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**Foreign Affairs
Legislative Aide**



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Aram S. Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: May 9, 2007

RE: Two new fact sheets on the Armenian Genocide Resolution

1) FOIA files show Turkey is overstating its ability to retaliate

The first is drawn from internal State Department documents - released to the ANCA under the Freedom of Information Act - regarding Turkey's habit of overstating its ability to retaliate against U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Please pay special attention to the first excerpt, in which our former Ambassador to Turkey, Robert Pearson, writes in a diplomatic cable about Turkey "overplaying and spinning" its planned retaliation.

2) The right time to do the right thing

The second addresses one of the most common excuses used over the past quarter century against the passage of this legislation - namely that its "not the right time."

This hollow argument - in all its many variants - has been marched out by opponents whenever they seek to block a Congressional majority from voting on this long overdue human rights measure.

Nine decades after the Armenian Genocide, we need to acknowledge that it's always the right time for America to stand up against genocide.

FOIA: Turkey's Threats Overstated

Internal State Department documents - released under FOIA - reveal that Turkey consistently overstates its ability to retaliate against the U.S. over the Armenian Genocide Resolution. Among the most compelling revelations:

- U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Robert Pearson, in an October 16, 2000 cable to the State Department, noted the self-destructive nature of Turkey's threats:

“Overplaying and spinning the potential Turkish retaliation for the House Resolution for domestic audiences could well have the unintended effect of scaring away the U.S. companies which are poised to complete the only projects which offer Turkey any hope of meeting its energy demand in the short term.”

- In contrast to Turkey's threats that the passage of the Resolution would lead to a major dislocation of U.S.-Turkish ties, an October 19, 2000 cable from the U.S. Embassy in Ankara to the State Department noted:

“[U.S.] Ambassador [to Turkey Robert] Pearson responded [to Turkish criticism of the Armenian Genocide Resolution by saying that] that the United States is committed to maintaining its current excellent relationship with Turkey and that the Administration's attitude towards Turkey would not be affected by the outcome of the Congressional vote.”

- Analyzing a leaked Turkish Government document listing potential Turkish retaliatory steps, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara noted in an October 19, 2000 diplomatic cable to the State Department that the:

“Government coalition and non-affiliated columnists have both cautioned against using energy projects as retaliation. We also doubt that the Turks will cancel any projects underway if the Armenian Resolution is passed.”

The Right Time to do the Right Thing

Nine decades after the Armenian Genocide, there are still those who say it's "not the right time" to speak honestly about this crime. The truth, of course, is that it's always the right time for America to take a stand against genocide.

The "not the right time" line of argument has been used for far too long to block a broad, bipartisan Congressional majority from voting its conscience on a long-overdue human rights measure.

This list shows how these excuses are applied at any time, in any situation:

It's right before a Turkish election – let's not interfere.

It's right after a Turkish election – let's give them a chance.

Turkey's government is friendly to the U.S. – let's not rock the boat.

Turkey's government is unfriendly to the U.S. – let's not antagonize them.

Turkey is reaching out to Armenia – let's let them work it out.

Turkey is not reaching out to Armenia – let's not create more tension.

Turkey is being helpful with the Iraq War – let's not upset an ally.

Turkey is not being helpful with the Iraq War – let's not make it worse.

Turkey is becoming more Islamic – let's not drive them to extremism.

Turkey is becoming more secular – let's not interfere with their progress.

The region is at relative peace – let's not upset the regional balance.

The region is experiencing unrest – let's not create new conflicts.

Turkey's economy is getting stronger – let's not upset a trade partner.

Turkey's economy is getting weaker – let's not risk further problems.