

House Calendar No. 296

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 596

[Report No. 106–933]

Calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

OCTOBER 4, 2000

Additional sponsor: Mr. BONIOR

OCTOBER 4, 2000

Reported with an amendment, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced resolution, see copy of resolution as introduced on September 27, 2000]

RESOLUTION

Calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United

States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 *This resolution may be cited as the “Affirmation of*
 4 *the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Reso-*
 5 *lution”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *The House of Representatives finds the following:*

8 (1) *The Armenian Genocide was conceived and*
 9 *carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to*
 10 *1923, resulting in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000*
 11 *Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men, women, and*
 12 *children were killed, 500,000 survivors were expelled*
 13 *from their homes, and which succeeded in the elimi-*
 14 *nation of the over 2,500-year presence of Armenians*
 15 *in their historic homeland.*

16 (2) *On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers, Eng-*
 17 *land, France, and Russia, jointly issued a statement*
 18 *explicitly charging for the first time ever another gov-*
 19 *ernment of committing “a crime against humanity”.*

20 (3) *This joint statement stated “[i]n view of*
 21 *these new crimes of Turkey against humanity and*
 22 *civilization, the Allied Governments announce pub-*
 23 *licly to the Sublime Porte that they will hold person-*
 24 *ally responsible for these crimes all members of the*

1 *Ottoman Government, as well as those of their agents*
2 *who are implicated in such massacres”.*

3 *(4) The post-World War I Turkish Government*
4 *indicted the top leaders involved in the “organization*
5 *and execution” of the Armenian Genocide and in the*
6 *“massacre and destruction of the Armenians”.*

7 *(5) In a series of courts-martial, officials of the*
8 *Young Turk Regime were tried and convicted, as*
9 *charged, for organizing and executing massacres*
10 *against the Armenian people.*

11 *(6) The chief organizers of the Armenian Geno-*
12 *cide, Minister of War Enver, Minister of the Interior*
13 *Talaat, and Minister of the Navy Jemal were all con-*
14 *demned to death for their crimes, however, the ver-*
15 *dicts of the courts were not enforced.*

16 *(7) The Armenian Genocide and these domestic*
17 *judicial failures are documented with overwhelming*
18 *evidence in the national archives of Austria, France,*
19 *Germany, Great Britain, Russia, the United States,*
20 *the Vatican and many other countries, and this vast*
21 *body of evidence attests to the same facts, the same*
22 *events, and the same consequences.*

23 *(8) The United States National Archives and*
24 *Record Administration holds extensive and thorough*
25 *documentation on the Armenian Genocide, especially*

1 *in its holdings under Record Group 59 of the United*
2 *States Department of State, files 867.00 and 867.40,*
3 *which are open and widely available to the public*
4 *and interested institutions.*

5 *(9) The national archives of Turkey should also*
6 *include all of the records pertaining to the indict-*
7 *ment, trial, and conviction of the Ottoman authorities*
8 *responsible for the Armenian Genocide.*

9 *(10) The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, United*
10 *States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913*
11 *to 1916, organized and led protests by officials of*
12 *many countries, among them the allies of the Otto-*
13 *man Empire, against the Armenian Genocide.*

14 *(11) Ambassador Morgenthau explicitly described*
15 *to the United States Department of State the policy*
16 *of the Government of the Ottoman Empire as “a cam-*
17 *paign of race extermination”, and was instructed on*
18 *July 16, 1915, by United States Secretary of State*
19 *Robert Lansing that the “Department approves your*
20 *procedure . . . to stop Armenian persecution”.*

21 *(12) Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 of Feb-*
22 *ruary 9, 1916, resolved that “the President of the*
23 *United States be respectfully asked to designate a day*
24 *on which the citizens of this country may give expres-*
25 *sion to their sympathy by contributing funds now*

1 *being raised for the relief of the Armenians”, who at*
2 *the time were enduring “starvation, disease, and un-*
3 *told suffering”.*

4 *(13) President Wilson concurred and also en-*
5 *couraged the formation of the organization known as*
6 *Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress,*
7 *which contributed some \$116,000,000 from 1915 to*
8 *1930 to aid the Armenian Genocide survivors, includ-*
9 *ing 132,000 orphans who became foster children of the*
10 *American people.*

