



City of Cambridge

2.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 4, 1998

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council goes on record in support of the establishment of an International Historical Truth and Reconciliation Commission with free access to all Turkish records from 1915 to 1923.

In City Council May 4, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councillor Sullivan

✓ (2)

Resolved

That the Cambridge City Council goes on
record in support ^{of the establishment} of an international

historical truth and reconciliation Commission

with free access to all Jewish records

~~from~~ from 1915 to 1923. ~~to~~ to

The Boston Globe

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An unacknowledged holocaust

This is the day when Armenians all over the world remember and mourn their great national trauma — the massacres perpetrated upon them in eastern Anatolia in the early years of this century. There can be very few left alive who actually experienced those tragedies. Nonetheless, the events that began in 1915 and led to their decimation is burned into the memory of the Armenian people.

This "transgenerational transmission," as political psychiatrists call it, passes the trauma down to children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. "It becomes the child's task to mourn, to reverse the humiliation and feelings of helplessness pertaining to the trauma of his forebears," writes the University of Virginia's Vamik Volkan in his new book "Bloodlines."

It is Volkan's thesis that mourning is a necessary process for nations as well as individuals. "Harmful complications may develop when normal mourning is interfered with," he writes. "In case of a large group, the inability to mourn may become a political force. . . . When a person or group is too angry to mourn, there is a risk of an inability to make changes and accept the new reality caused by them."

The necessary process of mourning has been denied the Armenian people because they feel what was done to them has never been properly acknowledged and atoned for. Postwar Germany, for example, accepted responsibility for the Holocaust that the previous regime had perpetrated on the Jews. Holocaust memorials have been built around the world.

It is not necessary to compare the extent of the two tragedies to maintain that Armenians are still, after so many years, looking for a resolution and an acknowledgment that can help them pass through the mourning process.

Modern Turkey bears no responsibility for the dark events that came in the closing years of the Ottoman Empire. But Turkey could do a great service if an international historical truth and reconciliation commission were established with free access to all the records — something along the lines of the commissions that are delving into the role of Swiss bankers during World War II. The world needs to face up to the massacres that so devastated the Armenian population. In this way could the process of mourning be abetted instead of thwarted.

Belaboring a jobs initiative

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have sought to make a virtue out of innovation and compromise, attacking problems not by strict adherence to liberal or conservative tenets but to a "third way" focused on finding what works.

Now the US Labor Department is undermining that strategy — and some promising innovations in Massachusetts — by taking a rigid position in a senseless court case in Michigan.

position in the Michigan case, the Labor Department has claimed that the Massachusetts initiative is only part of a temporary "pilot program."

"That is a complete fabrication," howls David Osborne, coauthor of "Reinventing Government," adviser to Clinton and Gore and an architect of the competitive model used in Massachusetts. Neil Sullivan, executive director of the group coordinating the three Boston centers, says the Labor De-

Peters's view



Thanks, New E

The British government struck by the warmth come in the United States particularly here in New England. The Agreement on Northern Ireland reached on April 10.

It would not have been without President Clinton's involvement and, of course, Senator George Mitchell's contribution.

I'd also like to thank the people of New England who have so generously contributed to the dialogue on the Atlantic between the United States and Ireland, encouraging economic investment, and by staying on the long-term prize, numerous to name.



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Consent Order #2

3185

Councillor Sullivan re: establish an
International Historical Truth and
Reconciliations Commission.

In City Council May 4, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED