

# Boston's United Function Opens Commemorative Efforts Nationwide

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BOSTON, Mass. — On April 12 and 13, Saturday and Sunday, Greater Boston Armenian Americans appropriately enough inaugurated the centennial Year in this historic city by taking the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Turkish genocide of the Armenians to remind all other Americans that for which the Armenians fought in 1775 — justice, the right to sovereignty and human dignity, and the godly dictum that a man must remain inviolate in person and property — remained unfilling in reference to the widely-dispersed Armenian nation.

In a long, sinuous column which at one time perfectly circled the vast Government Center-Boston City Hall complex and plaza in the heart of historic Boston, with ancient Fanueil Hall, where the cry for liberty rang out, looking on, more than 2,000 chanting Armenian marchers, led by the Stars and Stripes, the massed flags of the three Armenian political parties, and the Flag of the Republic of Greece, paraded their demands around that plaza, back to Tremont street, down that thoroughfare, past the historic Old Granary Burial Ground, where Adams, Otis, Hancock and other great Boston patriots of 1915 who thundered their defiance of tyranny, are buried, to Park Street Church, "Old Brimstone Corner", where the American munitions of 1812 were secretly stored and which in 1915-18 thundered the American outrage at the massacres in Turkey, up the hill to the State House portals, where pause was made to hear a reading of the official Proclamation of Governor Dukakis of the Commonwealth, which set April 24 as day of remembrance of the Armenians falling to genocide (see text of Proclamation elsewhere).

Thence, in columns of five to the Parkman Rotunda, Boston Common for the demonstration messages.

The march threaded its way through the Boston traffic, with Boston's finest clearing the path for the orderly but animated column. Mar-

shalls were members of the Armenian Youth Federation of America and were led by representatives of the three political parties comprising the United Committee on the Sixtieth.

Other members of the youth organization flanked the procession distributing what one young lady called "tons of literature" to Bostonians standing at the curb, watching marchers in obvious curiosity, admiration—and yes, even on occasion with that apathy which Armenians must destroy in this nation, and which the march itself was partly designed to do.

The marchers carried banners "Turkey: Author of Genocide", "Stop all Aid to Turkey", "Turkey, the Killer," "Why Does America continue to Dump its Gold into the Turkish Sewer". Octogenarian marchers moved proudly ahead accompanied in many cases by their children and their grandchildren. Mothers pushed their infants down dale and up hill, in preambulators. And the streets of Boston which once rang with the cry "Give me liberty or give me death" heard the same message again from the mouths of a doughty people, resurrected and revived, the masters of their future, confident—and very, very determinedly angry.

## At the Parkman

Having achieved their immediate goal, the marchers clustered at the Parkman Rotunda, in the very center of the world-famed Boston Common, where ceremonies chairman Professor Vahe Sarafian said, "We are good Americans, we are good Armenians and we are good Greeks, We are here to remember our debt to our parental nation. We are here to importune the United States, the defender of human rights, to act in favor of Armenia. We are here to say to America that its obligations to the smaller nations of the world must be fulfilled in the interests of the Armenian people who gave so much to America in World War I, when the ghastly Turks fell on our people and put them to the sword. Our territories are what we want—

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By His Excellency

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS

Governor

A PROCLAMATION

1975

WHEREAS, April 24, 1915 marks the date on which the Turks arrested and killed 750 Armenian community leaders and intellectuals -- an act which signalled the terrible events that followed, and

WHEREAS, The year 1915 also calls to mind hundreds of thousands of Armenians fleeing in terror from their ancient homeland where one and a half million of their brothers and sisters were massacred, and

WHEREAS, Two hundred years ago, our nation committed itself to oppose tyranny and oppression and that commitment has become the very heartbeat of our national existence, and its persistent throbs has given hope and inspiration to millions of victims of persecution and oppression all over the world, many of whom have found refuge in our country, and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the Commonwealth should be aware that they should honor the memory of those victims of a premeditated act of genocide, in the hope that the conscience of the world can bring a halt to all human suffering, and the beginning of an era of justice for all people, including the Armenians

NOW, therefore, I, MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim as

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATIVE DAY

April 24, 1975

and urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and to participate fittingly in its observance.



By His Excellency the Governor,

Pauluzzi

PAUL PUZZI, Secretary of the Commonwealth

GIVEN at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and ninth

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR MICHAEL DUKAKIS

that which the Turks took from us."

Congressman Joseph Moakley's representative, Jim O'Leary, expressed the regrets of the U.S. Representative that he would be unable to be with the gathering. In a message read by Mr. O'Leary Mr. Moakley said he had been proud to support House Resolution 148 in Congress and he signified he was ready to

help the Armenian aspirations in the future

Messages were also read from former Speaker of the House, the Honorable John McCormack, and Congressmen James Burke, Sylvio Conte and Robert Drinan, all of whom had supported HJR 148. Another message, this from the Hon. Coostas Proussis, the Honorary Consul of Cyprus in Boston, expressed the support of his people of the Armenian efforts.

In a coldly dispassionate attack on American foreign policy and Turkey, Professor Zenon Zennatos, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Greek Cypriot leader, expressed his "deepfelt thanks to the Armenian American community for its support of the Greek Cypriot cause." He said all Greeks were impressed with the fund of brotherhood displayed by the Armenians. He in turn pledged the Greek community's support of "the just cause of the Armenian nation in its effort to restore independence." We must, he said, "learn our lessons from history, we must tell the world that the Turk, the barbarian he is, is an unworthy member of the world community of nations. He must be rejected from society, not accepted and nurtured." Prof. Zennatos called for all effort to prevent the resumption of military assistance "or for that matter all other assistance" to genocidist Turkey

ARF speaker Leo Sarkisian cited the deplorable situation of Armenians and Greeks in Turkey today. He referred to the terrible conditions imposed on Greek Cypriots by the savage invasion launched by Turkey and, he said, "here we have the world standing by again as it did

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A CROSS-SECTION of the throng of about 1,700 who attended the Statler phase of the Greater Boston rites.

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