



THE SPEAKER

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THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC ACCEPTS THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE.

LAVRENTI BARSEGHYAN

*Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-
Institute*

The subject of the Armenian Genocide is very broad. It has been at the center of humanity and the international public since the end of the 19th century. However, it is accepted to consider the Armenian Genocide -- the slaughter of 1915 and the massacres of the end of the 19th century -- as butcheries, the massacres of Armenians who had risen for their self-defense. But today it is apparent that the policy of doing away with the Armenians began not at the beginning of the 20th century but earlier. According to the data from archives, some historians date the genocide from the first quarter of the 18th century: more exactly from 1726 to 1728, when the decision was made in Turkey to annihilate the Armenian nation. The year 1915 was the culmination of the Genocide that was unexpected throughout the world. That terrible crime could have been prevented, however, if the great powers had reacted to it at the right time; to be more precise, if Germany had deprived Turkey of acting freely. Today, it is evident that the Armenian genocide was a practice run for the Nazis to organize the massacres of the Jews. In addition, it is no mere chance that one of our famous historians, Vahagn Dadrian, in his special monograph emphasizes the complicity of Germany in the Armenian genocide.

The complicity of Germany was much spoken about during World War I. It is no coincidence that the first one who gave his consent and signed the document concerning the organization of the deportation and the eviction of the Armenians was a German general and not a Turkish commander. Twelve thousand German soldiers served in Turkish armies: 900 generals, marshals, and officers headed Turkish military units. The commander of a Turkish division or the Chief of Staff was either a German or a Turk. It is no mere chance that today, it is possible to clear up this issue through archival photographs. The photographs of the German generals with Talaat and Enver are preserved. Who are later seen standing near Hitler in 1939 before the invasion of Warsaw? It is also no coincidence that the Armenian Genocide was disregarded for a long time. This



disregard dates from the Lausanne Conference of 1923, where nothing was mentioned about Armenia and the Armenians.

Only in 1965, a great outbreak took place related to the 50th Anniversary of the Genocide. The Genocide was disregarded before then. The slaughter of the Jews was in the fore. During the meeting with the generals in 1939, Hitler said that they should conquer Poland by any means, they should stop at nothing and should destroy Poland, as did Gengiz Khan in the past, for "... who remembers the Armenian Genocide today?" This expression of Hitler's was put introduced at the Nuremberg trials and when the United Nations Organization decided, 52 years ago, that all these crimes were examples of Genocide.

On the night of 1915 04 24, the elite was arrested in Western Armenia. Four hundred people including writers, poets, engineers, architects, doctors -- the cream of the Armenian nation -- were executed in one night. April 24 is considered to be the first day of the Genocide though the Turks do not admit to it. A month later, however, on 1915 05 24, the governments of France, Russia and England sent a protest to the Turkish government. In Armenian concentration camps that were situated in the provinces of Moosh, Bitlis, generalized massacres took place. This protest note is the first document where the great powers showed their attitude for the world to see. It should be mentioned

that the note dated 1915 05 24 was considered a basic document at Nuremberg and, later, for the decisions of UNO in this area. These three great powers declared explicitly that the members of the Turkish government and their executors would pay the penalty for those crimes, because they committed a crime against humanity and civilization. This is exactly what was written in the note.

The Turks, and in general many, do not know that the first post-war country to denounce the Armenian Genocide was Turkey itself. They were the first to discuss the issue. After World War 1 in November and December 1918, the Parliament of Turkey was reestablished. It had stopped acting in 1914. The Parliament had four sessions in which thirteen Armenian deputies took part. The original number of Armenian deputies was sixteen, but two of them (Grigor Zohrap and Vardges) were murdered, and the third escaped to Europe. The protocols of those sessions are very interesting. While reading them, it becomes evident that the Armenian deputy that was in a difficult situation. He spoke from the rostrum and condemned the Turks. The Greek deputies and, later, some Turkish deputies joined in this condemnation by the Armenian deputy. Considering that the facts and reality could not be rejected and disregarded, the Parliament stopped its activities and was dissolved. Just before dissolution, however, the Parliament had formed a commission to create a military tribunal to try the accused. Two circumstances were taken into consideration: to try the initiators of the war and also to try those who had organized the crime against the Armenian nation.

