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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0702

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The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

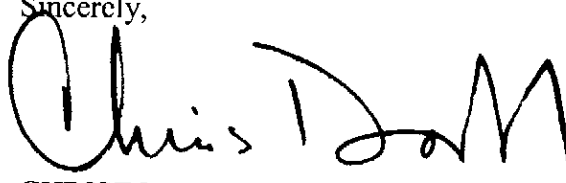
I write to inquire about Ambassador John Marshall Evans' replacement as Ambassador to Armenia after a term of only two years. I am concerned by reports that Ambassador Evans' dismissal may be due to comments he made in his private capacity in which he described the mass deportation of Armenians from Turkey between 1915 and 1923.

As you know, in remarks he delivered to members of the Armenian American community last year, Ambassador Evans referred to the Armenian genocide, in which an estimated 1.5 million Armenians died, as the first genocide of the 20th Century. Such a description accurately reflects the reality of that great historical tragedy. As the United States Ambassador to Turkey during the genocide, Henry Morgenthau, later wrote, "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact." Such an effort, intended to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, clearly constitutes an act of genocide.

No additional justification for Ambassador Evans departure has been provided by the Department of State and Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Sean McCormack recently congratulated Ambassador Evans on his long career and his distinguished service to our country. For that reason, I am interested to learn more about the circumstances that lead to his departure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator