## **ENGLISH AND FRENCH SECTIONS**

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## Mayor of Yerevan, Vahakn Khachatrian, Transfers a 225 Acre Site to the American University of Armenia

The Honorable Vahakn Khachatrian, Mayor of the City of Yerevan and President of the City Council, formally presented to Dr. Mihran Agbabian, President of the American University of Armenia, the official document of the decision of the City Council to transfer to the university 225 acres of land on David Beg Street in the Nork Region of Yerevan.



The land will be used for the future campus of the university. 125 acres are set aside for construction of the campus facilities, and 100 acres are a wooded area that the university will preserve as a park to protect the environment in that region.

The presentation ceremony was held on June 23, 1993, at a luncheon that was held at the Faculty Center of the University of Southern California. An Architectural team from Armenia was present at the ceremony. A contract for the Master Plan of the campus has been signed with two Architectural teams. One team in Armenia, consisting of Romeo Chulhakian, Hayk Tigranian, Ashot Mkrtchian, Jim Torosian, Hrachia Poghossian, and Albert Zohrabian, accompanied the Mayor to Los Angeles, in order to visit U.S. campuses and to have consultations with the Campus Architects of the University of California. A contract has also been signed with Architects and Urbanists Michael Zakian and Stephanos Polyzoides, as an American team, to work with the Architects in Armenia. An Advisory group of prominent Armenian-American Architects will provide consulting and advisory guidance. The Master Plan will aim to develop a campus that emphasizes Armenian architectural traditions and heritage and incorporates modern American technology.

Mayor Vahakn Khachatrian was invited to Los Angeles by the American University of Armenia to discuss plans for the development of the future campus of the university (he had also received an invitation from Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian to meet with the community). The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the prospect of an American style campus on the hills of Yerevan looking directly toward Mount Ararat. He said that it is his goal as Mayor to enhance the beauty and the Armenian architectural heritage of Yerevan, and he is pleased to represent the City of Yerevan at this ceremony in order to show the City's and his personal confidence that the American University of Armenia will be a permanent educational landmark in the capital city of the Republic of Armenia.