

# ARMENIAN OBSERVER

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**Vazgen Manoukian  
from ANM**



**Armenia's Prime Minister  
Vazgen Manoukian**

Prime Minister, Vazgen Manoukian, appearing on national television in Yerevan, defended his point of view and indicated that many members of the Armenian National Movement are not happy with the movement and its activities and thus are planning to split and start a new organization.

In fact, the Prime Minister said that many members of the movement are anxious to keep

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## **Le Conte Jr. High May Jeopardize Needs of Armenian Students**

Non-Anglo status of a Junior High School in Hollywood has angered Armenian community leaders, teachers, and school officials.

### **Concerns about Armenian Republics**

advocate for democracy, econo-

## **AGBU-Supported American University in Armenia**

By JANET SAMUELIAN

SAN FRANCISCO — The University of California took the first step July 8th to develop a new university in the Republic of Armenia.

Presenting the proposal to the UC Board of Regents Committee on Educational Policy were an Armenian delegation led by Dr. Mihran Agbabian, and Dr. William Frazer, UC Senior vice-president for Academic Affairs.

The University consulted with the U.S. State Department, the Pentagon, and American Universities in Cairo and Beirut before bringing up the proposal.

Following is the actual statement made before Regent members by Frazer.

"In line with the longing for new institutions, here I refer in general to the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries and in particular to the Republic of Armenia, where we have been

asked to lend our expertise and help them form a model American-style university to replace their old Soviet-style universities. If, by approving this item you allow the president to negotiate an affiliation agreement with the American University of Armenia (AUA) Corporation — a non-profit California corporation — then I'd say I bring this matter to you with somewhat less than my usual dispassionate objectivity. I happen to be chairman of the board of this non-profit corporation and a great enthusiast for this proposal that's being brought to you today. This affiliation would find ways in which you at UC would provide our expertise by training students, by encouraging the visiting of faculty,

There is no financial implication for the University of California as it is proposed to be financed by a combination of support from within the Republic of Armenia and the generous financial assistance from the United States, principally from the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

It is envisioned as a regional university, serving not only Armenia but also other republics in the region — privately, independent of government supervision, and with its own board of trustees and policy based in the United States, designed for instruction in the English language.

We believe the university's governance model as well as its regional focus will provide

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## **Turkey Accused of CSCE Violations**

NICOSIA — Cyprus Foreign Minister George Iacovou told the final session of the ministerial meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) meeting in Berlin on June 20 that Turkey was in violation of the Vienna Accords of the CSCE as they related to the exchange of military information.

Under the terms of the Vienna Accords, Foreign Minister Iacovou pointed out, Turkey was obliged to provide information on its occupation troops on Cyprus, which Ankara has so far refused to do.

Minister Iacovou conferred with Secretary Baker in Berlin June 19 and with Soviet Mi-

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Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn welcomed His Beatitude John Peter Kasparian to Boston City Hall during his recent visit to the city. The two discussed the current problems facing Armenia and the



## The American University of Armenia (AUA) to Open

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unique opportunities eventually for UC students and faculty to study, teach and conduct research. We're considering the feasibility — after the university gets underway — of establishing education abroad centers there.

The project was conceived in December 1988, and since then remarkable progress has been made as a result of the generosity of the AGBU and the work of the founding members of the corporation, many of whom are here today:

Professor Armen Der Giureghian of Berkeley campus, Prof. Stepan Karamardian of Riverside campus, Lyman Porter of Irvine, John Markham who directs Education Abroad, Karl Phister, acting Chancellor of the Santa Cruz campus and Prof. Mihran Agbabian of USC."

Dr. Mihran Agbabian is acting president of the AUA corporation, Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at USC and holds degrees from Calif. Inst. of Technology and also UC Berkeley which named him Distinguished Engineering Alumnus in 1987. He's a member of the National Academy of Engineering here and also the Armenian Academy of Sciences. He represented the United States in many international programs concerning earthquake engineering, most recently on the board of inquiry for our Loma Prieta quake. His professional and personal qualifications make him an ideal president," concluded Dr. Frazer to the applause of the Regents members.

Dr. Mihran in turn addressed the Board: "As a former UCB student, I thought the Board of Regents was unapproachable — but here I am! In December of 1988 the Armenian earthquake became a major tragedy for that Soviet republic. One out of seven persons became homeless in a matter of seconds, out of a 3½ million population. The industrial and agricultural production capacity of north Armenia was totally destroyed, and more than 25,000 people died, buried in the rubble of buildings in cities and villages.

The National Academy of Sciences in the United States sent a delegation of scientists and engineers to Armenia 12 days after the earthquake to investigate and provide assistance, of which Armen Der Giureghian and I were members. We observed that the Technical University in Leninakan renamed Gumyri (as Leningrad was named St. Petersburg) was among the many schools completely destroyed. At this University more than 300 students and about 100 faculty and staff were killed.

Upon our return to the U.S. Professor Der Giureghian and I wrote letters to charitable institutions, sympathetic Congressmen like then-Senator Wilson, Senators Cranston, Paul Simon, Bob Dole and others and to a number of educators including Dr. Frazer, suggesting that a technical university modelled after the American system of education replace the destroyed institution. Professor Stepan Karamardian of UC Riverside and Stanford joined us in this campaign — he is present today also. We agreed that the new AUA should have a broader mission than technical education to meet the needs of a country trying not only to recover from the earthquake devastation but also taking strides towards establishment of a democratic government.

