POLITICAL AWARENESS

Since the beginning of documented history, the Armenian people have been caught in the midst of opposing and always changing political viewpoints, ideals, and geo-physical states.

In the early years of the so called "civilized world", it was fairly simple to be aware of the everchanging world political situation.

Now, as the variety and diversity of nations grow, with the complexity of politics, it is difficult for man to be aware of the activities that occur within his environment.

All Armenians, located in communities the world over, must realize the urgent importance of political awareness in respect to the Armenian Cause. Political awareness does not mean knowing that President Carter follows a certain policy, or that the Egyptian president is in Israel. Political awareness, to the Armenian, is being concerned enough with the Armenian struggle to notice all political occurrences, relate these activities to the overall Armenian situation, and become directly involved in Armenian political advancement.

Political awareness and the advancement of Armenian politics is to the Armenian as flight is to the majestic eagle; both are key to freedom.

ARA MGRDITCHIAN
GENERAL SEBOUH
FAMED ARMENIAN EMANCIPATORY FIGHTER.

The Armenian Revolution has produced many brilliant military figures, among whom the beloved Gen. Sebouh stands like a colossus. Tall of stature, with chiseled features, fierce burning eyes, a broad open forehead, and a sinewy body toughened by scores of arduous campaigns and bloody encounters with the enemy. This valiant warrior stood as a symbol of the Armenian struggle for emancipation. Many people in the U.S. still remember seeing him at patriotic gatherings; he was an inspiration: his memory will live on forever.

In 1872, this remarkable man was born into a well-known and respected family living in the province of Erzeroum. His baptismal name was Arshag Nercessian — a name later forgotten when devoted Armenians came to call him SEBOUH meaning NOBLE.

While still a young man, Sebouh visited Constantinople and later the Crimea and other parts of Russia. Upon his return, he joined the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. In those early days, the Federation maintained fighting units whose duty it was to protect Armenians from Turkish inroads. Sebouh first joined the band of Kework Chavoush; later he fought side by side with Gen. Andranik, and took part in the famous revolt of Sassoun in 1904. Gen. Sebouh was also one of the heroes of the A.R.F. resistance in 1904-1905 against the Tzarist government of Russia.

After the declaration of World War One in 1914, Sebouh joined the Armenian volunteers who fought on the side of the Allied Powers. For some time he served as regimental commander in the military group headed by Andranik. During the Armenian independence (1918-1920) he served as divisional commander. He took part in the Turco-Armenian war of 1920 and played a decisive role in the suppression of the May 1920 Bolshevik uprising in Armenia. Banished from his homeland, he moved to the U.S., where he remained until his death on July 31, 1940, in New York City.

During his last years, the veteran fighter never gave up hope that his beloved Armenia would be free one day, and he preached his cherished faith wherever he went. He was a power of all Conventions of the A.R.F., and was so beloved in all circles that even the young people of A.Y.F. could not do without him.

Even on his death bed, Sebouh dreamed of seeing the day of Armenia's independence. “I will live one or two years longer”, he told a visitor, “then I will see that the present war will bring to our people; after that I don't care”. But he died soon later, leaving thousands of grieving Armenians. Gen. Sebouh lived a hero, and died a patriot.
GET INVOLVED!

Tuesday, November 7, is a very important day for the voting citizens of California. They will be voting for state and county legislators, amendments, propositions, and measures. This date is equally, if not more, important for us, the Armenians. If the elections end favorably, we will have taken a large step towards our goal of getting Armenians and Armenian sympathizers into high U. S. Government offices.

To insure that our candidates get elected, we must campaign for them in order to get more non-Armenian votes; we must also develop the Armenian voting block to make sure that all voting Armenians vote. It is our responsibility as Armenians and A.Y.F. members to make the efforts necessary to get these people elected.

The following are Armenians running for office: Jay Margosian, Secretary of State; George Deukmejian, Attorney General; Dennis Kazarian, Congressman of the 33rd District. Gov. Jerry Brown who is up for re-election is an Armenian sympathizer.

Imagine how much we can accomplish with such direct voices in government. It is easy to see the potential this election holds for us. But getting elected is not an easy thing, and it involves a lot of work. There are many things that need to be done and that we can do; all we need is the desire to help. Get involved! Since we have come this far, with so many Armenians on the ballot, we can’t let ourselves down. If we want something, we have to work for it!

THE STAFF

MOUNT ARARAT

AVEDIK ISSAHAKIAN

On the ancient peaks of Ararat
The centuries have come like seconds,
And passed on.

The swords of innumerable lightnings
Have broken upon its diamond crest,
And passed on.

The eyes of generations dreading death
Have glanced at its luminous summit,
And passed on.

The turn is now yours for a brief while
You, too, look at its lofty brow,
And pass on.
JUNIOR WEEK-END

Enhancing our minds is essential to our case; therefore try to attend the junior educational weekend held at A.Y.F. Camp (Big Pines). On Nov. 24-26 the seminar, consisting of various topics, will feature guest speakers from both the A.R.F. and the Armenian community of California.