In 1919, the commission began its activities. Soon, five different commissions came to their decisions. Approximately 400 people were arrested. Thanks to German complicity, however, the well-known members of the Turkish Parliament, the leaders of the "Young Turk" party secretly ran away from Constantinople to Europe. During the trial, a judgement by default was rendered. They were sentenced to death. This decision was not taken by the Armenian nation. The Turkish military judges in Turkey took it. Seven people were sentenced to death, but only one of these seven was hanged publicly in Stambul Square. The other six were shot right in the streets of Rome, Tbilissi, and Berlin in 1920, 1921, 1922. Armenians implemented the death sentence pronounced by the Turkish court. Only Enver eluded the sentence of the court. Eventually, he too was killed in Central Asia. It should be mentioned that the commander of the frontier detachment that engaged him in battle was Armenian as well, a certain Melkoomov.

In 1920, after World War 1 had ended, an official treaty was signed, which, however, was not ratified by any of the signatory governments. The treaty was signed in Sèvres. The text

explicitly mentions what had happened to the Armenians and how reforms must be implemented to give Armenians the opportunity to return to Turkey, and create their independent homeland. The treaty was not ratified. The founder of the current republic of Turkey, Kemal Ataturk, played no small role in scuttling this treaty. At the Lausanne Conference in 1923, another decision was taken; one that mentioned nothing about Armenia and the Armenians.

Many countries of the world try to show that they are the friends of the Armenian nation. This can not be disregarded and rejected. It must be said that during World War 1 two groups of great states confronted each other, Germany and Austria-Hungary on the one hand, Russia, France and Great Britain, on the other. Every state tried to show through its propaganda that Germany not

only destroyed peoples through its strategy, but also had larger aims. Today, if we compare Turkey's past military-political status and German's military-political status in the 1930s, many things are common. This allows generalizations to be made concerning the massacres of the Armenians and the Jews. The only difference was that the Armenians were annihilated on their ancestral territories, while the Jews were far from theirs. The Jews were killed by technically "perfected" means (gas chambers). The Turks, however, used precious bullets sparingly, killing the Armenians with stones, axes, and bayonets.

I was in Argentina at the Argentine government's invitation last year. They were preparing to open a museum dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Genocide that had taken place as a result of the military *coup d'état* in 1976-1983. Thirty thousand people had disappeared. Many organizations fought for the creation of the museum. There are 42 Armenians among these 30000 people, many hundreds of children, young Jewish men, and blacks. The organizers of the Argentine Genocide used a new method of killing. They put people into tarpaulin sacks, tied them up, put something heavy in the sacks, and threw them into the sea or the river from an airplane. It was quite impossible to find their tracks any more. If the shoes, combs, and various everyday possessions of the victims of the massacres are preserved today and are exhibited in Israel or Washington, nothing can be found about those Argentinians who were the victims of the Genocide. The same thing happened to the Armenians. Today, those Armenians who survived the Genocide keep many things as relics. Three years ago, a 94-year-old woman who was about to die asked her children to take a bullet out of her shoulder. The bullet had been in her shoulder since a Turk shot her at the age of four. That bullet is now preserved in our museum together with picture of that woman.

In 1965, the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was commemorated in nearly 70 countries on April 24 thanks to

That terrible crime could have been prevented, however, if the great powers had reacted to it at the right time.

Lavrenti Barseghyan was born on 1937 01 07 in Yerevan. In 1959, he graduated from the Faculty of History of Yerevan State University. In 1964, he defended his Candidate's thesis and was awarded the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences. In 1998, he defended his Doctoral dissertation. From 1978 to 1986, he was the Director of the Armenian State Historical Museum of Ethnography (the Sardarabat Memorial). From 1987 to 1991, he was head of the Chief Directorate of History, Culture, and the Use and Preservation of Monuments -- attached to the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR. From 1991 to 1995, he was the Deputy Director of the Presidency of National Academy of Sciences dealing with General Issues. Since March 1995, he heads the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.



