

Armenian Lawyers Strike Again



Hundreds of Armenian lawyers staged a fresh strike on February 7 in protest against government plans to allow judges to fine them for contempt of court.

The one-day strike organized by the Chamber of Advocates led to the cancellation of court hearings across Armenia.

“Our actions are approved by many of our international partners,” said Ara Zohrabyan, the chairman of the national bar association. “We will publicize their positions soon.”

Government-drafted amendments to Armenia’s Judicial Code passed by the parliament in the first reading in November set the maxi-

mum amount of such fines at 100,000 drams (\$210). They triggered vehement objections from lawyers fearing that judges would use the new power to limit their rights during court hearings. A large group of them already went on a one-day strike in December.

Justice Minister Davit Harutyunyan, the key author of the controversial amendments, said last week that they have been removed from the Judicial Code before being passed in the final reading. But he made clear that the amendments will be incorporated into another code which the Armenian authorities plan to amend later this year.

The postponement failed to satisfy the lawyers. They insist that the authorities have failed to substantiate the need for financial penalties against purportedly unruly attorneys.

Lawyers representing radical opposition activists currently standing trial feel that they are the main target of the proposed penalties. They frequently argue with judges and are sanctioned by the latter during those trials

Harutyunyan has defended the fines sought by the authorities, saying that they are needed to increase public respect for the Armenian judiciary.

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Armenia's Foreign Minister receives OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs

On February 8, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs Igor Popov (Russia), Stephane Visconti (France), Andrew Schofer (USA) and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk, who have arrived in Yerevan within the framework of a regional visit.

The Co-Chairs briefed Minister Nalbandian on their meetings in Baku.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia and the Co-Chairs discussed issues related to the agreement in principle on the expansion of the capacities of the office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, reached in January at the Krakow meeting of Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Edward Nalbandian drew the attention of the Co-Chairs to the fact that, unlike the Co-Chairs and Armenia, Baku has not made any statement so far with regards to that agreement and when it is going to implement it. "Baku has a strange memory: being entangled in the web of its own fabricated falsifications, it forgets the agreements reached one month before and prior to that, with regards to which the Co-Chairs have made numerous statements, while at the same time it recalls with twisted interpretations the



twenty-five years old documents, to which the Co-Chairs have not even referred to, for obvious reasons" – noted the Foreign Minister of Armenia.

Informing the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs about the killing of the Armenian soldier as a result of blatant violation of the ceasefire by the Azerbaijani side on the Line of Contact, Edward Nalbandian underlined that even the presence of the Co-Chairs in the region does not restrain Baku from provocative actions: thus Azerbaijan demonstrates its

disrespect towards the Co-Chair countries.

Referring to Baku's comments that Azerbaijan is allegedly interested in the rapid settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Foreign Minister of Armenia noted that words should be supported by the deeds, the agreements reached at Vienna, St. Petersburg and Geneva summits should be implemented and the Co-Chairs' proposals on the conflict settlement should be accepted as the basis for negotiations and the process should move forward on this foundation.

Armenia, Poland, keen to further comprehensive cooperation



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Armenia Pavel Ceplak presented his credentials on February 8 to RA President Serzh Sargsyan.

Congratulating the Ambassador on assuming the office, the President of Armenia wished him every success and expressed the hope that strong with a remarkable wealth of long experience and diplomatic activities, he would help upgrade the Armenian-Polish relations and expand the bilateral cooperation agenda. Serzh Sargsyan noted with satisfaction that the relations between Armenia and Poland have always been constructive and warm.

Emphasizing that last year the two countries marked the 25th an-

niversary of diplomatic relations, as well as the 650th anniversary of establishment of the Armenian community in Poland, President Sargsyan thanked the Polish people for the friendly and warm attitude shown to a portion of our people.

Thankful for the reception, the Ambassador said that during his tenure, he will face the priority task of exerting consistent efforts to deepen the Armenian-Polish economic ties, which have great development potential, and boost the commodity turnover between the two countries.

In addition to the opportunities for developing bilateral relations in political, economic and humanitarian spheres, President Sargsyan and Ambassador Ceplak discussed issues related to the furtherance of cooperation in multilateral formats – within international organizations.

Reference was made to the development of the Armenian-Polish cooperation on the margins of EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement in the wake of its signing. The parties stressed the need for intensifying the inter-parliamentary dialogue as a powerful means for strengthening interstate relations.

In conclusion, the President of Armenia and the Polish Ambassador exchanged views on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Armenian President-In-Waiting Downplays British Citizenship



(Yerevan –RFL/RE) Former Prime Minister Armen Sarkissian insisted on February 9 that he is eligible to become Armenia's next president despite being a former British citizen.

The Armenian constitution requires presidential candidates to have had only Armenian citizenship for the last six years.

Sarkissian, who is currently the country's ambassador to the United Kingdom, said that he does meet that requirement.

"Yes, I was a citizen of Great Britain," he told reporters. "After I was relieved of my ambassadorial duties in 2000 I applied for and received British citizenship in 2002. I renounced that citizenship in 2011."

"I renounced it because I didn't it anymore, not because in 2011 I thought that you are

going to change the constitution and that I'm going to become ambassador and then a [presidential] candidate," he said.

"This is not an issue for me," he added in reference to a media report that questioned his eligibility.

Hetq.am, an Armenian investigative publication, revealed on Wednesday a 2014 British government document referring to Sarkissian as a British national. The documents relates to the activities of Eurasia House International, a London-based organization set up by the former premier in the early 2000s.