Along with the seminar, a work session (to beautify our camp) has been scheduled by the Simon Vratzian Junior Chapter.

Participation fee is $20.00 for juniors and $25.00 for seniors.

VALLEY SARDARABAD SENIORS
P. R. COMMITTEE

... For the past sixty years, the Armenians of the Diaspora have been conducting an organized struggle to obtain their rights. It has been a long and hard road of unremitting struggle during which the Armenian people has performed many heroic deeds and made many sacrifices.

New efforts are needed, new acts of heroism and sacrifice are necessary; the creation of new political opportunities is essential in order to enable the Armenian people to obtain its demands. Only then will this great people guarantee its own physical survival and develop it full economic, political, cultural and creative potential. For many reasons, including changing international conditions as well, the Armenian people will be able to maintain its cherished identity when it achieves independence. Therefore, political freedom and an independent state of its own are, for the Armenian people, matters of sheer survival.

The Armenian people will press its claims and demands, and will not waver in the struggle for independence and especially for the liberation and restoration of Western Armenia's territory.

Although aware of the difficulties, the Armenian people must be decisive and must be prepared to make new sacrifices and to confront new phases of the struggle in order to achieve its ideals and aims. Only with such spirit will we be able to attain NATIONAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FREEDOM in our own INDEPENDENT STATE.

A.R.F. CENTRAL COMMITTEE
(EAST U.S.)
A.H.F. POLITICAL COUNCIL FORMED

The Armenian Cause is an issue present in the minds of all Armenians. The issue is very devotable because it is both simple yet complicated, rational yet controversial, and historical yet contemporary. Learning about the Armenian Question is important for all Armenian Youth Organizations because they hold the key to our future.

For this reason, the Armenian Youth Federation has opted to use a five-man political council for the upcoming fiscal year. The council will be concerned with educating both the organization and community on political affairs, and putting the Armenian Case into proper perspectives.

In past years, political awareness has been lacking in our community. We have been enveloped in a cycle of commemorating only one date, year after year. This alone is not sufficient. It is the belief of the council that for 366 days a year, 24 hours a day we must concern ourselves with our struggle. The present apathetic and indifferent state will hopefully be replaced by dedication and determination. The never-ending social agenda will be revived to also include lectures, discussions, seminars, films, etc. to learn about the present state of our cause.

These steps are long and arduous. To be successful, they need the utmost dedication of all community members. "Together we will overcome."

CENTRAL POLITICAL COUNCIL

TURKEY

III — MASS COMMUNICATION

The literacy rate in Turkey is estimated at 52%; thus oral communication has a special significance.

Radio and TV

The first radio station was established in 1927. By 1974 there were 17 transmitting stations and nearly 3.5 million registered radio receivers. In addition, there are six TV stations (one channel) and about 15,000 TV sets. Programs are for four hours a day, five days a week.

Publications — Newspapers

In 1971 there were 468 newspapers, but five Istanbul dailies account for 80% of the circulation and secure most of the commercial advertising, thus freeing them from economic dependence on government advertising.

The most circulated daily newspapers are:
- Hurriyet 513,978 Popular-Centrists
- Gunaydin 255,860 Popular-Centrists
- Tercumman 237,325 Conservative
- Milliyet 181,258 Liberal-Reformists
- Hayat 120,000 Independent; features
- Durum 8,500 Conservative
- Akaba 8,000 Political satire; humor

(Handbook on Turkey)

THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

It is not for aspirations of independence that nations or people die. On the contrary, they die for want of determination and decisiveness. If the Armenian people have survived for so many centuries, it has been because of their resistance, their struggle against oppression to be free. If their struggle for independence resulted in death, the Armenian people must have already died a hundred times over. Determination is strength, a greater strength than one can imagine. Let us what our will through any means, for that is the only weapon which truly protects us from death, the only sharp weapon that can cut open a road, a wide road, leading to our advancement and progress...
EDITORIAL

We, the Armenian-American youth are undoubtedly aware of the slow, but sure destruction of the Armenian community of Lebanon, one of the important centers of Armenian diaspora.

The destruction of Armenians' homes is a daily occurrence, as are the loss of countless Armenians' lives in the deadly game of war. Schools and institutions are bombed, leaving the Armenians to face monumental financial losses.

We see and hear about what is happening but do we empathize with our brothers and sisters? It's unfortunate to note that we are not in any way different from the typical "odor", who also follows the news of the latest occurrences in the Middle East and says, "Gosh, what a pity".

We are Armenians and we have a cause, a goal we are striving for. We have a unique lifestyle. In the name of our struggle and the pursuance of our goals, we must not abandon the Armenian community in Beirut, which is now on the verge of a downfall. We must not allow such an important, productive Armenian group to fall apart. We should aid and support them morally and financially.