He is the author of eight monographs and about 100 scholarly articles, the organizer and participant of many international scholarly conferences. He has headed the International Scholarly Center for the Preservation and Investigation of Ani. Since 1991, he is the President of the Armenian National Committee of the International Council for the Preservation of Monuments and Historical Sites. In 1999, he was elected member of the Presidium of the Academy of International Sciences on National Security problems. In 2001, he was elected President of the Armenian Branch of the Academy of International Sciences on National Security problems.

In 1981, he was awarded the prize of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR and in 1985, he became a USSR State prizewinner.

the great activities of the Armenian communities of the Diaspora. Our non-Armenian friends joined in. How can people living in France disregard it? France is home to 450000 Armenians. They have found their second motherland there and fought against Nazism together with the French nation in 1939. This is not forgotten today. They accept that in their new motherland, the Armenians have created, built, and consolidated the French nation just as the native-born have done.

In Armenia, on 1965 04 24, the squares and streets of Yerevan were full of crowds of people. They numbered nearly a million. It was an unprecedented demonstration in the history of the Soviet Union to have nearly a million participants. Today, we should note the wisdom of Armenia's leaders not to let the tragedy happen again. In 1967, the Great Genocide monument was built and in 1995, the Museum of the Armenian Genocide.

A group of Armenians that were far from their country, turned to terrorism by creating underground organizations and liberation armies. The purpose was to focus the attention of the international public on the problem of accepting the Armenian Genocide and condemning it. I think that no one is for terrorism. Some 280 acts of terrorism took place and 71 diplomats were killed. As a result, the international community began to talk again about the events of 1915. In 1965 for the first time, the Parliament of Uruguay decided to mark April 24 as the Memorial Day of the Victims of Genocide. In 1972, the Parliament of Cyprus and in 1995, the State Duma of Russia voted in similar decisions. I must say that the State Duma did not pass a law but made a declaration, which was an interesting one. The Turks always proclaimed that the Russians won the victory thanks to the Armenians and it was these military operations that enticed the Turks to evacuate the Armenians. In the decision made by the Duma of Russia in 1995, the Russians apologized to the Armenian nation for the fact that the latter, always being on Russia's side, had considerable human losses.

In 1996, the Greek Parliament decided that April 24 would be the Day of Solidarity with the Armenians and to accept the fact of the Armenian Genocide. In 1996, the Canadian House of Commons of Canada voted on a statement which, however, never came into force despite many discussions. In 1997, the Parliament of Lebanon decided to consider April 24 as Armenian Memorial Day and in 2000, accepted the reality of the Armenian Genocide. In 1998, the Belgian Senate also took the same decision. On 1998 05 28, the National Assembly of France took a unanimous decision to recognize the Armenian Genocide. However, it took almost two years to be confirmed by the Senate and ratified by the President of France. Those two years were full of tension for those people who were associated with the movement. In 1998-2000, large demonstrations took place in France. Approximately 20000 people participated including French people. I took part in one of those demonstrations last year and reported to the Senate of France together with the Turks. I must say that the French nation won a great victory by carrying out this duty.

In 1921 – one of the most difficult times for the Armenian nation – the French retreated leaving the Armenian without help: the Turks also mention this. When the Senate took the decision, the National Assembly prepared a document to discuss how the French carried out a Genocide by leaving Armenians without help in Izmir. Eventually the leadership of France overcame the difficulty though it had great financial losses. Turkey canceled all military and economic treaties that it had signed with France. The number of those treaties was not small. In 1999, the financial loss was 6 billion American dollars. Turkey refused to buy 150 airplanes, 50 tanks, and also declined to build the underground in Izmir. However, political interests are greater. On 1987 06 18, the European Parliament passed a resolution titled "The Political Solution of the Armenian Question". It was an all-embracing resolution in which Turkey was also accused of having destroyed Armenian monuments. It was

mentioned in the resolution that there were restrictions on the Armenians concerning the educational sphere. At the same time, the European Parliament demanded that Turkey should admit to the Armenian Genocide and only then, would Turkey be accepted into the European Union. Turkey refused and the European Parliament did not make concessions. Some people consider it to be a concession that Turkey's candidacy for entry in the European Parliament was accepted. However, in November 2000, the Parliament again demanded in its report that Turkey should admit to the Armenian Genocide. France has a leading role in the European Parliament and has acted more bravely.