Sarkissian insisted that the information is outdated because Eurasia House stopped functioning in 2010. "Do you think that when somebody in Britain gives up [citizenship] their name is immediately removed

from all places?" he said.

Sarkissian, 64, has lived in London for nearly three decades. A physicist and mathematician by education, he worked at the Cambridge University before being appointed as newly independent Armenia's first ambassador to Britain in 1991. He served as prime minister for four months in 1996-1997 before being again named ambassador in London in 1998.

After his second ambassadorial term was cut short in 2000, the ex-premier stayed in the UK and made a fortune there in the following years. He was named Armenian ambassador in London for a third time in 2013.

President Serzh Sargsyan (no relation) formally offered last month to nominate the envoy as his ruling Republican Party's presidential candidate. Armen Sarkissian said he will decide whether to accept the offer after holding consultations with major Armenian parties and other organizations.

The nominee met on Friday with parliament deputies representing the opposition Yelk alliance. The latter had agreed to talk to Sarkissian despite making clear that they will not vote for him.

Armenia's next president will be elected by the parliament, rather than popular vote, early next month. He or she will have largely ceremonial powers in line with the country's transition to a parliamentary system of government. Serzh Sargsyan's final presidential term expires on April 9.

Azerbaijan's decision on snap elections connected with inter-clan relations, Armenian Deputy FM says



The position of the Co-Chairs is unchanged, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan says.

"Building trust is important for progress in talks. This will, in turn,

require implementation of certain agreements," Kocharyan told reporters on February 8.

According to him, a small progress was Azerbaijan's consent to adding the number of monitors at the line of contact, but added that "the decision has not been implemented yet."

Asked about the Azerbaijani President's decision to call snap elections, Shavarsh Kocharyan said: "I don't think Azerbaijani is a country to which elections are important."

"The outcome is always pre-determined, we all know how elections are going to be organized.

The Deputy Minister says "the decision to move the elections is conditioned by inter-clan relations.

Shavarsh Kocharyan said he does not expect intensification of Karabakh talks after presidential elections in Armenia and Azerbaijan, adding that "progress is impossible unless the agreements reached in Vienna and St. Petersburg are implemented.

Neither does he expect any change in Russia's position after the presidential elections in the country.

US hails Armenia's contribution to international peacekeeping



President Serzh Sargsyan received U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Bridget Brink who is in Armenia on a regional trip.

Welcoming the guest, the President of Armenia highlighted the importance of mutual visits and meetings which help strengthen bilateral interstate ties. Serzh Sargsyan stressed that Armenia is interested in the furtherance of cooperation with the United States and, in

this respect, is keen to develop bilateral relations in all spheres of mutual interest.

Pleased with the evolving Armenian-American relations, President Sargsyan thanked the United States for the assistance provided to Armenia in the political, economic and other spheres. The President appreciated the United States' contribution to maintaining fragile stability in the region, and the joint efforts made with other OSCE

Minsk Group Co-Chairs – Russia and France – with a view to achieving a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Serzh Sargsyan expressed the hope that the visit of the Deputy Secretary of State will have a positive impact on the strengthening of U.S.-Armenia relations.

In turn, the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State hailed the work done to develop the Armenian-American partnership, stressing the importance of effective cooperation with Armenia in the fight against cross-border terrorism and peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan and Kosovo, as well as the country's contribution to international peacekeeping missions.

The interlocutors stressed the importance of upgrading the political dialogue between Armenia and the United States in tune with the evolving economic cooperation that has recently recorded some progress through the active efforts of the U.S.-Armenia Trade and Investment Council and the Armenian-American Intergovernmental Commission.

The parties referred to regional problems and challenges, including the ongoing negotiations over the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Armenia's presidential nominee visits Artsakh, Meets President Sahakyan



On 9 February President Bako Sahakyan received candidate for the President of the Republic of Armenia nomi-

inated by the Republican Party Armen Sarkissian.

After the tete-a-tete meeting the talks

were continued in an enlarged format.

A broad spectrum of issues related to the state-building, cooperation between the two Armenian states, cementing the Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora trinity, domestic and foreign policy, regional processes were on the discussion agenda.

President Sahakyan highlighted Armen Sarkissian's visit to Artsakh and his meetings scheduled in the republic, underlining that it reflected the significant role and place of Artsakh in the life of the Armenian statehood and people.

Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Pargev Martirosyan, National Assembly chairman Ashot Ghoullyan, state minister Arayik Haroutyunyan and other officials partook at the meeting.

Yerevan blasts Aliyev`s fresh claims about "Azeri Lands" In Armenia



Armenia - President Serzh Sarkisian (L) meets the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Yerevan, 9Feb2018.

Armenia accused Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on February 9 of undermining international efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict after he again claimed that Yerevan and other parts of Armenia are "historic Azerbaijani lands."

Aliyev pledged to "return Azerbaijanis" to Yerevan, Armenia's southeastern Syunik province also known as Zangezur, and the area around Lake Sevan when he addressed a pre-election congress of his Yeni Azerbaijan party on February 8.

"We must not and will not forget about our historic lands," he said. "This must determine our future activity, and we are already working in that direction. Our historic lands are the Yerevan Khanate, Zangezur and Geycha."

"This is our strategic goal and we must gradually move closer to achieving this goal," he declared.

Aliyev has repeatedly made similar statements in the past. In 2014, for instance, he stated that Baku will eventually gain control of not only Karabakh but also parts of the "fascist" Armenian state which he said had been created on "historic Azerbaijani lands."

