



Attention:
Foreign Affairs
Legislative Aide

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: December 12, 2006

Re: **Senate returns Hoagland nomination to the White House**

The U.S. Senate, having failed during the 109th Congress to confirm Dick Hoagland to serve as Ambassador to Armenia - due to his denial of the Armenian Genocide - has returned this controversial nomination to the President.

Senator Menendez placed a hold on Hoagland on September 12th. In announcing his decision, he cited the principled stand taken by former U.S. Ambassador John Evans (who was fired for speaking truthfully about the Armenian Genocide) and stressed his “great concern that **Mr. Hoagland’s confirmation would be a step backward.**”

Citing the opposition of the Armenian American community and the growing controversy within Congress surrounding the nomination, Senator Menendez was joined on December 1st by incoming Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in calling on President George W. Bush to propose a new candidate to serve in this important diplomatic post. They stressed that **“it would serve neither our national interests nor the U.S.- Armenia relationship to expect Ambassador-designate Hoagland to carry out his duties under these highly contentious and profoundly troubling circumstances.”**

ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian said today that: “With the adjournment of the 109th Congress, we renew our call upon the President to recognize that - **as a matter of basic morality - a genocide denier should never represent the United States in Armenia,** and that - as a matter of diplomacy - a denier of the Armenian Genocide simply cannot effectively promote U.S. interests or advance American values in Yerevan.”

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the ANCA at (202) 775-1918 or anca@anca.org.

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