11 *(14) Senate Resolution 359, dated May 11, 1920,*
12 *stated in part, “the testimony adduced at the hear-*
13 *ings conducted by the sub-committee of the Senate*
14 *Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly estab-*
15 *lished the truth of the reported massacres and other*
16 *atrocities from which the Armenian people have suf-*
17 *fered”.*

18 *(15) The resolution followed the April 13, 1920,*
19 *report to the Senate of the American Military Mission*
20 *to Armenia led by General James Harbord, that stat-*
21 *ed “[m]utilation, violation, torture, and death have*
22 *left their haunting memories in a hundred beautiful*
23 *Armenian valleys, and the traveler in that region is*
24 *seldom free from the evidence of this most colossal*
25 *crime of all the ages”.*

1 (16) *Setting the stage for the Holocaust, Adolf*
2 *Hitler, on ordering his military commanders to at-*
3 *tack Poland without provocation in 1939, dismissed*
4 *objections by saying “[w]ho, after all, speaks today of*
5 *the annihilation of the Armenians?”.*

6 (17) *Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term*
7 *“genocide” in 1944, and who was the earliest pro-*
8 *ponent of the Genocide Convention, invoked the Arme-*
9 *nian case as a definitive example of genocide in the*
10 *20th century.*

11 (18) *Raphael Lemkin described the crime as “the*
12 *systematic destruction of whole national, racial or re-*
13 *ligious groups. The sort of thing Hitler did to the*
14 *Jews and the Turks did to the Armenians”.*

15 (19) *The first resolution on genocide adopted by*
16 *the United Nations at Lemkin’s urging, the December*
17 *11, 1946, United Nations General Assembly Resolu-*
18 *tion 96(1) and the United Nations Genocide Conven-*
19 *tion itself recognized the Armenian Genocide as the*
20 *type of crime the United Nations intended to prevent*
21 *by codifying existing standards.*

22 (20) *In 1948 the United Nations War Crimes*
23 *Commission invoked the Armenian Genocide “pre-*
24 *cisely . . . one of the types of acts which the modern*

1 *term ‘crimes against humanity’ is intended to cover”*
 2 *as a precedent for the Nuremberg tribunals.*

3 (21) *The Commission stated that “[t]he provi-*
 4 *sions of Article 230 of the Peace Treaty of Sévres were*
 5 *obviously intended to cover, in conformity with the*
 6 *Allied note of 1915 . . . , offenses which had been com-*
 7 *mitted on Turkish territory against persons of Turk-*
 8 *ish citizenship, though of Armenian or Greek race.*
 9 *This article constitutes therefore a precedent for Arti-*
 10 *cle 6c and 5c of the Nuremberg and Tokyo Charters,*
 11 *and offers an example of one of the categories of*
 12 *‘crimes against humanity’ as understood by these en-*
 13 *actments”.*

14 (22) *The United Nations Commission on Human*
 15 *Rights adopted in 1985 a report entitled “Study of*
 16 *the Question of the Prevention and Punishment of the*
 17 *Crime of Genocide”, which stated “[t]he Nazi aberr-*
 18 *ation has unfortunately not been the only case of geno-*
 19 *cide in the twentieth century. Among other examples*
 20 *which can be cited as qualifying are . . . the Ottoman*
 21 *massacre of Armenians in 1915-1916”.*

22 (23) *This report also explained that “[a]t least*
 23 *1 million, and possibly well over half of the Armenian*
 24 *population, are reliably estimated to have been killed*
 25 *or death marched by independent authorities and eye-*

1 *witnesses. This is corroborated by reports in United*
 2 *States, German and British archives and of contem-*
 3 *porary diplomats in the Ottoman Empire, including*
 4 *those of its ally Germany”.*

5 *(24) The tragedy of the Armenian Genocide has*
 6 *been acknowledged by countries and international*
 7 *bodies such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, the*
 8 *Council of Europe, Cyprus, the European Par-*
 9 *liament, France, Great Britain, Greece, Lebanon,*
 10 *Russia, the United Nations, the United States, and*
 11 *Uruguay.*