We must tell the truth. European countries do not want to see the Turks as a European nation. They do not want to consider their state to be a European country. All those countries that have adopted decisions have always asked the Parliament of Turkey to admit to the Armenian Genocide while being sure that the policy of refusal has gained a foothold in Turkish policy.

On the other hand, we see the partners of Turkey: NATO, and the US. Let us remember the row when in September 2000, the Committee of International Affairs of the House of Representatives decided on the acceptance of the Armenian

Genocide and introduced a resolution. A great clamor was raised in Turkey. The President of Turkey, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other diplomats worked actively. Everyone had certain hopes regarding the American decision. The resolution of the decision consisted of two points. It was not written that the US accepts the

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Armenian Genocide. Two proposals are made in the resolution. The Congress requested that the American government mention in all diplomatic studies that there was an Armenian Genocide. Secondly, it was proposed to ask the President of the US to mention in his April messages directed to the Armenian people living in the US, that there was a Genocide of the Armenian nation. In 1996 in Canada, one may recall, there was a proposal to remove the word "genocide" from the resolution. The President of the US turned on the Chairman of the House of Representatives to exclude the question from the discussion. It is important to note that the question was not rejected, but only excluded from the discussion. The reasons given were the relations between Israel and Palestine and the situation in the Middle East. However, we must find the real reasons and sources. The main reason is that the US compels Turkey to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia. Today, NATO has 15 and the US, 12 military bases in Turkey. Under such conditions when airplanes flying from Italy can fly to Europe from Turkey to bomb Yugoslavia it is clear that Turkey can not play a secondary role in these relations. When the resolution was being considered in the US, Turkey declared that the military base of Incirlik (the most important of all bases) would be blocked for the Americans. The US thinks that Turkey should become the economic partner of Armenia, should make investments in Armenia to such an extent that they would even exceed Russia's investments. It is the main trump card that is used by the US on the one hand and by the European nations on the other.

A great movement has begun in Turkey. At the end of last year, Armenia's President gave a speech at the UN Special Millennium Meeting. He called for the recognition of this crime by the whole world. The President's speech was followed by the speech of the President of Turkey, Ahmed Sezer. He called for the discussion of this issue with the participation of historians. Almost all countries have raised the problem of involving historians in the discussion. The Belgian Senate, for instance, recognized the Genocide, but at the same time appealed to Turkey to discuss the issue with historians at a conference. After the Turkish President's suggestion, Prime-Minister Ecevit decided to open the doors of all Turkish archives for historians of all nationalities.

We are quite aware of the state of Turkey's archives. There are no centralized archives. The Ministry of Defense, the Prime Minister and the President have their own separate

archives. All this needs to be examined. Ultimately, the National Assembly of Turkey passed a decree on the establishment of a scholars' council under the presidency of the National Assembly with the aim of examining the Armenian genocide. The Chief Secretary of the National Assembly heads the scholars' council. Later, an academic center on the study of Armenian-Turkish relations was founded at Ataturk University in Ankara. The National Security Council of Turkey established a special committee. The Ministry of Defense of Turkey decided to teach Armenian as a second language in all military schools. This is the current situation.

The Turks suggested to Armenian historians to hold a meeting. The Armenians refused. The overwhelming majority of historians do not want to carry on a dialogue, assuming that all this is some kind of trap. They say that there is no need for this step. Everything is already confirmed, and there is no sense in raising the discussion issue once again.

Decisions, made by the parliaments of all countries, should not be doubted. I consider that those historians, who believe there must be dialogue, are an exception to the rule.

A scholarly meeting, arranged by three organizations including the Armenian Research Institute, ended in Germany two days ago. One Armenian reporter, a specialist in turkology, Richard Hovhanissyan from the United States, and two other scientists were the only participants of the meeting. As soon as the meeting started Dr. Hovhanissyan announced that discussing the issue was out of question. I expressed the same viewpoint several months ago, when our partners were stating that we should not agree to a meeting. To say that we agree to a meeting does not mean that we deny the facts. I am of the opinion that the only reason for holding the meeting is to make the given issue the focal point of the international society's attention. Does our refusal mean evasion? If we are evading the issue, that would mean we have little knowledge.

