

HOUSE No. 3975

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 25, 1965.

The House committee on Rules, to whom were referred the resolutions (filed by Messrs. Ohanian of Watertown, Khachadoorian of Arlington, Bohigian of Worcester and Menton of Watertown) memorializing the United States Senate to ratify the Genocide Convention of 1948 (House, No. 3975), report that the same ought to be adopted.

For the committee,

ROBERT H. QUINN.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five.

RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO RATIFY THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION OF 1948.

1 *Whereas*, In this year of nineteen hundred and sixty-five,
2 our fellow citizens of Armenian extraction join their brothers
3 throughout the world in commemorating the fiftieth anniver-
4 sary of the initiation by the Turkish Government of a plan to
5 destroy the Armenian minority in Turkey; and

6 *Whereas*, This first modern genocide was to result in the
7 massacre of over one million innocent Armenian men, women,
8 and children in the brief period of several months and was to
9 leave another million displaced, ill, maimed, and starving, torn
10 forcibly from their homes; and

11 *Whereas*, The massacres and deportations of the Armenians
12 were accompanied by enormous cruelties, by torture, and by
13 the abduction and forced conversion to Islam of countless
14 children; and

15 *Whereas*, The failure of the world to provide either justice
16 for the Armenians or punishment for the Turkish war crim-
17 inals provided encouragement to other would-be mass-mur-
18 derers; and

19 *Whereas*, Adolph Hitler himself, in ordering massacres in
20 Poland in nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, remarked "Who
21 speaks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians"; and
22 thereby embarked upon the systematic mass murder of some
23 six million Jews, shocking again the conscience of civilized men
24 throughout the world; and

25 *Whereas*, The absence of justice for the Armenians mo-
26 tivated Professor Rafael Lemkin to coin the term "Genocide"
27 and to work toward the development of an international treaty
28 outlawing mass destruction of a minority; and

29 *Whereas*, American leadership and encouragement did in 1948
30 result in the adoption by the United Nations of the Genocide
31 Convention, with the United States as a signatory; and

32 *Whereas*, The Genocide Convention declares that genocide-
33 murder with intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or

34 religious group; causing the group's members serious bodily
35 or mental harm; creating conditions calculated to bring about
36 the group's destruction in whole or part; imposing measures
37 intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly trans-
38 ferring children of the group to another group—is a crime in
39 international law; and

40 *Whereas*, President Harry S. Truman transmitted the Geno-
41 cide Convention to the United States Senate in nineteen hun-
42 dred and forty-nine, asking for its consent on ratification; and

43 *Whereas*, Today — after almost sixteen years — the Genocide
44 Convention still remains in the Senate Foreign Relations Com-
45 mittee with three other human rights conventions — on forced
46 labor, slavery, and women's political rights — transmitted to
47 the Senate by the late President John F. Kennedy.

48 *Whereas*, American failure to ratify the Genocide Convention,
49 when sixty-seven other nations — including even West Germany
50 and Turkey — have done so, contradicts the United States' role
51 as a champion of human rights, and as a leader in fostering
52 the principle of rule of law and contradicts especially the United
53 States' role as a leader and signatory in relation to the Conven-
54 tion itself; and

55 *Whereas*, Thousands of Armenians, as well as Greeks, Jews,
56 and others, have found in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
57 a refuge from the horrors of genocide; therefore be it

58 *Resolved*, That the Massachusetts house of representatives
59 respectfully urges the Senate of the United States to give evi-
60 dence of American commitment to the principles of universal
61 human rights and justice by ratifying the Genocide Convention
62 in this commemorative year of nineteen hundred and sixty-five;
63 and be it further

64 *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent by the
65 secretary of the commonwealth to the President of the United
66 States, the Ambassador to the United Nations, the Secretary
67 of State of the United States, and the members of the Senate
68 of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 25, 1965.

Adopted.

WILLIAM C. MAIERS,

Clerk.