The response from two persons made us realize that the dream would become reality — Louise Simone, president of AGBU and here with us from New York, responded with the promise of financial support and Dr. William Frazer who agreed to explore the possibility for the University of California to provide administrative and academic guidance.

While we were conducting our negotiations with the government of Armenia, a national election was held for a new Parliament. By a substantial majority the Deputies voted to replace the Communist government with a democratic government.

**The Armenian Government  
Enthusiastically  
Embraced the Plan**

The new leaders were almost all members of the faculty of the State University of Yerevan or scientists and economists at various institutes. The Prime Minister is a physicist, the president's a philosopher and the minister for foreign relations is a mathematician! The deputy prime minister is a specialist in economics." No lawyers? asked a listener. "No, there are no lawyers in the new government!" Hearty laughter filled the auditorium.

ber, first with intensive training in English and computer applications before students start their regular MBA and MA degree programs.

I've heard from many government officials, educators and persons of all walks of life in Armenia that this university means to them as much as, and even more than, the humanitarian aid they received from many nations following the earthquake.

Armenia has turned away from the Communist way of life, and an American educational institution at this critical time will give them the constructive alternative for which they were waiting during the past seventy years. We present this proposal to you during this week when the economic summit was being held in London, and our government has certainly plans for the future in our relationship with the Soviet Union. I can't think of a better way to introduce our concepts to the Soviet Union except through the educational process that we are embarking on.

In conclusion, as an alumnus of University of California I am delighted that UC will be the primary institution to provide this opportunity to a nation and its one corner of the Soviet Union so they may come into direct contact with the United States whom they regard as the champion of freedom and democracy. I can say this with the full conviction that they are looking west — they believe our educational system is really what they need to prepare new leaders for that part of the world."



Leo S. Kolligian, left, and  
Meredith J. Khachigian of  
the University of California  
Board of Regents.

The applause continued when the Armenian delegation stood to greet the audience. Regents members Leo Kolligian and Mrs. Ken Khachigian expressed their pride in the Armenian community's effort and predicted great success. Then with no objections, the proposal for the new UC-affiliated American University if Armenia was approved unanimously.

At the press conference Theoni Condos, Special Assistant to William Frazer for international affairs, introduced the American-Armenian delegation of Simone-Manoogian, Agbabian, Der Giureghian and Karamardian to the bay area press and Armenian journalists. It was noted that AUA president will be Dr. Agbabian, dean of the college of engineering Dr. Der Giureghian, and dean of the college of business management Prof. Karamardian.

Agbabian added, "As part of their liberation from old Soviet restrictions, our University will provide the opportunity for an American-style free flow of ideas and expression." Der Giureghian said, "Our University will probably be the model as they restructure their own present universities."

In response to questions, other facts came out: Throughout discussions the Armenian government kept Soviet officials informed, but the American committee itself had no contact with Soviets. It began when AGBU's Simone-Manoogian discussed a new school with officials.

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# The University in Armenia

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The two graduate programs will be manned by U.S. - trained professors, mostly UC faculty members on sabbatical or leave who will spend a semester, one year or two in Armenia. Agbabian said, "UC has tremendous resources we can tap. The funding must come from us. Four English professors will be there in September from the applied linguistics UCLA program and 2-3 computer professors also from the UCLA Extension for business, management and engineering and computer application group. Once the business and engineering programs have started, other professors may visit periodically. The programs we produce are intended to complement, rather than duplicate, classes already available in Armenia."

Especially important for future designers will be courses on automation problems in manufacturing, computer problems and earthquake engineering input, say the AUA team. To foster inter-action substantial foreign enrollment is desirable — American-Armenians as exchange students, English-speaking students from anywhere in the world, and without discrimination as to national origins, students from other Soviet republics or Eastern-Europe are welcome to apply.

For the first time, the University of Yerevan plans to require tuition this fall, as will the new AUA. Scholarships to worthy needy students will be available.

Karamardian pointed out that the 14 Armenian students who recently entered UCB and USC did so well that good students with degrees from fields related to business and engineering should also do well at AUA.

Enrollment will begin with 100 students. As additional departments of arts and sciences, agriculture and medicine are eventually added, enrollment could expand to 5000. For now most students will be from Armenia. Possibly a UC center for education abroad will allow UC students to get credit while in the USSR as exchange students.

Besides the present huge modern building in Yerevan, the Armenian government showed its emphatic support by offering beautiful, hillside acreage in Abovian for the future campus location, noted Der Giureghian. Housing for visiting professors will be part of the facilities. "We hope to establish a library, perhaps using UC's early retirement program to expedite faculty textbook donations, especially reference materials."

Lastly, AGBU President Louise Simone-Manoogian said, "For now we have a two-year commitment of \$1.7 million in funds. We'll raise funds along with other friends and government sources."

Agbabian added that their budget looks very reasonable, and Karamardian mentioned the funding will resemble that of American Universities of Beirut and Cairo, paid by a combination of local tuition, foundations, and government or semi-government agencies.

The essential support of the AGBU and Dr. Frazer of UC indeed has made reality the idea germinated originally in Leninakan by Agbabian and Der Giureghian. As Agbabian stated, "This is a very significant step — the Soviet Union is changing and has indicated a desire for closer U.S. relation. The University's involvement will greatly impact on Armenia's future leaders."