Officials in Yerevan were quick to condemn his latest remarks. Eduard Sharmazanov, the spokesman for the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK), lashed out at the "Azerbaijani sultan" later on Thursday, comparing him to Adolf Hitler.

"Before talking of historic lands you have to have a history of statehood, and the Azer-

baijani state is not even 100 years old," Sharmazanov told reporters. The birthplace of Azerbaijanis and other Turkic peoples is Central Asia, not Armenia, he said.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry, for its part, said Aliyev's statement amounted to territorial claims to Armenia. It also demonstrated "the racist essence of the ruling regime in Baku," a ministry spokesman was quoted by the Russian RBC news agency as saying.

President Serzh Sargsyan likewise mentioned "the latest statements coming from Baku" when he met on Friday with U.S., Russian and French diplomats seeking to broker a peaceful solution to the Karabakh conflict. According to his press office, Sargsyan said they highlight Baku's reluctance to embrace a settlement advanced by the international mediators. Aliyev is also

defying the mediators' calls for preparing the Armenian and Azerbaijani societies for peace, he said.

A statement by the office also said the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group briefed the Armenian leader on their talks with Aliyev held in Baku on Wednesday. It gave no details. The mediators are due to proceed to Karabakh this weekend.

Aliyev and Sargsyan pledged to step up the protracted search for a Karabakh settlement at their most recent meeting held in Geneva in October. Their foreign ministers held follow-up talks in December and January.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov described those talks as "positive." In a magazine interview cited by Azerbaijani media on Friday, Mammadyarov noted with satisfaction the "intensity and concrete and logical consistency" of the current stage of the negotiation process.

According to the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, Aliyev and the Minsk Group co-chairs "reached an agreement on the continuation of intensive negotiations after the presidential elections in Armenia and Azerbaijan."

In a decree announced on Monday, Aliyev brought the date of Azerbaijan's next presidential election forward by more than six months, to April 11. He did not explain the reasons for the unexpected decision.

The fresh election will be held two days after Sargsyan completes his second and final presidential term. Serzh Sargsyan is tipped to become Armenia's prime minister later in April. The next Armenian president will be chosen by the parliament in early March and have largely ceremonial powers.

Emil Danielyan



Armenian, Swiss businessmen discuss investment potential



Within the framework of the official visit of the President of the National Council of Switzerland Mr. Dominique de Buman, the Development Foundation of Armenia organized “Armenia-Switzerland” business talk. About 35 businessmen from both countries, including Swiss entrepreneurs operating or having intension to operate in Armenia, at-

tended the meeting. The participants of the Armenian-Swiss business meeting mainly represented the pharmaceuticals, IT, financial, wine-making, tourism, and transport sectors.

“We met with the Prime Minister of Armenia in Davos, where among the important issues we discussed agriculture, industrial equipment, and other eco-

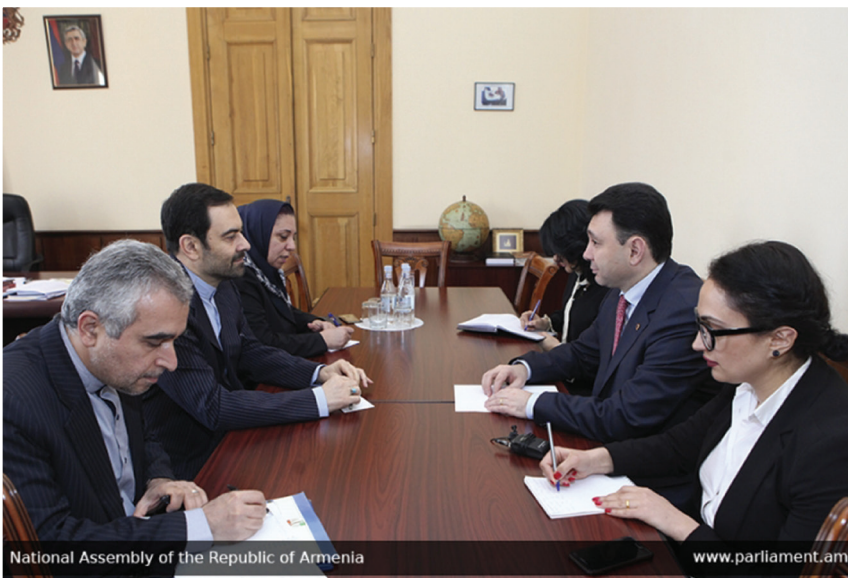
nomie sectors. For the first time I was in Armenia 10 years ago and, of course, I can note the economic movement, liberalization that exists in Armenia,” noted Dominique de Buman, President of the National Council of Switzerland.

“We have a very interesting strategic location, we have placement of our country within several interesting grading regimes, that gives our country unique advantages and we believe that these unique advantages will be very interesting for Swiss businesses,” noted Vache Gabrielyan, the Vice Prime Minister of Armenia.

“The businessmen from Switzerland are mainly from IT, tourism and wine-making spheres, around 30 Armenian businessmen are taking part in B2B discussions. These three spheres are today’s priority,” noted Armen Avak Avakian, the DFA CEO.

Swiss businessmen were introduced to Armenia’s business environment, trade regimes, free economic zones, sectors with investment potential, as well as the recorded achievements in winemaking, tourism, and IT sectors.