12 *(25) The United States Holocaust Memorial*
 13 *Council, an independent Federal agency, unani-*
 14 *mously resolved on April 30, 1981, that the United*
 15 *States Holocaust Memorial Museum would include*
 16 *the Armenian Genocide in the Museum and has since*
 17 *done so.*

18 *(26) President Reagan in proclamation number*
 19 *4838, dated April 22, 1981, stated in part “like the*
 20 *genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide*
 21 *of the Cambodians, which followed it—and like too*
 22 *many other persecutions of too many other people—*
 23 *the lessons of the holocaust must never be forgotten”.*

24 *(27) President Bush, in 1988, speaking of the*
 25 *Armenian Genocide, stated “we must consciously and*

1 *conscientiously recognize the genocides of the past—*
2 *the enormous tragedies that have darkened this cen-*
3 *tury and that haunt us still. We must not only com-*
4 *memorate the courage of the victims and of their sur-*
5 *vivors, but we must also remind ourselves that civili-*
6 *zation cannot be taken for granted. . . . We must all*
7 *be vigilant against this most heinous crime against*
8 *humanity”.*

9 *(28) President Bush, in 1988, stated further*
10 *“[t]he United States must acknowledge the attempted*
11 *genocide of the Armenian people in the last years of*
12 *the Ottoman Empire, based on the testimony of sur-*
13 *vivors, scholars, and indeed our own representatives*
14 *at the time, if we are to insure that such horrors are*
15 *not repeated”.*

16 *(29) President Clinton, on August 13, 1992, stat-*
17 *ed “[t]he Genocide of 1915, years of communist dicta-*
18 *torship, and the devastating earthquake of 1988 have*
19 *caused great suffering in Armenia during this cen-*
20 *tury”.*

21 *(30) Reviewing an aberrant 1982 expression*
22 *(later retracted) by the United States Department of*
23 *State asserting that the facts of the Armenian Geno-*
24 *cide may be ambiguous, the United States Court of*
25 *Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1993, after a*

1 *review of documents pertaining to the policy record of*
2 *the United States, noted that the assertion on ambi-*
3 *guity in the United States record about the Armenian*
4 *Genocide “contradicted longstanding United States*
5 *policy and was eventually retracted”.*

6 *(31) Despite the international recognition and*
7 *affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, the failure of*
8 *the domestic and international authorities to punish*
9 *those responsible for the Armenian Genocide is a rea-*
10 *son why similar genocides have recurred and may*
11 *recur in the future, and that a proper judicial and*
12 *firm response, holding the guilty accountable and re-*
13 *quiring the prompt enforcement of verdicts would*
14 *have spared humanity needless suffering.*

15 *(32) In a commendable letter on April 9, 1999,*
16 *Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, then Under Secretary*
17 *of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Af-*
18 *airs, pledged that the administration would raise*
19 *with the Republic of Turkey the issue of the recovery*
20 *of Armenian assets from the genocide period held by*
21 *the Imperial Ottoman Bank.*

22 *(33) It is important that the President ensure*
23 *that the foreign policy of the United States reflects*
24 *appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning*
25 *issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and*

1 *genocide documented in the United States record re-*
2 *lating to the Armenian Genocide and the consequences*
3 *of the failure to enforce the judgments of the Turkish*
4 *courts against the responsible officials.*

5 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

6 *The House of Representatives—*

7 *(1) calls upon the President to ensure that the*
8 *foreign policy of the United States reflects appro-*
9 *priate understanding and sensitivity concerning*
10 *issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and*
11 *genocide documented in the United States record re-*
12 *lating to the Armenian Genocide and the consequences*
13 *of the failure to enforce the judgments of the Turkish*
14 *courts against the responsible officials;*

15 *(2) calls upon the President in the President's*
16 *annual message commemorating the Armenian Geno-*
17 *cide issued on or about April 24 to characterize the*
18 *systematic and deliberate annihilation of 1,500,000*
19 *Armenians as genocide and to recall the proud his-*
20 *tory of United States intervention in opposition to*
21 *the Armenian Genocide; and*

22 *(3) calls upon the President in the President's*
23 *annual message commemorating the Armenian Geno-*
24 *cide to state that the modern day Republic of Turkey*

- 1 *did not conduct the Armenian Genocide, which was*
- 2 *perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire.*

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