



City of Cambridge

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2.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 12, 1988

MAYOR VELLUCCI
VICE MAYOR WOLF
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has established a Sister City relationship with Yerevan, the capital of the Soviet Republic of Armenia, so as to develop friendship, solidarity, and mutual cooperation between our two cities; and
- WHEREAS: The first Armenians to settle in Cambridge came as refugees from massacres against them in their native lands, and thousand of Cambridge area Armenians lost family members during these massacres; and
- WHEREAS: Many of Armenian citizens in the Cambridge area still have relatives living in the remaining Armenian homelands, which are under the jurisdiction of the Soviet Republic of Armenia and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan; and
- WHEREAS: Recent telephone calls from prominent persons in Yerevan to members of the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association have indicated that as many as 200,000 Armenian citizens, living within regions administered by the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, are now homeless as a result of a systematic effort to drive Armenians from traditional Armenian lands in Nagorno-Karabagh, and elsewhere; and
- WHEREAS: The First Secretary of Armenia has issued a statement directed toward the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. asserting that Azerbaijani governmental officials are orchestrating a policy of deportation through terror against the approximately 440,000 Armenians that live in Azerbaijan; and
- WHEREAS: News reports state that as many as 50,000 homeless refugees arrived in Cambridge's Sister City, Yerevan, within the last two weeks, even before the recent earthquake, putting tremendous burdens upons a city that is already hard-pressed by a housing shortage; and
- WHEREAS: Now, the Armenian People have suffered a tragedy of Epic proportions. An earthquake has killed and maimed thousands and, perhaps, hundreds of thousands of the courageous Armenian people and has levelled several cities; and

- WHEREAS: Yerevan, our Sister City, has not only suffered from the earthquake, but is responsible for sheltering and giving care to thousands of additional refugees, stretching their capacity and resources beyond belief; and
- WHEREAS: Reports coming out of the Soviet Union give rise to concerns that, despite, and in the face of, this overwhelming tragedy, Armenians living in Azerbaijan may continue to have their basic human rights violated; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the Mayor of Cambridge, the Cambridge City Council, and the people of Cambridge extend their sincere sympathy and warm concern to their friends in Yerevan and to all the Armenian people in the wake of the horrendous earthquake that has brought unimaginable suffering to Armenia; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council commits itself to working cooperatively with others to send aid to the people of Armenia; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council has grave concerns that, in the wake of this tragedy, no additional grief be heaped upon the Armenian people through continued persecution in Azerbaijan; and thus be it further
- RESOLVED: That a letter be immediately sent to the United Nations' Commission on Refugees and to the United Nations' Commission on Genocide requesting that the United Nations take an active role in working with the Soviet Union in Armenia to provide earthquake relief and in Azerbaijan to prevent further violence and harm against its Armenian population, and be it further
- RESOLVED: That letters be immediately sent to Secretary of State George Shultz, Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator John Kerry, and Congressman Joseph Kennedy requesting their assistance in contacting the aforementioned United Nations' Commission to request support for the people of Armenia and protection against further violence in Azerbaijan.

Gerard J. Libaridian, Director

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REPORT ON THE CRISIS IN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA

INFORMATION

For nearly two weeks, Armenians in Azerbaijan have been subjected to a systematic and ruthless campaign of persecution. The most recent wave of violence began after Akhmed Akhmedov, an Azerbaijani, was sentenced to death by the Soviet Supreme Court, November 18, for his role as a leader in the massacre of Armenians in the Azerbaijani coastal city of Sumgait, February 27-29. The campaign of violence has intensified in the past few days. The republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been closed to Western journalists but the following information has reached us from a variety of sources in Armenia and Moscow:

NOV. 30--Zori Balayan, a prominent journalist for Literaturnaya Gazeta reported that 200,000 Armenians are now homeless in Azerbaijan. Virtually all Armenians in the plains of Karabagh surrounding the Mountainous Karabagh Autonomous Region have lost their homes to arson. Fifty thousand Armenian refugees have entered Armenia. Many others have fled into Russia. The First Secretary of Armenia, Suren Haroutiounian, issued a statement directed toward the Supreme Soviet, asserting that Azerbaijani governmental officials are orchestrating a policy of genocide through deportation against the approximately 440,000 Armenians living in Azerbaijan outside of Mountainous Karabagh. Haroutiounian charged that the Azerbaijanis are avoiding massacres so as not to raise international attention.

NOV. 29--Levon Ter Petrossian, a mathematics professor at Yerevan State University and a member of the Karabagh Organizing Committee, reported that 20,000 Armenian refugees had entered Armenia after fleeing their homes in Azerbaijan. A source at Armenpress, the official news agency in Armenia, and the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Vazken I, reported the same figures.

NOV. 29--In the village of Chardakhlou in Karabagh, Azerbaijanis burned the birthplace of Marshall Bagramian, an Armenian who rose to the highest ranks in the Soviet military during World War II.

NOV. 29--In Baku, crowds of nearly one million displayed posters of the Ayatollah Khomeini and convicted murderer Akhmed Akhmedov. Chants of "Kill Armenians" and "Down with Russians" were heard.

NOV. 28--Zori Balayan reported that mullahs in Azerbaijan were urging mobs to force Armenians from their homes. The mullahs advised the mobs to avoid killing so as not to attract international attention. Rather, other means such as arson, looting, and assault were suggested to drive out the Armenian population. Other sources in Yerevan and The New York Times reported that Sergei Grigoryants, the editor of Glasnost magazine, and an assistant were arrested after arriving in Yerevan.