Iran-Armenia relation an ideal example of religious dialogue – Sharmazanov



Vice-President of Armenia’s National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov received on

February 6 Iran’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Armenia Seyed Kazem

Sajadi.

Sharmazanov hailed the balanced position of the Iranian authorities on the Karabakh conflict settlement. He noted that any attempts to give a religious coloring to the Karabakh conflict are reprehensible and pointed to Armenian-Iranian relations as a best example of religious dialogue.

The parties referred to the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, particularly the trade-economic ties.

“We are interested in deepening the economic relations with Iran. Both Armenia’s membership of the Eurasian Economic Union and the signing of the Armenia-EU agreement open new perspectives for the deepening of economic relations with Iran,” Sharmazanov said.

The interlocutors referred to the effective use of the Meghri Free Economic Zone, improvement of legislature supporting investments.

21 Armenian companies represented at ProdExpo 2018 in Moscow



Twenty-one Armenian producers representing the food industry present the country at ProdExpo 2018 international exhibition in Moscow with the support

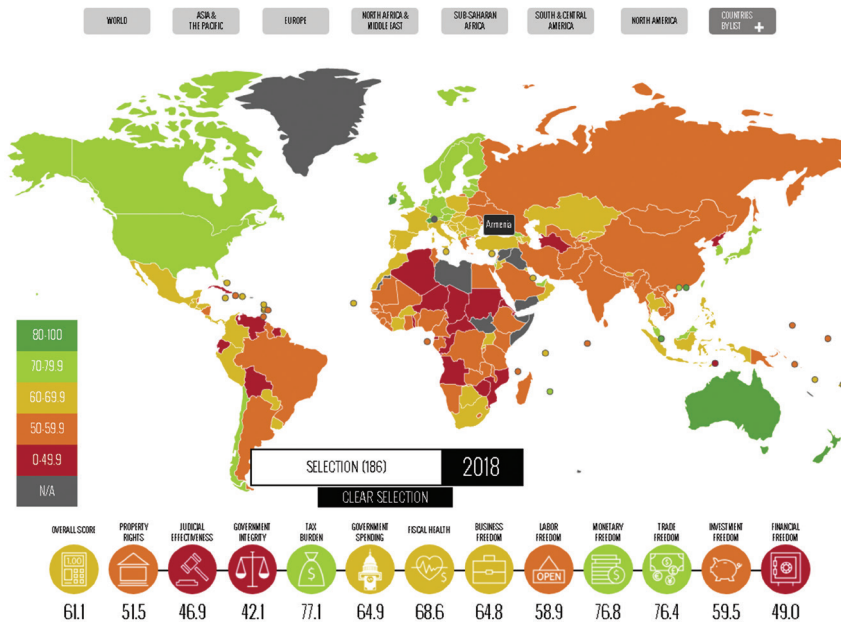
of the Development Foundation of Armenia.

Armenian producers offer canned food, dairy products, juices, meat products, mineral water, and alcoholic beverages to the international buyers.

"ProdExpo is one of the largest food industry exhibitions in the world, with its participant numbers and productivity increasing every year. Last year Expo had 61,000 medium and large buyers, distributors and other visitors. Taking into account the volume of export contracts, we consider the participation in this exhibition to be effective and expect the same success this year," noted the DFA International Relations team leader Narek Alexanyan.

Seventeen Armenian companies signed export contracts worth 2.4 billion drams as a result of the previous exhibition.

Armenia placed 44th in 2018 Index of Economic Freedom



Armenia is placed 44th (down from 33rd last year) among 186 countries and is ranked as a "moderately free" country in the 2018 Index of Economic Freedom, an annual guide published by The Heritage Foundation. The Index covers 10 freedoms – from property rights to entrepreneurship.

Other countries in the region are placed as follows: Georgia 16th, Turkey – 58th, Azerbaijan 67th, Iran – 156th.

Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union Russia and Kazakhstan are ranked 107th and 41st respectively, Belarus is 108th, Kyrgyzstan is 78th.

Hong Kong tops the list, followed by Singapore and New Zealand.

"Armenia's economic freedom score is 68.7, making its economy the 44th freest in the 2018 Index. Its overall score has decreased by 1.6 points, with a sharp decline in fiscal health and lower scores for investment freedom and labor freedom overwhelming modest improvements in judicial effectiveness and monetary freedom. Armenia is ranked 20th among 44 countries in the Europe region, and its overall score is slightly below the regional norm but well above the world average," the report reads.

"Armenia's geographic isolation, narrow export base, and pervasive monopolies in important business sectors have made it particularly vulnerable to deteriorations in global commodity markets and economic challenges in Russia. Nevertheless, modest diversification has produced greater economic dynamism, and a decade of strong economic growth has reduced poverty and unemployment. Broad simplification of business procedures has facilitated regulatory efficiency. Cronyism and undue influence, despite some progress in tackling corruption, remain concerns," the report said.

Mikoyan's surprising comments to Nixon in 1959 about Armenian rights in Turkey



*Harut
Sassounian*

Recently I came across a document from the U.S. archives, which describes the fascinating conversation between Anastas Mikoyan, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, and Vice President Richard Nixon on July 25, 1959 during the latter's visit to Moscow. The two had met earlier during Mikoyan's historic visit to the United States.

The discussion between the two rival leaders at the height of the Cold War was polite, but animated. Nixon praised Mikoyan "who had left in the United States many friends who admire him for his stamina and agility in expressing his views." Nixon also stated that "Mikoyan's visit to the U.S. had broken the ice not only officially but also privately, regarding the respective points of view of the two countries." The archival document noted that Mikoyan "returned the Vice President's compliments in kind and added that the Vice President is a great debater who never leaves anyone in his debt."