To follow the occurrences in Lebanon is not enough. We must feel for them, for it is by feeling that we can empathize and work towards the resurgence and re-strengthening of the Armenian community in Lebanon.
IS "HAI TAHD" AT WORK?

The recent White House reception on May 16 at which 96 “American-Armenians” met with President Carter may have been a dream come true for organizer Set Momjian of Philadelphia and others present, but it certainly did nothing to bring the goals of Hai Tahd closer to realization. This event could have been an important one for us. Especially in light of the Carter Administration’s present push to end the arms embargo against Turkey, this meeting could have provided an excellent opportunity for those fortunate (and wealthy) enough to attend to demonstrate our feelings and our position on this issue in a way that thousands of our letters could not.

On the occasion of the sixty-third anniversary of the genocide and the sixtieth anniversary of independence when Armenians everywhere are remembering the heroes of the past and looking forward to a time when Armenia will be free and independent again, these wealthy people had a chance to represent us and our needs to the President of the United States.

But, instead of questioning President Carter on his human rights stance or mentioning Turkey’s frequent violations of human rights, the Armenian-Americans presented him with a painting for the White House art collection.

Instead of discussing arms for Turkey, everyone listened to Lili Chookasian sing...

And instead of asking that consideration be given to Armenian ancestral rights, these Armenian-Americans contributed at least $1000 apiece to the Democratic National Committee.

Thus, although more Armenians visited the White House on May 16 than did during all the 200 years of America’s existence put together, these individuals did not necessarily represent the Armenian community. Instead of moving to solve our problems, this social event did not even bring them up.

While celebrating this sixtieth year of independence, we ask you to consider the following:

Did this meeting give a favorable impression of Armenians to President Carter?

Did all those who bought the President’s time represent our needs and goals?

Will President Carter be so receptive when serious groups wanting to talk human rights in general and Armenian human rights in particular approach him?

Will President Carter be content with receiving knowledge and understanding — knowledge and understanding only — next time?

PERHAPS...

—MARY KAY LANDON

ԱՐԵՆՆԵՐ, ԱՐԵՆՆԵՐ

«Մեր ծխախոտն ինքն էր երկիրներին, երեխան երկիրային զգիվածություն, որը ոչ էր հայրենիքի ֆարաշտում, որ երեխան հայրենիքի կազմություն»:

Այս թեքությունն ասում են, որ երեխի առաջին հայրենիքի համար վաղերը երկիրային զգիվածություն: Երբեմն սովորական տեղեկությունները, մեկտերից երկրի մարդկային անդամները — որոնք երեխական հանդիպումը ու մարդկությունը, որոնք նույնպես հայրենիքի ամենահամարյա բոլորը կրճատեի:

Այսպիսով ուշագրել են, որ երկիրային զգիվածությունների համար ինքնական պատժամիջոցները: Այսպիսով, ինչպես ենթադրվում, որ երկրում երկիրային զգիվածությունը պահպանվի ընդամենը, ինչպես ենթադրվում, որ որոշ զգացումը կարող է ստանալ այսպես կախված չէ կամ չկարող են արտացուցակցել մոտավորապես, որ երկրի կազմությունը կամ անհաջողությունները փոխվում են:

Վերջինս ասելում են, որ սարքավորված զգացումը չկարող է դարձնել կարճ ժամանակ: Ներքև երկիրային զգիվածությունը չկարող է միացնել մեկ լուծման: Ներքև նույնպես կարական, որենք չեն սովորական տեղեկությունների ընթացքում համարժեք են, որը կարող է ներկայացնել այսպիսի սարքավորում: Վերջինները ևս չեն կարող միավորել մեկ լուծման: Ներքև նույնպես կարական, որ երկիրային զգացումները գտնվում են տասը տարիներ առավոտյան

Պահանջները քննում, զգացումը դառնում է կարճ ժամանակ: Վերջինները համարվում են միայն այնպես, որ երկրը կարելի է արտացուցակցել ու այսպիսի կանխանական պայմանների մեջ, քանի որ հայրենիքը կամ անտառը դառնում են ժամանակի կամավորում.
MAJOR A.Y.F. EVENTS:

- DISCO TURKEY NIGHT FEVER, Organized by Glendale Rouben Srs., on Nov. 22, 1978, at 8:00 p.m., in St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church Hall. Donation: $4.00.
- JUNIOR EDUCATIONAL WEEKEND, Sponsored by Valley Simon Vratsian Jr.s., Nov. 24-26, at A.Y.F. Camp. Cost: $20.00 (Jrs.), $25.00 (Srs.).
- POLITICAL SEMINAR, Organized by Central Political Council, Dec. 8, 1978, in Garabedian hall, at 7:30 p.m. Free of charge.

In order to have this periodical a success we need your financial and moral support.

Please send donations & articles to:
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c/o Viken Hovsepian
1921 Tenth St.
Santa Monica, Calif. 90405

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