmark Armenian History Volumes

Continued from page 3

centers of Armenian culture in Historic Armenia and the diaspora, over the course of hundreds of years, through booksellers in “the old world” and in America, to bookshelves in homes and in libraries, and finally to NAASR.

Although the vast majority of rare books in NAASR’s Mardigian Library are in safe archival storage while its new

headquarters is under construction, NAASR continues to add to its holdings through donations from the community and acquisitions, all of which are processed, catalogued, and when necessary repaired by NAASR’s Library Curator Ani Babaiyan.

For more information about NAASR and its Mardigian Library, visit www.naasr.org or write to hq@naasr.org.

AGBU Hye Geen Presents

Continued from page 3

cyberbullying and the great responsibility and power that comes with technology. He opened with the definition of cyberbullying, and explained that in some extreme cases, cyberbullying can be deemed as criminal. Dr. Dorian compared the use of a digital device to be as powerful as a firearm, as both come with a great level of responsibility. He reminded the audience that bullying is not always done by bad kids but are just bad choices. Technology has a significant impact on the youth, and to the surprise of many in the audience, video games and online videos are teaching the youth skills and mentalities that are often overlooked. He pulls from recent news of the New Zealand terror attack to show a comparison of video games to the video

streamed by the terrorist, shocking the entire audience.

Dr. Dorian’s presentation was followed by a second question and answer session, allowing members of the audience to ask any remaining questions before the end of the conference. Closing remarks were given by Talin Yacoubian, AGBU Western District Chair. She reflects on her childhood, growing up in the pre-digital age and compares them with her parenting styles for her two children. She closed the conference by thanking AGBU Hye Geen, the speakers, and audience for another academically triumphant conference. The conference was organized and carried out with great professionalism from both AGBU Hye Geen and Hye Geen Young Circle.

~ Arvin Demerjian

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.MARCH4JUSTICE.COM |  ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMITTEE



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