The conversation quickly turned political when Mikoyan complained about the inappropriateness of a recent congressional resolution on captive nations — states subjugated to Communist rule, including Armenia. Mikoyan felt that the resolution was intended to undermine Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union. Nixon gave the excuse that the U.S. Congress is an independent body and not even the President can control its decisions! Vice President Nixon went on to explain: "there are in our popula-

tion elements, whether Mr. Mikoyan believes they are wrong or not, who feel that governments in their former homelands should be changed. Our Congress often passes resolutions representing the views of those elements, who include such nationalities as Polish, Hungarian, etc. The resolution, and particularly the proclamation of the President, had made a point that it was only an expression of the opinion of American people and the American Government and that they are not attempting to engage in so-called subversive activities."

Surprisingly, Mikoyan, one of the highest ranking Soviet officials, then brought up his Armenian heritage by telling Nixon that "he was an Armenian, and that although he is not active in the Government of Armenia proper, he knows some 30 Supreme Soviet Deputies of that Republic and all of them have been wondering who gave the American Government the authority to act in their behalf and why the American Government is not doing something for the liberation of really oppressed peoples, such as the Armenian minority in Turkey."

Mikoyan's statement was surprising because he was speaking with Vice President Nixon as a Soviet leader, not as an Armenian. Furthermore, Mikoyan was not known as an Armenian nationalist. In fact, he had been blamed for the deaths of many Armenians during the infamous purges under Communist rule. Mikoyan also had not supported the reunion of Karabakh (Artsakh) with Soviet Armenia. These are some of the reasons Armenians were unhappy with the recent decision of the Yerevan City Council to erect Mikoyan's monument in Yerevan.

A further indication of Mikoyan's anti-nationalist views is his statement of December 1919, during the short existence of the first independent Republic of Armenia (1918-1920): "Armenian chauvinists relying on the allies of imperialism push for-

ward a criminal idea — the creation of a 'Great Armenia' on the borders of Historic Armenia. The absence of Armenians and the presence of an absolute Muslim population there does not concern them...our [Communist] party cannot support the idea of either a 'Great' or 'Small' Turkish Armenia." The reality is that the Soviet Union did not defend the rights of the Armenians in Turkey.

However, Mikoyan rightly pointed out that the United States is against "the liberation of oppressed peoples" when "the peoples in question are oppressed by its friends and allies," such as Turkey, and many others.

Mikoyan also questioned whether the Soviet leaders should pay attention to the positive gestures of the White House or the more hostile reactions of the State Department. Mikoyan "wondered whether the Soviet Union should believe the pronouncements by the President or the Vice President or whether it should regard this statement by the State Department as a direct expression of American policy." Mikoyan explained that "the President had instructed the Department of State to work out measures for the development of foreign trade [with the Soviet Union]. In view of the actions taken by the State Department it appears that the President wants one thing and the Department of State another."

Mikoyan's meeting concluded on a conciliatory note with Vice President Nixon promising that "upon his return to the United States he would work on the problem of trade, but that one must realize that difficulties cannot be resolved by a stroke of pen."

The above conversation shows that Mikoyan was in fact as "wily" as described by Western officials. He had survived for several decades at the highest echelons of the Soviet Union, ending up as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the nominal Head of State, from 1964 until his forced retirement in 1965.

Dole Institute award recipients examine legacy of Armenian Genocide



The Robert and Elizabeth Dole Archive and Special Collections at the Dole Institute of Politics has announced the recipients of two grants related to the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1917, the University of Kansas announced on its webpage.

The institute has awarded an archival fellowship to author Michael Bobelian and a travel grant to Professor Julien Zarifian.

Bobelian is an award-winning author, lawyer, journalist and the institute's Archival Fellow for Armenian Advocacy. His book "Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice" (Simon & Schuster, 2009) is the seminal work on the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.

As the Archival Fellow, Bobelian will

work with Dole Archives staff to create a web-based learning module with primary sources documenting the U.S. response to the World War I-era Armenian Genocide and former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole's advocacy on behalf of Armenians and Armenian Americans.

Bobelian will give a public lecture titled "America and the Armenian Genocide" at 3 p.m. Feb. 15. The talk will be held in Simons Media Room at the institute.

The recipient of a Dole Archives travel grant is Zarifian, associate professor in American history at the University of Cergy-Pontoise in France. This academic year, he is a Fulbright Scholar with the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research.

His research interests include U.S. foreign policies in Eurasia, the role of ethnic groups in U.S. politics and the importance of memory issues in U.S. political life.

His current and primary research project is titled "The U.S. and the Question of the Armenian Genocide, from 1915 to the Present."

The KU World War I Centennial Committee and the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies at KU are co-sponsors of the program and the fellowships.

Gravely wounded in the mountains of Italy during World War II, Bob Dole credits his physical and mental recovery largely to Dr. Hampar Kelikian. Dr. Kelikian was an Armenian surgeon who lost family members to the Armenian Genocide before fleeing to the U.S. As a soldier, citizen and U.S. senator, Dole has been a champion for Armenia, a role that includes seeking official U.S. recognition of the 1915-1916 Armenian Genocide. During the Centennial Commemoration of WWI, both the history of Armenian Genocide and Dole's advocacy for its recognition can inform our responses to contemporary crises.

The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics is dedicated to promoting political and civic participation as well as civil discourse in a bipartisan, philosophically balanced manner. It is located in KU's West District and houses the Dole Archive and Special Collections. Through its robust public programming, congressional archive and museum, the Dole Institute strives to celebrate public service and the legacies of U.S. Senators Bob Dole and Elizabeth Dole.

Elon Musk's Falcon rocket soars to space



US entrepreneur Elon Musk has launched his new rocket, the Falcon Heavy, from the

Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the BBC reports.

The mammoth vehicle – the most powerful since the shuttle system – lifted clear of its pad without incident to soar high over the Atlantic Ocean.

It was billed as a risky test flight in advance of the lift-off.

The SpaceX CEO said the challenges of developing the new rocket meant the chances of a successful first outing might be only 50-50.

"I had this image of just a giant explosion on the pad, a wheel bouncing down the road. But fortunately that's not what happened," he told reporters after the event.

With this debut, the Falcon Heavy becomes the most capable launch vehicle available.

City Spa, one of the founders of Aesthetic medicine in Armenia, that was established 14 years ago, is still following the main principles that were implemented since the launch: to use only clinically and scientifically approved, highly effective and safe with FDA approval products and equipments imported mainly from UK and Europe.

Depilation: Last year City Spa launched a very safe, painless and fast acting new machine for permanent hair removal. It is the “Primelase” produced by Cocoon Medical. The machine has an innovative



international leading brands such as ZO Skin health (Beverly Hills US), GLO therapeutics (ColoradoUS). Skin Ceuticals (US) etc.

And that's not the all: pedicure, manicure and massage will make your day.

You are welcome to City Spa. The aesthetic doctor's consultations and skin diagnostics with Skin Scanner is fee. The atmosphere in City spa is full of love and peace. The pricing strategy is very flexible and discounts for good long term clients are available during whole year as well as different Gift Cards.

method (dynamic mode) which allows to treat very large areas of the body within few minutes.

Localized fat removal: In Armenia the first cryolipolysis method was implemented by City Spa in 2016. Cooltech is an innovative machine that acts as a none surgical liposuction, with a new method of cryolipolysis for permanent localized fat removal and body reconturing. It is safe, painless and very effective. City Spa is equipped also with the Wellashape machine for anti-cellulite treatment.



Anti aging Facial treatments and Care: City Spa offers the latest scientifically approved anti aging treatments and products for care. The doctors are regularly improving their qualifications in London and Paris, bringing the new inventions to Armenia. The products used in City Spa are only



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31 House Members ask Treasury to negotiate U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin received a Congressional clarion call to action from Armenian Caucus Co-Chair David Valadao (R-CA), senior Foreign Affairs Committee member Brad Sherman (D-CA), and 29 of their U.S. House colleagues to renegotiate the existing, outdated Double Tax Treaty with Armenia, an obsolete Cold War-era accord – recognized today by the U.S. but not Armenia – that was negotiated with the now defunct U.S.S.R. more than four decades ago.

On the same day, Secretary Mnuchin, responding to growing Congressional interest, testified that the Treasury Department will dedicate staff resources to pursuing a U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty.

“We commend Representatives Valadao and Sherman and their colleagues – collectively representing over 22 million Americans – for taking concrete steps to eliminate obstacles to enhanced U.S.-Armenia trade by calling for a new U.S.-Armenia Tax Treaty,” said ANCA Board Member Aida Dimejian. “Beyond the immediate benefits of preventing double taxation, such an accord would reinforce the friendship of the American and Armenian peoples, facilitate the expansion of bilateral economic relations, thereby deepening Armenia’s ties to

the West and providing Yerevan with greater strategic options and independence in dealing with regional powers.”

“American and Armenian business have close ties and it’s time to end the double taxation currently imposed on businesses in both nations,” explained Rep. Valadao. “By renegotiating our tax treaty with Armenia, we can continue to strengthen our relationship with a close ally while encouraging trade and investment in our great nations,” he continued.

“Modernizing our double tax treaty with Armenia is long overdue,” explained Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), who pressed Secretary Mnuchin on the issue during the House Financial Services Committee hearing earlier today. “This is not only an opportunity to reaffirm our friendship with Armenia, but to also create new opportunities for investment and growth.”

Joining Representatives Valadao and Sherman in calling on Secretary Mnuchin to take action are House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), House Intelligence Committee Ranking Democrat Adam Schiff (D-CA), Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairs Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Dave Trott (R-MI), Vice-Chair Gus Bil-

irakis (R-FL) and Representatives: Julia Brownley (D-CA), Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Judy Chu (D-CA), David Cicilline (D-RI), Mike Coffman (R-CO), Jim Costa (D-CA), Jeff Denham (R-CA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Ted Lieu (D-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Tom Suozzi (D-NY), Dina Titus (D-NV), and Niki Tsongas (D-MA).

The Congressional letter notes that “The existing Soviet-era treaty does not reflect the increasing complexity of a globalized world and the friendship between the American and Armenian peoples,” then calls upon Secretary Mnuchin to, “prioritize the renegotiation of the double tax treaty with Armenia.” The letter also underscores that “the complexities of the international tax structure should not discourage American and Armenian companies from conducting business with each other due to double taxation. The need for updated guidelines that reflect the current state of U.S.-Armenian relations and recently passed tax reform legislation cannot be understated.”