We should come to a point, when all the materials, currently valid as archival documents, are republished in English, French, German and Turkish. US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau wrote his memoirs in 1916. One cannot find as good a book as this one, anywhere. In 1916 Lord James Bryce's book was published in London. Lord James Bryce was the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and a member of the House of Lords. Proper attention should also be paid to Johannes Lepsius' book on the massacre of the Armenians. If we just republish --and spread all over the world -- these three books, there will be no need for archives any more. Turks and western historians do not want to accept our memoirs or accounts of eyewitnesses, as they do not consider them to be scholarly.

But how can one forget or deny these facts, when a 10-15-year old child says that s/he was an eyewitness to the death of his/her father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother?

May we consign to oblivion what happened 85 years ago? Armenian people have a rich culture. The Armenian oral tradition is an important element of this culture. When this tradition is studied, it becomes quite clear that there is much information concerning historical events that happened some 3000 years ago, as for example, the flood. If a nation succeeds in preserving all this, thanks to its historical memory, is it capable of

forgetting what happened 85 years ago? Never. We should struggle against oblivion and preserve our collective memory. There are people in our society who saw their houses being destroyed and who witnessed the murder of their relatives and friends. In 1995, Armenia's President adopted a decree allowing eyewitnesses of the genocide to be registered and granted special privileges and social benefits.

Today there are 4600 persons in Armenia who were born before 1914. Today, this figure has dropped to 1200. We are recording all the available facts and we have scholars who publish this evidence. Recently, we published a collection of articles that includes the evidence from 550 eyewitnesses. At present, we are working on a card catalogue, a commemorative booklet of both victims and eyewitnesses. We have 18 000 cases of people with their biographical data. We are working on the legal documents regarding Armenian monuments on the territory of Ottoman Turkey. Some 2300 monuments were destroyed during the genocide. All the above-mentioned are on record as fact. For many years there were no scholars to study these facts, but today, we are drawing up the annals of the genocide in our Institute.

We state that the genocide started on 1915 94 24 and what did occur on the 25, 26, 27 of April and in May, June, July until 1923? We have a vast amount of material. If we translate and publish these chronicles into different languages and present it according to days, months, years, would anyone object to it? The Armenian Genocide is a historic fact. It cannot be denied. We strive for the recognition and condemnation of the Genocide on behalf of humanity.

Each year we receive 20 000 people from 79 countries and museums. These are state officials and members of delegations. All have written a few words in the guest book of the museum. I have prepared for publication a yearly chronicle of the period from 1915-2000. The chronicle is to be published soon. It contains information on the recognition of the Armenian genocide, on resolutions adopted in various countries and by international community, the United Nations, as well as at sittings of the parliaments of many countries (including the US Congress).

Chronicles are annals that cannot be rejected by anyone. When a guest sees the exhibits of the Armenian Genocide Museum, s/he has a very emotional reaction. What can we tell him or her? Nobody can deny the existence of this fact. Recognition of the Armenian genocide is first of all aimed against genocide as a criminal act. Recognition is required to avoid the perpetuation of such crimes against humanity.

The process of the international recognition of the Armenian genocide is incomplete. It will continue. We all wish that France's example in recognizing the Armenian Genocide be followed by Austria, Germany and Great Britain. These are the countries that had an important position in World War I. The responsibility for this war rests with all belligerents, and they should ask for the forgiveness of the Armenian people recognize the Armenian genocide.

The only difference was that the Armenians were annihilated on their ancestral territories, while the Jews were far from theirs.

Questions and Answers

-Can you specify, based on your evaluations, what part of the documents, related to the genocide, is collected in your museum?

-Our museum is young; it has a five-year history. There are fifty employees working in the museum; 28 of them are researchers. I would like to point out that within these five years we have managed to obtain 18 000

museum items. Last year the Head of the North American Diocese assisted us in receiving 200 000 pages of archival materials from Harvard University. These were memoirs of American missionaries and referred to Armenia and the Near East between 1816 and 1918.