NOV. 26--Andrei Sakharov issued a statement on the violence in Azerbaijan from the home of his relatives in Newton, Mass. Sakharov, who had received information from his wife and other sources in Moscow, reported that more than 130 Armenians had been killed by Azerbaijani mobs in the city of Kirovabad. He said that the violence was rapidly spreading to other areas in Azerbaijan populated by Armenians. Sakharov said that Armenians were facing "the threat of genocide" and called upon Soviet authorities to provide accurate information on the seriousness of the situation and increase efforts to protect the Armenian population. Dr. Sakharov met with members of the Armenian community, including Gerard Libaridian, director of the Zoryan Institute. Summarizing the information he had received from his wife and other sources, he told the group that Azerbaijanis were well-armed while Soviet troops in Azerbaijan had not been given permission to use their weapons in self-defense. A curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. had been imposed upon Yerevan. Three Armenians were killed during the first night of the curfew when unsuspecting pedestrians were beaten by soldiers after leaving cinemas in Yerevan.

NOV. 25--In Moscow, Yelena Bonner issued a statement on the violence in Azerbaijan after receiving information from sources in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Her statement included the following appeal: "I call upon all honest people in our country and in the world to send cables to the government of the Soviet Union to demand that the truth be told about the situation of the Armenians in Azerbaijan, and to demand that the Soviet government immediately introduce troops and declare a state of emergency in Azerbaijan in order to stop the rapes, murders, pogroms and the forced deportation of the Armenians." Much of Ms. Bonner's statement was repeated the following day by her husband, Andrei Sakharov.

NOV. 25--Alex Semyonov, the son of Yelena Bonner and a resident of Westwood, Mass., reported that 1500 Armenians were seeking refuge in a church from Azerbaijani mobs in Kirovabad. The church's pastor had sent a telegram to Gorbachev requesting his help and intervention. Mr. Semyonov, who received information from his mother and other sources in Moscow, reported that seven army personnel carriers had been burned and two soldiers killed in attacks in Kirovabad. In the nearby town of Khanlar, the

Armenian population is also under siege. Troops are present but have not intervened. In Moscow, police broke up a demonstration of Armenians in Sverdlovsk Square. Fourteen people were arrested and two beaten.

ANALYSIS

A systematic and organized campaign is underway in Azerbaijan to force Armenians from their homes. The campaign began in Kirovabad and has spread to Armenian population centers throughout Azerbaijan. Armenians in Baku are also threatened but relatively well-protected by Soviet troops. Azerbaijani leaders apparently recognize that mass killings are more likely to raise international attention and thus have promoted deportation through other means.

The organized nature of the recent violence corresponds with the massacres that took place in Sumgait, Feb. 27-29. In Sumgait and now again in other Azerbaijani cities, mass killings have occurred with the involvement of government officials in providing logistic support. Azerbaijani police have offered no protection to the Armenian population. Curiously, Soviet troops have likewise not been given the means to quell the violence.

Demonstrations in Baku have illustrated the anti-Soviet sentiment that is apparently spreading among the Azerbaijani population. Sympathy for the Islamic fundamentalism of Iran is also apparent. Clearly, much of the leadership in Azerbaijan remains loyal to Gaydar Aliyev, a former first secretary of Azerbaijan and a former Politburo member who was removed by Gorbachev in 1986. Aliyev represents the corruption and stagnation of the Brezhnev era, which in Azerbaijan allowed many elements of feudal society to persist.

The attitude of Moscow is still more complex. In recent statements, Gorbachev has attributed the current problems in Azerbaijan and Armenia to deeply rooted enmity. Placing the conflict in an ethno-religious context depoliticizes the issue and also absolves Moscow of developing a solution. The view of Dr. Sakharov and others is that Moscow did not expect the Karabagh movement to maintain its momentum and has no long-term strategy to deal with Armenian calls for justice. Regrettably, violence may be one way to sidetrack serious discussion and clearly demonstrate the need for a strong Soviet presence.

RESOLVED: That letters be immediately sent to Secretary of State George Shultz, Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator John Kerry, and Congressman Joseph Kennedy requesting that they immediately contact Secretary Michael Gorbachev asking him to 1) intervene to stop the atrocities against the Armenia people that are now taking place; and, 2) welcome the U.N. observer team to the Armenian and Azerbaijani regions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Secretary of State George Shultz, Senators Kennedy and Kerry, and Congressman Kennedy also contact the aforementioned United Nations Commissions, requesting the dispatch of a U.N. observer team.

In City Council December 12, 1988.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.



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VICE MAYOR WOLF
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- RESOLVED:** That a letter be immediately sent to the United Nation's Commission on Refugees and to the United Nation's Commission on Genocide requesting that an impartial team of United Nations observers be immediately dispatched to the Armenian and Azerbaijan regions to provide international witness to the events taking place there; and be it further

1) Mayor Vellucci
2) C. Duchay

Order #38

S-755

1) VM Wolf re: resolutions that a letter be immediately sent to the United Nation's Commission on Refugees & to the United Nation's Commission on Genocide requesting that an impartial team of U.N. observers be immediately dispatched to the Armenian & Azerbaijan regions to provide international witness to the events taking place there.

In City Council,

December 12, 1988

12-12-88

M. Vellucci, C. Wolf & Duchay

Order Adopted

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