31 United States Representatives

Representing **22** Million Americans

are calling for a

U.S.-Armenia Double Tax Treaty

anca.org/trade

Pope gives Erdogan a medallion showing “an angel of peace who strangles the demon of war”



Recep Tayyip Erdogan made the first visit by a Turkish president to see the Pope in the Vatican in 59 years on February 5 as Rome was put under heavy security measures for fear of violent demonstrations, Reuters reported.

At the end of the private part of the meet-

ing, the Pope gave Erdogan a bronze medallion showing an angel embracing the northern and southern hemispheres while overcoming the opposition of a dragon.

“This is the angel of peace who strangles the demon of war,” the pope told Erdogan as he gave him the medallion, made by the

Italian artist Guido Verol. “(It is) a symbol of a world based on peace and justice.”

According to Reuters, the public part of the meeting, with reporters and Erdogan’s entourage, was cordial, although both men seemed stiff at the start while seated at the pope’s desk before journalists were ushered out.

A small, authorized demonstration of Kurds and their supporters was held outside nearby Castel Sant’Angelo, a fortress on the banks of the River Tiber.

Some 3,500 police and security forces were on duty in Rome and authorities declared a no-go area for unauthorized demonstrations that included the Vatican, Erdogan’s hotel and Italian palaces where he is meeting the president and prime minister.

Among Erdogan’s delegation was the Mehmet Pacaci, Turkey’s ambassador to the Vatican. Erdogan recalled Pacaci to Turkey in 2015 when Francis became the head of the Roman Catholic Church and called the 1915 killing of as many as 1.5 million Armenians “genocide.”

The ambassador stayed away for nearly 10 months.

Turkish officials meet Armenian community representatives



Turkey’s Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu and Istanbul Governor Vasip Şahin met the representatives of the Turkish-Armenian community on Feb. 8 to evaluate the situa-

tion after the Istanbul Governor’s Office has canceled elections for the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople, Agos reported.

Soylu said he would discuss the commu-

nity’s concerns with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

The meeting follows a letter sent to the Armenian Patriarchate by Istanbul Governor’s Office. The letter said Patriarch Mesrob II Mutafyan is alive and the necessary conditions in the election process had not been met, which meant keeping Mutafyan in the position.

The Patriarchate sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior Affairs, in which they expressed their wish to hold an election for a new patriarch.

The move has drawn a fierce reaction from the Turkish Armenian community. The Turkish-Armenian weekly Agos said the letter was “historic” in terms of charting the relationship between the Armenian community and the state in an editorial published on Feb. 8.

“The Justice and Development Party has openly intervened in the traditions of the church and told them they cannot elect their own patriarch,” the article said.

Concerning Military Activities Being Made by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkey in Afrin So, By What Right These Army Troops Are Being There?

Whatever are the arguments and justifications put forward by the Turkish side regarding the self-proclaimed intentions and objectives of military operations in northern territories of the Syrian Arab Republic, allegedly 'for the sake of combating terrorist groups' or 'for the sake of creating a security zone', one thing is obvious: a frankly forceful political decision has been made, namely, an invasion of the territory of a sovereign state. There can be only one conclusion: the Turkish armed forces had no right to enter these territories, and now they do not have such a right, as well...

And here's why:

- In accordance with the requirements of the San Stefano Preliminary Peace Agreement (03.03.1878) and the Berlin Treaty (13.06.1878), as well as the May Programme of Reforms of 1895, the Ottoman Empire undertook to implement reforms in Western Armenia and Cilicia. Instead, three Turkish governments that have followed each other – Ottoman, Young Turk and Kemalist (during 1894-1923) committed genocide and deportations in Western Armenia and Cilicia;

- According to 16th clause of the Armistice of Mudros (November 30, 1918), signed between the Allies and Turkey, the latter has obliged to make "the surrender of all garrisons in Hejaz, Assir and Yemen, Syria and Mesopotamia to the Allies' command... the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cilicia";

- On January 11, 1918, the Russian Government passed the Decree "On Turkish Armenia" ("On Western Armenia");

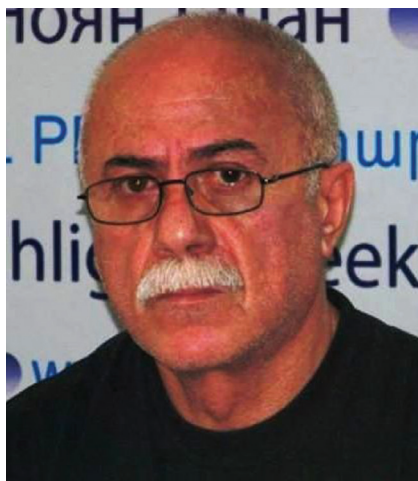
- On August 4, 1920, Cilician Armenians passed the Independence Declaration of Cilicia;

- According to the Arbitration Verdict adopted by Woodrow Wilson, the United States' 28th President, Turkish armed forces have undertook to withdraw from the four vilayets of Western Armenia after November 20, 1922;

- In article 89th of the Sevres Peace Treaty the issue of territories, defined by the Arbitration Verdict, is phrased as follows: "Turkey and Armenia, as well as the High Contracting Parties agree to leave the demarcation of the border between Turkey and Armenia in

Erzurum, Trabzon, Van and Bitlis vilayets on the decision of the United States of America, and to accept both this decision and the measures that the U.S. can offer for granting Armenia access to the sea, and for demilitarization of all Ottoman territories adjacent to the mentioned border";

- According to the Resolution "On Armenians of the Western Armenia And On Permanent, Armed, Positive Neutrality of the Western Armenia", adopted on March 29, 2011, the Turkish armed forces have no right to be at least within these territories granted to Armenia by Wilson's Arbitration Verdict.