Armenia returned to Germany nearly 20 000 pages of documents that had been taken by the Soviet Army during the war. In exchange, Germany gave us 15 000 pages of archival materials that refer directly to the Armenian Genocide. Finally, we acquired 8000 pages from the Austrian archives. They contain very interesting materials related to Armenia connected with the events between 1878 and 1938.

We are also completed considerable work, in particular with eyewitnesses. For many years, it was impossible to purchase foreign literature in Armenia. Even if some of this literature was received, it was kept in supervised libraries with no open access. Today, we have created a rich fund of nearly 1500 published books on the genocide. In general, the library of the museum has 7000 units of literature.

Our work is in progress. We cannot stop. At present the work of Beyleryan Arthur, an author of Armenian origin, is being translated from French into Armenian. This consists of 800 pages and is entitled "French Archives concerning Armenia". We are also willing to publish the minutes of the Turkish parliament, recorded at the sittings, mentioned by me earlier; as well as documents of the Military Court of Turkey.

We have trained two post-graduate students, who are to leave for Turkey soon to be retrained in reading Ottoman Turkish. The training of specialists is our key issue. No one should think that if historians refuse to hold a dialogue, they are not ready for that.

-Why doesn't the Armenian National Assembly pass a law on the genocides perpetrated by the Turks against other nations? Wouldn't it contribute to the recognition of the Armenian genocide by other nations?

-Before speaking of our National Assembly, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in December 1990, the Supreme Council of Soviet Armenia adopted a decision, to appeal to the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union to recognize the Armenian genocide. Political events, however, overtook that issue.

On 1998 03 28, Aliev signed a law that set March 30 as the day of the Azerbaijani genocide allegedly perpetrated by the Armenians. Aliev refers to the events that took place in Baku in 1918. At that time the Musafatists attempted a revolution. This was put down by the Baku Commune, headed by Shahumyan and Azizbekov. Aliev further develops his thesis. He writes that in 1948 Stalin, the beloved father of Armenians, granted the wishes of the Armenians and deported 100 000 Azerbaijani Turks from Armenia to Azerbaijan. The real course of events proceeded as follows. In 1948, Baghirov asked Stalin (and Stalin was more eager to consider the requests of Baghirov than those of Harutyunov) to resettle Azerbaijani Turks from Armenia's regions in the Mughan valley for working and living there. Baghirov's request was connected with the sale of the Mughan valley and based on the reason that he could not move Azerbaijani Turks to that location from different regions of Azerbaijan. The

population of Zangibasar, Basargechar and Masis regions moved to the Mughan valley. The Azerbaijani Turks did not hand over their houses to anyone, their doors remained locked until that decision was overturned and everyone returned to his original house. Not a single Armenian entered a house of an Azerbaijani Turk. This is the "genocide" alluded to by Aliev.

Finally, let me speak of our Parliament. I have already mentioned that in 1996 the Parliament of Greece passed a decree on the recognition of the Armenian genocide. Besides Armenians, Turks also killed Greeks along the coast of the Black Sea, in Samsun, Gerasund, and Trapizon. About 500 000 Greeks were victims of that genocide. And so the Dashnak Party submitted a bill, for the consideration of our National Assembly, on Armenia's recognition of the genocide of the Pontic Greeks. As there was no quorum that day, the given issue was not discussed and it still remains unsettled. An impression was formed that the issue was discussed and defeated in a vote. It was a strong blow against us, but it is not factually correct.

One can see monuments to the memory of the Armenians in Athens, Thessalonika and Armenia. In general, today there are similar monuments in 75 countries of the world.

-What is the next step for the Armenians after the recognition of the genocide?

-It is often said that we want to derive benefit from the recognition of the genocide on the part of America and France. I want to say that we only gain a moral victory. After the great powers of the world have recognized the Armenian genocide, we shall have to make Turkey, as a future member of the European Parliament, accept this fact as well. I support Turkey's admission to the European Parliament. However, state-members must demand Turkey's compliance of decrees, passed in 1987 and 2000. The payment of damages and the restitution of lands will be the next two steps following recognition of the genocide.

