



Attention:
Foreign Affairs
Legislative Aide

Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: August 17, 2006

Re: **Destabilizing impact of Turkish forces in Lebanon**

I wanted to bring to your attention our concern that the deployment of Turkish forces between Lebanon and Israel will undermine our nation's interest in a lasting a durable peace in this troubled and highly sensitive region.

In an August 9th letter, the ANCA wrote to President Bush to stress that:

As Armenian Americans - the sons and daughters of a people who endured genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government - we are especially mindful of raising the legacy of Turkey's brutal Ottoman rule over the Middle East and unnecessarily introducing a nation with a history of destabilizing behavior into a complex and highly sensitive region.

In a July 31st letter to the President, the American Hellenic Institute voiced the opposition of the Greek American community to the presence of Turkish forces as part of a peacekeeping operation:

Turkey is the former harsh colonial ruler of the Middle East. . . We believe it would be detrimental to the aims of a multinational peacekeeping force to have a Turkish military contingent involved.

Please join with the Greek American and Armenian American communities in sharing your concerns on this matter with the Administration. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the ANCA at anca@anca.org or (202) 775-1918.

ANCA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
888 17th Street NW, Suite 904
Washington, DC 20006
ph: 202 775 1918, fx: 202 775 5648
www.anca.org, anca@anca.org

ANCA WESTERN REGION
104 N Belmont Street, 2nd Floor
Glendale, CA 91204
ph: 818 500 1918, fx: 818 246 7353
www.anca.org, ancawr@anca.org

ANCA EASTERN REGION
80 Bigelow Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472
ph: 617 923 1918, fx: 617 923 5525
www.anca.org, ancaer@anca.org



Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

August 9, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to share with you the Armenian American community's opposition to any deployment by Turkey of its armed forces to serve as part of peacekeeping force between Lebanon and Israel. We learned of this possibility from news reports of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's recent discussions in the region.

The presence of Turkish troops would undermine United States' interests in a lasting and durable peace. As Armenian Americans - the sons and daughters of a people who endured genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government - we are especially mindful of raising the legacy of Turkey's brutal Ottoman rule over the Middle East and unnecessarily introducing a nation with a history of destabilizing behavior into an already complex and highly sensitive region.

Turkey's record of persecution and genocide has left deep scars in the collective memory of the Lebanese people. The famous Martyrs' Monument in Central Beirut is a vivid reminder of the record of mass brutality that Turkey has left behind in this tortured land. It would be immensely insensitive on the part of the United States to promote Turkish participation in an international peacekeeping force that will need every ounce of credibility and goodwill that it can muster in order to succeed in such a highly delicate and challenging mission. Turkey's presence on Lebanese soil will only make the current situation even worse.

continued

ANCA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
888 17th Street NW, Suite 904
Washington, DC 20006
ph: 202 775 1918, fx: 202 775 5648
www.anca.org, anca@anca.org

ANCA WESTERN REGION
104 N Belmont Street, 2nd Floor
Glendale, CA 91204
ph: 818 500 1918, fx: 818 246 7353
www.anca.org, ancawr@anca.org

ANCA EASTERN REGION
80 Bigelow Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472
ph: 617 923 1918, fx: 617 923 5525
www.anca.org, ancaer@anca.org

As Armenian Americans, we are, as you know, profoundly troubled that, more than eight decades after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Republic of Turkey continues to deny this atrocity. The Turkish government has compounded their ongoing attempts to escape responsibility for this crime, effectively seeking to complete the evil campaign launched in 1915, by, even today, blockading and seeking to isolate Armenia. In addition, Turkey maintains its military occupation of Cyprus, more than thirty years after its illegal 1974 invasion. Within its own borders, Turkey is regularly cited as among the worst abusers of human rights. In only the past few days, the Turkish military has, against the advice of U.S. officials, threatened to launch cross border attacks into Iraq, a move that has the potential of severely destabilizing U.S.-led coalition efforts to bring peace to this troubled nation.

As you know, Turkey has, in recent years, proven itself an unreliable U.S. ally on a number of occasions. First and foremost among these was its refusal, in March of 2003, to allow Coalition forces to open a northern front in the Iraq War. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has said that the strength of the current Iraqi insurgency is due, in large part, to Turkey's rejection of our request for cooperation in this crucial aspect of the war.

Mr. President, we respectfully call upon you to consider our reservations, and those already expressed to you by our friends in the Greek American community, on this matter of profound importance to our nation's interests in the Middle East.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth V. Hachikian
Chairman