Therefore, the time has come to draw the whole world's attention to all absolutely illegal and unlawful steps of the Republic of Turkey, through which the Turkish armed forces

- a) have kept occupied Western Armenia and Cilicia occupied for almost 98 years,

- b) and these occupied territories create a new threat to the most dangerous aggression for the peoples and states in the region.

The future of the Middle East peoples and countries has been tightly connected with military-political steps and decisions of the international community. During last 30 years, carrying out, with the assistance of various power centers, "neo-Ottoman" policies, and pursuing exceptionally its own interests, the Republic of Turkey has involved itself, with great relish, in Middle-Eastern processes pregnant with violent and dangerous military-political consequences. Thus,

until recently, Turkey in such cases has confined itself by assisting Islamic radicals and terrorists, their weaponing, direction, patronage and protection... well, there may be something else. However, in contrast to these seemingly proofless programs, now the situation has changed significantly, as evidenced by both of these illegal military operations carried out by the Turkish armed forces within northern territories of the Syrian Republic.

The Turkish authorities' interest in participating in fragmentation and weakening of states of the region is obvious. In turn, it means that this completely illegal and illegitimate process continues today with a new scope, new set of threats and challenges, spreading to new territories. However, in reality, recent actions work as a boomerang, and in this aspect, the emerging problems may already affect not Syria, Iraq or Lebanon, but the Republic of Turkey itself.

Therefore, as long as international relations continue being built on political-powerful, not on political-lawful bases, the Middle East region will remain a target and arena for humanitarian crises, deportations, slaughters, and other crimes.

There is no doubt that no one can stop the natural move of historical development. Of course, changes will take place, but it does not mean that all this should be carried out through peoples' leading through "fire and water".

Here's one and only solution

It is long overdue to start a purely legal and political process, the aim of which is to remove the Turkish aggressors from the territories they have seized, which belong to Armenia under international law, in particular, from Western Armenia and Cilicia. And it should be the first step, that is to respect the right given to peoples of the region in 1918-1920, particularly, to Armenians and Kurds. Only in this way, it will be possible to establish sustainable and long-term peace, to encourage and promote cooperation between all nations and countries of the region.

Tigran Pashabezyan
Prime Minister of the Republic
of Western Armenia /Armenia/
30.01.2018

Zodiac Weekly Forecast



Aries (March 20–April 19)

Your warrior self is front and center during this period. The best use of this energy is on behalf of the Greater Good or another person who needs a champion. Use that energy

with thoughtful intentions. Your reflexes may be off kilter. Ground your adrenalin with heavy exercise.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

You are tuned in and can find a solution that solves a problem greater than your own. You can help the old traditional and the contemporary to find an answer that makes life better for both sides. That will also help you to feel more a part of the larger

group.



Gemini (May 20–June 20)

Family issues that surface may be laced with old, unresolved drama. Do the best you can to steer around it without falling into the hole of former habits. After the weekend your troubles lighten and your generally

happy attitude returns.



Cancer (June 21–July 21)

The week between eclipses is often tense and challenging for the Moon Children. There is probably a drama happening that has several steps to go until you are finished. Take breaks and rest as much as possible.

There will be a positive long-term outcome.



Leo (July 22–August 21)

Old issues between you and your partner may surface this week. Let them go if you have not developed a new solution. Definitely don't play the old, familiar routine that accomplishes very little. Whatever the trouble, make it a point to end this

week on a positive note. Invite your partner to do something different for both of you.



Virgo

(August 22–September 22)

Diets and good health habits may fall to the wayside early in the week, but after the weekend you will be able to reinstate the better routine. Don't give up. Activities concerning

education, publishing, the law, and travel have positive aspects. You are talkative and in an exploring frame of mind. Curb your tendency to be opinionated.



Libra (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)

Let yourself become creative with detours, roadblocks, or whatever prevents you from going forward. You likely will invent a brilliant solution to resolve an impediment. Imagine

that all impediments are vaporized and the answer may come to you. Your attention turns to personal healing, diet or exercise. For some there will be an improvement in the everyday environment at work.



Scorpio

(October 23–November 21)

You have a desire to celebrate. The temptation to overspend is strong. Consider what would be fun and interesting that doesn't require a big expenditure. Activities concerning

education, publishing, the law, and travel have positive aspects. You are talkative and in an exploring frame of mind.



Sagittarius

(November 22–December 20)

Whatever is occurring in your life at this time is clearly intense and emotion-laden. You may feel as though your very life depends upon

making your point of view heard and acknowledged. It is important to play your personal political cards carefully. Don't attempt a take-over unless you are prepared for a serious pushback.



Capricorn

(December 21–January 19)

Listen to the important people in your life who comment upon what you are doing. You have significant power now and could readily run over others like a steam roller. Al-

low the "other" equal space or there will be pay back time later when the power is on the other side.



Aquarius

(January 20–February 17)

Your daily life is truly active now. There is lots of talking, attending meetings, and participation wherever you go. There is a shadow of

doubt following you around and whispering that you don't know enough or you are not good enough. Ignore that lie.



Pisces (February 18–March 19)

Venus enters your sign this week and will be traveling "with you" through March 10. Her presence gives you an air of poise and people will simply like how you look. Often when Venus is prominent we

become more interested in anything which adds beauty to our lives.

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