In the Congress of Paris in 1919, the Armenian delegation presented the size of the incurred losses. At that time, damages were calculated and today, including interest accrued, the given amount stands at USD 45 billion. In 1915, gold worth USD 5 million was transferred from an Ottoman bank to a bank in Berlin. After the end of the war in 1918, this sum was transferred to a bank in London. A movement started, and the Head of the Labor Party repeatedly announced in the House of Lords, that the state of the Armenian people was very serious and that the given sum had to be returned to them. The speeches were given to obtain votes for a well-known cause. After the elections, it was declared that Germany had caused damage to the UK, and that the sum, which had been transferred from Germany, had to be included in the reparations. To this day, we have money in an English bank.

In 1908-1914, before the war broke out, insurance companies in a number of countries were insuring the lives and properties of Armenians. The "New York Life Insurance Company" received money from 10 000 families. At the outbreak of the war, many Armenians were killed and many where spread all over the world. Talaat called Henry Morgenthau and asked him to demand from the insurance company the list of the

insured Armenians. He was absolutely sure that the money belonged to Turkey. Morgenthau had enough courage to refuse. The "New York Life Insurance Company" has not yet returned those funds amounting to nearly USD 3 billion. Some 3 000 Armenians, living in America, have presented court claims demanding restitution of their property. (Ed. Since this lecture, on 2001 04 11, this company has decided on a court settlement for the heirs of the Armenian Genocide).

-What will happen if Turkey recognizes the Armenian genocide?

-If Turkey recognizes the genocide, we must state that it was courageous enough to repeat the example, set by Germans, when the Chancellor of Germany fell on his knees in a concentration camp, begging forgiveness of Jews. It will be a great moral victory for a civilized nation in the 21st century.

-How well are Armenian scientists informed on the documents kept in foreign archives? Do you carry out work aimed at the acquisition of those documents or their copies?

-I have already pointed out the documents, received from Austria and Germany. There is a large quantity of materials, kept at present in the archives of Great Britain. The year before last sixty US congressmen addressed Clinton with a request for permission to make three copies of those archival materials, kept in the Library of Congress, which refer to the Armenian Genocide. One of these copies was to be sent to the Washington Holocaust museum, the other was intended for the Congress House of Representatives, and the Yerevan Museum was to get the third copy. It is their proposal, which is still in progress.

-How will pupils of California study the Armenian genocide, when there are no books in Armenia on the Genocide and it is not taught in schools?

-An experimental textbook on the persecution of the Armenians was published in Armenia as a source for an optional subject. The Ministry of Education has published the book of Roobeena Peeromyan and it is used in the 10th and 11th forms in Armenian schools.

There are great Armenian historians in America, who can write both textbooks, monographs, and such works that have now become the property of the science of genocide. Vahagn Dadryan's book titled "History of the Armenian Genocide" was translated into French, German, English, but it has not yet been published in Armenian.

-What do you think of the establishment of the Armenian Genocide Museum in Washington? Wouldn't it be more expedient to direct those funds at the further enrichment of your museum?

-I believe that it was a completely sound decision to establish a museum not only in Washington but also in Glendale, Los Angeles. There was time when I was engaged in museum management studies and was against the idea of opening museums in the Diaspora. I was calling for the provision of separate rooms in the schools of the Diaspora to introduce children to the history of every place where refugees' had established their residence. But wouldn't it be reasonable to have a museum in a country with 1.5 million Armenians, a relatively high proportion of that country? These 1.5 million

Armenians aren't coming back to their native land, are they?

-Did Armenian historians make an attempt of using Turkish archives?

-Nobody can make use of Turkish archives, and they aren't used at present either. The Association of Turkish Historians has published important documents, and we work with these materials. There are a lot of materials, kept in the Central Archives of Armenia's State History; however, our historians have not used them.

-Does the bill on the recognition of the Armenian genocide, passed by France, mean that propoganda, refuting the fact of the Armenian Genocide, is prohibited by law? We refer to the Chair of Turkology, founded in the "College de France" nearly two years ago.

Professor Weinberg, the Jewish founder of this chair, refutes the Armenian Genocide. The President of France appointed him. Although the Sorbonne's Armenian Professors, who were joined by their French colleagues started a great movement; Weinberg was assigned this position. It is noteworthy that France is the only country, the President of which has signed the bill after the Senate's decision. In France, laws signed by the President are not subject to changes or discussion.



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